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Tri-County Health Department Receives National Award Five Years in a Row

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has given Tri-County Health Department a Model Practices Award, their highest honor. The award is for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Private Well Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Forty years of chemical manufacturing at the Arsenal contaminated the structures, soil and groundwater, and polluted an additional 20 square miles of neighborhood wells used for drinking water and irrigation.

The Groundwater Monitoring Program identified over 500 residents who were at risk of drinking potentially contaminated well water and provided numerous solutions. Tri-County continues to sample private wells and monitor the effectiveness of the program.

The former Superfund site is now being converted into the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, which has become a major asset to the neighboring community.

“Tri-County is one of only 25 local public health agencies selected from across the nation to receive this national recognition,” said Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director. “The award is evidence of our commitment to develop innovative public health programs that improve the health of our citizens.”

This is the fifth consecutive Model Practices Award for Tri-County Health Department. Prior honors include Physician Nutrition Kits, the “Fight the Bite” West Nile virus prevention campaign, the “Shots for Tots” immunization program and technical assistance for Community-Based Injury Prevention Programs.

Tri-County Health Department is the largest local health department in Colorado, and serves the 1,250,000 residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. For more information on their numerous services, visit www.tchd.org.

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