



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 2017

### Emergency Response Awareness Training-The Role of Environmental Specialists

By Cheryl Hawkins

Cheryl Hawkins, John Elkins, Robert Duncan and Jeff Czapla attended a 2-day Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Awareness (EHTER OPS) in San Diego. The San Diego classes (3 sets) were considered experimental for FEMA and this was the first time this training was offered outside of Alabama.

#### ***What is EHTER OPS and how is it different from EHTER Awareness?***

Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Awareness is an introductory course that focuses on key environmental health topics, issues and challenges faced during emergency response such as food safety, water quality, wastewater management and disposal, hazardous materials, shelters and sanitation, vector control, and pest management. EHTER Awareness provides environmental health practitioners with an overall perspective of the many

functions of environmental health in emergency preparedness and the response to a disaster. EMD considers all field staff environmental health practitioners and is the reason that we require at a minimum, all field staff to attend the EHTER Awareness class.

Operations (EHTER Ops) takes the principles learned in the Awareness training and provides participants with the operations-level knowledge and skills needed to respond to incidents of natural or human caused disasters, and to use appropriate protocols and equipment to achieve mission objectives. The knowledge and environmental health perspectives learned in Awareness training is applied in this hands-on disaster training.



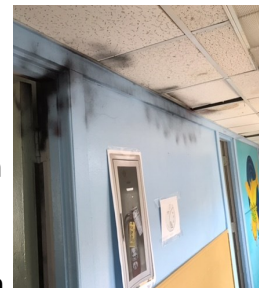
We were put into realistic response situations and made to apply our disaster skills to real life situations using the appropriate protocols and equipment that would potentially be used in a disaster

response. We worked in multi-discipline teams and had to get out of our "Inspector Mode" and look at the situations with new eyes. This approach is very useful because you may have to respond and deal with situations that are not entirely within your expertise. Jeff Czapla and I were placed in a situation where we were tasked with reopening housing which is not a program that Sacramento County EMD oversees, so our experience was limited. But, as an environmental health responder, you may be called upon to

operate in arenas your own department does not regulate but are within the scope of an Environmental Health

Specialist. The request was to reopen or re-occupy a children's shelter after being closed for 20 days due to massive earthquake damage. Our assignment was to assess the facility and determine if the facility was ready for re-occupancy. Items that we observed were mold, rodent infestation (not just droppings), non-functioning toilets, exposed elec-

Mold



trical wiring, broken water and wastewater lines, drug paraphernalia, physical damage to the facility, and a squatter living in a room of the facility. Not only were we to assess the facility, we needed to provide information and/or resources for problems such as proper mold removal and sewage clean up. As a result of this assessment we did not approve the re-

occupancy and communicated that information to the DOC along with the facility's need for resources.

Fortunately, this was not real life. EHTER Ops provided training for the Environment Health "Big Picture" preparedness beyond what was written in a plan. For me, this training emphasized the need for

more emergency preparedness training because an emergency situation is not the time for training, it should be something we already know or have knowledge of so that it is second nature.



In October 2017, Supervising Environmental Health (EH) Specialist Tammy Derby and EH Specialist Liz Twomey, attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual World Aquatic Health Conference (WAHC). The two-day WAHC is designed to attract a diverse audience of Academia, EH Officials, Facility Managers, Pool Builders, Operators and Service Technicians. With 49 sessions focusing on best practices, new technology, and continuing research, attendees have an opportunity to learn about advanced water chemistry, new water attraction trends, and public health protection strategies. Additionally, this year's conference provided two spectacular keynote sessions on improving communication and leadership skills and professional development.



The first keynote presenter was Ryan Avery, who spoke on strategic communication. Ryan emphasized how leading conversations with personal communication (such as discussing kids, hobbies,

etc.) can help your audience be more receptive to your professional communication. The second keynote speaker was Amy Posey who focused on the neuroscience of the brain and how that can be applied to improving communication with others. She noted that the human brain processes over 70,000 thoughts per day, short term memory can only hold onto about 3 memories at a time and it takes a month of repeating a new behavior to break an old habit. Utilizing repetition can help your audience absorb information and wording your message with positive language rather than negative language can make them more receptive (ex. "Let's be on time" rather than "You're going to be late").

Multiple sessions focused on the prevalence of Recreational Water Borne Illness. The CDC presented the following national statistics: from 2003-2012, there were 24,000 reported cases of recreational water-related infections that were attributed to 446 outbreaks, there were 4000 drowning

deaths, and nearly 5000 ER visits due to pool chemical events. 45% of these ER cases were attributed to cryptosporidium, 27% attributed to legionella and 8% attributed to norovirus.

An EH specialist from Columbus, Ohio presented an overview of a 2016 cryptosporidium outbreak that spanned three jurisdictions. The outbreak, which was first reported in July and continued through December, concluded with over 1000 cases having been reported. Public pools and a major water park were identified as major contributing sources of the outbreak. Challenges identified during the outbreak were: coordinating between regulatory jurisdictions, public education/outreach, overcoming the relative ineffectiveness of chlorine disinfection for cryptosporidium and trying to keep infected people out of pools during the summer. Extensive outreach was done but unfortunately infected swimmers continued to enter public pools. As pools in one jurisdiction were closed by environmental health, the users would go to neighboring jurisdictions to swim, thereby

spreading the outbreak. People infected with cryptosporidium may still be shedding the pathogen even after their symptoms have resolved, which is why CAL Code includes a requirement for a “reminder” sign at all public pools for users to not go in the water if they’ve experienced diarrhea in the last 14 days. As a result of this outbreak, CDC updated the super-chlorination recommendations to account for stabilized chlorine systems.

Other sessions attended included presentations on emerging trends such as surf pools, mobile inflatable water slide attractions, and flotation tanks. Additionally, there were several advanced water chemistry classes presented to help improve understanding of chlorine and advanced oxidation disinfection systems.

Tammy and Liz were also invited to participate in an Environmental Health round table that was only open to regulatory attendees and focused on emerging issues. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss the differences and similarities between various state codes and enforcement guidelines.

## IMPACT OF THE HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK ON SACRAMENTO

California is currently experiencing the largest person-to-person (not related to a common source or contaminated food product) Hepatitis A outbreak in the United States since the Hepatitis A vaccine became available in 1996. The majority of patients affected by this outbreak report experiencing homelessness and/or using illicit drug use in settings with limited sanitation.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis A virus. It is spread when the virus is ingested by mouth from contact with hands, objects, food, or drinks that are contaminated by the feces of an infected person. Illicit drug use (whether injected or not) is also a common transmission factor.

Hepatitis A infection typically causes fever, a general ill feeling, yellowness of the skin, lack of appetite, and nausea. Severe Hepatitis A infection is rare but is more common in people with underlying liver disease, and can cause the liver to fail, which can lead to death.

Infected people are most contagious during the two weeks before developing yellowness of the skin. The

usual time period from exposure to showing symptoms is 15-50 days.

Hepatitis A virus is very hardy in the environment and can live for months outside the human body. It is therefore crucial to exercise proper handwashing and sanitation techniques .

### State Statistics

610 Cases

403 Hospitalizations

19 Deaths

Frequent handwashing with soap and warm water after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, or before preparing or handling food can help prevent the spread

of Hepatitis A. It is recommended you wash (lather) your hands for at least 20 seconds.

[It is important to maintain routine and consistent cleaning of bathrooms for employees, public, and personal use.](#) When sanitizing, gloves and protective clothing should be worn and all frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned using a chlorine bleach-water mixture (1 and 2/3 cups bleach in 1 gallon water) with 1 minute of contact time or other disinfectants effective against Hepatitis A. See the disinfection guidance documents below for more information.

### HEPATIS A Guidance Documents

[Hepatitis A Advisory](#)

[Hepatitis A Disinfection Guidelines](#)

[Hepatitis A Vaccinations and Reporting Requirements for Food Handlers](#)

### Resource Links

[Sacramento County Public Health – Hepatitis A Updates](#)

[California Department of Public Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

TW	LW	WEEKS ON	ARTIST TITLE IMPRINT / PROMOTIONAL LABEL	PLAYS		AUDIENCE	
				TW	+/-	MILLIONS	RANK
28	20	6	Drivers ANDERSON	110	-18	0.061	28
29	-	1	◀ NEW ▶ CHARLEY LANGER J Street Groove UDOJ	108	+4	0.086	26
			◀ NEW ▶				

## HEADLINE NEWS

A newly released song from resident jazz artist Charley Langer has climbed to #26 on the Smooth Jazz National Airplay Billboard. Google his downloadable album for some smooth saxophone listening.

## Debbie Katz and Jim Guilliams Retire After a Combined Service of 50 Years.

Debbie Katz and Jim Guilliams retired this October, 2017, with over 50 years of combined service to Sacramento County. **Debbie** began her career in Environmental Health in LA County, moving to Sacramento County in 1985. EMD was a newly formed Department and Environmental Specialist were “generalists”, inspecting in all EMD programs which could include landfills, infectious waste, septic, food and housing. She spent three years working in the Air Quality District, within EMD, in the asbestos program and also assisted with writing the Landfill Gas Rule used by the Air District at that time. When asked which type of the work Debbie enjoyed the most during her career the answer was “The problem is, I like everything!” She is proud of the evolution of public health and safety programs overseen by EMD. Food inspections went from once every 18 months to 2-3 inspections per year; food school was implemented, and Green Yellow Red placarding was developed. Debbie spent the last several years of her career heavily involved with the childhood lead and body art programs. She had the unique blend of approachability and skill that made her a great fit for these programs. She recalled one of her

most challenging and memorable childhood lead cases, working along with Environmental Specialist Toua Yang. After a considerable amount of investigation and communication with the child’s family, the source of the lead ingested by the child was found to be squirrel meat that most likely contracted the lead through ammunition.

Debbie’s immediate plans for her new homestead include planting more orchard trees, building raised planter beds and readying the coop for chickens in the spring.

**Jim** graduated from San Diego with a B.S in geology and went to work for EXLOG as a well site evaluator for oil and gas exploration. EXLOG had offices in Rio Vista (which is still one of the largest active oil and gas exploration in CA.) After 10 years, EXLOG became to GEOLOG and Jim continued as their senior field operations supervisor. Meeting and marrying Debbie brought him to Sacramento, where he joined EMD in 1998.

Information Technology projects at EMD that Jim remembers as significant to him were: the migration of users and resources from Novel NDS to Active Directory, which EMD still uses. A



measurement of the project’s success was that it didn’t impact operations! Another tough challenge that was completed was the imaging of files into FileNet. It freed up office space moving from paper storage to electronic storage and paved the way for more efficient response to Public Record Act requests. The most recent project Jim was proud to complete was the transition of County websites to Microsoft SharePoint. Users now experience a modern look and feel to the website, the platform is responsive to phones and tablets, it’s easier to maintain and presents a professional “face” to the public.

Jim jumped into retirement 100%, spending his days outside planting orchards, renovating the barn and house, and splitting wood. His bees are wintered for the year but in the spring Jim is planning to produce replacement hives used for pollination and honey producers.

By the Numbers October 2017		
	Oct-17	FYTD
<b>Food Facility Placards Issued</b>		
A. Green – Pass	1347	4028
C. Red – Closed	24	82
B. Yellow – Conditional Pass	71	225
<b>Inspections</b>		
Abandoned Wells	5	15
Above Ground Storage Tank	12	38
Body Art	17	93
Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events)	1667	5423
Farm Labor Camps	0	4
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	4	1530
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	18	95
Liquid Waste	40	138
Medical Waste	12	34
Small Water Systems	5	11
Wells and Monitoring Wells	86	294
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	159	591
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	115	696
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	52	164
Underground Storage Tank Removal, Installations, Upgrades, Repairs	8	59
Recycled Water	0	0
Storm Water Non Food Facility	53	226
Waste Tire	78	268
Tobacco Retailer	26	75
Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling	57	246
Organics Recycling	19	83
Refuse Vehicle Inspections/	2	5
Septic Tank Pumper Trucks	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2436</b>	<b>10091</b>
<b>Investigations</b>		
Body Art	3	46
Consumer Complaints	79	358
Food Borne Illness	13	32
Incident Response	49	232
Solid Waste	0	1
Storm Water	7	21
Waste Tire	0	0
Childhood Lead		13
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Class Attendance</b>		
Food Safety Education (Food School)	64	317
Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop	5	32
Underground Storage Forms Workshop	8	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Plans, Permits, and Reviews</b>		
Abandoned Wells		66
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	333	1397
Body Art		38
Monitoring Wells/ Water Wells	82	465
Liquid Waste	37	178
Food Facilities		509
Public Swimming Pools/Spas		592
Underground Storage Tanks Plans and Permit Reviews	6	24
Land Use	27	86
Local Oversight Program	1	4
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	1965	8469
<b>Total</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>11376</b>
<b>Imaging</b>		
Document Pages Imaged	12191	44393

### Hazardous Material Plan Workshops

EMD offered two Hazardous Material Plan Workshops for **five** attendees during October 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 October 2017

**Attendees 64**

**Facilities Represented 18**

**Onsite 4**  
**Offsite 1**

**Languages Represented**

**English 1**  
**Spanish 1**  
**Cantonese 2**  
**Korean 0**  
**Punjabi 0**  
**Russian 0**  
**Vietnamese 1**

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



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