

Environmental Health 2018 Annual Report

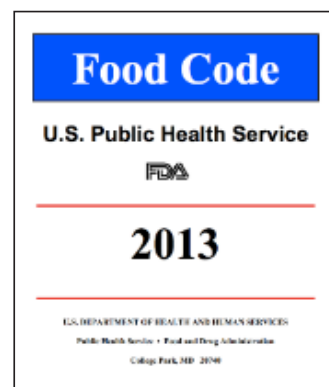


The Environmental Health (EH) Division focuses on preventing communicable disease and environmental conditions that could be harmful to health through education and consultation, response and investigation and enforcement of regulations. The EH Division supports over 70 employees.

Food Code Transition

On Jan. 1, 2019, the EH Consumer Protection Division formally adopted the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (US FDA) 2013 model Food Code and 2013 Supplement to Colorado's food industries. This change marked a major transition for both regulators and the regulated community alike.

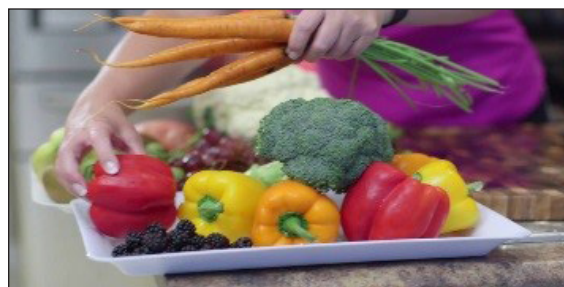
The adoption of the FDA Food Code required that both EH field staff and operators assimilate and apply an entirely new set of regulations. Within the Division, this transition also required extensive training in advance of the effective date, a complete redesign of inspection paperwork, the development of new data collection platforms and a revamped enforcement process.



Food in Communities Grant

With funding awarded through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Cancer, Cardiovascular Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Grant Program, Tri-County Health Department, in collaboration with other local public health departments, began seeking solutions to the issues of food justice, healthy food access, and food insecurity.

This multi-year effort supports the agency's Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP) focus on "Food and Health" and aims to create "complete neighborhood food environments" that will provide healthy and culturally relevant foods for all members of the community.



Information Management

Recognizing the growing need to manage divisional information effectively, a “Transformers” team was assembled to build a robust system to manage, store and easily access information for internal users and external customers.

Some of the team’s 2018 accomplishments include adding one new, full-time position, implementing an address standardization policy, transferring large amounts of data into the Envision Connect platform and implementing the FDA Food Code and points for a Retail Food Establishment rating system.

In addition, the team has begun planning for the transition of all divisional data from Envision Connect to Accela. This project will be implemented over a multi-year, phased-in approach with a target completion date of 2025.



Radon Reduction Roadmap

TCHD was awarded CCPD grant funds again to help raise radon awareness statewide. Building upon the previous year’s achievements, EH staff continued their collaboration with elected officials, real-estate professionals, homebuyers, and home sellers to communicate and mitigate the risks posed by radon.

Five partner agencies declared January National Radon Action Month. In collaboration with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), TCHD staff delivered **9** “Radon Aware” presentations to **450** new home buyers in 2018. Using the same presentation, TCHD staff separately provided continuing education credits to **143** real estate professionals.



EH Inside the Numbers

As TCHD’s population and facility count continue to grow, the Environmental Health Division had another record year conducting field inspections, responding to citizen complaints and reviewing applications for new establishments.

In 2018, Consumer Protection Program staff conducted over **9,500** retail food inspections, reviewed **469** new retail food facility applications, conducted **1,137** childcare inspections and responded to over **1,350** citizen complaints.

Similarly, EH staff in the Water Protection Program issued over **550** Onsite Wastewater (Septic) Permits, issued **867** Use Permits and performed **700** pool and spa inspections.

Land Use Program staff reviewed **626** land use cases while the Household Hazardous Waste Program collected over **460,000** pounds of household chemical waste.

