



Protecting Public Health and the Environment



President's Message

Autumn is here! This is my favorite time of year to slow down and reflect on professional and personal resolutions set for the year. One of our goals as an Executive Council was to raise the bar on our Annual Educational Conference. With nationally recognized speakers like Nelson Fabian, Beth Hamil, Mark Miller and Tracynda Davis, we can cross that one off the list. Another of our goals was to produce a quarterly newsletter: done. Another was to increase membership: done. One of my personal goals was to really look at our profession and explore the opportunities that are out there: done. I found a fantastic employment opportunity and have accepted a position as Director of Safety and Sanitation at Boston University. I visited the campus a few weeks ago and my paradigm shifted. The day-to-day will be much of what I am doing now, which is familiar and comfortable. I will be tasked with other things that will help me learn and grow and I am up for the challenge.

I am grateful for my association with all of you. You have taught me much about environmental health, professionalism, and how to perform valiantly and effectively despite challenges such as staffing shortages, new regulations, forms and software.

Thank You to our Executive Council. They are a stand-up group of professionals who I am confident will move forward with even higher standards and performance to further the goals and mission of this association as well as to advance the Environmental Health Profession.

Look me up if you are ever in Boston... good luck and best wishes to you all!

Kim

Executive Council

President: Kim Fowler, REHS
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Treasurer: Erin Riebe, REHS

www.nveha.org

Nevada Board of REHS

<http://www.nvrehs.org>

Trainee members wishing to schedule a test need to contact

Larry Law to order a test voucher

Larry Law, REHS
Southern Nevada Health District
Office: 702-759-1259
FAX 702-383-0844
e-mail:

law@snhdmail.org



image obtained from: greenelibrary.info

Believe in yourself, your neighbors, your work, your ultimate attainment of more complete happiness. It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the Spring, who reaps a harvest in Autumn.

BC Forbes

<http://www.quotesand sayings.com/quotes/autumn/>

Kim Fowler, REHS

Four members of NVEHA's executive council had the privilege of attending NEHA's AEC this year in Columbus, Ohio. Below are two summaries of the presentations attended. Consider joining NEHA. There are a host of classes to take online, as well as a virtual AEC you can attend and obtain training after the conference. With ever-dwindling training funds, alternative training becomes even more valuable.

http://www.neha2011aec.org/virtual_experience.html



Food Safety Modernization Act

Erin Riebe, REHS

A big topic of conversation at the 2011 National Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference was the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. Many people are hailing it as a breakthrough in food safety that has been overdue for years. The general consensus among panel speakers seems to be excitement. Even the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. issued a statement thanking our leaders. With all the statistics out there on how many people get sick every year from food borne illness, it is no wonder. The legislation is shifting the focus of the FDA to a more preventative stance from farm and port to fork. It is also holding companies more accountable for evaluating their own plans and ensuring they are as safe as possible. Additionally, the legislation is calling for a more cooperative approach from the enforcement agencies and further training on all levels. I know I will be excited to see the changes that will begin to affect Nevada in the next few years. I would encourage everyone to go and read both the legislation itself and the written statement issued by Dr. Hamburg (see links below).

Food Safety Modernization Act: Putting the Focus on Prevention

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/news/fsma.html>

What Does the New Food Safety Law Mean for You?

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/fsma.html>

Image obtained from www.food-faq.net



Community Bed Bug Management: Biology and Control Measures

Kim Fowler, REHS

This presentation was two-fold. The first part was presented by Marc Lame from Indiana University. Dr. Lame discussed how to control this nuisance vector, its biology and control, and how to inspect for bedbugs using an actual bedroom setup. *Note:* pay special attention to the bed skirt at the head of the mattress. The Housekeeping Director of the Hyatt Regency even got up and fielded questions from the audience (tough crowd!) on what they are doing to prevent bed bugs in their accommodations.



The second part of the presentation was given by John Godec of the International Association for Public Participation. He discussed **risk communication**, something we do every day but to which we probably do not give much consideration. He discussed that the risks that *kill* people and the risks that *upset* people are two very different things. He also discussed the power of the “ick factor.” For example, something

that’s icky (bed bugs) will probably get more press and attention than say, heart disease.



Mr. Godec outlined some ways to communicate bad news to people.

1. Don’t dismiss or trivialize someone’s fear or anger
2. Don’t use technical jargon.
3. When people speak emotionally don’t respond with data or facts.
4. Don’t be defensive...listen.
5. Acknowledge any past misbehavior (apologize).
6. Admit to existing problems. Be willing to admit what you know and what you *don’t* know.
7. Express empathy or concern. This may be different for a male or female.
8. Make it personal.
9. Transition from empathy to conclusion.

I thoroughly enjoyed this presentation. Dr. Lame’s presentation was an excellent review and Mr. Godec’s was timely and relevant. Risk communication is something we do every day during routine inspections or as we respond to complaints that may involve pests. Improving our communication skills, especially as they relate to risks and hazards, goes a long way in protecting public health.

