

## Environmental Health Division Update – December 2024

During the last quarter, Environmental Health (EH) has hired and continued to train 6 new Environmental Health Specialists – meaning we are fully staffed! In addition, we also internally promoted our new Environmental Health Supervisor. 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 started their training in the Retail Food Program.
- 2 EH Specialists have started their training in the Child Care Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has completed their training in the Body Art Program.
- 1 EH Specialist has started their training in the OWTS Program and the Recreational Water Program.

Our Water Team has had the opportunity to review and comment on the Accessory Dwelling Unit, Douglas County Zoning Resolution Amendment application for compliance with pertinent environmental and public health regulations. We submitted comments regarding upcoming changes for Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs) to ensure that On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) associated with these are installed and permitted following the current procedures and regulations. 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.

Our Consumer Protection Team has volunteered their time and efforts to support next 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. We are also meeting with several entities and building relationships to show how our work complements the work that others are doing in the county. EH and the EPR/Epi team met with South Metro Fire Department to discuss emergency response and recovery efforts surrounding restaurant fires and other situations we would respond to. We will also be meeting with Special Event Coordinators at Douglas County Fairgrounds and with Castle Rock to discuss how we approach events for the 2025 calendar year.

Environmental Health has completed its annual invoicing process and have begun receiving and processing payments for 2025 license renewals – approximately 1200 invoices were mailed.

Since September, EH has:

- Conducted 236 inspections
  - 7 Body Art inspections
  - 38 Childcare facility inspections
  - 17 Recreational Water inspections
  - 174 Retail Food Establishment inspections
- Assisted restaurant owners and builders with 15 plan reviews
- Responded to 42 complaints
- Issued 107 permits
  - Issued 28 New Installation OWTS permits
  - Issued 3 Major Repair OWTS permits
  - Issued 14 Minor Repair OWTS permits
  - Issued 62 OWTS Use permits
- Reviewed 30 Land Use referrals