

# Environmental Management Department

## EMD NEWS & NOTES

Fall 2010 Edition

10590 Armstrong Avenue  
Mather, CA 95655  
(916) 875-8484  
on-line at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net)



### In This Issue

- *Staff Members Receive Awards (pg 1)*
- *EMD Hosts Booth At Sustainable Business Awards and Expo (pg 2)*
- *Environmental Health Division Staff To Perform Waste Tire Program Inspections (pg 2)*
- *EMD Launches Facebook Page (pg 2)*
- *Regulations Approved Requiring REHSs To Accrue Continuing Education Units (pg 3)*
- *EMD Seeking Approval Of Two FDA Program Standards (pg 3)*

### FROM THE DIRECTOR



Val F. Siebal, Director

In every workplace, training is an important component to the success of the organization. Training can be mandatory to maintain certifications required to do a job. Examples include the REHS and the AB 1825 training. Or it can be discretionary and used as a tool to enhance job performance in areas such as supervision, accounting, budgeting, ethics, information technology, leadership and safety, etc. In tough economic times, the discretionary training tends to be scaled back as resources become few and far between. EMD understands the need to make sure that staff has the necessary training to perform at the highest level but is cognizant of the fact that we face obstacles in that some training may not be given as regularly as it has been in the past.

This newsletter highlights some of the mandatory and critical training that many staff members need to do their daily jobs. As the economy, technology, and the laws are every changing, EMD will strive to provide the training as needed. I welcome your suggestions to make sure that we continue the transfer of knowledge to our co-workers and the regulated community.

### JOHN STENDER, ROB MILANO AND AMANDA HAKIM RECEIVE AWARDS



John Stender, EMD's Senior Information Technology Analyst, was presented with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by Decade Software for his efforts to enhance the knowledge of EnvisionConnect users and Environmental Health professionals. Decade Software is a leading provider of software solutions for agencies responsible for environmental regulation and public policy.

John noted that the most fascinating thing about Decade's Annual Training Conference is that everyone—our staff included—learns something no matter how much experience the person has with Environmental Health or EnvisionConnect. When you're surrounded by professionals exchanging ideas, something new always arises.

Rob Milano, Information Technology Analyst II and Amanda Hakim, Environmental Specialist (ES) III, accepted the "Brightest Bottom Line" award from Decade Software in behalf of Sacramento County's Hazardous Materials Team for their Business Plans. The Brightest Bottom Line Award is presented to a customer who has quantitatively assessed the results of implementing EnvisionConnect. The winner will have a story that details how their new solution has directly impacted the bottom line of their organization. This impact can be measured in any kind of ROI, money saved, time saved, improved employee satisfaction, greater retention rates, etc.



The following staff members also attended Decade's Annual TrainCon Conference: Environmental Specialists Judinae Ablang, Derek Jacks, Rashmi Nair, Lisa Perez, and Mike Simpson; Senior Office Specialist Kristin Ledbetter; and Accounting Technician Sothea Chhang.

## SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AWARDS AND EXPO



EMD hosted an exhibit booth at the 4th Annual Sustainable Business of the Year Award Ceremony and Pollution Prevention Expo on October 8. The Sacramento Area Sustainable

Business program promotes businesses that take voluntary actions to prevent pollution and conserve resources. Environmental Specialist Shirley Fong and Environmental Compliance Technician Daniel Abellon were available at the EMD booth to answer questions and share information about environmental compliance and general environmental health topics, such as food safety.

## EMD FACEBOOK

EMD's Facebook page has been up and running since the end of June. New postings are added to our Facebook page approximately twice per week. The page includes announcements, program information, educational/training information, photos, and tips for business owners and the public. Being connected through this social networking media allows EMD to reach out to the community very quickly and through another media form. It also provides a forum for the community to submit comments on the information posted. Currently, there are 64 people that "like" the EMD Facebook page. The Facebook page averaged 120 hits per week for the month of September.

## WASTE TIRE PROGRAM

EMD's Environmental Health Division (EHD) is responsible for inspecting approximately 1,000 businesses in Sacramento County that generate, haul, or accept waste tires. California's Waste Tire Program began in 1989 with the passage of Assembly Bill 1943. This



*(continued on next column)*

## WASTE TIRE PROGRAM (continued from previous column)

legislation was the impetus for the Tire Recycling Management Fund which provides funds for tire recycling, reuse, recovery, and stockpile reduction operations. It is estimated that 44 million waste tires are generated in California each year, with legacy tire piles reduced in California to around 250,000 tires (piles were in the millions prior to the implementation of the Program). In addition to waste reduction and recycling goals, waste tires are also regulated for the following reasons:

- Tires provide an excellent breeding ground for disease carrying vectors—namely mosquitoes and rodents.
- When tires burn, they release a variety of toxic compounds that can pollute our air, soil, and groundwater requiring extensive and expensive remediation projects, in addition to having a negative effect on public health.

The Waste Tire Program is currently overseen by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) who are charged with developing and enforcing the technical standards and permit requirements for waste tire facilities and haulers. CalRecycle also provides grants and loans to help California cities, counties, businesses, and organizations meet the state's waste reduction, reuse, and recycling goals. Funding for all Waste tire Program grants and loans is derived from the waste tire disposal fee which is charged by retailers when new tires are purchased. EMD applies for a grant each year, which funds the implementation of the Waste Tire Program in Sacramento County. Most businesses in the Program are inspected every two years, as program staff are able to conduct approximately 500 inspections each year. In addition to inspections, EMD staff also responds to complaints related to tires, tire dumping, illegal tire haulers, and have access to a variety of surveillance equipment such as motion sensing surveillance cameras that can be installed at areas suffering from repeated illegal tire dumping.

For more information on the Waste Tire Program, go to EMD's website at: [http://www.emd/sacounty.net/Documents/Info/HM/Waste\\_Tire\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.emd/sacounty.net/Documents/Info/HM/Waste_Tire_Brochure.pdf) or CalRecycles website at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/tires/>.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION



In an effort to maintain the professionalism and competence of Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) in California, regulations were recently approved which require REHSs to accrue 24 continuing education credits every two years. Section 106075 of the California Health and Safety Code was amended in late 2009 and became effective on January 1, 2010.

This development comes at a particularly opportune time for Environmental Health. Within recent months, there have been various changes and additions to code through a variety of new legislation. New trans fat and menu labelling regulations, for example, have recently broadened the parameters of a typical health inspection and now require inspectors to review nutritional labels and calorie contents. Continuing Education (CE) requirements will greatly assist in the standardized dissemination of this new information.

Requiring continuing education for the REHS has been a topic of discussion for over twenty years and has been strongly supported by the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, the California Environmental Health Association, the California Environmental Health Specialist Committee, the National Environmental Health Association, the California Conference of Local Health Officers, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), individual REHSs and the public.

California REHSs must have courses and training approved by designated State Accreditation Agencies (AA). The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department has been approved as an Accreditation Agency by the California Department of Public Health and has the authority to approve training courses as eligible for continuing education credits. A comprehensive list of AAs can be found at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/Pages/REHScontinuingeducation.aspx>

Continuing education is a step forward for the REHS profession as it provides opportunities for an REHS to maintain scientific and technological skills necessary for tackling the ever evolving environmental health field. The REHS staff within EMD and throughout California are proud to join the ranks of physicians, nurses and countless other professionals who engage in continuing education.

## FDA VOLUNTARY FOOD PROGRAM STANDARDS

Achieving national uniformity among regulatory programs responsible for retail food protection in the United States has long been a subject of debate among the industry, regulators and consumers. The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Federal Model Food Code has been a keystone in the effort to promote greater uniformity throughout the United States. The FDA *Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards* is a program based on the Federal Model Food Code which is a model food safety code that provides all jurisdictions with a scientific and legal basis for regulating the retail food establishments. Several jurisdictions throughout the nation have either adopted this Code or have patterned their state food safety codes after it. In California, the California Retail Food Code (CalCode) is modeled after the Federal Model Food Code which is the law that EMD enforces in retail food facilities. EMD has participated in the FDA's *Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards* since 2001. Currently, Environmental Specialist Kari Wagner meets with representatives from the FDA and other local jurisdictions two to three times per year. Participants review the standards and determine how each jurisdiction can continue to move forward in meeting certain standards.

The FDA's Program Standards pertain to the operation and management of a retail food regulatory program and focus on the reduction of risk factors known to cause or contribute to foodborne illness. The standards provide a number of benefits to EMD's food safety program as they are designed to outline best practices for retail food programs. There are nine standards which serve as long-range goals and promote continuous improvement of food safety programs. Some examples of the standards covered include:

- Standard No. 2—Trained Regulatory Staff
- Standard No. 4—Uniform Inspection Program
- Standard No. 6—Compliance and Enforcement
- Standard No. 7—Industry and Community Relations

EMD is committed to continuous improvement and is currently requesting a formal audit by an FDA approved auditor to determine if we have achieved the standard which outlines best practices. EMD is currently seeking approval for Standards No. 6 and 7—Compliance and Enforcement and Industry and Community Relations. For more information regarding the FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, go to: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/RetailFood>



## EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

EMD Program Element	July 2010– Sept 2010
<b>Food Placarding</b>	Total: 1,718
Green (Pass)	1,629
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	72
Red (Closed)	17
<b>Inspections</b>	Total: 6,094
Food Protection	2,102
Farm Labor Camps	30
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	2,312
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	69
Liquid Waste	59
Medical Waste	18
Small Water Systems	16
Water & Monitoring Wells	258
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	117
UST Installations, Upgrade/Repair & Removal	41
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	216
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	298
Stormwater	258
Waste Tire	148
Tobacco Retailers	65
Commercial Recycling	87

EMD Program Element	July 2010– Sept 2010
<b>Investigations</b>	Total: 170
Food Borne Illness Complaint	54
Incident Response	81
Stormwater Complaint	22
Waste Tire	11
Childhood Lead	2
<b>Workshop Attendance</b>	Total: 232
Food Safety Education (Food School)	223
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	9
How To Get A Green Placard	0
Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General)	0
<b>Permits, Plans &amp; Reviews</b>	Total: 7,325
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	1,217
Monitoring Wells	287
Food Facilities	225
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	158
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	38
Land Use	29
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	5,371
<b>Information Management</b>	Total: 31,183
Documents Imaged	31,107
Public Record Reviews	76

**County of Sacramento  
Board of Supervisors**

Roger Dickinson, District 1  
 Jimmie Yee, District 2  
 Susan Peters, District 3  
 Roberta MacGlashan, District 4  
 Don Nottoli, District 5

Steven C. Szalay  
 Interim County Executive



**HELLOS, GOODBYES &  
SERVICE RECOGNITION**

for July 2010—September 2010

<b>Rehire</b>	None
<b>Promotions</b>	None
<b>Service Awards</b>	Lisa Perez—15 years
<b>Retirements</b>	None

**Countywide Services  
Agency**

Bruce Wagstaff  
 Administrator

Val Siebal  
 EMD Director

**EMD NEWS & NOTES** is EMD's periodic newsletter providing information on EMD activities and services that enhance our community.

EMD is a Department within the Countywide Services Agency of Sacramento County which serves the businesses and residents of the County. EMD is committed to protecting public health and the environment by ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

For more information about EMD's News & Notes newsletter, or to offer your feedback, please contact Linda Jimenez by email at jimenezl@sacounty.net