

Environmental Health Division Update – March 2025

During the first quarter of 2025, Environmental Health (EH) has continued to train and upskill Environmental Health Specialists. The team is focused on training the newest hires in the various EH programs and expanding our depth and breadth of knowledge amongst our senior staff. We continue to collaborate with CDPHE for training and the official signoffs needed for new inspectors to conduct independent inspections.

- 2 EH Specialists have been signed off in the Retail Food Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has been standardized in the Retail Food Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has been standardized in the Child Care Program.
- 2 EH Specialists have started their training in the Child Care Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has started their training in the Waste Tire Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has been signed off in the Recreational Water Program.

Our Water Team is reviewing the proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System regulations (Reg. 43) which set the minimum standards for how OWTS systems are regulated statewide. The Water Quality Control Commission meets on March 10th and, if adopted, the regulations will go into effect on approximately April 30th. DCHD will have up to one year to adopt local regulations if we so choose. The Water Team is also monitoring discussions around identifying funding sources for Colorado OWTS systems that are failing, and the owners do not have the means to repair their systems. This will likely add an additional \$250 to new or replacement OWTS systems if this bill passes.

Our Consumer Protection Team has volunteered their time and efforts to support this year's Conference for Food Protection here in Denver. This conference is vital for our work with food safety standards and how we go about identifying food safety issues and upcoming changes and how we go about enforcing them. The last Tri-Annual Review was in 2018 and this year's review will be focused on current fee schedules and definitions. CDPHE has adopted new Child Care regulations that go into effect April 14th. Efforts are underway to review the new regulations and to disseminate information to our childcare providers and to provide additional education and support.

Approximately 1,200 invoices were mailed for 2025 license renewals. Environmental Health has completed phone call and onsite follow ups to issue Notices of Violations for facilities that had outstanding payments. Several facilities had changed ownerships, so inspectors worked to collect updated information to ensure that invoices and points of contact were current. Retail Food facilities that are operating and are still outstanding on their payments were issued a Civil Penalty.

Environmental Health is grateful for the time and effort of both the IT and Purchasing Departments in providing input on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a large scanning project that we inherited. The RFP has been finalized and posted to the Rocky Mountain E-Purchasing system to digitize approximately 184 linear feet of physical files that are on a permanent retention schedule – most of which are related to the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System. The end state goal is to upload these onto the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems map which will allow homeowners and contractors to access the information they need to maintain their systems and to save employee time searching and scanning records.

Since December, EH has:

- Conducted 246 inspections
 - 8 Body Art inspections
 - 26 Childcare facility inspections
 - 20 Recreational Water inspections
 - 188 Retail Food Establishment inspections

- Assisted restaurant owners and builders with 18 plan reviews
- Responded to 44 complaints
- Issued 113 permits
 - Issued 27 New Installation OWTS permits
 - Issued 3 Major Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 21 Minor Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 62 OWTS Transfer of Title Use permits
- Reviewed 26 Land Use referrals