



Business Plan 2007 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health

Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin

Bureau of Community Environmental Health – INDOOR AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

Trends and Conditions:

The relative potential for adverse health effects from air pollutants is obvious when one considers that the average adult breathes in over twenty thousand liters of air in the same period. The problem of pollutants in the air of homes is very real. The Florida Risk Comparison Commission recently ranked indoor air quality (as compared to all other environmental issues in Florida) as the highest risk to human health, and a medium risk to quality of life. In recent years, indoor air pollution has developed into a more severe problem due to the increased use of synthetic construction materials in the home and the fact that modern homes are constructed to be more airtight. Also Florida’s hot and humid climate contributes to a higher risk of moisture intrusion problems and the resultant indoor microbial (bacterial, fungi) amplification. Increases in IAQ awareness have prompted a public sensitivity to indoor air pollutants.

Division Cost: \$97,410 (Radon Trust Fund)

Division Positions: 1.70 HQ

County Program Cost: \$ 250,152 in ALG, Minimum Match

County Positions: 13

Recent media reports have highlighted the public’s increasing health concerns on the moisture intrusion/microbial amplification issue without providing information about remediation. These concerns are fostered by the public’s perception and increasing knowledge of the dramatic increases in the number of agents in their homes which can produce acute or chronic toxicity or promote cancer. As a result, citizens statewide are contacting the department and the CHDs requesting information and assistance at a rate exceeding 60 requests per day.

Fortunately for Florida, Hurricane season 2006 was a mild. The program did not see a repeat of previous years post-storm events where inquiries increased to over 85 per day on the state health office’s toll-free phone for several weeks after each storm event. Unfortunately Floridians continue to face fallout from the tremendous storm seasons of 2004 and 2005. Throughout 2006, the office continued to receive requests for assistance from victims of the 2004 and 2005 period. While there is a large group of Floridians that have been fortunate to recover completely from the 2004 to 2005 storm season, there is a significant population of Floridians without adequate resources or support, that will continue to suffer from the adverse health effects of unrepaired or poorly repaired buildings.

During 2006, the IAQ program conduct a 12 hour training course entitled “Indoor Air Toxics Training for County Health Department Responders during May 2006. There were 24 attendees representing 13 CHDs. This training was provided as an addition to the November 2005 training that was missed by many CHD personnel after Hurricane Wilma crossed South Florida. We plan to continue to offer training and IAQ resources to CHD responders. A library of IAQ resources is now available on the Community Environmental Health Sharepoint. We are currently in talks with the University of Tulsa to bring an advanced IAQ training program to Florida.

Clandestine Drug Laboratories concerns have become an increasing issue as more calls are referred to our office. Staff is currently serving on workgroups and committees regarding environmental health concerns associated with buildings formerly used as clandestine drug laboratories.

Short Term Objectives

By January 1, 2008:



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- Develop and make available public information about how to manage environmental health risks associated with clandestine drug laboratories and carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Provide additional information on department’s Internet site about specific indoor air pollutants of significant importance of chemical exposures related to clandestine drug labs and carbon monoxide exposures related to the improper use and placement of portable generators during and after natural or manmade disasters.
- Provide the opportunity for advanced IAQ training to CHD responders.

Long Term Objectives

By January 1, 2009:

- Reduce headquarters staff’s telephonic response requirements on the department’s indoor air toxics toll-free assistance line by 25%.

Measure #1: Publish a guidance document or documents for public consumption, allowing for responsible parties to take actions allowing them to reduce indoor environmental health risks by December, 31, 2007.

Division Plan Goal		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
8-17	Create a statewide culture of Environmental Health	Research best practices and guidelines from federal, state or local governments.	Research conducted	Tim Wallace and Environmental Subcommittee of Interagency Methamphetamine Workgroup	April 2007	We have developed a draft work plan for 2007 which may be published in the Statewide Methamphetamine Strategy document.
	HP 2010 Objective	• Identify and review available information and develop summary table of reference standards and practices.	Summary table created, submitted to subcommittee for review/input	Tim Wallace, Clark Eldredge	April 2007	Many resources have been identified. We are continuing to collect and identify relevant references.
	To increase the number of office buildings that are managed using good indoor air quality practices.	• Draft a guidance document	Guidance document drafted, published. Copies provided to County Health Departments and 1st Responder Agencies	Tim Wallace	January 2008	
		• Write 1 st draft and	1 st draft created and	Tim Wallace	July 2007	



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		submit for review	submitted			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 2nd draft for review 	Second draft written and submitted	Tim Wallace	October 2007	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit and revise as needed and submit revised draft for interagency workgroup, stakeholders and peer review 	Draft revised and submitted for workgroup and peer review	Tim Wallace	December 2007	



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Measure #2: By May 31, 2007, Develop collaborative partnerships to promote and distribute an improved and unified carbon monoxide poisoning prevention public health message.

Division Plan Goal		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
8-17	Create a statewide culture of Environmental Health	Partner with Brevard CHD to develop, record and distribute a video program on portable generator safety and carbon monoxide poisoning prevention	Program is recorded, published and distributed	Tim Wallace	July 2007	Brevard county has a track record of developing and distributing videos related to environmental health issues. Brevard CHD and this office are already working together to plan and schedule this activity..
	HP 2010 Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop script with partners and other participants 	Script sent for review to partners	Tim Wallace, George Jackow (BCHD)	April 2007	
	To increase the number of office buildings that are managed using good indoor air quality practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record program 	Program was recorded	Tim Wallace, George Jackow	June 2007	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute and disseminate program 	Program was published, broadcasts and made available to interested persons	Tim Wallace, George Jackow	July 2007	
		Partner with Division of Emergency Management to request a new Public Service Announcement for carbon monoxide poisoning prevention	Meeting conducted	Tim Wallace	May 2007	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies ask Governor Crist to record a new public service announcement for the 2007 hurricane season. 	Request made	Tim Wallace	May 2007	



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Measure #3: By December 31, 2007, Develop collaborative partnerships to provide advanced indoor air quality training to local county health department responders..

Division Plan Goal		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
8-17	Create a statewide culture of Environmental Health	Partner University of Tulsa and EPA region IV to make available	Training provided	Tim Wallace	December 2007	Representatives of the University of Tulsa are currently working with the University to secure the seed funding to bring their Training to Florida
	HP 2010 Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop partnerships to provide training. 	All parties agreeing to support activity.	Tim Wallace	January 2007	We have received assurances from EPA region IV that will endorse, sponsor and promote any DOH/University of Tulsa IAQ training activity in Florida.
	To increase the number of office buildings that are managed using good indoor air quality practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule training and promote. 	Training announcements sent to interested parties.	Tim Wallace	April 2007	