

Public Health Matters



Points of interest:

- Pistachio Recall**
 Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc. recalled all roasted in-shell and shelled pistachios produced from nuts harvested in 2008. Pistachios may be contaminated with *Salmonella*.

Check foods affected at: <http://www.fda.gov/pistachios/>

- We're holding a Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise at the Mojave Crossing Event Center on May 9th. Join us as a "patient" - the first 500 get FREE emergency kit.

For more information, log on to: www.HealthELinks.com

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January - March, 2009

Employee Honors

Greg Guindon, Environmental Health Specialist, was honored by the Kingman Police Department for his involvement in response to a sewage discharge in downtown Kingman. Environmental Health was notified about sewage dumping on 2/19/09. Recent dumping had taken place in Dolan Springs and West Rt. 66 into a drainage area. The amount of sewage dumped is potentially in the tens of thousands of gallons. A Notice of Violation was issued to the owners of the company. They have begun the clean-up of the property and we are working with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on the oversight of the cleanup.



Paul Pitts, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator, was an invited speaker on MRC regional and tribal emergency preparedness partnerships. Paul represented Arizona at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention training summit on the Strategic National Stockpile. Presentations included "Successful Partnering with Tribes". Paul also covered the importance of partnering in Points of Dispensing planning and operations.



Lauren Weber, Community Health Educator, was featured in an article in the American Public Health Association's newspaper, *The Nation's Health*. The article highlights public health efforts utilizing text messaging technology. Lauren's work involves educating youth not to smoke and reaching young adults who do and help them to quit. Lauren is accomplishing this through MCSTOMP (Mohave County Stop Smoking Over Mobile Phones), a 26 week text messaging program that creates personalized messages to help individuals quit. She is also using this technology to divert youth from getting suspended from school for using tobacco. If a student gets caught using tobacco they are referred to Lauren to get them enrolled in MCSTOMP.



Brenda LoBue, Nutritionist, and Melissa Palmer, Health Educator, were presented with a Certificate of Recognition at the LIA (Local Incentive Award) Partners' quarterly meeting. The Arizona Department of Health Services recognized their work for "Diversity within Program, Variety and Type of Settings and Excellence in Reporting".



Brenda and Melissa educate students in grades K - 5 grade on a variety of nutrition and health programs. Kindergarteners learn proper hand washing to prevent the spread of disease. Older grades discover the importance of calcium for bone building and of eating whole grain foods, breakfast, and fruits and vegetables. They also provide nutrition messages through food demonstrations at the DES office and the WIC clinic in Kingman.

MCTUPP Activities

Venomocity

On February 21st the Bureau of Tobacco Education and Prevention (BTEP) launched their new Tobacco Prevention Campaign, "Venomocity", in Kingman. BTEP was joined by Riester, MCTUPP, and the KNAAK at Wal-Mart for a launch party like no other. They gave away t-shirts, tank tops, pencils, pens, dog tags, free music download cards, stickers, and every 15 minutes five people won a \$10.00 Wal-Mart gift card. The KYCBUTT kids were busy getting local youth and young adults to sign up for more information on the campaign and to visit the website www.venomocity.com.



National Through With Chew Campaign

The National Through With Chew Campaign was February 15 through February 21. In honor of the week, Kingman High School KYCBUTT Coordinator Annie Meredith and youth members Amelia Williams and Jenny Orr shared information with high school students on the dangers of chewing tobacco. Youth were invited to roll the dice in a giant chew can to see what was in their future if they continued to use or started to use chewing tobacco. For their participation they were given a toothbrush and toothpaste to help promote good oral hygiene. If you would like a chewing tobacco quit kit you can contact MCTUPP at 888-454-4924 or if you are interested in quit tobacco services you can call the ASHLine at 800-55-66-222 or visit www.ashline.org.



National Kick Butts Day

The KYCBUTT coalition from Kingman High School celebrated National Kick Butts Day on March 25. The youth celebrated the event by putting 350 white crosses on the school lawn and creating a pledge/graffiti wall. The crosses represent the number of people who died from a tobacco related illness during the time the youth were in school that day. Along with handing out t-shirts, dog tags, pencils, pens, and music download cards, the youth were able to collect a couple hundred names for the venomocity.com campaign. If you would like more information on quitting tobacco you can contact MCTUPP at 888-454-4924 or AshLine at 800-55-66-222 or visit www.ashline.org



Winterfest 2009

Paul Pitts, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator, and thirteen MRC volunteers staffed a booth at the Lake Havasu City Winterfest on February 7th & 8th. The booth had a display on emergency preparedness and distributed various "Preparing Makes Sense, Get Ready Now" brochures. General information about the MRC and recruitment information was also distributed to increase the number of MRC volunteers.



Medical Reserve Corps Trailer

The Biodefense and Emergency Response program purchased a utility trailer for use by the Medical Reserve Corps in responding to emergencies. The trailer will contain many of the supplies necessary for the MRC volunteers to deploy to an emergency and will also be utilized at the many fairs and community events attended by the MRC volunteers.



Alternate Care Site Supplies

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) purchased a cache of supplies for alternate care sites for regions throughout the state. The Western Region consists of Mohave, LaPaz, and Yuma Counties. Mohave and Yuma County Health Departments each received half of the supplies and would provide them to LaPaz County Health Department as necessary.

The supplies include: cots, blankets, gloves, rescue breathing kits, bandages, first aid kits, patient gowns, adjustable beds, general medical supplies, and office supplies. These supplies will be utilized in a large-scale emergency in which its necessary to open an alternate care site for the care of sick or injured individuals.



October - December, 2008

MOHAVE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

700 W. Beale Street
PO Box 7000
Kingman, AZ

2001 College Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ

1222 & 1130 Hancock Road
Bullhead City, AZ

Main Phone Line 928-753-0743

We're on the web:
www.HealthELinks.com

Produced by Jennifer McNally



Restaurant Closure

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issued a notice of violation to Rosie's Den as their water system was not in compliance with rules. MCDPH's concerns were that the water system was not in compliance with monitoring requirements, that there was lack of a monitoring plan, and several water quality issues needed to be resolved so the water was safe to drink. Arizona Food Code requires restaurants and bars to be served by a public water system that is in compliance with all State laws. A Notice of Violation was issued to Rosie's Den on November 10, 2008 requesting evidence that the water system was in compliance with all State laws.

A compliance order was issued on November 18, 2008 and a temporary restraining order obtained on November 21, 2008 which closed the establishment. A hearing took place on December 8 and 9, 2008; the judge ordered Rosie's to remain closed until the water system monitoring requirements were in compliance and MCDPH received documentation from ADEQ indicating such. No civil penalties were imposed as the judge felt that the economic loss was sufficient punishment. Rosie's was allowed to reopen on December 23, 2008.

Isolation & Quarantine

An Isolation & Quarantine Exercise was held on September 30, 2008. MCDPH, the Arizona Department of Health Services, Mohave County Attorneys Office, and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office worked together to plan the exercise. It was developed to test Mohave County's capability to protect the health of our population through the use of isolation and/or quarantine to contain the spread of disease. It also tested Mohave County's ability to provide mass care through shelters, feeding centers, basic first aid, distribution of needed items, and services to persons who require medical attention or personal care beyond basic first aid. Twenty six agencies participated in this half day exercise. Major strengths along with area's of Improvement were identified during the exercise and an improvement plan was incorporated into the after action report.



Medical Reserve Corp Activities

Mohave County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers staffed Public Health Department booths at the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Fair on October 4th and at Hardyville Days on October 17th -19th. New members were recruited and information was distributed on disaster and emergency preparedness, on the MRC volunteer program, and on health and wellness. Approximately 800 children (and their adult family members) attended the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Fair.

