

The Wellhead

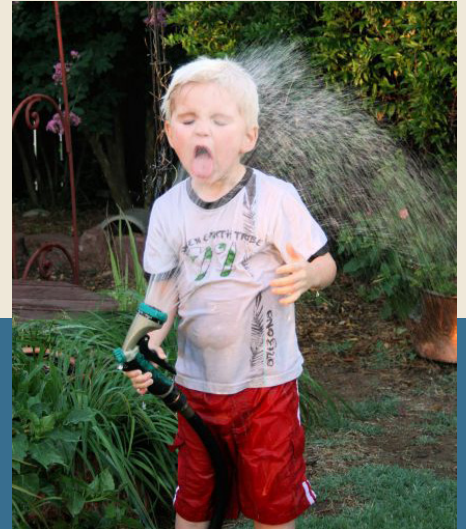
Word

Spring 2010

Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

Taking a Look Back as We Move Ahead

The DEQ has strived to develop a successful Wellhead Protection Program for Oklahoma to educate citizens and ensure a safe drinking water source for generations to come. Since we are embarking on a new year we would like to take a look back at what we have accomplished and evaluate if we are meeting the needs of Oklahoma's citizens. Instead of our regular quarterly newsletter we have developed the following survey to assist us with our assessment. Please take a minute to complete this survey and return it to the address below:



Groundwater Protection Team
ECLS/ODEQ
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Or if you prefer to complete the survey online, please go to:
<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/eclsnew/wellheadprotection/index.htm>

Wellhead Protection Survey: Education/Outreach/Community

As highlighted in previous issues of the Wellhead Word, the incidents of Lone Grove, Locust Grove and Windmill Run have emphasized the importance of Wellhead Protection. Over the years, it has become more and more apparent that threats to our drinking water are no longer a situation of "IF" but rather "WHEN." The more prepared a community is, the better the outcome. When faced with an emergency, a contingency plan can be the strongest tool in a community's arsenal.

This survey focuses primarily on contingency plans. We want to know if your community's contingency plan provides instructions for how to react to various types of emergencies. The results of this survey will help us develop better templates for communities to utilize, gain a better understanding of the threats to our states drinking water supplies and determine what topics our outreach material should focus on. Wellhead Protection is a voluntary program and we appreciate the assistance you provide in helping to ensure that all of Oklahoma's citizens have safe drinking water.

Of the potential contaminant sources that lie within your protection area (the 10-year time of travel), please list the ones you consider to be genuine threats to your drinking water.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient/pesticide runoff from farms and/or lawns | <input type="checkbox"/> Roads and highways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial or commercial facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> CAFO's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Septic systems or leaking sanitary lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Underground/Above Ground Storage Tanks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned wells | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe) |

Has a Wellhead Protection Program been established in your community?

Yes No

Does your system have a contingency plan?

Yes No

Continued on next page...

Does your system have a contingency plan that provides specific instructions for chemical spills within the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)? Yes No

Does your contingency plan provide specific plans for providing drinking water during short-term and/or permanent loss of a water source? Yes No

Does your contingency plan contain an emergency sampling plan for parameters of potential concern if you become aware of a problem in your WHPA? Yes No

When was your system's contingency plan last updated?

Have you created local financing to help implement protective activities that involve a significant cost to your facility? Yes No

If yes, please describe.

Are you providing educational materials to owners of wastewater treatment systems/or septic systems within your WHPA to encourage correct operation and maintenance of these systems?

If yes, are you utilizing... Yes No

Materials developed by DEQ Materials you developed Other

If you are utilizing materials developed by DEQ, what materials have you found helpful?

Newsletters Bill inserts Fact sheets

What do you perceive as the major barrier/obstacle to implementing a wellhead protection program in your community if it hasn't done so?

Lack of available funding Lack of personnel resources Lack of technical assistance
 Lack of information Local politics Lack of community involvement
 Other (Please describe) _____

What do you perceive as your greatest success in your community's source water protection program?



Go Green!



Help us in our efforts to protect our environment by eliminating the need for printed newsletters and join the Wellhead Protection list serve. It's easy! Just contact Amber McIntyre at 405-702-6167 and provide her with your email address and begin receiving the Wellhead Word electronically.

