

Bureau of Environmental Health

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

MISSION:

"Protect the health of Kansans by linking environmental problems and associated public health concerns through coordinated comprehensive surveillance and responsible hazard exposure prevention."

Healthy Homes

Radiation and Asbestos Control

Environmental Public Health Tracking

Healthy Homes "BEFORE"



Healthy Homes "AFTER"



2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A Healthy Homes Registry was created and is expected to be fully operational through a partnership with Children's Mercy Hospital in 2013.
- The HUD program trained 460 lead workers.
- 229 homes were tested for lead based paint and work was completed on 136 homes by the end of the third quarter 2012.
- Over 50 Wichita State University nursing students were trained to conduct Healthy Home Inspections.

Healthy Homes

HEALTH TOPICS: ALLERGIES, ASTHMA, CARBON MONOXIDE, HOME SAFETY, INDOOR AIR QUALITY, SAFE PEST CONTROL, LEAD POISONING, MOLD, and RADON

Enabling legislation: KSA 65-1,201 et seq., the "Kansas Residential Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act."

Championing for a home that is built and maintained to promote wellbeing, the Healthy Homes Program coordinates a widespread and systematic approach to preventing diseases and injuries that develop from housing-related hazards and deficiencies. Coordinated statewide lead poisoning prevention efforts include epidemiologic tracking of blood lead test for all Kansas residents, environmental investigations and assessments, licensure/certification of Individuals and industry, accreditation of training providers in addition to educational outreach to both Industry and the public. The program provides support to local health agencies, industry, as well as the public ensuring Kansas families are protected not only from lead poisoning but also recognizes the need to address other household safety hazards. BEH through Healthy Homes, understands that many topics such as carbon monoxide, lead based paint, radon, indoor air quality, plus more are related to built environment health hazards and are related to chronic health conditions.

The Healthy Homes program administers a residential lead-based paint hazard elimination grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that in 2012 reduced or eliminated health hazards in 136 homes leaving just over 150 Kansas homes to renovate during the next two years. Other accomplishments include training 460 lead workers in Lead Abatement Workers, Lead Abatement Supervisors, and Certified Renovators. Moreover, twenty-four walk-through pre-bid tours were completed in Dodge City, Pratt, Kansas City, Eureka, Atchison, Wichita and Topeka. Ensuring safe elimination of lead hazards means the program enforces rules and regulations regarding lead based paint activities, including renovation and remodeling practices in residential and child daycare settings. Inspections totaled 229 units resulting in 136 units cleared by close of the third quarter. Special attention is focused on children with Elevated Blood Lead levels.

Through a collaboration with Wichita State University, 50 nursing students were trained this year to complete Healthy Home Assessments. The home visits occur thirty to sixty days after home renovation is completed. Clients receive smoke, carbon monoxide detectors, a flashlight, child safety latches, outlet covers among other household safety devices. The director of Wichita State University Nursing School enthusiastically agreed to participate again due to positive feedback from students. Seventy radon gas testing measurements in the home were completed as part of the programs follow-up visit with eight units identified for mitigation.

Radiation and Asbestos Control

HEATH TOPICS: ASBESTOS, ENVIRONMENTAL RADIATION, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, X-RAY and RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Enabling legislation: KSA 48-1601 et seq, the "Nuclear Energy Development and Radiation Act," KSA 65-5301 et seq, the "Asbestos Control Act," and KSA 65-5701 et seq, the "Community Right to Know Act."

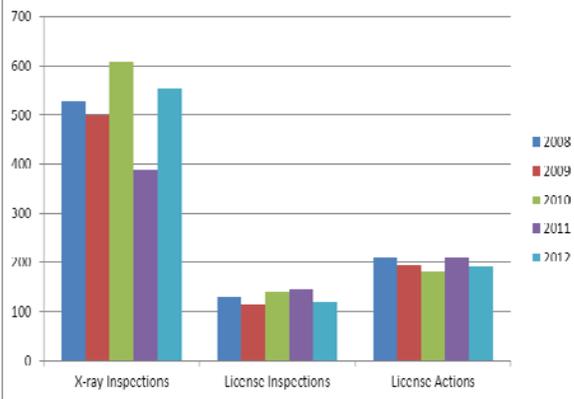
Using a comprehensive approach, Radiation and Asbestos Control protects the public along with the environment from the harmful effects of man-made sources of radiation, environmental radiation and asbestos. Ensuring compliance with state and federal standards this program promotes adherence to guidelines ensuring radiation exposure to humans is within acceptable limits.

Radiation control functions include the licensing and inspection of x-ray machines, radioactive materials and mammography facilities throughout Kansas. In 2012, X-Ray inspectors identified numerous facilities using excessive amounts of diagnostic radiation. BEH staff then provided training and lowered dose while maintaining image saving 105 Person-roentgen/week and 0.35 roentgen /x-ray. The X-ray unit completed the first round of inspecting all 2700 registered facilities.

In September 2012, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Wyandotte County Health Department held a population monitoring exercise as part of Amber Waves series of training scenarios of response to two Radiation Dispersal Device explosions. Radiological monitoring and decontamination of citizens, the registry of citizens and the process for long-term tracking was accomplished. Likewise, receipt, monitoring, decontamination and handling of animals was also achieved in partnership with the Kansas State Animal Response Team. Additionally, the program achieved enhanced training with Wolf Creek drills at the nuclear plant.

In 2012 the Right-to-Know program received and processed Tier II reports for 15,856 Kansas facilities reporting 35,447 chemical and TRI reports for 304 Kansas facilities reporting 1254 chemicals. Programs administer in this section include:

- **Radiological Emergency Response** provides planning training and operational radiological response to all Kansas radiation incidents.
- **Environmental Radiation Surveillance** detects, identifies, and measures any radioactive material released to the environment by Wolf Creek Generating Station and provide oversight cleaning up other radioactive contaminated sites.
- **Kansas Radon Program** performs outreach and education about harmful health effects of radon gas, how to test for it and how to repair structures to mitigate radon gas health threats. The program administers Radon Certification Law in Kansas ensuring residents that companies hired to test and mitigate radon are properly trained.
- **Radioactive Materials and X-Ray Control** regulates commercial and medical uses of ionizing radiation and radioactive material.
- **Asbestos** monitors asbestos removal from building renovations and demolition projects, certifies workers, and issues licenses to abatement contractors.
- **Right-to-Know** receives information regarding chemical storage and releases into ambient air making the information available to the public.



2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 118 Mammography Quality Standard Act inspections.
- Conducted 518 facility inspections of ionizing producing radiation equipment, 119 inspections of radioactive material licenses and 192 radioactive material license actions.
- Approved 1301 notifications of asbestos abatement projects and demolition of structures projects.
- Conducted 149 inspections of asbestos abatement projects and demolition sites.
- Completed Amber Waves radiation training exercises.
- Established the Radiation Reserve Volunteer Corps program.
- Certified 180 radon measurement technicians, 61 radon mitigation technicians and 10 radon laboratories.

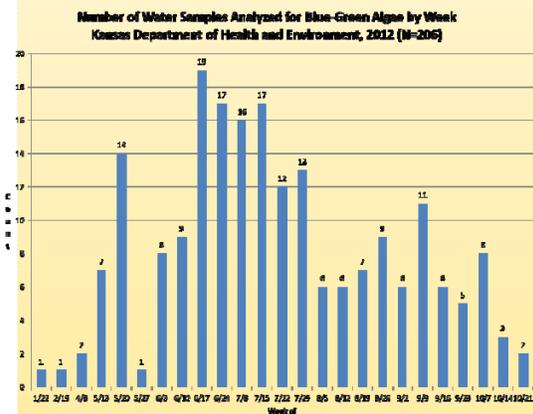


Environmental Public Health Tracking

HEALTH TOPICS: CANCER, CHILDHOOD BLOOD LEAD SURVEILANCE, CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING, LEAD-BASED PAINT in HOMES, INVENTORY OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS, WATER QUALITY, WEATHER RELATED EVENTS

There exists a fundamental gap in our understanding of how the environment affects human health. Chronic diseases, such as asthma, cancer, diabetes and heart disease account for over 70 percent of deaths in Kansas. While links between certain chronic diseases and the environment are reported, many of these connections remain unclear. The Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (EPHT) is working to close the uncertainty as part of National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. The program is a dynamic Web-based tool that for the first time and only place in Kansas, develops applications to collect, analyze, interpret and publish environmental health data indicators and track key environmental hazards and health problems throughout Kansas.

The EPHT program helps to identify threats to the health of Kansans posed by the environment and provides information to improve how the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can respond to those threats. By having access to critical environmental health information Kansans will be better able to make informed decisions and take action to protect personal health and their families. One such example is the Extreme Weather Events Workgroup where partnerships identify vulnerable populations,



develop communication to prevent anticipated health impacts and translate surveillance tracking data to inform communities of emerging health threats. Other work in 2012 includes a completed study about Kansas Occupational Health and an ongoing study of agricultural burning and how that relates to asthma.

Additionally, EPHT submitted a study to the American Journal of Public Health through a partnership with Pittsburg State University on Lead Emissions and Childhood Blood Lead. The program also assisted the State Veterinarian with two surveys addressing brucellosis and Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) knowledge among veterinarians and physicians. Likewise, responses to HAB, a non-funded initiative, commenced where 207 lake samples were taken in 2012 from 46 requests to sample submitted to KDHE leading to 23 advisories, 1 mixed and 17 warnings issued between May 1 and October 31, 2012. EPHT allowed faster responses to HAB questions and actions. The goal of the program is to protect Kansans by preventing health affects using available environmental data.



Pictured above, Odin, the Harmful Algae Bloom mascot found on the "Kansas Environmental Health" Facebook page, increased our reach by 1300 percent.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Extreme Weather Events Team established.
- Complete Kansas Occupational Health Study.
- Partnership with Washburn University and Wichita State University Schools of Nursing.
- Partnership with Pittsburg State University related to Childhood Blood Lead and Emissions.
- Assisted State Veterinarian with two surveys addressing brucellosis and Harmful Algal Bloom
- Responded to Harmful Algal Bloom health threats with no funding.

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