ARAPAHOE COUNTY

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Environmental Health Programs Overview

Marty Easter, Danielle Henderson, Lynn Robbio Wagner, Steven Chevalier, Dylan Garrison, Vanessa Fiene, Karl Schiemann

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Agenda

- Organizational Structure
- Purpose Statement
- Role of Environmental Health (EH) Programs
- EH Alignment with ACPH Strategic Goals
- EH Programs and Functions
  - Child Care and Schools Program
  - Water Quality Program
  - Solid and Hazardous Waste Program
  - Retail Food Program
  - Body Art Program
  - Vector Program
  - Public Health Complaints
- Questions

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Division of Health Protection and Response

- **Environmental Health Programs**
  - **Business Operations**
  - **Consumer Protection**
    - Food Protection
    - Body Art
    - Vector Surveillance
    - Complaints
  - **Early Childhood and Environmental Protection**
    - Early Childhood (Child Care/Schools)
    - Pools/Spas, Onsite Wastewater and Water Quality
    - Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Program
- COVID-19 Program

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Arapahoe County Public Health (ACPH) Environmental Health (EH) Programs is to reduce environmental hazards and their adverse health impacts on the community through education, inspections, and enforcement of regulations and laws.

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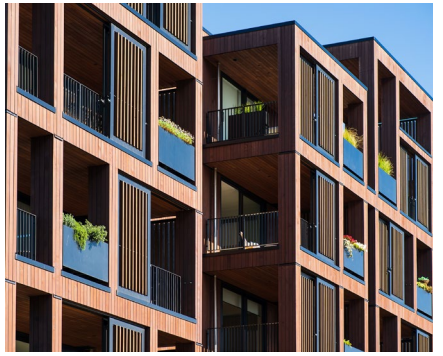
Role of Environmental Health Programs

- Our environmental health programs focus on preventing communicable diseases and ensuring healthy human environments.
- We also protect the population from environmental hazards through the response and mitigation of impact from human actions on the environment.



EH Alignment with ACPH Strategic CORE Goals

CULTIVATE: Create and find opportunities to get to know our diverse community

1. Meet with leaders, partners, and advocates within the community across a diverse set of environmental health subject matter and diverse engagement settings in order to listen and teach about environmental health.
2. Build and maintain relationships with partner organizations and governmental agencies to ensure cohesiveness, trust, and collaboration in services provided across the county.
3. Support the incorporation of community voice and advance health equity within our communities by searching and/or applying for environmental health focused grant opportunities, conducting community surveys, face to face interactions, town halls, office hours, and/or community meetings.

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EH Alignment with ACPH Strategic CORE Goals

OPTIMIZE: Use data-driven and innovative strategies to address drivers of health inequities and health outcomes

1. Create accessible materials through the incorporation of language justice, online tools, and the ACPH language guide.
2. Use Environmental Justice map and other mapping tools to drive collaboration with partners regarding common public health complaints in our county or complaints that are spatially concentrated, to inform programmatic and policy decisions.
3. Approach trends in violation data with cultural awareness and sensitivity to help inform our educational approach and encourage compliance.

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EH Alignment with ACPH Strategic CORE Goals

REINFORCE: Leverage partnerships within the agency, throughout the County and with state partners to increase the reach of the Environmental Health programs

1. Identify what relationships already exist.
2. Identify the spaces where environmental health has a role.
3. Participate in the ACPH partnership tracking opportunities.

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EH Alignment with ACPH Strategic CORE Goals

ENHANCE: Create a human-centered work environment

1. Continue holding space for staff and leadership to express desired values, encourage innovation and embrace individuality.
2. Identify opportunities for professional development to support routine work and professional growth.
3. Identify opportunities to articulate clear expectations and coach with the goal of developing well-rounded employees.

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EH Programs & Functions

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Child Care Program

What do we do?

- Routine Public Health Inspections
- Complaint Investigations
- Outbreak Inspections
- Follow-up Inspections
- Pre-Operational Inspections

Why?

Disease Prevention & Mitigation

- Illness policies & procedures
- Hand washing
- Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting
- Diaper changing
- Infant feeding
- Food handling
- Hygienic practices

Environmental Hazards

- Chemical Storage/Handling
- Radon
- Lead
- Asbestos
- Mold
- Pests
- Sewage/ Water contamination

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School Program: 2025

- Shadow South Metro Fire Department
- Meet with representatives from school districts in Arapahoe County
- Gather feedback on helpful training tools and resources for school staff
- Participate in ACPH School Newsletter and Webinars
- Offer Mock Inspection opportunities

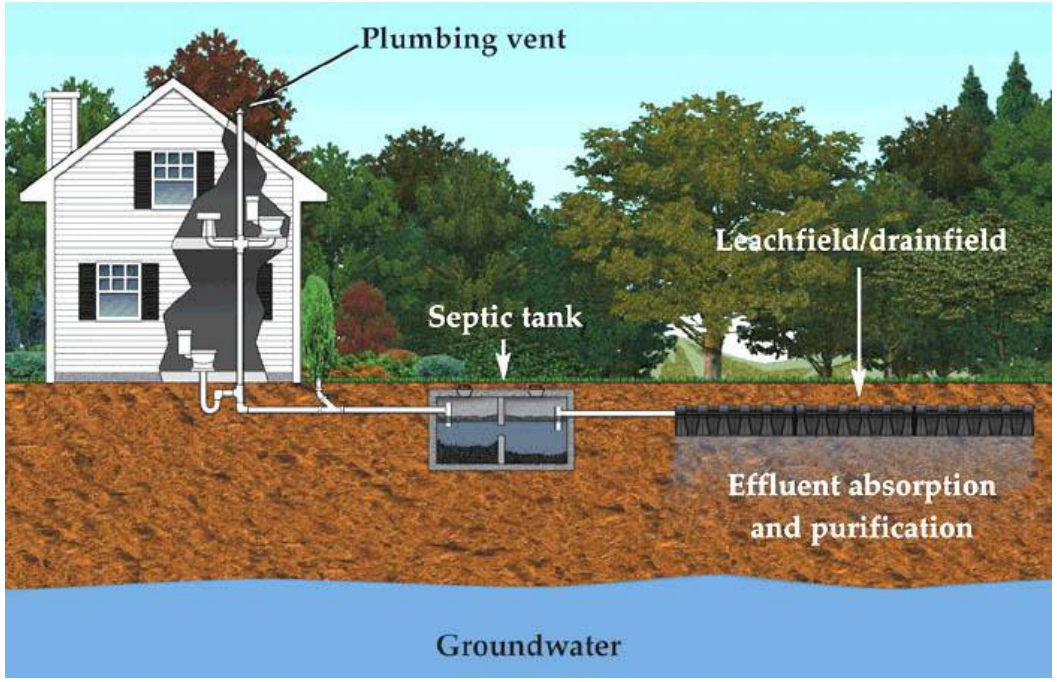
What we do:

School Inspections protect students and staff engaging in arts, crafts, industrial arts, physical and biological sciences, vocational and educational programs, or any other activities where potentially hazardous chemicals, devices, or equipment are used.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS)

- Why are OWTS's important?
  - An effective way to treat sewage
  - Prevents surface & ground water contamination
  - Allows soil to treat sewage by removing bacteria, viruses and excess nutrients

- OWTS Enforcement and BOH responsibilities in June!



Recreational Waters

Pool inspections are conducted twice per year:

1. Full inspection to confirm compliance with the regulations in all areas of the pool and pool structure.

2. Water pool chemistry evaluation.

Water Quality

ACPH will test chemicals in the pool to make sure they are in acceptable ranges. Balanced water is crucial for swimmer safety.

Pool Mechanical Rooms

The key to safe water is often the mechanical components behind the closed door of the pool's mechanical room.

Water Quality

- Complaints
- Spills into waterways
- Participating with organizations and on boards regarding water quality
- Collaboration with internal and external partners to elevate water quality and safe drinking water in our community

Solid & Hazardous Waste Program: What We Do

Solid Waste Disposal Sites

Conduct plan reviews, inspections, and complaint investigations

Oversee landfill activities at contracted sites with CDPHE

Ensure compliance of solid and hazardous waste disposal and site management

Biosolids

Conduct inspections to enforce the Biosolids Regulation

Respond to complaints

Focus on preventing the discharge of pollutants into state waters with the proper beneficial land application

Waste Tires

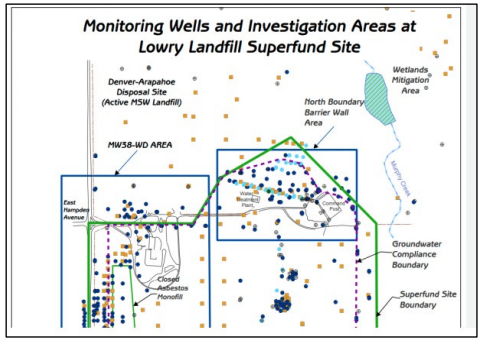
Conduct inspections to improve waste tire compliance and proper disposal to reduce associated environmental and health risks like fire and disease vector harborage for rodents and mosquitos

Lowry Landfill Superfund Site

Participate in the oversight of Lowry Landfill Superfund Site

Sample off-site private wells, review technical documents, and ensure operation goals

Collaborate for public outreach, identify response actions, and monitor private wells



Lowry Landfill Superfund Site
*BOH Tour July 2024

1978 vs 2024

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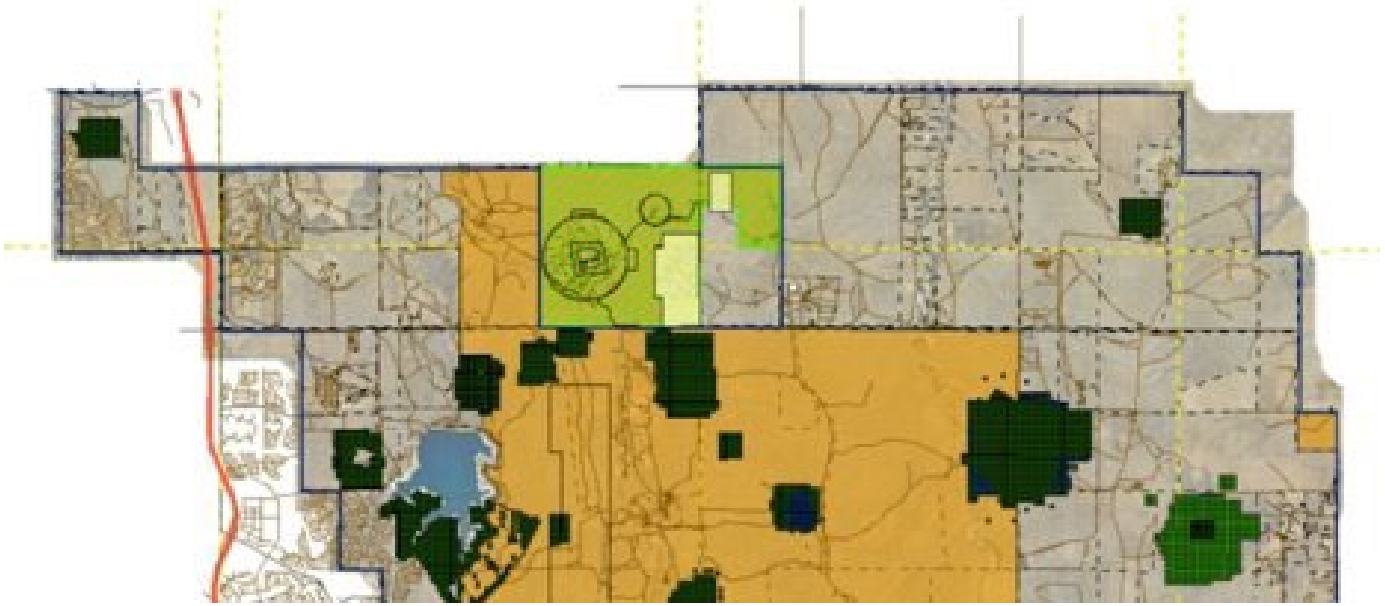
"The Range"- The Former Lowry Bombing & Gunnery Range (FLBGR-1942 to 1963)



Partners

- United States EPA Region 8
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)
- State Land Board (SLB)
- USACE Omaha District
- Waste Management of Colorado
- City and County of Denver
- City of Aurora
- City of Sheridan
- Arapahoe County
- Community
- Communications

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Retail Food Program

- Licensing and Regulatory Inspections
  - ✓Restaurants, Grocery, Mobile Units, Special Events
- Plan Review
  - ✓Restaurants and Mobile Units

- Investigations
  - ✓Foodborne Illness, Complaints, Farmers Markets
- Education and Outreach
- Enforcement
- Uniformity
  - ✓FDA Voluntary National Standards
  - ✓Trainings

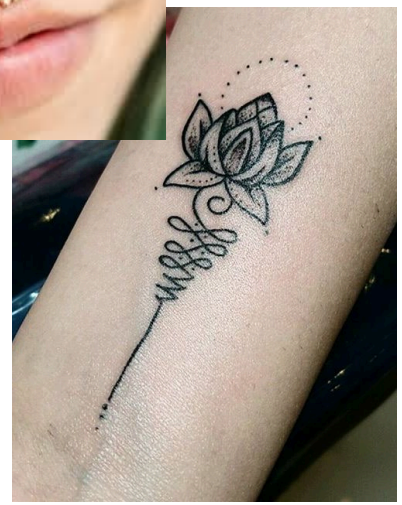
Partners

- Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE)
- Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR)
- Water/Wastewater
- Child Care
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)
- Tax & Licensing
- Other Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA's)

Body Art Program

- Body art procedures are intrusive to subcutaneous tissue and cartilage.
- The potential to transmit blood borne diseases, and complications with healing resulting in infections, scarring, and disfigurement are controlled.
- Over 60 Body Art Facilities, growing annually by 4-5 new businesses.

Internal Partners: CDE



- Business Licensing
- New Facility Inspections
- Routine Inspections
- Complaint Investigations
- Mobile Units and Special Events
- Verify artists are trained in blood borne pathogen control
- Apply "Body Art Establishment Regulations"

Vector Surveillance & Control

- Community Complaints/Concerns
  - ✓ Education and Outreach
- Mosquito trapping/ID/Sample Submittal
  - ✓ Joint effort by EH staff
- Response to Prairie Dog Die-offs
  - ✓ Flag for fleas, test
  - ✓ If positive, dust area and educate surrounding homes/businesses

Internal Partners: CDE, Communications

External Partners: CDPHE

Vector Borne Disease: Disease that results from an infection transmitted to humans and other animals by blood-feeding arthropods, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas as well as some rodents.

Examples of vector borne diseases: Dengue fever, West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, Malaria and Hantavirus.

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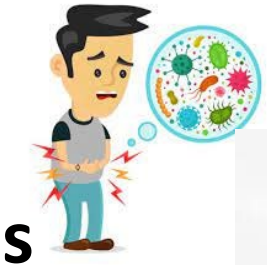

Public Health Complaints

- Suspect Foodborne Illnesses (FBI's)
- Housing Complaints: Mold, Trash & Refuse, Rodents, Heat, Water

- Insects: Bed Bugs, Cockroaches
- Animal Waste
- Industrial Hygiene Related: Radon, Lead, Methamphetamine

- Public Accommodations
- Mobile Home Parks
- Leghold Trap Exemptions

Partners: Code Enforcement, Building Department, Courts, Law Enforcement, CDPHE

What EH Does:

- Respond when appropriate, often with limited authority
- Provide education as much as possible
- Collaborate with partner agencies when possible
- Document
- Warranty of Habitability
- Provide Legal Resources
- Think creatively

$2 HOT DOGS

GRINCH

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PUBLIC HEALTH

EXIT

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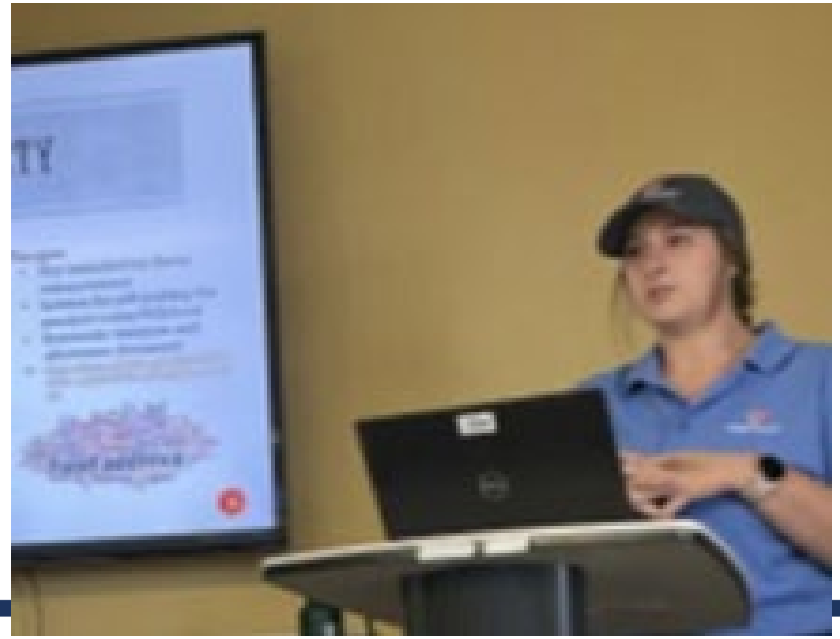
ACHOO!!!

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