



St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment

Health E-News

JUNE 2005

1650 BOONE'S LICK ROAD, ST. CHARLES, MO 63301
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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

The Pet Adoption Center...

is installing new Decorative Epoxy Industrial Floor Coating in all the kennel areas. The floor project started on May 8th and will be complete on June 10th. The new floors are being installed by Archway Industrial Coatings, a local vendor. The process is being done in three phases and will include all kennel areas, catteries, and hallways. The new floors are extremely durable, non-skid, easy to clean and very attractive. The biggest advantage to having this type of flooring installed is the ability to help control disease and keep the kennels free of bacteria. Of course being pretty doesn't hurt either!



Students Get Their Feet Wet With Earth Force!

Eight sixth grade classes from Wentzville Middle School began their trek in Peruque Creek last month. Over 200 students joined mentors from St. Charles County Environmental Services and General Motors to ascertain the health of the stream.



Teachers helped students do the "crawdad shuffle" and wipe off nearby rocks to stir up macro invertebrates living there. Mentors and students counted the bugs, looking for quantity and biodiversity. The sixth graders classified organisms based on characteristics such as segmented bodies, type and number of legs, body color and length. Besides the many amphibians spotted by astute students, groups found midgeflies, stoneflies, riffle beetles and "cream-filled" craneflies.

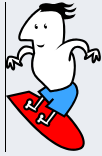
"Yummy, I bet he tastes good!" said Nick Woods, comparing the larvae to a cream-filled doughnut.

The students are currently analyzing the data collected to help create a civic action project aimed at improving the health of our community. Kim Eckelkamp, science teacher, hopes to have each student write a letter to a local decision-maker or to the editor of a local newspaper.



This is the third year St. Charles County has administered the Earth Force program with funding from the Wentzville General Motors plant. Eighth grade classes also study Peruque Creek with a more in-depth look at the water's chemistry. This spring was the first opportunity for the younger students to get their feet wet and monitor the water's quality. Thanks to citizens efforts to keep our watersheds clean, each spring and fall new classes get their chance to take a peek at the awe-inspiring things living under rocks in our streams.

Surfing the web?



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

Check out these websites for more info on public health!

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
www.fda.gov

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

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Beyond "Duct Tape and Plastic" The Straight Scoop on Shelter-In-Place



Duct tape. Plastic. You probably remember the uproar. For a while *everyone* was talking about it. Then all the noise died down and it still wasn't very clear what it was for or why it was so important.

These materials are used for something called Shelter-in-Place. At the St Charles County Division of Emergency Management, we encourage making Shelter-In-Place part of all-around emergency preparation for all our citizens. And here's why it should be important to *you*.

Chemicals are a part of everyday life and that means chemical accidents can happen anywhere, not just at big industrial plants. A fire or traffic accident can bring a chemical hazard right into your neighborhood.

Evacuation isn't always the best answer. It may be safer to shelter inside where you are instead of trying to get somewhere else if chemical levels are already hazardous outside. Whether it is safer to go or stay would be decided by trained emergency responders. People in some areas might be told to leave while others are instructed to "shelter-in-place". The important thing is for residents to be prepared to do either one.

In-place sheltering is normally short-term; usually not more than a few hours. When the chemical outside dissipates, additional instructions will be given about where to go or what to do next.

The duct tape and plastic are used to reduce the amount of chemical entering the room, not for creating an airtight room. Choosing a room and pre-cutting plastic to fit windows can make it fast and simple. The plastic can be stored with other emergency supplies. After all, duct tape and plastic can have hundreds of emergency uses!

More info can be found online at <http://www.chemicalspill.org>

Six Basic Steps to Shelter-In-Place

1. Move inside.
2. Close and lock all windows and doors.
3. Turn off ventilation (a.c., heaters, fans, anything that moves air around).
4. Seal a room (tape and plastic over doors, windows, and vents).
5. Turn on the radio or television to listen for updates and instructions.
6. Stay off of the phone unless you need immediate lifesaving assistance; emergency responders will need all available phone lines!



Home Cooking! It's No Picnic!

FIGHT BAC!

Right now, there may be an invisible enemy ready to strike. He's called BAC (bacteria) and he can make people sick. In fact, even though consumers can't see BAC - or smell him, or feel him - he and millions more like him may already be invading food products, kitchen surfaces, knives and other utensils!

You have the power to Fight BAC! And to keep food safe from harmful bacteria. It's as easy as following these four simple steps:

1. **Clean!** Wash hands and surfaces often
2. **Separate!** Don't cross-contaminate
3. **Cook!** Cook to proper temperatures
4. **Chill!** Refrigerate promptly & properly

More info at www.fightbac.org

We are seeking volunteers to role play as victims in a Bioterrorism exercise on June 15, 2005. During the exercise, St. Charles and other Region C counties, will demonstrate and assess their emergency response plans by operating medication dispensing sites.

On the day of the exercise, volunteers will attend an orientation, receive lunch, be assigned a role playing card and then proceed through the medication clinic as a "victim". Volunteer orientation will begin at 11:30am and the exercise will conclude at 3:00pm.

To volunteer please contact
Hope Woodson at 636-949-7554.