

In Attendance: Lee A. Mannillo, BCDHE; Deb Scavotto, Smooth Moving for Seniors; Paul Wild, Elder Services of C&I; Erika Woods, Orleans Health Dept.; Lois Carr, Bourne COA; Sherri McCullough, Brewster Health Dept.; Bob Felt, Orleans Fire; Michael T. Smith, Medical Alarms USA; Don Cox, Affordable Home Services; Barbara-Anne Foley, Harwich COA; Kevin Grunwald, Harwich COA; Catriana Purdy, Falmouth Housing Authority; Andrea Lavenets, Provincetown COA; Rob Sanders, Harwich Fire Dept; Kari Leighton, Bourne COA; Susan Marati, Child & Family Services; Marina Brock, BCDHE; Josh Wyman, Cape Cod Recycles; Nancy Ellis Ice, Brewster HD; Morgan Clark, Provincetown HD.

Task Force Meeting: Lee opened the meeting, led introductions and reminded everyone to fill out membership and service provider forms.

Presentation by Marina Brock, Senior Environmental Specialist at BCDHE: Indoor Air Quality Concerns & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in hoarding situations.

Seven Characteristics or properties of Hazardous Materials:

Toxic Materials are poisonous. These materials can cause immediate adverse health effects and/or long-term illnesses. Toxic materials may effect humans by direct contact or indirectly thru water, air or food contact.

Corrosives Materials have a pH <4 and >12. These are your acids and bases.

Reactive/ Explosive Materials give off a sudden release of energy when pressure, gas, heat or water is introduced. Some R/E chemicals become more hazardous with age.

Flammable Materials is easily set on fire and will readily burn.

Radioactive Materials emit harmful radiation. Man-made exposures include: medical procedures, consumer products (tobacco & TV's), building materials, some road construction materials and smoke detectors, etc.

Infectious Materials are any body fluid, including: blood, saliva, vomit and excrement.

A Hazardous Materials can have one or many of the properties mentioned above.

Routes of Exposure:

Inhalation- Inhaling chemicals could cause dizziness, naseau or headaches. It could damage the lungs, throat or respiratory system and is the quickest route into the blood stream.

Ingestion- Remember to wash your hands after handling chemicals. Otherwise, risk of poisoning or damaging your internal organs could occur.

Absorption- Although skin is a multi-layered organ and a good protector from some chemicals, chemicals can enter the body through cuts or rashes.

Puncture- Chemical can enter your body through an accidental needle stick, cut or scratch. Substances enter directly into blood stream and have access to any organ.

Acute and Chronic Exposure:

Acute– Exposure that occurs suddenly or over a short period of time (e.g. skin rash or burn, dizziness, watery eyes or shortness of breath, etc.)

Chronic- Exposure that occurs over a long period of time. Could take months or years for symptoms to show (e.g. cancer).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Important to have the right PPE for the job and to know the limitations of the PPE.

PPE includes: gloves, eye and ear protection, boots and respirator's or dust masks.

Gloves: Sturdy gloves made from metal mesh, leather, or canvas provide protection from cuts, burns, and sustained heat. Gloves can be made of cotton or other fabric protecting the skin against dirt, slivers, and abrasions. Nitrile Gloves are generally recommended for exposures to blood borne pathogens. Latex gloves are also acceptable; although there is some concern with latex allergies.

Safety Glasses- Protect eyes from front and side hazards as well as flying particles.

Regular Vented Goggles- Protect your eyes from dust, sparks, and flying particles.

Indirectly Vented Goggles- Protect your eyes from chemicals & dust.

Full Face Shield- Protects face from splashes, and flying particles; a full face shield should be used with safety glasses or goggles.

Respirator:

One should not simply be handed a respirator

Must determine which respirator is appropriate and insure that the respirator fits and does not cause harm to the employees

Respirators cause breathing resistance which can be harmful to persons with particular respiratory or cardiac problems

Improper use of respirators can CREATE more problems than exist without the use of the respirator

One should be medically screened to insure that he/she can safely wear a respirator

A fit test should be conducted to make sure the respirator properly fits in individual

Particulate Respirators/ Filters:

The three levels of filter efficiency are 95%, 99%, 99.97% or 100%

The three categories of resistance to filter efficiency degradation are labeled N, R and P. The class of filter will be clearly marked on the filter, and filter or respiratory package.

For example, a filter marked N95 would mean an N-series filter that is a least 95% efficient

All are acceptable for most particulates including tuberculosis

Must use the 99.97% filters for contaminants such as lead and asbestos

NOTE-Old High Efficiency Particulate Air Filters (HEPA) are now the 99.7 or 100% filters!!

Very important to read the label of your particulate filter or respiratory to know its protective capacity. Also important to replace these filters daily or more often if breathing resistance becomes excessive or if the filter suffers physical damage (tears, holes, etc.) Only use particulate filters with two head straps.

Some Indoor Air Quality concerns in a hoarding situation include: animal or human feces and /or other body fluids, infestation by rodents or insects, airborne pathogens, molds and mildews and physical hazards, such as friable asbestos.

Examples of airborne pathogens include *T. gondii* and Hantavirus. **Toxoplasmosis**, caused by a single-celled parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii* or *T-gondii*. Toxoplasmosis is transmitted to people from contaminated cat feces (stool) not by direct contact with cats. People can get toxoplasmosis by cleaning kitty litter or touching dirt where cats might have been, including garden soil. Toxoplasmosis can also be passed to people when they eat meat that is not cooked completely, especially pork, lamb, or deer meat. Recent research has also linked toxoplasmosis with [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder](#), [obsessive compulsive disorder](#), and [schizophrenia](#). Numerous studies found a positive [correlation](#) between latent toxoplasmosis and [suicidal behavior](#) in humans. In fact, studies have shown women with toxoplasmosis infections were 54% more likely to attempt suicide.

Infection with **Hantavirus** can progress to [Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome \(HPS\)](#), which can be fatal.

People become infected through contact with hantavirus-infected rodents or their urine and droppings.

Molds are very common in buildings and homes and will grow anywhere indoors where there is moisture.

The most common indoor molds are *Cladosporium*, *Penicillium*, *Aspergillus*, and *Alternaria*. Mold exposure does not always present a health problem indoors. However some people are sensitive to molds. These people may experience symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing, or skin irritation when exposed to molds. Some people may have more severe reactions to molds. However, an example of a very dangerous mold is **Stachybotrys chartarum** (also known by its synonym *Stachybotrys atra*). *Stachybotrys* is a greenish-black mold. It can grow on material with a high cellulose and low nitrogen content, such as fiberboard, gypsum board, paper, dust, and lint. Growth occurs when there is moisture from water damage, excessive humidity, water leaks, condensation, water infiltration, or flooding. **Constant moisture is required for its growth!**

Lee ended the training with reminding everyone that some of these hazards are real in some hoarding situations. Remember to take things slow and use the proper precautions. Lee and Marina, as well as local health and fire departments are great resources to you- use them. Also if any organization or business wanted to develop a PPE protocol or training program we would be happy to assist them.

Today's safety presentation by Marina Brock was videotaped. This presentation will be available on our website, in the meantime, if you would like to review the training video or share it with staff members, please contact Lee A. Mannillo at lmannillo@barnstablecounty.org. Marina Brock can be reached directly at Marina.brock2@verizon.net for additional questions or concerns regarding Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Josh Wyman from Cape Cod Recycles presented information about his business. He will take away almost anything from the property and will charge a base price plus an amount based on how much of the truck is filled. If there are items that can be resold within 30 days, he will provide the owner with 30% of his selling price. He has workers that will come in and remove items and fill the truck.

1-855-REC-JUNK (1-855-732-5865)

www.capecodrecycles.com

Sub-Committee Updates: The advanced hoarding training planned for December 3rd was discussed. We have Jesse Edsell-Vetter coming down from Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (mbhp) to discuss the following topics:

How to properly assess a hoarding situation.

How to properly communicate with an individual with hoarding disorder.

How to develop a community response to hoarding case.

Presentations will be made by the towns of Brewster and Dennis of actual cases where they used partnerships within the town to respond to hoarding cases.

The afternoon will feature breakout sessions. During this session, the audience will be broken into groups and given specific scenarios to respond to. Jesse Edsell-Vetter and other CCHTF members will respond to questions and discuss ideas to respond to situations.

Deb Scavotto updated everyone on our Facebook page as we are gaining friends. She has put on the page, success stories including one where after being able to clean an area for the woman to sit in, she found an envelope full of cash that the woman had lost a few months before.

Lee stated that she and Erika had recently attended a hoarding training in Boston by Christiana Bratiotis. At this training the HOMES Multi-disciplinary Hoarding Risk Assessment was used. Lee wanted to remind everyone that this assessment tool is excellent, and that it can be used in a variety of ways to collect and share valuable information.

News- Open Announcements:

Harwich COA Reported that they are looking to start a buried in Treasures Workshop in the spring.

Affordable Home Services (Don Cox) reported that they will have a full time person that will be working full time to help coordinate funding for clean-ups in association with HUD. This person will be the contact person for the Towns and County regarding any specific issues. They have also been continuing with their program of following up with people after clean-ups and this has been very successful.

Active Hoarding cases:

Brewster reported that the woman that they have been dealing with in Brewster that has gone to court has been put into receivership. The owner has been charged with animal cruelty and the dogs are now in foster care.

Falmouth Housing Authority is working with Affordable Home Services in a case of a 91 year old woman whose unit was infested with cockroaches. So far they have been there for approx. 2 hours per week for about 6 weeks and have been making great progress.

Harwich COA reported that a case that they have been working on for over 5 years on Rte 39 has ended as the property was sold, the house was demolished and they are in the process of building a new home.

The next CCHTF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014 from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M at the Dennis Police Department- 90 Bob Crowell Rd. South Dennis, MA 02660. The task force will meet the second Thursday of every other month for the remainder of the year.