



St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment

Health E-News



FEBRUARY 2006

1650 BOONE'S LICK ROAD, ST. CHARLES, MO 63301
COMHEALTH@SAINTCHARLESCOUNTY.ORG

PHONE 636-949-7400
WWW.SCCHEALTH.ORG

Helpful Phone Numbers

Division of Public Health
636-949-7400

Health Education
636-949-7401

Vital Records
636-949-7558

STD
Prevention/Treatment
636-949-7401

Environmental Health
636-949-7404

WIC
(Women Infants Children)
636-949-7402

Division of Emergency
Management
636-949-3023

Division of Environmental
Services
Recycling Services
636-949-7415

Division of Humane
Services
636-949-7387 (PETS)

Animal Control
636-949-7347



**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
FOR THE REGION**

Electronics Recycling is Now Available in St. Charles County!

If you're wondering what to do with your old electronics, **e-cycle St. Louis** is your answer!

This exciting new consumer electronics collection program has been developed by the St. Louis Regional Partnership for Electronics Recovery to encourage reuse and recycling of unwanted electronics in our region.

Electronics often contain useful materials such as precious metals, glass, and plastics that should be recovered rather than buried in a landfill. On the flip side, the heavy metals and other toxic materials found in many electronics can be harmful to the environment if the products are not properly managed.

To ensure electronics are managed in an environmentally safe manner, the Partnership has registered numerous facilities in the area as official collection sites for e-cycle St. Louis. To learn more visit www.ecyclestlouis.org

Pet Adoption Center Rings in the New Year with New Kennels!

"With this addition we now have a total of 122 dog kennels. This new bank has two extra large kennels that allow us to hold large breed dogs more comfortably. Recently, we housed a 137 lb Mastiff and a 100 pound Anatolian Shepherd."

-Theresa Williams, Director of the St. Charles County Division of Humane Services

Visit www.scchealth.org or call 636-949-PETS for more information!



FROM THE DIRECTOR By Gil Copley **Food Establishment Inspection**

One of the traditional, and critical, responsibilities of Public Health Departments is the inspection of "Food Service Establishments". This term certainly includes restaurants, but it also refers to food carts, festival food booths, mobile food trucks, and retail grocery stores. This topic of restaurant inspection is always of great public interest. The restaurant inspection score listing ("Know the Score") on our website (www.scchealth.org) is consistently among the most accessed features on our monthly website statistical reports. Of special interest to many is the "Smoke-Free Dining" listing of restaurants. It is always among the top 10...Continue reading this article at www.scchealth.org, click on the "From the Director" link on the left side of the page.

Surfing the web?



We're on the Web!
www.scchealth.org

Check out these websites for more info on public health!

National Children's Dental Month
www.ada.org

National Donor Day
2/14
www.organdonor.gov

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A Hot Tip for Home Safety Tune In To "the Voice of the National Weather Service"



Spring is right around the corner! Warmer weather also brings the threat of spring storms, lightning, hail, flash floods and tornadoes. Knowing what to do when a storm occurs may save your life.

Emergency information is communicated to the public via the Internet, television and radio broadcasts, Outdoor Warning Sirens (OWS), or in some cases, even "door to door" delivery. Each method has advantages and limitations, but common misconceptions can have serious consequences.

One common misconception involves outdoor warning sirens, sometimes referred to as "tornado sirens". Reports that "I couldn't hear the siren in my house," point out a common, but potentially dangerous, misunderstanding of the critical part sirens play in public warning. **Warning sirens are not designed to be heard indoors.** They are designed to warn those outside to go indoors to a safe place and stay tuned to TV and radio for more information.

For indoor warnings, experts recommend having a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio. Direct from the National Weather Service, NOAA weather radios are expanding beyond weather, to provide 24-hour alerts for a variety of public safety hazards, using a network of more than 760 transmitters nationwide.

"TV and radios are important information sources, but they won't wake you up in the middle of the night in an emergency," states Ina McCaine-Obenland of St Charles County Emergency Management. "NOAA radios are designed to do just that. We would like to see a NOAA radio in every home and workplace, just like smoke detectors." Unlike older weather radios, current models can be programmed for limited areas to reduce "over-alerting". Built-in back up batteries mean radios will work even during power outages. NOAA radios are available at many electronic and department stores.

During a storm, computers, radios, and TV's may lose electrical power and siren towers can be knocked out by lightning. Staying informed during an emergency with more than one warning source will make you less likely to find yourself "in the dark" when it really counts.

For more information, contact the Division of Emergency Management at (636) 949-3023 or visit: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lx/nwr/nwr.php>.

February is Heart Month!

Join The Heart Truth throughout the month of February to recognize American Heart Month and remind every woman to care for her heart.

Heart disease is the #1 killer of women.
One in 3 women dies of heart disease;
1 in 30 dies of breast cancer.



The good news is that both men and women can lower their risk of heart disease by as much as 82 percent by leading a healthy lifestyle. *The Heart Truth* is a national awareness campaign for women about heart disease sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and more. Visit www.hearttruth.gov.