



MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY JUNE 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

PROGRAM LISTING:

Arbovirus Surveillance & Control

Chronic Disease Prevention

Communicable Disease Control

Community Epidemiology

Dental Health

Environmental Planning and Pollution Control

Food Protection

HIV Prevention

Homeless Healthcare Project

Immunizations

Institutional Inspections

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Public Health Investigations

Public Health Preparedness

Refugee Health

School Health

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control

Tuberculosis Control

Water Quality

Youth Health Promotion

Introduction

On-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems) provide a cost effective and efficient way of disposing of domestic sewage. However, improperly designed, installed or maintained septic systems may result in the release of poorly treated or untreated effluent. This discharge may contaminate adjacent ground and/or surface waters, endangering public health and threatening the environment. Proper disposal of wastewater is necessary not only to protect the public health but also prevent contamination of ground and surface waters. Domestic sewage is routinely contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, viruses, helminthes, protozoa and spirochetes. It is imperative that sewage and wastewater be properly disposed of for the general well being of the public.

Summary of Programs

The Manchester Health Department has vital planning, plan approval and regulatory responsibilities to assure that public health and the environment are protected. This is especially true when referring to the disposal of wastewater through on-site sewage disposal systems. Approximately fifteen percent of homes and businesses in Manchester currently rely upon individual septic systems to dispose of their sewage. The Environmental Health Division is responsible for investigating reports of failed septic systems as well as inspecting newly constructed and replaced systems. This procedure includes witnessing test pits to determine soil characteristics, reviewing plans to assess conformity with local and state regulations, and performing inspections at various stages of septic system construction to ensure proper installation. In addition, the Division also reviews all proposed subdivisions to assure adequate lot size and soil conditions to support on-site sewage disposal prior to submission to the Planning Board. Finally, all reports of failed septic systems are investigated and followed-up on.

Regulatory

The Manchester Health Department is charged with enforcing various state statutes relating to the correction of health hazards created by failed septic systems (RSA 147 and RSA 485-A), and is the local agent for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The Department is also responsible for the permit process and enforcement of provisions of Chapter 53 of the City of Manchester Code of Ordinances relating to on-site sewage disposal. The NHDES rules pertaining to septic systems can be found in Chapter Env-Ws 1000; "Subdivision and Individual Sewage Disposal Systems Design Rules".

Program Notes and Trends

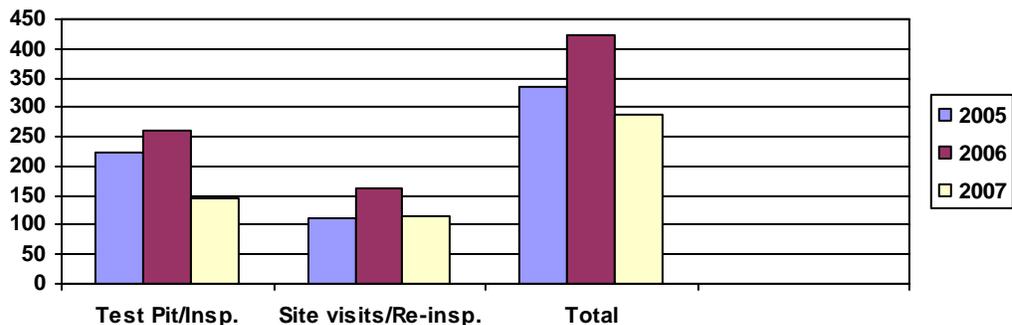
The City of Manchester has seen a limited number of new septic constructions over the

past three years. There have been however, a constant number of septic system inspections and related activities. The number of replacement systems and failures typically remains constant; assuming a random number of the currently installed systems will require replacement at any given time. Some factors which may affect the rate of failure include: development of less than suitable sites, change in estimated seasonal water tables (climate change), and lifespan of new, alternate technologies.

Some factors which may influence installation of new systems include: new housing market, subdivision of remaining large tracts of land, lending company mandates for updated systems upon property transfer, and the connection of houses served by septic systems to the municipal sewer. It is anticipated that similar resources will be required for this program during the foreseeable future.

| Year | Test pits and septic inspections | Site visits | Total visits |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2005 | 223 | 111 | 334 |
| 2006 | 260 | 163 | 423 |
| 2007 | 146 | 114 | 286* |

* year-to-date



Community Activities

Health Department Promotions: It is with great pleasure that the Health Department announces the promotions of two key staff members. Anna Thomas, MPH has been promoted to Deputy Public Health Director, and that Philip Alexakos, REHS, MPH has been promoted to Public Health Preparedness Administrator.

Ms. Thomas has been with the Health Department for the past 13 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Management and Policy from UNH and a Masters Degree in Public Health from Dartmouth College. In addition to her duties as Deputy Public Health Director, Ms. Thomas will continue to oversee the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention & Neighborhood Health.

Mr. Alexakos has also been with the Health Department for the past 13 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Bates College and a Masters Degree in Public Health from UNH. Mr. Alexakos will oversee the Division of Environmental Health & Emergency Response, and will be responsible for the Public Health Preparedness Program.

Kickin' Butts in Manchester Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition: The Kickin' Butts in Manchester Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition held a press conference on May 31st, in recognition of World No Tobacco Day. This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco and details what agencies from the World Health Organization to local coalitions are doing to fight the tobacco epidemic. World No Tobacco Day empowers people around the world to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

Highlights of the event including reporting on the success of the most recent iteration of merchant compliance checks conducted by the Manchester Police Department, as well as the PRIDE survey results conducted in Manchester's middle schools. Kickin' Butts in Manchester is pleased to report that of the 125 retail establishments that were checked, only two sold tobacco products to minors.

Public Health Excellence Awards for Food Safety: The Manchester Board of Health is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2006 *"Public Health Excellence Award for Food Safety."* The award winners are The Masonic Home; Oven Poppers, Inc.; Olive Garden Restaurant; Camp Carpenter; Papa John's (1215 Elm Street); Tidewater Café at Summit Packaging; VNA Child Care & Family Resource Center; Chili's Grill and Bar; Dunkin Donuts (947 Second Street); Hillcrest Terrace; Easter Seals; JMB Dunkin Donuts d/b/a Dunkin Donuts (216 Elm Street); Trinity High School; Governor Hugh Gallen Hi-Rise; Wendy's (722 Second Street); Famous Dave's. Congratulations to those food service establishments who are committed to protecting the public health.

West Nile Virus / Eastern Equine Encephalitis (Eee) Hotline: The Manchester Health Department has begun its surveillance activities in Manchester for West Nile Virus and EEE. Residents with questions, concerns or to report dead crows, blue jays or mosquito breeding areas are encouraged to call 624-6466 x325.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-6466