



# EMD News & Notes

Winter 2013 Edition

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



This issue of EMD's News & Notes highlights four high priority programs that demonstrate the department's continuing value as one puzzle piece of County government's commitment to public safety.

Lead exposure is a serious concern to early childhood development. A common ingredient in the manufacture of paint prior to 1978, exposure to a single fleck, or the dust created when paint decays can cause learning disabilities during a child's formative years.

Lead exposure can mimic other conditions and be difficult to identify. Paint is one of many sources. Other sources include contaminated candy, plates and mugs, and event candles with lead wicks. In support of the County Health Officer's public health efforts, our Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention team investigates suspected cases of lead contamination and is critically important to determining the source, mitigating exposure risk, and protecting children from further exposure.

Food is an important ingredient, and of great cultural significance at many community events such as the Hmong New Year Celebration held annually in November. One of many popular Sacramento events, EMD partnered with event organizers to insure food safety, greatly reducing the risk of foodborne illness.

EMD continues to improve the regulatory experience and reduce costs. A new electronic portal being developed by our Environmental Compliance and Information Technology groups will facilitate online applications and form submission. The portal will prepopulate business application form data, provide form specific help, and enforce form integrity securely over the Internet. This will streamline the application process and greatly reduce paper form submissions. EMD will expand this online tool to facilitate other regulatory processes. We are very excited about the potential of this new tool.

EMD is partnering with State and Federal agencies to identify opportunities to better coordinate and leverage limited resources. The efficiencies from these efforts will help contain costs and allow more rapid and thorough response to foodborne outbreaks.

I hope you find these stories informative. Please contact us if you have questions or would like further information.

## CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION



Hashmi Surma

October and November were very active months for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) team. From January to September, only five lead investigations for children with elevated blood lead levels were completed. However, in October and November, six new cases appeared.

This may be a result of outreach by Sacramento County's Division of Public Health to physicians or children visiting physicians for pre-school enrollment.

During a recent lead investigation, staff determined that silver metal cutting occurred at one of the homes. High lead levels were found in dust in the area where the cutting occurred. Precious metal cutting has not been identified as a source of lead and further testing will be conducted to determine if this is a new source of lead poisoning. A second investigation showed that a common cosmetic used in Middle Eastern and Indian cultures had high lead levels. This product, called "Surma," "Kohl," or "Kajal" is used as eye liner and is believed to keep eyes healthy despite its almost 100% lead content.. (See photo above.)

Several other homes investigated were found to be in a deteriorated condition and paint, dust, or soil was found to be the source of lead poisoning. Notices of violation were issued instructing the owners of necessary repairs, such as repairing paint and covering bare soil.

Several complaints have been received; Notices of Violations have been issued; and properties are currently undergoing improvements for compliance.

The final step toward compliance is "clearance testing," a rigorous procedure to determine if property is safe for families.

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## CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

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Five clearance tests were performed during October and November. One clearance test was performed at an 8-unit pre-1960's apartment building and required 56 samples. (See photo.) Work continues on non-complaint properties.



October was Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Month and the CLPP celebrated with a display in the lobby of the Sacramento County Administration Building. This display held information on common sources of lead poisoning; ways to protect children; information for building industries, managers and homeowners on regulations and safe renovation techniques; and incentive items. The display was onsite from October 4 through November 1, 2012.

The CLPP team recommends that you view current lists of [recalled candy](#) and [recalled toys](#).

## HMONG NEW YEAR 2012

The annual Sacramento Hmong New Year festival was held at Cal Expo over the Thanksgiving weekend. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 people attended the four-day event that celebrates the unique cultural identity of the Hmong culture.



Traditional clothes were worn; traditional music was played; and traditional dances were performed on a stage. A highlight of the festival was the large array of food offerings.

The EMD Environmental Health Division worked closely with festival coordinators to promote food safety at the event. Environmental Specialist (ES) Toua Yang presented a training seminar in the Hmong language prior to the festival, which focused on safe food preparation. All food vendors were invited to attend the training, and high-risk food operators were required to participate. The food preparation training is updated yearly to address violations noted during the previous year's inspections.

ESs Jan Bradshaw, Liz Olson, Tayjes Patel, and Toua Yang conducted pre-event inspections at high-risk food booths prior to the event to ensure that food booth operators were adequately prepared. Operators were provided with a check list during the pre-event inspection to assist them in preparing their booths for safe operation. Pre-event inspections allow operators to make necessary

corrections and are integral to ensuring food safety at events.

ESs Jan Bradshaw, Craig Dorrrough, Tuan Nguyen, Liz Olson, Tayjes Patel, Rupinder Singh, Joseph Terefe, and Toua Yang conducted routine inspections at fifty-six food booths on Thanksgiving morning. Food items included: produce, tea, Hmong sausages, purple sticky rice, papaya salad, barbeque chicken, fish, pork, noodle dishes, rice dishes, pho, and nava (a popular tri-color tapioca dessert).

The Hmong New Year festival continues to be an enjoyable event and a safe place to celebrate the culture in Sacramento County.

## ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL OF CERTIFIED UNIFIED PROGRAM DATA

The screenshot shows the EMD Portal interface. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'EMD Topics', 'How Do I...', and 'Need Help?'. The main content area features a login section with 'User name' and 'Password' fields and a 'Login' button. Below the login section are two columns of information: 'Cross Connection Program' (marked 'Now Available!') and 'CUPA Program' (marked 'Coming Wednesday, November 21, 2012!'). The Cross Connection section lists actions like 'Request a Cross Connection Username and Password' and 'Portal Cross Connection User Instructions'. The CUPA section lists actions like 'Request a CUPA Username and Password' and 'Portal CUPA User Instructions'.

Assembly Bill 2286 passed in 2008 mandates that all regulated businesses and local Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) must electronically submit their unified program data beginning January 1, 2013. As the designated CUPA for Sacramento County, EMD will transmit data to the California Electronic Reporting System (CERS). (CUPAs must transmit facility information regarding hazardous material regulatory activities, including Hazardous Material Plans (HMPs) and underground storage tank information.)

EMD is developing a local e-reporting Portal for receipt of unified program data from regulated facilities within Sacramento County. Documents and procedures are streamlined when businesses utilize the Portal to file data.

EMD is currently offering training workshops for any local businesses or interested governmental agencies on the e-reporting Portal electronic submission process.

Supervising ES John Elkins and ESs Daniel Abellon, Amanda Hakim, Derek Jacks, Doug Osborn, Lisa Perez and Mike Simpson have conducted workshops on the electronic reporting process in Sacramento, Walnut Grove and Wilton. More than 50 people, including representatives from the Sacramento

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## ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL OF CERTIFIED UNIFIED PROGRAM DATA

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County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, attended the workshops. EMD will be offering weekly training workshops throughout 2013.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION PARTNERSHIP

### Background

EMD plays an active role at state and national levels through participation in organizations such as the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). An important role for NEHA is maintaining professional standards and certifications, known as Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Registered Sanitarian credentials. Certifications are required of many EMD field staff that are responsible for inspections in our county. Certification demonstrates that an environmental health professional has mastered a body of knowledge and acquired sufficient experience to satisfactorily perform work responsibilities in the environmental health field. NEHA proactively deals with emerging issues in the environmental health field, works to establish best practices and keep training and certification current and relevant. Certification requires a defined level of ongoing training credits to remain in force, and insures that our inspection staff remains current in their fields.

Alicia Enriquez, Deputy Chief of EMD's Environmental Health Division, is the current NEHA President-Elect. Alicia serves on a fourteen member board of directors and is one of five national officers who serve on the association's executive committee. NEHA's mission is "to advance the environmental health and protection professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all." Key players like Alicia bring an important local perspective and insight to organizations such as NEHA, advocating for and dealing with issues that are important to Sacramento county industry and consumers, as well as EMD business processes. This relationship is a win-win for NEHA and EMD. Alicia returns with an informed perspective and insight to the organizations perspective, and a sense of direction that helps lead EMD's environmental health operational vision.

### Partnership for Food Protection 50-State Workshops

The Association was well represented in St. Louis and at subsequent 50-State Workshops held in Denver and Nashville. Alicia participated in the Nashville Workshop which included 200+ food safety experts representing federal, state, local, territorial government agencies and non-governmental organizations. PFP leadership is composed of a Steering Committee and a Coordinating Committee. NEHA representation has been more prominent in recent years as Board members now hold positions on the steering committee, coordinating committee, and on work groups. President Collins serves on the PFP Steering Committee and Alicia has recently been appointed to the Coordinating Committee.

The 2012 PFP 50-State Workshops focused on implementation of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS). Workshop participants were assigned to serve on 6 interactive work groups, which made recommendations regarding more effective and integrated work practices among agencies to better promote the safety of the United States food and feed supply.

The goals of the work groups were to identify steps for immediate improvement of communication/coordination among food safety and public health partners in 2013 and to recognize sustainable approaches moving forward.

### Local Agency Representation

In an effort to secure additional input from local enforcement agencies, President Collins convened a meeting with Dr. Michael Taylor, FDA Deputy Commissioner and approximately 20 environmental health professionals. The feedback received by Dr. Taylor focused on the need to include local agency representatives in the creation of an IFSS. Dr. Taylor expressed his appreciation for the comments received and committed to including local representatives. Dr. Taylor also shared his interest in receiving specific ideas on how state and federal partners can share information (e.g. data, protocols) and perhaps tap into resources, such as recall effectiveness checks. President Collins and President-Elect Enriquez will continue to secure input from local enforcement agencies through 2013 while serving on the leadership group of the PFP.

### Comments from Alicia Enriquez

When asked what Alicia found most rewarding about her participation in the 2012 50-State Meeting in Nashville, she said "It was refreshing to see the progress made through the work groups even though the overall effort to create an integrated food safety system is incredibly daunting."

Alicia also spoke about the challenges and rewards of her participation, "As a representative from a local agency, it was challenging to understand how we fit into the process. The overall agenda and presentation of the work group was heavily focused on federal and state challenges and charges. After speaking with federal and state participants it became apparent that they are overwhelmed with the expectations and short timelines. Thinking about yet another agency level to integrate into the process seemed like an additional factor complicating their efforts. After several discussions within the work groups and with Michael Taylor, it became clear to some of the state and federal representatives that local representatives have a lot to offer in this massive effort. A great deal of data is compiled by local agencies and there may be an opportunity for information sharing. Local agencies also have staff resources, interact closely with retail food facilities, and may be able to assist with recall effectiveness checks and communication."

Alicia said she looks forward to receiving information regarding the continued efforts of the work groups and is excited that NEHA is at the forefront.

**EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY—JULY THRU NOVEMBER 2012**

**EMD Program Element**

**Food Placarding Total: 4,779**

Green (Pass)	4,469
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	263
Red (Closed)	47

**Inspections Total: 11,011**

Food Protection	5,844
Farm Labor Camps	4
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	2,006
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	112
Liquid Waste	112
Medical Waste	47
Small Water Systems	11
Water & Monitoring Wells	313
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	185
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	315
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	457
Stormwater	573
Waste Tire	356
Tobacco Retailers	138
Commercial Recycling	292
Body Art	246

**EMD Program Element**

**Investigations Total: 181**

Food Borne Illness Complaint	70
Incident Response	62
Stormwater Complaint	39
Waste Tire	2
Childhood Lead	8

**Workshop Attendance Total: 342**

Food Safety Education (Food School)	305
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	37
How To Get A Green Placard	0

**Permits, Plans & Reviews Total: 10,114**

Hazardous Materials Business Plans	1,845
Monitoring Wells	570
Food Facilities	375
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	103
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	38
Land Use	22
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	7,161

**Information Management Total: 55,980**

Documents Imaged	55,914
Public Record Reviews	66

**County of Sacramento  
Board of Supervisors**

- Phil Serna, District 1
- Jimmie Yee, District 2
- Susan Peters, District 3
- Roberta MacGlashan, District 4
- Don Nottoli, District 5

**Bradley J. Hudson**  
County Executive

**HELLOS, GOODBYES &**



**For October thru December 2012**

<b>New Hires</b>	Elena Drobenyuk Liz Olson
<b>Promotions</b>	None
<b>Service Awards</b>	Toua Khang—20 years Kevin Smith—20 years

**Countywide Services**

**Ann Edwards**  
Chief Deputy County Executive

**Val Siebal**  
EMD Director

EMD News & Notes is EMD's periodic newsletter providing information on EMD activities and services that enhance our community.

EMD is a Department within the Countywide Services Agency of Sacramento County which serves the businesses and residents of the County. EMD is committed to protecting public health and the environment by ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

For more information about EMD's News & Notes newsletter, or to offer your feedback, please contact Linda Jimenez by email at [ljimenez@saccounty.net](mailto:ljimenez@saccounty.net)