



St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment

Health E-News

MARCH 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

World TB Day, held on March 24 each year, is an occasion for people around the world to raise awareness about the international health threat presented by tuberculosis (TB). For more info visit www.cdc.gov

Help Prevent Animal Cruelty at Easter

Thinking about giving your children a bunny or chick as a "special" Easter present? Here are some things to think about...



- ✓ These extremely vulnerable little animals are poorly suited as pets.
- ✓ Although unintentional, the vast majority of the baby bunnies, chicks and ducks that become Easter gifts die within a few weeks.
- ✓ They require special feeding, care and consistent temperatures.
- ✓ Small children often break the animals' fragile bones and cause other fatal injuries.
- ✓ Animals that do survive the first few weeks are often released to animal care and control agencies, where many must be euthanized because no permanent homes can be found for them.
- ✓ You may contract salmonella, a dangerous disease which causes severe inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, from these chicks and ducks. Children are especially vulnerable to this disease. (www.americanhumane.org)

At Easter time, you can help prevent cruelty by giving your little ones stuffed animals. After the holiday, if your family is ready for a new pet, consider an adorable adoptable dog or cat from the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center!



Chemical Collections Season Begins!

Recycle Works Central will be accepting hazardous household chemicals, by appointment only, April 1 to October 31 this year. If you are a St. Charles County resident, you can make your appointment now to get rid of your household toxins that are commonly found under the sink, in the garage and in the basement. Call 636-949-7900 ext. 4271 to schedule a day to drop off your chemicals. Remember, read the label for toxicity and recommended disposal method (DANGER and WARNING are much more toxic than CAUTION). Visit www.scchealth.org/es for more info on hazardous household materials and safer alternatives.



The Missouri statewide tornado drill will be held at 1:30pm on Tuesday, March 14th. For more information check out www.sema.dps.mo.gov and be sure to read **Mythbusters!** on the next page!

St. Charles County Workforce Development Youth Council Apprenticeship Programs Available to St. Charles County Youth

Come attend a **free** informational meeting!

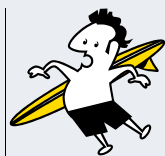
When: April 4, 2006 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Where: Missouri Career Center, 212 Turner Blvd, St. Peters, MO

RSVP: Please call and reserve your place 636-278-1360 x 253

Refreshments will be served.

Surfing the web?



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

March is National
Colorectal Cancer
Awareness Month

Learn more
online at

www.preventcancer.org

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Mythbusters!

Test Your Knowledge About Seven Common Tornado Myths



Myth: Tornadoes happen during the spring "tornado season".

Truth: Though there is a definite increase during spring, tornadoes happen in every month of the year and at any time of the day or night.

Myth: Tornadoes don't happen near lakes, where rivers join, in mountains, etc.

Truth: Tornadoes happen anywhere; they've been recorded in every state in the U.S., crossing rivers, at sea, and in mountains at elevations of 10,000 feet.

Myth: If a tornado approaches a home or building, you should open windows slightly to prevent air pressure changes from "exploding" the structure.

Truth: Once recommended by some experts, we now know that opening windows to prevent damage does nothing. Time is better spent getting to a safe place.

Myth: If you're outside or in your car, and a tornado is approaching, you should lie flat in a ditch.

Truth: Only if there is no substantial building nearby that can be reached in time. Don't try to out-drive or out-run a tornado, a substantial building is always the first choice. The best choice is to monitor the weather, change travel plans and avoid this situation altogether.

Myth: Bridges can be used as shelters during a tornado.

Truth: NO! Experts agree that using bridges for shelter places you in extreme risk! Some studies indicate winds actually *accelerate* as they pass through the spaces in the structure. In some cases, abandoned vehicles have blocked highways, trapping other travelers and putting more people at risk.



Myth: The southwest corner of a building is safest.

Truth: Once thought to be true, the fact is that dangerous winds can come from any direction. The southwest corner of a building is no safer than any other.

Myth: Tornadoes don't strike cities.

Truth: Tornadoes happen anywhere. Major cities hit by tornadoes in recent years include Washington, DC, Fort Worth, TX, Salt Lake City, UT, Oklahoma City, OK, Nashville, TN, Cincinnati, OH, Birmingham, AL and Miami, FL.

Start your spring by stamping out more dangerous myths at
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/>

FROM THE DIRECTOR - More on Tornadoes

In the February Issue of Health E-News, Ina McCaine-Obenland of the St Charles County Division of Emergency Management provided detailed information on NOAA Weather Radios with an excellent link to the NOAA website for additional information. www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/nwr/nwr.php Hopefully, everyone who read Ms. McCaine-Obenland's article has by now purchased one of these inexpensive radios.

Another excellent source of information relating to tornadoes is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/ The severe weather pages are part of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response program at the CDC. Public Health deals with more than disease. The prevention of injury and death from injury has historically been a major part of the CDC mission.

To continue reading this article please visit www.scchealth.org and follow the "From The Director" link.