

To: Board of Health

From: Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A.
Public Health Director

Date: July 8, 2013 (Reflects June 2013)

Re: Director's Report

Acronyms

- EPCPH – El Paso County Public Health
- CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Director—*Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A.*

Accreditation—*Kathy Rice, Office of Planning, Partnerships, and Accreditation, Director*

- EPCPH received the Public Health Accreditation (PHAB) site visit report. EPCPH had 30 days to respond to the report. EPCPH has returned the report to PHAB with no factual errors found. The report will now go to the PHAB Accreditation Committee which will make the accreditation decision. EPCPH should receive the accreditation decision in August or September 2013.
- EPCPH submitted the Colorado Health Assessment and Planning System (CHAPS) Quarterly Report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Office of Planning and Partnerships (OPP). EPCPH is a pilot for the CHAPS process. This process was developed to assist local health departments in Colorado in creating their Community Health Improvement Plans.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale, Deputy Director*

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR):

- EPR staff participated in activities related to the hepatitis A outbreak associated with Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berries purchased from Costco and possibly other retail locations. In addition, planning is underway for point of dispensing vaccination clinics in preparation for flash flooding as a result of the Waldo Canyon burn scar.
- On June 11, the Black Forest fire started, burning approximately 11,280 acres and 511 structures (486 homes). From June 11-20, EPR staff logged more than 640 hours working in the Emergency Operations Center, helping to set up the Disaster Assistance Center, attending meetings at the incident command post, and organizing re-entry stations for residents in the affected area.
- Throughout the month, EPR staff continued to support activities related to recovery, such as obtaining supplies for debris removal, continued support of the Disaster Assistance Center and the re-entry sites in the affected area.
- On June 24, EPR staff conducted a training on closed points of dispensing for Ft. Carson.

Disease Prevention and Control—*Dr. Bill Letson, M.D., Medical Director*

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD investigative activities in June, 2013

- Reportable infectious diseases: 45 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (6), cryptosporidiosis (2), giardia (3), hepatitis A (8), acute hepatitis B (1), chronic hepatitis B (1), invasive pneumococcal disease (7), pertussis (5), Q fever, chronic (1), Salmonella (5), shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC) (2), and viral meningitis (4).
- All of the eight hepatitis A cases in June were part of the recent outbreak related to Costco berries containing pomegranate seeds, as were the two cases from late May.
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 9
- CD Program investigated one outbreak: Norovirus in a long-term care facility.
- CD Program responded to 21 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From the animals involved in those inquiries, four were tested for rabies (bat, fox, raccoon and skunk), and all were negative.

Tuberculosis (TB) – reflects TB Program activities in June, 2013:

- New active TB cases investigated: 1
- New suspect active cases investigated: 2
- Contact investigations ongoing: 6
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 34
- TB skin tests done related to contact investigations: 18
- TB blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 16
- Cases of Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 10
- Cases of Direct Observed Preventive Therapy in children (DOPT): 2
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 84
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment including 2 DOPT: 20
- Refugee and class B immigrant TB evaluations: 10

Laboratory - *Jean Hurd, M.T., Public Health Laboratory Director*

- Between June 19 and July 5, the Public Health laboratory performed bacteriological testing on 491 water samples from private wells of residents affected by the Black Forest fire. Water samples from affected small businesses were also tested. Many residents took advantage of the additional sample drop off sites. Laboratory personnel have been answering questions regarding sample results and steps to take should chlorination of the well be necessary.
- The laboratory is participating in a data sharing project with the Environmental Information Management Unit of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Data on private well tests throughout the state including nitrate, fluoride and bacterial presence will be included.
- The public health laboratory assisted Communicable Disease in packing and shipping bags of Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berry mix that was recalled on June 3. Bags were transported by courier to the CDPHE Laboratory Services Division for testing.
- The laboratory performed 22 Quantiferon TB blood tests for contact investigations.

Environmental Health (EH)—*Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Division Director*

Environmental Health, working with other Public Health programs, county departments, and non-governmental agencies, responded to the Black Forest fire. *Environmental Health was involved and will continue to be involved in many the following activities:*

- **Black Forest Potable Water Distribution Center:**

- Environmental Health manager plumbed a potable water distribution center from a Park Forest Water District hydrant located at the intersection of Black Forest Road and Burgess Road.
- Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) were on-site during the week of June 17 – 24 to answer questions.
- Center is self-serve, therefore open to Black Forest residents 24/7.
- Black Forest residents are able to fill water containers. Also, 1,000- 1gallon Deep Rock water containers were distributed to Black Forest residents affected by the fire.
- As of July 1, 2013 the Black Forest Water Distribution Center recorded 4,600 gallons distributed and the Bulk Water Distribution center recorded 9,000 gallons distributed.
- **School in the Woods Re-Entry Site, June 18 – 23:**
 - Environmental Health Staff were on-site to answer questions regarding septic and water well issues. Staff handed out water sample bottles and explained sampling procedures to Black Forest residents.
 - N95 masks, bottled water, heavy duty trash bags, educational materials were provided.
- **Spoiled Food Dump Sites:**
 - Spoiled food dump sites managed by EPC Environmental Services and Parks Departments were established at Regional Park, Section 16 Trailhead and north Black Forest Fire Station.
 - Heavy duty bags were distributed.
 - Over 50 tons of spoiled food was collected.
- **Retail Food Establishment and Child Care:**
 - EHS conducted site visits on 11 retail food establishments and four child care centers that were impacted by the fire and/or electric outage for food safety/food spoilage, well and septic, reopened facilities when possible.
- **Palmer Ridge Shelter:**
 - EHS conducted daily site visits to assure proper food safety and sanitation at the shelter. Staff worked closely with Red Cross volunteers.
- **Black Forest Regional Park Re-Entry Site June 19-23:**
 - Staff were on-site to answer questions regarding septic and water well issues. Staff handed out water sample bottles and explained sampling procedures to Black Forest residents.
 - N95 masks, bottled water, heavy duty trash bags, educational materials were provided.
- **Coordination with Regional Building Department and County Development Service:**
 - On June 25, EH manager presented objectives and requirements for septic system evaluations and repair permits for properties that were impacted by the fire to the Board of County Commissioners.
 - Director and managers continue to attend community meetings regarding safe debris removal and damaged water wells and on-site septic systems.
- **Damaged Well Water Survey and Guidance:**
 - EHS working in coordination with members of the Colorado Division of Water Resources began surveying water well damage to assess potential impacts to the aquifers. Once the survey is complete, Public Health and the Division of Water Resources will make recommendations for next steps to repair wells and prevent contamination to the drinking water systems.

Health Services—*Kelley Christians, R.D., Division Director*

Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- **Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):** The Community Health Educator and Child Health Public Health Nurse are working on a healthy food resource guide for child care providers. ECOP staff participated in a state-wide Child Care Health Consultant meeting in Denver.

- The Community Health Educator has maintained communication with the Healthy Communities Collaborative (HCC) members. As a member of the steering committee she is involved in the development of a timeline for further proposal development, review and implementation for the task forces.
- **ABCD (Assuring Better Childhood Development) Developmental Screening:** The first ABCD stakeholder's meeting was held June 20. The goal of this meeting was to bring together community agencies who are involved in screening and referring children with developmental delays, and discuss the screening and referral system. The eventual goal is to build a community developmental screening and referral roadmap.
- **Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP):** The HCP Public Health Nurses provide care coordination to children with special needs. Our current caseload is 54 children, including eight new referrals this month. The MCH administrative coordinator is continuing orientation for HCP non-medical care coordination activities. She also attended a week of Insight computer training. HCP staff attended an El Paso County Autism Workshop on June 6 with a variety of local agencies with the goal of networking and service coordination.
- MCH staff attended the Pediatric and Community Health Nursing Conference at the Children's Hospital Colorado.
- MCH staff worked during the frozen berry/hepatitis A outbreak. Public Health Nurses staffed the vaccine clinic to provide hepatitis A vaccines and administrative staff answered phones.
- MCH staff worked during the Black Forest fire response. Public Health Nurses staffed the Disaster Assistance Center/The Classical Academy and gave tetanus shots, the Child Care Facility Inspector helped inspect wells/septic tanks, and administrative staff provided data entry at the Disaster Assistance Center doing data entry.

Immunization/Travel Program:

- In response to the hepatitis A outbreak related to frozen berry mix, Immunization (IZ) clinic ordered an ample shipment of adult hepatitis A vaccine and set up a special telephone line that concerned clients could call over the weekend. The program manager fielded about a dozen calls, screening clients' need for vaccination. Clinic was opened Saturday afternoon. Nine clients who could not wait until Monday were vaccinated.
- IZ Clinic assisted Communicable Disease with tuberculin skin testing and placed a total of 79 tests in May.
- Trained staff to screen, counsel, and vaccinate community members affected by the hepatitis A outbreak. A total of 154 individuals were screened; 83 adults and children received free hepatitis A vaccinations in the IZ Clinic.
- Several IZ program staff worked in support of free tetanus vaccinations for residents of Black Forest, both in the Immunizations Clinic at CSC and at the North Disaster Assistance Center. Through June 30, 695 tetanus shots have been administered. In addition, the program manager served as assistant to the Operations Section Chief in organizing the Public Health Convenience Center and also provided "just-in-time" training on tetanus vaccinations to 20 paramedics, public health nurses and volunteer vaccinators from the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).
- Immunizations Clinic placed 38 TB skin tests during June; however walk-in hours were reduced due to activities related to Insight software training.

Clinical Services:

- There were 152 patients seen for their initial visit, annual visit, or a pregnancy screening and counseling which is a qualifying visit for the Family Planning Contract in June.
- A total of 299 patients received Family Planning services in June.

- From July 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 the clinic provided 3,102 qualifying visits. Qualifying visits are composed of the following: established clients returning for annual visit, initial visits and screening and counseling for pregnancy test. The contract year for Family Planning is July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.
- Clinical Services staff screened and provided the appropriate tetanus vaccine to citizens impacted by the Black Forest fire at both the Citizen Service Center and the Disaster Assistance Center North office.
- Clinical Services staff provided consultation to the public who called about the hepatitis A outbreak. The educator was on call for a week to provided information about hepatitis to medical providers in the community and to the public.

Women, Infants and Children:

- The monthly caseload for El Paso County WIC for the month of May 2013 was 15,086.
- WIC staff assisted with the hepatitis A hotline that was provided for the community during the onset of the hepatitis A outbreak.
- WIC staff provided 345 hours of service at the Black Forest fire victims at the Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) and the Public Health Convenience Center (PHCC).

Office of Communication—*Susan Wheelan, MBA, Communication Director*

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- For June, TEPP's social media on Facebook reached 187,593 El Paso County residents an average of 32.6 times. Since the start of the campaign in January, there have been more than 18.3 million impressions.
- TEPP staff hosted marketing tables at Sky Sox Stadium on May 31 and June 20. Attendance at these games was 5,505 and 6,867, respectively.
- Television commercials continue to air on the Spanish-speaking Telemundo station. Approximately 98 spots, including 64 in-kind spots, aired each month through June.
- Television commercials continue to air on Fox 21 and CW to target the 18-24 year old demographic. Approximately 98 spots, including 64 in-kind spots, aired each month through June.
- TEPP and County Public Information Officer (PIO) staff finalized the retailer training video for stores that sell non-cigarette tobacco products in Fountain and Manitou Springs. The four minute video was distributed to all 19 tobacco retailers in Fountain in coordination with the Fountain City Clerk. TEPP is working with city staff in Manitou Springs to determine the best way to distribute the video to retailers.
- TEPP staff met with Fountain Police Chief Todd Evans regarding enforcement of the non-cigarette tobacco retailer ordinance. He asked EPCPH to arrange a meeting with EPCPH, Fountain Police Department and Colorado Springs Police Department Vice/Narcotics/Intel Division to discuss a partnership.
- Staff gave two presentations regarding the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project that maps all non-cigarette tobacco retailers in the cities of Colorado Springs, Fountain and Manitou Springs. Staff spoke with members of the Fountain Valley Community Activity and Nutrition group and presented before the Fountain City Council. Very favorable feedback was received after each presentation.
- TEPP staff assisted PIO efforts during the Black Forest fire to support the Disaster Assistance Center and communication efforts.

- TEPP staff held a series of youth meetings at the Boys and Girls Club on Peterson AFB.
- In response to a complaint about smoke at a 24-hour Fitness location, free signage and information about the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act was given to management.
- TEPP staff presented information on the dangers of tobacco use with an emphasis on smokeless tobacco for the Colorado Department of Transportation. Approximately 50 employees attended the presentation.
- TEPP featured the newly produced retailer video during the June Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) meeting.
- TEPP staff coordinated a smoking cessation campaign with Peak Vista Community Health Centers.

Communication Support

Hepatitis A Response Activities

- News Release: 06.05.13 – “Public Health urges residents to discard Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend associated with hepatitis A outbreak”
- Managed media interview requests related to hepatitis A outbreak including Colorado News Radio, KKTV Channel 11, KOAA Channel 5, KRDO News Channel 13 and The Gazette.
- Updated the EPCPH website and social media (Facebook and Twitter accounts) with hepatitis A information and resources. Disseminated news release to media contacts as well as Pikes Peak Crisis Communication Network (CCN).

Black Forest Fire Response Activities

Website and social media updates:

- Created new a new “real time” Twitter presence on the front page of the website to allow viewers to see all Joint Information Center (JIC) messages sent to the public during the Black Forest fire. Several first responder agency accounts were combined during this effort to leverage the audience reach. This included EPCPH, El Paso County, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, and City of Colorado Springs. Messages are received by general public, as well as statewide and national followers in various agencies.
- Created a new Public Health Wildfire Information web page.
- Provided updates to additional web pages on www.elpasocountyhealth.org, including: Public Health Convenience Center, Water Testing/Water Quality page, After a Wildfire, Tetanus & First Aid, Black Forest Fire Updates, Air Quality, and a Breaking News queue.
- Managed the messages and photo distribution on EPCPH Facebook page.

News releases disseminated through the JIC:

- Wrote, edited and facilitated approval of all public health messages for dissemination to the JIC. Topics included: Water testing drop off and pick up sites; air quality (health tips for wildfire smoke – also sent prepared tweets for distribution on JIC’s social media accounts); tetanus and first aid guidance (sent prepared tweets for distribution); heat safety; Public Health Convenience Center; Disaster Assistance Center; Water Distribution Sites; Dumpster Site information; Re-entry station information.

Disaster Assistance Center support:

- Coordinated PIO scheduling and response in the DAC at the Citizens Service Center from June 13 to June 28.
- Provided public health updates to staff in DAC, and DAC phone bank.
- Attended debriefs and disseminated debrief notes to all other DAC PIO representatives.
- Responded to media inquiries at the DAC and facilitated on-camera interviews with staff and elected officials.

Public health information – handouts/flyers/FAQ sheets for DAC and PHCC:

- Facilitated updates to public health information materials, including: Wells and Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems After a Wildfire; Ash and Debris Cleanup Guidance; Safe Cleanup After a Fire; Handling Smoke Damage; Food Safety After a Wildfire; Safe Removal and Burial of Pets and Animals; Tetanus and First Aid Guidance; Health Recommendations for Wildfire Smoke; Public Health Wildfire Cleanup Guidance; Protecting Yourself from Heat Stress; Fire Suppressant Safety Information; Water Testing Instructions.
- Provided relevant re-entry and cleanup documents for El Paso County’s re-entry packet.

The Office of Communication provided PIO support for both the Disaster Assistance Center and EPCPH. Multiple interviews and requests were received related to public health messaging and services at the Disaster Assistance Center. The list below is a sample of the interviews and requests completed, but is not a comprehensive list due to the volume of media coverage.

Print Media

Colorado Springs Independent, June 12 (Air Quality)
The Denver Post, June 12 (Air Quality)
The Gazette, June 13 (Air Quality)
The Gazette, June 20 (Air Quality)
The Gazette, June 21 (Air Quality)
The Gazette, June 27 (Air Quality and Public Health Convenience Center)

Television

KOAA June 11 (Air Quality)
KOAA June 12 (Air Quality)
KKTV June 17 (Tetanus)
KRDO June 17/18 (Water Testing)
KOAA June 19, (Public Health Convenience Center)
KRDO June 19 (Public Health Convenience Center)
KKTV June 19, (Public Health Convenience Center)
KKTV June 20 (Air Quality)

Internal communication:

- Shared updates and news releases with staff as they became available.
- Provided updates to the phone bank in the Disaster Assistance Center.
- Shared updates and news releases with staff in the DAC as they became available.
- Photography to document DAC and PHCC.

Social Media/Online digital media

- News and information provided on our Facebook page and Twitter feeds included: Black Forest fire news via the JIC; Air Quality updates and public health messages; Black Forest fire re-entry and cleanup guidance. Twitter updates included the hashtag #BlackForestFire. Facebook: 249 “likes; Twitter: 778 current followers. EPCPH gained 107 Twitter followers during the Black Forest fire

Healthinfo requests:

The Office of Communication receives and refers e-mails that come to our website each day and tracks our responses. These e-mails reveal information needs that could be addressed through creation of print or website material. **Between June 1 and June 30**, our office received and answered approximately 86 emails through our website.

Website Analytics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,778 unique visitors to the site with 23,890 pageviews (from June 7 to July 7, 2013). Of the total visitors, 75 percent were new visitors and 25 percent were returning visitors. The website had the most visitors of 2013 on June 12, 2013 (following the start of the Black Forest fire). The Public Health Wildfire Information Page, Water Quality and Air Quality pages were all in the top 10 most viewed website pages for the month of July.