

Ontario Public Health Standards: Roll-out Environmental Health Workshop

Health Hazard Prevention and Management Program Standard

*Presented By:
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November 26, 2008*



Outline of Session

- Overview (30 minutes)
 - Overview of Health Hazard Prevention and Management Program Standard and Protocols – **Dianne**
 - Highlights of Changes from MHPSG – **Dianne**
 - Key Requirements – **Tony**
 - Questions & Answers
- Public Health Practice (20 minutes)
 - Identification, Investigation and Management of Health Hazards – **Sudbury and District Health Unit**
 - Questions & Answers
- Link to Guidance Documents (35 minutes)
 - Introduction to Table Exercise - **Tony**
 - Table exercise - **All**

Comparison of 1997 and 2008 Documents


MHPSG (1 standard; 0 protocols)

- Health Hazard Investigation

OPHS (1 standard; 2 protocols)

- Health Hazard Prevention and Management Standard
 - Identification, Investigation & Management of Health Hazards Protocol
 - Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol
 - 1 Guidance Document: Operational Standards for Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities

Health Hazard Standard: Goals and Outcomes

- **Goal**: to prevent or reduce the burden of illness from health hazards in the physical environment
 - **Societal Outcomes**: e.g., there is reduced incidence of adverse health outcomes from exposure to chemical, radiological, biological and other physical factors
 - **Board of Health Outcomes**: e.g., timely and effective detection and identification of exposures of human health concern and associated public health risks, trends and illnesses
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Health Hazard Standard: Requirements

- **Requirements**: range from:
 - Conducting surveillance
 - Conducting epidemiological analysis of surveillance data
 - Increasing public awareness
 - Assisting community partners to develop healthy policies
 - Ensuring 24/7 availability (for responding to and managing health hazards)
 - Inspecting and assessing facilities where there is an elevated risk of illness
 - Implementing control measures
 - Developing a local vector-borne management strategy (in accordance with the *Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2008* or as current)
 - Maintaining systems to support timely and comprehensive communication


Identification, Investigation & Management of HHs Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention and reduction of adverse health outcomes from health hazards in the environment by providing direction to boards of health on the delivery of comprehensive, local health hazard prevention and management programs.
- **Outline**:
 - Hazard Management System
 - Hazard Identification and Surveillance
 - Hazard Investigation
 - Health Hazard Prevention and Management
 - Reporting

Health Hazards Protocol – Highlights

- New protocol for developing and implementing a health hazard management system to **identify, assess** and **manage** health hazards in the environment
- **Identify**: outlines process for reviewing relevant information, liaising with partners, collecting data on health status of residents, and conducting analyses
- **Assess**: outlines requirements for responding through 24/7 on call system (e.g., preliminary assessments, as well as investigations and risk assessments with relevant community and government agencies, as appropriate)
- **Manage**: in collaboration with the lead government agencies with primary responsibility for the environmental health issue and/or other parties, outlines requirements for:
 - Developing options and implementing action plans
 - Developing and implementing risk communication strategies
 - Providing educational material and/or information to the public
 - Monitoring corrective actions / addressing non-compliance.

Comments re: Health Hazards Protocol

- Need to adopt best practices in addressing environmental issues; many boards of health are involved in environmental investigations to varying degrees
 - Protocols are intended to provide general approach
 - Encourage building capacity and expertise through partnership and communications with local agencies and related committees
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Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol

- **Purpose**: to provide direction in the prevention and reduction of adverse health outcomes arising from health hazards in the environment associated with facilities by providing direction to boards of health including the surveillance, assessment, inspection and management of such hazards.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and Inspection
 - Inventory of facilities
 - Assessment and inspection of facilities
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Reporting

Facilities Protocol – Highlights

- New protocol for assessing and inspecting health hazards in the environment associated with specified facilities:
- Inspection frequencies:
 - A minimum of one inspection per year for facilities under the authority of the HPPA and/or its regulations (recreational camps, camps in unorganized territories, premises used or intended for use as a boarding house or lodging house)
 - A minimum of one inspection per year for licensed day nurseries
 - A minimum of one inspection per year upon request for seasonal farm workers' housing
 - Risk assessments and/or inspections upon notification that a health hazard may exist for other facilities that are not regulated under the HPPA (e.g., Ice arenas, schools, (unlicensed) day nurseries and other childcare facilities, long-term care homes, and group homes)
- References the new *Operational Standards for Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities* to assist with conducting inspections, for information.

Comments re: Facilities Protocol (1)

- Provides for a minimum inspection frequency for recreational camps, camps in unorganized territories and boarding and lodging homes
 - At least one inspection per year of day nurseries should focus on environmental issues such as air quality, mould, chemical storage and handling, etc.
 - Other facilities inspected on a response basis (eg: arenas, seasonal farm workers' housing, schools, etc.)
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Comments re: Facilities Protocol (2)

- Identifies legislative overlaps with other Ontario ministries in accordance with the HPPA section 11 (1) which states:
 - Where a complaint is made to a board of health or a medical officer of health that a health hazard relating to occupational or environmental health exists in the health unit served by the board of health or medical officer of health, the medical officer of health shall notify the ministry of the Government of Ontario that has primary responsibility in the matter and, in consultation with the ministry, the medical officer of health shall investigate the complaint to determine whether the health hazard exists or does not exist.
- Board of health to promote standard operating procedures with local agencies that have lead responsibilities

Identification, Investigation & Management of Health Hazards Protocol

Presentation by Sudbury District HU

Table Exercise

Instructions for Exercise

- Exercise (35 minutes): In your table groups, discuss the following questions and record your responses on the paper provided:
 1. Name the 3 most challenging areas you foresee in implementing each of the following Protocols:
 - Identification, Investigation and Management of Health Hazards Protocol
 - Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol
 2. Provide any suggestions you have for further ministry guidance, information or tools that could assist you.