

TARRANT COUNTY

NEWS & INFORMATION



June 2011



www.tarrantcounty.com

Construction in unincorporated Tarrant County affected by renewed Storm Water Permit

Last year, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) renewed rules enacted five years ago that broadened storm water permit requirements for construction projects in the unincorporated areas of counties. This storm water general permit covers storm water discharges from construction activities that disturb at least 1 acre of land.

The Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) program implements the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program in the state of Texas.

Applicants of the Storm Water Construction General Permit (TXR150000), who discharge to a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), are required to submit a signed copy of their Notice of Intent (NOI) or Construction Site Notice to the operator of the system (unincorporated Tarrant County). Those seeking a permit must also provide a copy of any Notice of Change (NOC) or Notice of Termination (NOT) to the operator of the system.

If you have a construction project, which disturbs at least one acre, and the storm water discharge flows into unincorporated Tarrant County, please mail a copy of your Construction Site Notice or NOI to:

Tarrant County Transportation Department
Attention: Robert Berndt
100 East Weatherford – Room 401
Fort Worth, Texas 76196

If you have general questions about the new TCEQ Storm Water Program, you can visit the TCEQ website at www.tceq.state.tx.us. If you have any questions regarding the new rules and regulations as they pertain to unincorporated Tarrant County, please contact Robert Berndt at 817-884-2634 or by email at rberndt@tarrantcounty.com.

Tarrant County Veteran Services “Proudly Serving America’s Veterans”

The Tarrant County Veteran Services office assists veterans and their survivors with filing for Veteran Administration (VA) benefits, free of charge. One of the main benefits — the Aid and Attendance benefit — is for wartime veterans or surviving spouses of wartime veterans who live in a nursing home/assisted living facility, receive in home medical care and meet other general requirements.

To qualify, the veteran must have at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, be discharged with an honorable discharge, be incapable of self support and in need of regular personal assistance. Other basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance or to take care of one’s own bodily needs.

Tarrant County Veterans Services also helps with the filing of

- Disability Compensation claims,
- Non-Service Connected Pension claims, and
- Survivor Benefit claims.

Disability Compensation is a benefit paid to a veteran because of injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, or were made worse by active military service. A Non-Service Connected Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older.

Survivor benefits that are normally applied for after a veteran’s death are Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Widow’s Pension. DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a military service member who died of a service-connected cause. Widow’s Pension is a benefit paid to eligible surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans who meet the income criteria established by Congress. For more information on these benefits, call Veteran Services at 817-531-5645.



Swim safely, prevent crypto

One recreational water disease that can cause illness around this time of the year is cryptosporidiosis (crypto), a diarrheal disease caused by the cryptosporidium parasite. A person gets infected by swallowing contaminated water or ingesting contaminated food.

The symptoms of crypto include loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (which can last 1-2 weeks). It can also cause dehydration in young children, pregnant women and other vulnerable populations. People who experience these symptoms should contact their medical provider.

To help prevent crypto, practice these healthy swimming behaviors:

- Do not swim when you are ill with diarrhea or for two weeks after your diarrhea has stopped.
- Avoid getting water in your mouth. Do not swallow the water when you swim or wade in pool/lake/river water.
- Practice good hygiene (i.e., shower before swimming).
- Take children on regular bathroom breaks or check their diapers often. Waiting to hear “I need to go,” may mean that it is too late.
- Change diapers in a bathroom or a diaper-changing area and not at poolside.

In household, day-care facilities and other settings, practice these behaviors:

- Wash hands regularly, especially after using the bathroom and before preparing food. Hand washing is the most effective means of preventing cryptosporidium transmission.
- Observe children as they wash their hands and assist when needed.
- Wash children’s hands when they arrive at day care, after they use the toilet, after having their diaper changed and before eating snacks or meals.
- Wash your hands after changing diapers.
- Take extra care to wash hands and clean surfaces if caring for someone with diarrhea, especially diaper-or-toddler-age children.

Alcohol gels and hand sanitizers do not kill cryptosporidium. Soap and clean running water are specifically recommended for preventing cryptosporidiosis. It is also important to remember that even well-maintained pools can spread cryptosporidium because it is resistant to chlorine.

For more information, check the Tarrant County Public Health website: <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>.