



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT October 2017

EMD's TAMMY DERBY CHOSEN AS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE

Tammy Derby was chosen as the California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) International Delegate for 2017. This is part of a Twinning Arrangement established in 1989 Between California CEHA and Chartered Institute of Environmental health (CIEH) (North West Region) The Twinning arrangement is an annual exchange program whereby a CIEH member of the North West region attends the CEHA Annual Educational Symposium in California and a CEHA member attends the North West Symposium in England. This arrangement has produced a fruitful and longstanding educational and networking exchange. In addition to attending the events, work shadowing is arranged to provide an opportunity to form a mutual development of Environmental Health practices, and allow the opportunity to exchange information between Environmental Health Officers/Specialists. Along with scheduling an action packed week of

events, Tammy's CIEH International Committee host, Barrie Whitehead, arranged for her to homestay with two different families during the week. One family lived in Manchester and provided a view of urban living. The other family lived in a big house in a small village (Brigsteer) in the Lakes District, which provided a view of country living. Both families were wonderfully generous and welcoming.

Arriving in Manchester on Monday, September 25 began a whirlwind week of events and work shadowing. A walking tour of Manchester City Centre included a visit to the Manchester Cathedral, Shepherd's Pie at the iconic Mr. Thomas's Chop Shop, and a view of the Abraham Lincoln statue in Lincoln Square. Tammy attended the Cheshire Branch Environmental Health Day training event on September 26. The training event included presentations on Legionnaires, Food Safety Programs, and CIEH Or-

ganizational Updates. Then she joined Environmental Health Officers from the Tameside Borough Council (TMBC) for two days. This work shadowing included food hygiene inspections and a housing standards visit to a "filthy and verminous" location to investigate complaints of hoarding and rodent harborage. These days provided an opportunity for



Celebrating 28 years of delegate exchange

Tammy and TMBC Officers to exchange knowledge and information about other programs such as Small Water Systems, Onsite Sewage Disposal, Animal Welfare, Employee Health and Safety, and Public Health Education. Similar to EMD, the UK utilizes a rating card/placard system for their food facilities. Only the facilities are not required to post these rating cards in England, while they are required to post in Wales and Northern Ireland. The ratings and a summary of the inspection are available online and on a smartphone app. After a fond farewell to her new Manchester friends, Tammy and



Inspectors in England wear this uniform



Barrie traveled 3 hours north to the Lakes District, not too far on Friday, September 29, Tammy attended the Lake District Branch Continuing Professional Development event. This training event included presentations on the National Food Crimes Unit investigations of Food Fraud, Damp and Mould Investigations related to failed insulation in brick and stone structures, Obesity in the UK, the Love My Beach Project which samples and rates 31 bathing sites along the west coast of England, and CIEH Organizational Update. The day ended with a case study on an employee health and safety investigation involving the death of Sarah McClay, 24, who was attacked by a Sumatran tiger at South Lakes Wild Animal Park, while she was preparing to

feed the tigers. The day was complete with a great lunch and afternoon tea and scones.

Saturday was a day to sleep in a little, then a 4 mile hike across the beautiful hills to tour Sizergh Castle. Then travel back to Manchester for dinner and



Tammy Derby at Roundthorn Country House



Sizergh Castle

hotel to prepare for the flight home on Sunday morning.

2017 marks the 28th year of the twinning arrangement, during which time 27 delegates from the North West have visited California, and 17 Californians have visited the North West.

By Tammy Derby

There's A Good Reason We Celebrate...

SEPTIC SMART WEEK!!!

By Chris Pace and Jack Bellan

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) regulates all onsite wastewater treatment (**septic**) systems in Sacramento County through design review, permitting, inspection and enforcement. These septic systems are in the regions of the county which do not have



Lil Hernandez and Michael De Jesus Inspect A Septic Installation.

public sewer service. The simplest systems include a two compartment septic tank and a basic leach field which slowly releases effluent to the soil. Alternative systems can involve pumps, alarms, aeration, ultra violet light disinfection and timed effluent release. Most septic systems in our County are made up of a septic tank, distribution box and seepage pits. Sacramento County has a unique combination of soil types

and depth to groundwater that enable seepage pits to adequately treat the septic effluent before it reaches groundwater. These systems have successfully been used in this region for several decades.



Warning signs! Lush green grass with standing water means time to check for septic leaks.

The installation of new septic systems and

repair of existing septic systems

has steadily been on the rise in Sacramento County. As a comparison, the number of permits issued in September 2017 is almost three times the number issued in September 2014.

If you are the owner of a property that requires a septic system, having your tank pumped regularly can be a very cost efficient way to avoid expensive repairs. Repair of a basic septic system can cost \$7,000 or more. The repair of a complex system can cost \$20,000 or more. EMD recommends having your septic tank pumped by a licensed septic pumper at least once every 3 to 5 years. The pumping removes sludge and scum which, if allowed to build up, can cause the system to fail.



Lil Hernandez at a Septic Inspection

Another major factor in ensuring septic system longevity is limiting water usage. Low flow toilets, sink faucets, and washing machines greatly reduce the amount of water input into a septic system., which is a positive thing. This means wastes will remain in the septic tank for longer periods of time allowing them to break down before being discharged to the leach field.

Also, home maintenance on these fixtures is imperative. One leaky toilet can discharge as much as 200 gallons of water per day!

A third key to extending the life of a septic system is to be selective in what you put down the drain. Many household cleaners, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals will greatly inhibit the natural breakdown of domestic wastewater, leading to system failure. Also, food wastes going into the system should be limited. Most people love their garbage disposal for cleanup during or after cooking. If you have a septic system, it's best to reduce the amount of food waste going into the system. Don't peel your potatoes and carrots into the disposal! This too, will inhibit the natural breakdown of domestic waste and cause the excessive buildup of sludge and scum in the septic tank.

Signs of a septic system failure include the backing up of household drains, lush green grass in the leach field area, pooling water in the yard, and odors. If your septic system is failing, contact a licensed septic contractor immediately.

More information about Septic Smart Week and septic systems can be found on EMD's Facebook page, EMD's webpage, the County News Page, and Twitter.



**SOIL
BORN
FARMS**

Celebrate your local farm to fork source here in Rancho Cordova. Open Saturdays through the Fall.

Supplies Local Restaurants, Underserved Communities and Local Foodbanks with Fresh, Healthy Produce

Organic Monthly Community Supported Agriculture Boxes
Educational Programs

Annual Employee Giving Campaign 5k

EMD staff exceeds expectations once again, with their generosity and athletic prowess as they took the field during the annual run/walk fundraiser for Sacramento County's Giving Campaign.



By the Numbers September 2017		
	Sep-17	FY YTD
Food Facility Placards Issued		
A. Green – Pass	1304	2681
C. Red – Closed	18	58
B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	68	154
Inspections		
Abandoned Wells	2	10
Above Ground Storage Tank	16	26
Body Art	34	76
Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1726	3756
Farm Labor Camps	1	4
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	25	1526
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	33	77
Liquid Waste	32	98
Medical Waste	12	22
Small Water Systems	4	6
Wells and Monitoring Wells	71	208
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	113	432
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	178	581
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	36	112
Underground Storage Tank Removal, Installations, Upgrades, Repairs	24	51
Recycled Water	0	0
Storm Water Non Food Facility	39	173
Waste Tire	72	190
Tobacco Retailer	33	49
Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling	79	189
Organics Recycling	30	64
Refuse Vehicle Inspections/	1	3
Septic Tank Pumper Trucks	0	2
Total	2561	7655
Investigations		
Body Art	34	43
Consumer Complaints	83	279
Food Borne Illness	8	19
Incident Response	67	183
Solid Waste	0	1
Storm Water	5	14
Waste Tire	0	0
Childhood Lead	NA	13
Total	197	552
Class Attendance		
Food Safety Education (Food School)	42	253
Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	10	27
Underground Storage Forms Workshop	10	18
Total	62	298
Plans, Permits, and Reviews		
Abandoned Wells	19	66
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	324	1064
Body Art	5	38
Monitoring Wells/ Water Wells	114	383
Liquid Waste	58	141
Food Facilities	185	509
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	78	592
Underground Storage Tanks Plans and Permit Reviews	8	18
Land Use	30	59
Local Oversight Program	0	3
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	1969	6504
Total	2790	9377
Imaging		
Document Pages Imaged	10,436	32202

Hazardous Material Plan Workshops

EMD offered two Hazardous Material Plan Workshops for ten attendees during September 2017. EMD staff assisted each person with the process of submitting their Hazardous Waste Plans electronically, as mandated by the California Environmental Protection Agency, effective January 1, 2013.



Food Safety Education Classes September 2017

Attendees 42

Facilities Represented 13

Onsite 3
Offsite 0

Languages Represented

English 1
Spanish 1
Cantonese 1
Korean 0
Punjabi 0
Russian 1
Vietnamese 0

EC Division offered two **Underground Storage Tank (UST) Workshops** in September 2017. EMD staff assisted ten attendees with submitting UST forms electronically through the California Environmental Reporting System.



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