



# EMD News & Notes

Spring 2013 Edition

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[www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net)

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



As an environmental and public health regulatory Department we realize that it is not always easy to stay current on new regulations needed to operate a business safely.

In this issue we discuss new electronic methods that we hope will make it easier for businesses to remain in compliance and to receive training when convenient.

Our newest project, making short YouTube videos of various businesses undergoing inspections, will provide a visual of the EMD inspection process. We have successfully utilized this concept for our award-winning food protection program and currently provide free 15-minute DVDs in five languages. The English language version of the video is also available on our website.

These videos will be short reminders of daily routines for our hazardous waste producing clients who are inspected less frequently (once every 3 years) than our food protection clients who are inspected 3 times per year.

We are also using our web portal to receive and transmit data, rather than utilizing a printed data transfer process. The web portal transmission process saves costs for both the regulated community (printing and mailing) and for EMD (editing and returning hard copy documents).

EMD cost savings are realized by utilizing the portal and is one ingredient in a list of efficiencies that help to contain our fees.

Technology is really stepping up its presence.

## COMPLIANCE VIDEOS



The first in a series of compliance videos was posted on EMD's website in March. The topic of this video is the importance of labeling hazardous materials and hazardous waste. Environmental Specialists (ESs) Daniel Abellon, Ryan Artz and Justin Ross were instrumental in the creation and production of the video.

The video is approximately four minutes in length and can be viewed on EMD's website at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net) or by visiting YouTube and selecting the title Sacramento County EMD—Compliance Series: HazMat & HazWaste Labeling.

EMD's Environmental Compliance Division is currently developing additional videos as a component of its outreach program to serve the people and businesses in Sacramento County.



## CROSS-CONNECTION PORTAL



On September 4, 2012, EMD launched its new Cross-Connection Control Program Web Portal to improve online access to program information and services. The initial Portal roll-out streamlined the test report submittal process, improved compliance record tracking, and consolidated the annual tester registration process. Recently, EMD added two new features to

the Portal—online payments for annual backflow testing tags (blue tags) and online Portal data access for water agencies. See <http://www.emd.sacounty.net/emdportal.html>

### Online Purchase

To further enhance Portal services for registered backflow assembly testers, a new link titled Purchase Testing Tags has been added to the tester Portal homepage. After a tester has purchased tags online, the tags will be available for pick-up at the EMD office the next business day after payment is received. As an added convenience, and for a small additional fee, tags may be sent to the tester via Certified Mail. With the addition of the above noted features, all EMD cross-connection control program services are now available online.

### Data Access for Water Agencies

EMD recently made online Portal services available to contracting water agency staff. By improving access to data, water agency staff can efficiently query backflow assembly records and compliance information. Online access also enables EMD and water agency staff to improve program efficiencies by posting up to date information in one common location.

Being web-based, users can manage their account information 24 hours a day. Backflow testers can submit test result information for their customers online and access archived test reports. EMD staff and water agency staff are able to verify real time field testing compliance, improve compliance rates, and lower workload redundancies. EMD staff is also able to improve public health protection by responding to reports of defective or missing assemblies more efficiently. By collaborating with stakeholders and sharing information, EMD has been able to significantly improve cross-connection control program services while saving money.

## HOW TO SURVIVE A HEALTH INSPECTION



On March 19, 2013 Supervising ES Kelly McCoy presented information on How to Survive a Health Inspection for food facility operators at a meeting of the Food Industry Working Group.

The presentation focused on how to do well on a health inspection and reduce anxiety during the inspection process. The presentation included important food safety concepts (commonly referred to as major violations or Centers for Disease Control Risk Factors) which include:

- Food From Unsafe Sources
- Inadequate Cooking
- Improper Food Temperatures
- Contamination
- Poor Personal Hygiene

With inspectors focusing on risk factors during an inspection, communication between the inspector and the operator is very important. This open communication helps build trust and a mutually advantageous relationship which improves food handling practices. After the inspection has been completed, the inspector and operator have an exit interview to discuss the violations and correction times. This exit interview provides the operator an opportunity to understand the violations and how to correct them, which facilitates better compliance.

Also covered during the presentation was availability of food safety resources for operators, which include:

- "How to get a green placard" DVD in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Vietnamese
- Food Safety Education classes in multiple languages
- Food Safety Reference Pocket Cards in multiple languages
- Self-Inspection Checklist
- Inspectors - who are a great resource for food safety questions and can assist with compliance

The Food Industry Working Group found the information valuable, and it helped to remove some of the mystery or fear associated with health inspections.

## EMD BIDS FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUE



On March 28th, 2013, EMD bid farewell to a dear colleague. Alicia Enriquez, a 10-year veteran of the Environmental Health Division, moved to Atlanta, Georgia to be with her husband Rick Collins and their four dogs—Louie, Jasper, Sadie and Rupert.

Alicia began her career in San Mateo County in 1988 where she worked in their housing program. She then moved on to Santa Clara County and to Contra Costa County where she worked in their land use, solid waste, medical waste and plan review programs.

In 2003, Alicia joined Sacramento County as a Supervising Environmental Specialist in the Consumer Protection Program. Alicia was soon promoted to Deputy Chief of the Environmental Health Division.

During Alicia's tenure with EMD she made vast and long-lasting contributions to the success and sustainability of the Consumer Protection Program. Alicia was instrumental in the launch of the Color-Coded Food Placarding Program and the receipt of the Samuel J. Crumbine Award which is presented annually to a local environmental health jurisdiction that has demonstrated excellence and continual improvement in a comprehensive food protection program.

Alicia is missed very much and all of us at EMD wish her the best!

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING SYSTEM



As of January 1, 2013, all businesses regulated by the California Certified Unified Programs (CUPAs) must electronically submit their unified program data to a statewide data-

base called the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). As the designated CUPA for Sacramento County, EMD must transmit facility information regarding hazardous material regulatory activities, including Hazardous Material Plans (HMPs) and underground storage tank information to CERS.

To comply with this requirement, EMD has developed a local e-reporting web portal that receives unified program information from businesses and transmits the information to the CERS database. The process for electronic submittal of information is now more streamlined and user-friendly than the previous process of submitting HMPs in hard copy (paper) format. The e-reporting web portal successfully launched in November 2012 and to-date more than 1,870 HMPs have been submitted electronically.

EMD is currently offering weekly training workshops on the e-reporting web portal electronic submission process for regulated local businesses. EMD staff has trained 199 representatives from over 160 businesses (including agricultural growers). EMD will continue to offer these free workshops every Tuesday during 2013.

**EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY—JULY 2012 THRU APRIL 2013**

**EMD Program Element**

**Food Placarding Total: 10,268**

Green (Pass)	9,596
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	589
Red (Closed)	83

**Inspections Total: 20,758**

Food Protection	12,503
Farm Labor Camps	31
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	2,012
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	205
Liquid Waste	194
Medical Waste	115
Small Water Systems	24
Water & Monitoring Wells	479
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	390
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	654
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	865
Stormwater	1,219
Waste Tire	739
Tobacco Retailers	314
Commercial Recycling	1,014

**EMD Program Element**

**Investigations Total: 359**

Food Borne Illness Complaint	167
Incident Response	105
Stormwater Complaint	74
Waste Tire	3
Childhood Lead	10

**Workshop Attendance Total: 1,021**

Food Safety Education (Food School)	848
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	173
How To Get A Green Placard	0
Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General)	0

**Permits, Plans & Reviews Total: 19,941**

Hazardous Materials Business Plans	2,868
Monitoring Wells	931
Food Facilities	748
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	207
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	74
Land Use	72
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	15,041

**Information Management Total: 116,067**

Documents Imaged	115,992
Public Record Reviews	75

**County of Sacramento  
Board of Supervisors**

Phil Serna, District 1  
 Jimmie Yee, District 2  
 Susan Peters, District 3  
 Roberta MacGlashan, District 4  
 Don Nottoli, District 5  
  
 Bradley J. Hudson  
 County Executive

**HELLOS, GOODBYES &  
SERVICE RECOGNITION**

**For January 2012 thru April 2013**



**New Hires** Manuel Estrada  
 Parmjit Flora  
 Sara Heynen  
 Chue Vue

**Promotions** Shirley Fong  
 Ajay Sharma  
 Michael Simpson

**Service Awards** None

**Countywide Services**

Ann Edwards  
 Chief Deputy County Executive  
  
 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 [ljimenezl@saccounty.net](mailto:ljimenezl@saccounty.net)