

**County of Morris
Environmental Health Assessment
And Improvement Plan
2008**

Pg 1

Assessment

The Environmental Annual report has been developed by the Morris County Office of Health Management (the certified county agency pursuant to NJSA 26:3-85 et. seq. for the provision of environmental health services under the County Environmental Health Act) which oversees the implementation of the Morris County CEHA program.

County Community

Public health in Morris County is provided by 16 local health departments covering all 39 municipalities 483,150 population in 469 sq miles. The population breakdown is 87% Caucasian, 2.8% Afro-American, 7.8% known Hispanic, and 6.3% Asian, geographically broken down as follows: 37,332 rural, and 424, 802 in what is defined as urban clusters (1000/people/sq mile).

76% of the county's housing is in single family homes, and 23% live in multi family dwellings. The median income is \$ 77,340.00 with 3.9% below the poverty line. Morris County borders no major river or city.

* Information is from 2000 census

Background

Morris County entered the CEHA program in 2003 with a limited staff

Hazardous materials Response and Homeland security

The Team was created in 2003 moving 2 employees from the county Engineering to the newly created Office of Health Management that was inaugurated in January of that year. The hazmat team has mutual aid arrangements with both Whippany Fire Dept and Picatinny arsenal.

In 2005 we were designated a Level Type 1A team by NJDEP and NJSP. As of September 2008 the team responded to 176 calls. If this trend continues we anticipate 230 responses for the year. The team consists of 2 full time members as well as 7 members trained to the 80 hr level of Technician.

The team has representation on UASI fire subcommittee and is a member of the WAMDAT team comprised of the Morris County's Prosecutors Office, Sheriffs Dept and MC hazmat, which responds to all WMD events. Hazmat has collected \$45,951.73 in cost recovery reimbursement.

Solid waste Inspections

This was a very good year for the solid waste program. Our close cooperation with MCMUA has resulted in the following actions as of October 2008:

Truck and container inspections 105

Violations: 92

17 settlement conferences

Penalties assessed: \$129,500.00

Collected penalties as of this date: \$ 21,456.54

All required inspections have been completed.

Transfer stations 2

Class C exempt 13

Class C 3

Class B 2

Clean Water

As of October 28 we have completed the following inspections:

Non-Transients:

38 inspections were preformed.

Transients:

48 inspections were preformed.

7 NOV's were issued. No court action was initiated, 8 settlement conferences were held, \$ 1,300.00 in penalties were assessed and \$2,000.00 in fines have been collected in the program

Ambient Water: We collected a total of 35 samples as per grant requirements

Recreational bathing is conducted by the local health departments

NOISE

We conducted 1 noise investigation

Air

This year we were asked by the air program to increase our inspection allotment. To date we have completed the following inspections:

8 minor sources

20 dry cleaners

29 gas stations

2 auto body

24 odor complaints

2 NOV's were issued, 0 settlement conferences were held, and \$920.00 was collected

Because of we have been short staffed all required inspections will bit be completed by the end of the year.

Staffing and Equipment

The county has 3 trained staff. As of June we have been down one Environmental Health Specialist and we are currently interviewing to fill the position. We anticipate that the person we hire will require substantial training in CEHA enforcement and will need to take the 80 Hour HazMat Tech course next year.

We have 1 all purpose response truck, 1 recovery truck, and 3 Suburbans. We also have 1 older Durango, and a Blazer. We received a free 16 foot trailer from County OEM and will be converting it for use by the HazMat Team.

Health Officer Howard Steinberg retired in August 2008. He was replaced by Peter Summers on September 22, 2008. In addition to his administrative functions, the new health officer plans to obtain training to support both the CEHA enforcement and hazmat response programs. We are also investigating opportunities to cross-train other Office of Health Management personnel.

Final Assessment

Morris County's CEHA program continues to provide effective HazMat response and environmental Enforcement. Current staff are undergo cross training so they can multi-task between Hazmat and CEHA activities. The EQEF is currently \$195,719. We have close working relationships with MC Prosecutor's office and bomb squad. We also enjoy close working relationships with the local health departments and fire chiefs. The CEHA program is very active and recognized in the county by all our partners and stakeholders.