

Division of Environmental Health – July 2009

- Bureau of Community Environmental Health
- Bureau of Water Programs
- Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs
- Bureau of Radiation Control
- Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Initiated a statewide investigation into potential health hazards posed by defective drywall. Activities include developing and executing a research plan, development and maintenance of a web site to inform and educate the public on the issue, and development of a health survey to collect health symptomatology associated with exposure to defective drywall. The Division was thrust into national leadership on this issue.
- Florida is one of only a few grantees in the nation who partnered, developed, marketed and launched an Environmental Public Health Tracking web portal; <http://www.floridatracking.com/> and used tracking funds to create two mercury bio-monitoring surveillance programs which include Escambia and Duval County Health Departments (CHDs) and the Jacksonville laboratory.
- Obtained credentialing as a nationally recognized Healthy Homes training provider, an in-home assessment that educates on and prevents public health problems before they occur. Implemented this program in Palm Beach and Duval CHDs.
- Developed a strategy to reduce the most frequently noted violations often observed in permitted migrant housing establishments and awarded certificates for making significant improvements on their establishments.
- Participated and partnered with universities, CHDs and other DOH divisions in the development and submission of 5 federally funded grants, and recently became one of the first health departments to receive a climate change grant.
- Coordinated epidemiologic studies for three inquires of cancer related to environmental exposures and development a department wide Cancer Inquiry Protocol in coordination with other divisions.
- Evaluated over 20 hazardous waste sites, including the high profile Raytheon hazardous waste site in Pinellas County.
- Completed and distributed Childhood Lead Poisoning Screening and Case Management Guide and provided funding to nine county health departments to expand lead poisoning case management activities.
- Held three successful satellite teleconferences attracting national audiences (on multi-state outbreak investigations, food tracebacks and recalls, and rare and dangerous waterborne pathogens) and provided a host of training for CHDs and responders in other agencies, including the FL Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA), Florida Mosquito Control Association, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist's.
- Provided a Public Swimming Pool Training Live/webcast Event in partnership with Univ of South Florida and Univ of Michigan, 'attended' by about 250 participants representing 20 states, 2 foreign countries and almost 50 of the 67 CHDs in Florida as well as a few industry representatives.

- Successfully protected the citizens of Florida by conducting nuclear and radiological monitoring for dirty bombs and improvised nuclear devices at several major events of national significance, such as Coke Zero 400, Homestead NASCAR Championship, Bowl Championship Series title game, Super Bowl XLIII, and the Daytona 500. Also participated in the initial Hostile Action Based emergency drills at all three Florida Nuclear Power Plants.
- Florida was the first state to enact rules to cover a new radiation therapy modality approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Florida rules are being utilized as a model or used directly by other states for their regulations.
- Developed and delivered training to 90 environmental health strike team members for radiological response and population monitoring after a radiological dispersal device or improvised nuclear device. This training included deployment of radiological response emergency kits and pedestrian portal monitors in all seven regions.
- Assisted with the delivery of the Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office pilot offering of the “Advanced Preventative Nuclear Detection Operations” course at Ft. Pierce in conjunction with the Super Bowl monitoring.
- Revised Limited Use Drinking Water Program, Public Swimming Pool Program and Well Surveillance Program Evaluation tools to be more automated and useful as a self- evaluation tool in reflecting and weighing most critical elements of program performance.
- Completed study to provide a statewide inventory of onsite sewage, contracted for passive nitrogen reduction study, and made progress report to legislature on nitrogen reduction study.

GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

- Recognize owners and operators participating in the Migrant Housing Program for maintaining and providing the best migrant housing establishments.
- Expand and develop additional health, environmental hazard and exposure indicators (e.g., community environmental health indicators, GCC) on Tracking website.
- Prepare a competitive funding application to be submitted to CDC to support ongoing birth defects surveillance and education activities.
- Publish an Occupational Health burden report for Florida, and apply for and secure funding for a occupational health epidemiologist to oversee a surveillance program.
- Assess public health threat at Flash Cleaners, Arkla Terra, and General Dynamics hazardous waste sites and continue assessments of the Lincoln Park/Durrs Neighborhood, Koppers, and Millview hazardous waste sites.
- Implement Healthy Homes Program in one additional Florida county.
- Establish a Lead Based Paint Training and Certification Program.
- Update the state Arbovirus Guide to include more specifics regarding response to an exotic Arbovirus such as Rift Valley Fever, and update the state Rabies Guide to include new ACIP guidance as well as modified animal testing guidance and other material as needed.
- Finalize Safe Drinking Water Act Program Interagency Agreement with DEP, and apply successfully for EPA Grant for continuation of Florida Beach Monitoring Program.

- Revise the X-ray machine registration and inspection statute to remove 28-year-old fee caps and inspection frequencies that are allocated in ways that are contradictory, have not kept pace with changes in technology, and are causing a program deficit.
- Move the radiation machine inspections to an entirely paperless process which is faster and much more efficient than the current paper-based process.
- Develop cache of radiological detection equipment to be based in Orlando in order to facilitate law enforcement agencies in providing preventative radiological nuclear detection monitoring at special events or intelligence driven operations throughout the state of Florida.
- Work toward implementation of an online registration renewal portal with credit card payment capability.
- Coordinate Environmental Justice and Community grants (dependent on grant awards), and present at National Environmental Public Health Conference (Atlanta-abstract accepted)
- Assist with implementation of folic acid prevention project funded by CDC to educate Hispanic women about folic acid preventable birth defects.
- Coordination of Asthma Surveillance program, Biomonitoring program, and Occupational Health Surveillance program (dependent on receipt of grant).
- Attend the Partnership for Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes 1st Annual Conference, and support industry through compliance assistance and education about the US Environmental Protection Agency's Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.
- Coordinate delivery of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant funded Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) course on Health Physics/Medical Response in Radiation Accident. This course will be delivered in all seven regions with the intended audience being county health department medical personnel and hospital emergency room personnel.
- Continue work on computer based inspections (paperless) for the majority of the radiation machine inspections.
- Begin preparing for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's audit of the radioactive materials program, which will occur in February 2011.
- Continue to work with the major universities, such as Florida A&M University, Florida State University, and the University of South Florida to develop and offer a 14 week online Basic Elements for a Course on Farmworkers and Advocacy Program.
- Continue to look for ways to simplify the 64E-14 Migrant Housing Rule and Florida Statute definitions of migrant farmworker housing.
- Continue to develop mutually beneficial partnership with DEP for Well Surveillance Program. Continue dialogue with DEP about Safe Drinking Water Act Program funding and partnership in education of CHDs and DEP Districts regarding new federal drinking water regulations.
- Continue to apply for EPA grant for Beach Monitoring Program and other grant and research opportunities.
- Organize two zoonotic disease satellite broadcasts/webcasts on Rift Valley Fever and Zoonotic influenza in lieu of the biannual Florida Zoonosis Summit.
- Coordinate epidemiologic studies for inquires of cancer and other adverse health outcomes related to environmental exposures.

- Assess recent additions to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL): Arkla Terra and General Dynamics.
- Evaluate case management activities for counties receiving funding from Lead Poisoning Prevention Screening and Education Act (under the authority of 381.985, F.S.).
- Completion of remediation and assessment guide for clandestine drug laboratories.
- Development of guidance for builders of high-rise residential structures and mitigators of elevated radon levels in high-rise residential structures based upon our completed research.
- Development of green construction credential for radon resistant construction.