



July 2016

Volume 5 Issue 6

Recreational Water Illnesses

Upcoming Events/ Training

- 13 July -Hazardous Materials/
Waste Refresher, 0830;0945 Bldg
11307
- 13 July- QTR FY16 EQCC Meet-
ing, 1230-1330;Darling Hall, GC
Conf Rm;
- 9 Aug - Hazardous Material/
Waste Refresher, 0830;0945 Bldg
11307
- 10-11 Aug– Hazardous Materials/
Waste Management Course,
0800-1600, Bldg 11307

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Boating Safety
- ◆ The Facts About
Lightning
- ◆ Keeping Mold out of Fort
Gordon
- ◆ Environmental News
Abroad
- ◆ Environmental Officers
Trained and Ready to Go
- ◆ Residential Storm Water
Flow

Recreational Water Illness(RWI) is an illness caused by germs and chemicals found in the water we swim in. A lot of us spend time in the pools during the summer ,and we need to be aware of what potential risks we put ourselves at and what we can do to protect ourselves .

You become exposed to RWI's when you swallow, inhale mists or aerosols of, or have come into contact with tainted water in swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks, water play areas, community fountains, lakes, rivers, and oceans. Chemicals can also cause RWI's in indoor pools by interacting with the air and polluting it.

Being knowledgeable about RWI's can make your summer experiences at the pools and waterparks an enjoyable time versus coming down with having diarrhea, developing a rash or other serious illness.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Chlorine does NOT kill all germs immediately. Germs today have become tolerant to chlorine. It can take minutes to days before chlorine takes full effect on killing germs in a pool. So swallowing just a bit of water can make you sick.

According to the CDC(Center for Disease Control) over the last 20 years, RWI's were on the rise with increased outbreaks in swimming pools. Crypto, which can thrive for days in a well treated pool, has become the main cause of diarrheal sickness in swimming pools. From 2004-2008, Crypto incidents rose to over 200% (3,411 reports in 2004 to 10,500 reports in 2008).

Although Crypto is resistant to chlorine, most germs are not, so proper chlorine levels are important in pool maintenance. A study done in 2010 found that 1 in 8 public pool inspections were NOT up to code and were shut down immediately due to improper chlorine levels.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE ENTERING POOL(SWIMMING AREA):

- ◆ Review the pool's latest inspection results.
- ◆ Do not enter water if you have diarrhea.
- ◆ Do not enter water if you have an open wound.
- ◆ It is a good idea to shower before getting in the pool to remove dirt and other substances from your body.

WHAT NOT TO DO ONCE YOU ARE IN THE POOL:

- ◆ Do not urinate in the water.
- ◆ Avoid swallowing any water. Just a small amount, if infected, can make you sick.
- ◆ Take bathroom breaks every hour.

As always, practice pool safety by keeping an eye on your children and all times. It only takes seconds for a child to drown. Keep sunscreen applied and drink plenty of fluids. Oh, and don't forget to have FUN!!

facebook



BOATING SAFETY

Hot summer days leave us longing for the cool waters. Boating and water sports are popular on Clarks Hill lake and on the Savannah River. Make sure this summer to take precautions and safety measures when boating. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

Before you embark:

- ◆ Always check the weather report before heading out.
- ◆ Make sure you let someone else know your destination and the place that you will be putting in your watercraft.
- ◆ Depending on what state you are in, make sure you have taken the appropriate boating safety course if required.
- ◆ Make sure you have all life jackets according to the law and that they are in good condition.
- ◆ Check your vessel to make sure the battery is charged and you have plenty of fuel.
- ◆ Assure that running lights on boat and trailer are operable.
- ◆ Have a working fire extinguisher on board.
- ◆ Always make sure the plug is in before putting boat in water.



At sea:

- Be familiar with the body of water that you are in and have a map with channels and buoy system labeled.
- Never mix alcohol or drugs while operating a water vessel.
- Watch the power lines if you are navigating a sailboat.
- Remember that boats approaching from the right have the right of way.
- Have a PFD (personal floatation device) handy if someone falls over board to toss to them.



(AP Images)

The Facts about LIGHTNING

The summertime is notorious for pop up thunderstorms and from my experiences, a lot of people don't take these storms serious enough. From playing sports outside to getting on a boat, with a thunderstorm on the approach or perhaps they believe that since it is headed in the opposite direction, they are safe to embark out on the waters. Not so. Recently I had some training to do that involved being on a boat. Well, a thunderstorm was going on. It was assumed by my peers that it was headed in the opposite direction, and we would be safe boarding. I politely said I would NOT be getting on that boat as long as it was thundering and lightning. They kind of looked at me like "Really?", but I stood my ground and declined. Then I proceeded to give them the facts on lightning strikes:

- ⇒ Lightening can strike 10 to 15 miles away from the storm.
- ⇒ In the U.S alone, approximately 60 people are struck and killed by lightning every year and about 300 per year are injured (this number is probably higher from undocumented incidents).
- ⇒ Being struck by lightning can produce memory loss, attention deficits, sleep disorders, and numbness.
- ⇒ A 100-watt bulb could stay lit from a single flash of lightning for 3 months.
- ⇒ Recent deaths from lightning strikes were reported while people where boating, playing soccer, swimming, mowing lawn, bike riding, golfing, talking on the phone, and standing by a tree.
- ⇒ When lightning strikes, the air near that area is heated to 50,000 F (hotter than the surface of the sun!). Thunder is the result of the rapid heating and cooling of the air near the lightning channel.
- ⇒ Good rule of thumb - **If you can hear the thunder, then you are within striking distance!**

And by the way, my peers decided not to go out on the water. Smart choice.

July 2016

KEEPING MOLD OUT OF FORT GORDON FACILITIES.

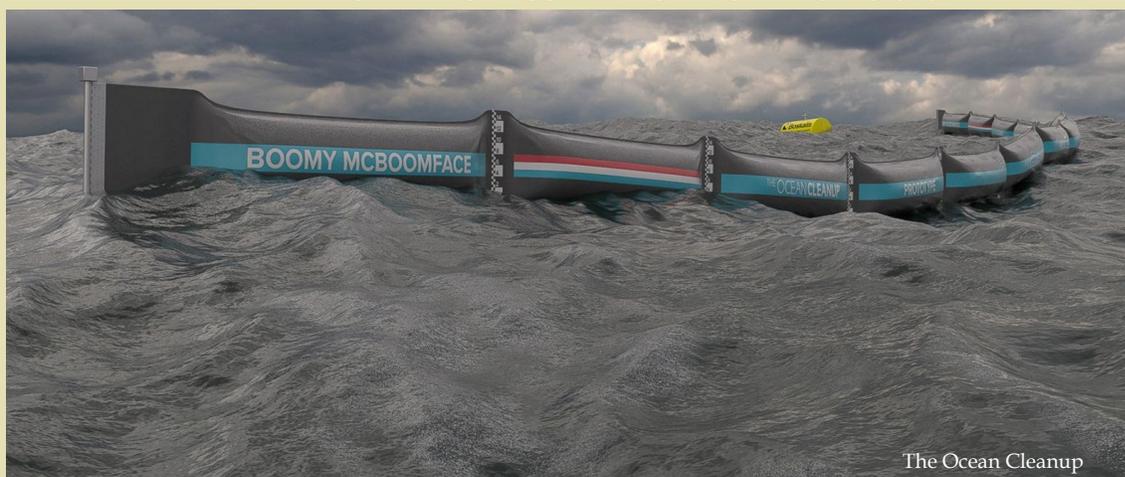
Mold is good and is essential in the decomposition of organic matter in nature. However mold can grow almost anywhere to include inside our facilities. Mold needs moisture to grow, and damp carpet, wet clothing, and food left over a long period inside our refrigerators provide a good breeding ground. Mold can even grow behind the back side of our drywalls and overhead on our ceiling tiles, especially where pipes are condensing or there is a very small leak.

Not only is mold expensive to fix, they also produce allergens and irritants that can compromise our health. The best way to combat mold during the hot summer season is to deny moisture by keep all doors/windows closed and drying wet areas immediately.

1. By keeping doors and windows closed, we prevent the hot humid air from the outside from mixing with the cold indoor air from our air conditioner. During the summer season hot humid air from the outdoors carries a large amount of moisture, and once it hits our cold indoor pipes behind our drywalls and overhead ceiling, they produce condensate (moisture), the key ingredient for mold.
2. With the doors and windows closed, our air conditioning units can now do its job and remove the moisture from the air. We maintain approximately between 40 to 50 percent moisture content in our facilities to keep everyone safe and healthy. Keep in mind we do not want to remove all the moisture from the air because moisture helps prevent air borne germs from spreading. Dry air during the winter season does not have enough moisture which allows germs to spread. This is why when one person get sick in the office, the entire office is affected. Once we have removed excessive moisture from the outdoor air, we then filter, cool, and sent the conditioned air to the building occupants
3. Identify wet areas and dry them immediately. Ensure bathroom fans are operating properly to vent moisture especially after showering. A failed bathroom fan is a good breeding ground for mold spores. Even wet clothing on the floor or wet clothing left inside a washing machine is a good source of moisture. Wash and dry all wet clothing immediately to deny moisture build-up.

The best approach to keep mold out of Fort Gordon facilities is to prevent mold before it becomes a problem. Moisture control is very important and we need everyone's help. Mold cannot grow without moisture.

Environmental News Abroad



The Ocean Cleanup

Wouldn't it be great if we could remove all the trash from our seas? Well, a Dutch foundation driven to do just that unleashed a model of a new system to rid our oceans of plastic pollution this June in the North Sea. It is the first ocean debris(plastic pollution) removal procedure ever tested at sea.

The structure is a barrier system that is 100 meters long, "which acts as an artificial coastline, passively catching and concentrating ocean debris," The Ocean Cleanup, a foundation co-sponsored by the Dutch government and marine contractor Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V., stated.

The testing site is located 12 miles off the coast of the Netherlands, according to an Ocean Cleanup representative's statement to ABC News. They will be tracking how the inert barrier copes in dangerous weather conditions which are more common in the North Sea.

Although there is a 30 percent failure rate, the organization hopes to build on this model towards a 100 km long "ocean garbage collector" to set sail in 2020 to clean the vast region in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii, "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch", which harbors the largest heap of trash in the sea and has been the focus of many other cleanup endeavors. Let's hope that this and other innovations break way to help rid our world of pollutants.

Environmental Officers (EO) Trained and Ready to Go



EO	Organization		Installation
Alley Craig/SPC	1148th Trans		Ft Gordon (FG)
Barnett, Alford/Contr	Wolverine	HSE	FG
Bowen, Daniel/PV2	35th Signal BDE	Theater Tactical, HHC	FG
Couey, Calvin/Contractor	Akima Global Svcs		FG
Cyrus, Monica/SSG	116th MI BDE	HHC	FG
Forbush, Eric/MSG	35th Signal BDE	HHC	FG
Lann, Wade/MSG	35th Signal BDE	67th ESB, HHC	FG
Mays, Douglas/SPC	35th Signal BDE	67th ESB, HHC	FG
Mbakwe, Martin/SPC	116th MI BDE	HHC	FG
Moore, Charles/Civ	LRC	Wolverine Svcs LLC	FG
Olson, Kenneth/SFC	DDEAMC	Troop Cmd, B Co	FG
Rieke, Christopher/Contr	Akima Global Svcs		FG
Sheridan, Kyle/SGT	35th Signal BDE	Theater Tactical, HHC	FG
Thompson, Charles/GS11	OEMTD	Army Ordnance School	FG
Vara, Alejandro/Civ	DFC	USACIL	Ft Gillem

July 2016



*DPW Environmental and Natural Resources Division
15th Street Building 14600
Fort Gordon, Ga.*

Phone: 706-791-2526

E-mail: usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil



SOURCES:

<http://dnr.sc.gov/boating/safety.html>

The Resource, August 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/massive-ocean-garbage-collector-tested-north-sea/story?id=40072075>

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi.html>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/Image/gid/WCM/safety/lightning.pdf>



During the summer we get a lot of thunderstorms that pass through and deliver some pretty heavy rains. Our yards can look like small ponds before long. Have you ever paid attention to where all that water goes? Of course a lot is absorb into the ground, but with so much water at one time, the ground can't absorb it fast enough as it moves along your driveway and ditches hopefully to carry it to the stormdrain. If you notice that your "pond" is hanging out longer than it should, you may need to do a visual inspection of your stormdrains and stormwater flow at your home to prevent flooding.



If you live in a low lying area, examine the flow the water would take. Check any storm drains, ditches, or swales to make sure debris such as toys, trash, limbs are not blocking the flow of water. If you see a drain where water is backing up instead of passing through, that usually means there is a blockage inside the pipe. DO NOT attempt to remove the debris. There could be sinkholes or other issues not visible. If you discover any obstructions near storm drains contact DPW to have obstructions removed.