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**CONTACT US**

Arizona Environmental Health Association

http://www.azeha.org/Home.html

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AZHEA members, now that the holiday season is over, we can now get down to the business of planning our 2018 Spring Educational Conference. Our president-elect, past president, board and committee members, and even at large members have been working away to bring you another fantastic conference. We are pleased to announce the conference will be in the same venue as last year, the ASU College of Nursing & Health Innovation building in downtown Phoenix. The dates will be March 7th and 8th. You will find a tentative conference agenda in this newsletter.

Also, we have our bi-annual elections coming up in June of this year. I would encourage all members to run for office. The positions of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and four (4) board of directors are elected at large. Serving on the AZEHA Board of Directors is a great way to enhance leadership abilities, and to actively network with a variety of Environmental Health professionals in government, industry, and academia. I can personally testify that being on the board presents many rewarding opportunities, and is a definite positive for any resume.

I would personally like to thank each and every member for your ongoing support of our Association. Alexis de Tocqueville, a French diplomat, political scientist, and historian once said “Nothing in my opinion is more deserving of our attention than the intellectual and moral associations of America. In democratic societies, the science of association is the mother of science; the progress of all the rest depends on the progress it has made.” I believe his words still ring true today.
# TENTATIVE 2018 AZEHA CONFERENCE AGENDA (as of 01/25/2018)

**Wednesday, March 7th, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:15 am</td>
<td>AZEHA President’s Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 9:15</td>
<td>Maricopa County Air Quality Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:15 – 09:45 am</td>
<td>Break for Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Tempe Grease Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 am – 11:45 am</td>
<td>Starbucks: Cold Brew/Nitro Coffee Process And Dispensing System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm -1:30 pm</td>
<td>Albertsons Employee Assistance Response to Disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Legionnaire’s disease and water and Legionella spp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm – 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Break for Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>NSF International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm – 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Norovirus Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm – 4:45pm</td>
<td>Wrap-Up</td>
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**Thursday, March 8, 2018 (TENTATIVE as of 01/25/2018)**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:15 am</td>
<td>AZEHA President’s Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 9:15</td>
<td>Hep A Outbreak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 – 9:45 am</td>
<td>Break for Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Ecolab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:45 am</td>
<td>Findings from the FDA Restaurant Risk Factor Study Data Collection (2013-2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 am – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 2:30 pm</td>
<td>De-Escalation &amp; Positive Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>Break for Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Updates on Manufactured Food and Shellfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Municipally Supplied Drinking Water Quality: Environmental Health and Safety Perceptions in Phoenix, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-4:45pm</td>
<td>Closing Statements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AZEHA SANITARIAN CEU’s: The two-day conference will provide 12 contact hours of continuing education. This meets the continuing education requirement of the Arizona Sanitarian registration renewal.

What do an electric car, a portable lunchbox-sized monitor, and solar-powered air sensors have in common? They are all part of a year-long EPA study in Kansas City looking at exposure to air pollution from highways, railways, and industry. A new slideshow provides information about the innovative monitoring technology researchers are using in the study.

Solar-Powered Air Monitors. Portable and low-cost monitors (P-pods) measure continuous fine particle pollution (PM$_{2.5}$), black carbon, a component of PM$_{2.5}$, wind speed and direction, temperature, relative humidity.

Back Seat Monitoring: The mobile measurement vehicle is retrofitted with sophisticated air monitoring instruments, including from left: an aethalometer, which measures black carbon, aerodynamic particle sizer, which measures pollution size, and from bottom, NO$_2$ (nitrogen dioxide) monitor.

You’ve heard of a carbon footprint, but what about a nitrogen footprint? Nitrogen pollution can negatively affect air and water quality, as well as public health. EPA and collaborators used the Nitrogen Footprint Tool to calculate the nitrogen footprint of seven universities and laboratories to see where they could reduce their nitrogen outputs. The results can help institutions develop better sustainability strategies for their campuses.

Studies have shown the harmful effects of long-term exposure to air pollution, but there is little research on the effects of exposure to air pollution at levels below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. To fill this gap, EPA grantee Francesca Dominici and colleagues conducted a nationwide study to examine the link between mortality and long-term exposure to ozone and PM$_{2.5}$ at levels lower than the current annual standards. The results show that even low levels of air pollution raise mortality risk for older adults.

Living close to roadways can pose health risks related to pollution from traffic. EPA researchers are looking at ways to mitigate these risks, including placing vegetation barriers along roads to reduce pollution.
U.S. Says E. coli Outbreak is “Likely” Leafy Greens While Canada Declares Outbreak Over

Last week, the Public Health Agency of Canada declared that the recent Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli O157:H7 outbreak linked to romaine lettuce appears to be over. However, an eerily similar outbreak in the U.S. is still being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Read more

FSIS Works to Make Eggs Safer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced new plans to make egg products even safer for American consumers.

FSIS wants to change egg products inspection laws by now requiring official plants that process egg products to develop Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (Sanitation SOPs) and to meet other sanitation requirements consistent with the meat and poultry regulations. By doing this, FSIS’s goal is to make it so that finished egg products are completely void of detectable pathogens. The regulatory amendment also uses agency’s resources more efficiently and removes unnecessary regulatory obstacles to innovation. Read More

Enforcement Discretion Policy Announced for Some FSMA Regulations

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued guidance that summarizes enforcement discretion for certain areas of the agency’s Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules.

Specifically, FDA will carry out enforcement discretion for parts of some specific FSMA rules. During the enforcement discretion period, FDA has no plans to enforce certain provisions as they currently apply to certain entities or activities. Read More
Can Restaurant Managers Talk With Sick Workers?

CDC recently published an article in the Journal of Environmental Health addressing this question, and has just posted a fact sheet based upon the article. The resource website provides information on the three things restaurant managers need to know if their workers are sick so they can decide if they should handle food, as well as links to the fact sheet and full Journal article.

The concept of social responsibility has saturated social media over the last few years and crept into the organizational pillars of many corporations. In its infancy, green/responsibility initiatives were often placed with the quality leaders, although today, many large companies have separate corporate social responsibility (CSR) departments. CSR encompass a variety of facets: environmental conservation, community outreach/volunteerism, sustainable sourcing/animal welfare, good labor practices, etc.. There are several examples of common social pursuits directly influencing food safety and quality objectives. Read More

New Report on Foodborne Illness Source Attribution Estimates

The Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration has released a report, Foodborne Illness Source Attribution Estimates for 2013 for Salmonella, Escherichia coli O157, Listeria monocytogenes, and Campylobacter in the U.S. The report used outbreak data to update previous analyses to estimate the foods responsible for illness related to four foodborne pathogens.

There is both good news and bad news on the terrorism front. ISIS is now being defeated on the battlefield, but the group remains dangerous. Despite that, it is important to realize that our food supply remains vulnerable.

In early September of this year, for example, ISIS called for its supporters to target “unbelievers” (i.e., the West) by injecting poisons (such as cyanide) into fruits and vegetables or containers of ice cream found in supermarkets and grocery stores. The chance of ISIS sympathizers in the U.S. being able to obtain cyanide is remote, but their ability to obtain other toxic chemicals is not. ISIS has also called for additional attacks on markets, restaurants, clubs and bars. The numbers of victims in these types of venues are actually quite stunning. Many of the attacks, including those that occurred in London and Paris, started or ended in and around restaurants. Food- and drink-related venues offer advantages in the adversary’s favor. Because they are places where people congregate socially, situational awareness is often lacking or impaired, making patrons more vulnerable. Read More

WWW.AZEH.A.ORG
Mosquito-borne diseases impact the health of Arizonans every year. The most common mosquito-borne disease in Arizona is West Nile virus, which is endemic throughout Arizona. This section provides more information on mosquito-borne diseases that impact the health and wellbeing of Arizonans. These include disease specific information, publicly available disease data and maps, and information for providers.
ADEQ Swimming Pool Plan Review Rule Revisions on Hold

In 2017, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality opened a rulemaking process to revise Arizona rules for design and construction of public and semi-public swimming pools and spas in Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 5. As stated on the ADEQ website, the agency “proposes to update current minimum standards, for design of and for sanitary conditions at any public or semipublic swimming pool or bathing place, by referencing the 2016 Model Aquatic Health Code.”

Changes to the rules included approval by default of submitted construction plans and final inspection requests if ADEQ does not act on a request within a specified timeframe. The proposal also eliminated rules that pertain solely to health and safety, rather than the ADEQ mission of water quality.

ADEQ held a public hearing for comment on the proposal on August 14, 2017. Approximately 50 stakeholders attended, with many providing comments. The written comment period closed the same day. ADEQ has taken no further action on the rule revision as of January 2018.

AZEHA Assists with Southwest Onsite Wastewater Conference

The Arizona County Directors of Environmental Health Services Association (ACDEHSA) held their 11th biennial onsite wastewater conference in January in Laughlin, Nevada. The conference featured 12 speakers from across the U.S. who presented around the theme “One Water.” Many presentations featured water reuse and recycling issues, with others on specific technology and design topics.

The audience of over 100 regulators, designers, contractors and academics included representatives from most Arizona County environmental health programs, and colleagues from Utah, Nevada and California. AZEHA representatives Tesann Achilles, Cheri Dale, Jennifer Podulka and Danny Chhun provided support for registration and administration at the conference site. ACDEHSA provides a financial contribution for AZEHA support at the annual conferences.
New Report: Ready or Not?

Trust for America’s Health released a new report, Ready or Not? Protecting the Public’s Health From Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism, which looks at state-by-state preparedness indicators and provides policy recommendations. The report found that 25 states scored a 5 or lower on 10 key indicators of public health preparedness.

All of Us Research Program: Share Your Ideas

The All of Us Research Program is a historic effort to gather data over many years from one million or more people living in the U.S., with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and improving health. Researchers will use data from the program to learn more about how individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup can influence health and disease. All of Us is collecting ideas that describe a health problem or research question of interest. These ideas will be considered at a research priorities workshop in March 2018 and will help the program identify new features to support research across a range of health topics. Deadline to submit ideas is February 23.

Last year, Congress passed a bill to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which helps EPA protect American families from the potential health effects of chemicals. To make sure TSCA is enforced effectively, EPA requires the best scientific data on chemical safety. EPA researchers are developing and improving tools to provide chemical data and help implement TSCA.

Arizona – Influenza Summary

Week 3 (1/14/2018 – 1/20/2018)


Synopsis:

Influenza activity is elevated. Arizona reported Widespread Activity for week 3. Subscribe to the Flu & RSV report at

- The numbers in this report are based on processed cases. There are a large number of reports that are still being processed.
- 1,200 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported in the past week, from 14 counties. 16,590 cases have been reported this season, with laboratory-confirmed cases identified in 15 counties.
- 15,022 (91%) reports this season are influenza A, 1,389 (8%) are influenza B, and 179 (1%) are of unknown type.
- Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2017–2018 season in Maricopa County residents. One case was PCR positive for influenza A (H3), one for influenza A (subtyping pending), and one for influenza B (subtyping pending).
In previous editions of the AZEHA newsletter, a partial listing of the bills introduced in the Arizona House and Senate have been cited. Almost 900 bills have been introduced this session. With the new Arizona State Legislature website, it is easier and more efficient to search for bills that are or may be relevant to an individual or agency. To provide relevant information to your specific area(s) of interest, below is a simple and effective means of conducting your own search of the Arizona House and Senate Bills. To keep informed, follow the simple instructions below.

1. Access the Arizona State Legislature website at https://www.azleg.gov/bills/?body=S
2. Simply type in a search word such as “water” and a list of House and Senate bills will appear.
3. Click on the bill you would like to review.

**EXAMPLE:**

![Search Bills](image)

**Bills search results for 'water'**

Your search for water resulted in 103 document(s) (max 1000). Up to 50 documents will be displayed on each page.

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<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Phrase Hit Count</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
<th>Document Description</th>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Short/NOW Title</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>46</td>
<td>01/04/2018</td>
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<td>SB3063</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>01/29/2018</td>
<td>HB2160 - 522R - 1Ver</td>
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<td>12/22/2017</td>
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<td>HB2042</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SB1327 - 522R - 1Ver</td>
<td>SB1327</td>
<td>TPT; retail exemptions; repeal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Arizona Bill” provides a fun and easy-to-read overview on how a bill becomes a law within Arizona. “Arizona Bill” can be accessed at https://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbilllaw.pdf

From Idea ..... To Bill ..... To Law

The Legislative Process in Arizona

by State Senator Randall Gnart

Per the acknowledgment by State Senator Randall Gnart (February, 2000) “The first edition of this booklet was published in December of 1995 and was quickly "sold out" (if you can use that expression for a free booklet)...My goal has always been to be able to put this booklet into the hands of any Arizona citizen who wanted it.” Now, thanks to the booklet being posted electronically, more can learn how the legislative process works in Arizona. The complete “booklet” can be accessed at https://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf
All of Us Research Program: Share Your Ideas

The All of Us Research Program is a historic effort to gather data over many years from one million or more people living in the U.S., with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and improving health. Researchers will use data from the program to learn more about how individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup can influence health and disease. All of Us is collecting ideas that describe a health problem or research question of interest. These ideas will be considered at a research priorities workshop in March 2018 and will help the program identify new features to support research across a range of health topics. Deadline to submit ideas is February 23.

EPA Researchers: 2017 Reflections and Hopes for 2018

We asked EPA researchers to share their 2017 accomplishments and goals for the next year. Read about what they are most proud of in the past year and what they are looking forward to in 2018.

Lead is everywhere – the air, the soil, the water, and inside our homes. Children, whose brains are still developing, are more susceptible to a host of neurological health effects brought on by lead exposure. Three new EPA studies on lead exposure and risk management can inform decisions to better protect children and other vulnerable groups by identifying exposure hotspots and quantifying how different sources contribute to exposure.

EPA has released the final Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Sulfur Oxides (SOx)- Health Criteria, representing the Agency’s latest evaluation of the scientific literature on potential human health effects associated with sulfur oxides. ISA reports provide the scientific foundation used to set the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
2017 America’s Health Rankings Annual Report

The United Health Foundation has released the 2017 America’s Health Rankings annual report. For nearly three decades, this report has provided an analysis of national health on a state-by-state basis by evaluating a historical and comprehensive set of health, environmental, and socioeconomic data to determine national health benchmarks and state rankings.

Profile of State and Territorial Public Health

ASTHO has released a new volume its Profile of State and Territorial Public Health, a report that takes an in-depth look at state and territorial health agencies, including funding levels, agency priorities, and the governmental public health workforce. The profile reveals important trends, challenges, and developments across public health agencies.

2017 Environmental Scorecard

Environment America recently released its 2017 Environmental Scorecard, which tracks how the U.S. Congress voted on bills that could protect our air, water, landscapes, and health of the planet.

New Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence Newsletter

The Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence provide assistance and training to state and local health departments to build capacity to track and investigate foodborne disease. The winter edition of its Centered on Food Safety Newsletter is now available.

New Report: Ready or Not?

Trust for America’s Health released a new report, Ready or Not? Protecting the Public’s Health From Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism, which looks at state-by-state preparedness indicators and provides policy recommendations. The report found that 25 states scored a 5 or lower on 10 key indicators of public health preparedness.

New FSMA Collaborative Training Forum Web Page

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Collaborative Training Forum has a new web page that has descriptions of and links to all the members of the forum, providing a space for dialogue, information-sharing, alignment, and collaboration for all those providing training to those in the food industry who must comply with FDA’s FSMA.

Environmental Assessments Conducted as Part of a Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigation: A Guide to Navigating Trainings and Resources

Interested in newly developed foodborne outbreak investigation training, resources, and tools? NEHA, in collaboration with CDC’s Environmental Health Services Branch, the National Network of Public Health Institutes, the Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence, and the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center, recently developed a variety of user friendly and useful environmental assessment tools, trainings, and resources for regulatory food safety programs. This guide helps users navigate the trainings and resources, explains each of the tools, and provides guidance on when to use the tools and who the target audience is for each. By utilizing these resources available, food safety programs can better prepare, respond, and prevent foodborne illness outbreaks.
CEU Opportunities

Register Now for IDEA EH

Register to attend the Integrating Data to Empower Advancement (IDEA EH) Virtual Conference on February 14 and 15! IDEA EH is an opportunity to learn about the latest tools and resources for data-driven decision making, network with environmental health professionals across the country, and learn about successful programs and models. During IDEA EH, you can view over 15 presentations on topics such as data standardization, predictive analytics, open data, and more. There will be opportunities to network with colleagues, participate in facilitated discussions, and network with exhibitors. IDEA EH is free to attend and is preapproved for NEHA continuing education credits!

Beta Testers Needed for Prometric HACCP Exam

NEHA has partnered with Prometric, the global provider of technology-enabled testing and assessment solutions, for many years. Prometric is currently recruiting beta testers for its new food safety HACCP exam. Interested testers should have recent HACCP experience or certification. Being a tester means you can take the HACCP exam for free (approximately an $80 savings), test remotely, contribute to the development and scoring of the of the new HACCP exam, and receive a completion certificate upon successful passing of the exam. If interested in becoming a beta tester, please contact Janiece Attal.

NEHA is pleased to announce that our library of E-learning courses is now available on our new learning management platform. NEHA’s E-learning courses are recorded directly from our Annual Educational Conference and highlight the latest environmental health topics and issues in areas such as food safety, climate change, water quality and more. These courses are free if you are a NEHA member and available for purchase for non-members.

Safe Water Program Improvement e-Learning Series

NEHA is excited to announce the launch of the new Safe Water Program Improvement (SWPI) e-Learning Series.

Created in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Network of Public Health Institutes, Texas Health Institutes, Tulane University, and NEHA, SWPI provides information and resources for improving health department programs on household wells, springs, cisterns, and other drinking water sources. The training is free and available online. NEHA continuing education units are available upon completion of the courses and the final evaluation.

New Food Safety Degree Program at University of Arizona

The University of Arizona has introduced a new bachelor's degree program in food safety. Housed within the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, the food safety curriculum will include subject matter that focuses on epidemiology, food toxicology, the legal aspects of the food industry, and more. Read More

www.azeha.org
OPPORTUNITIES

UL - FOOD SAFETY AUDITOR: Search [here](#) or for Arizona jobs search [here](#).

STERITECH – SPECIALIST: OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND FOOD SAFETY: Search [Jobs](#). For jobs specific to Arizona, search [here](#).

CONTACT US

Arizona Environmental Health Association

[http://www.azeha.org/Home.html](http://www.azeha.org/Home.html)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27-28, 2018

2018 Tribal Exchange Network Conference

Tucson, Arizona

Further information click [here](#)

February 14 and 15, 2018

Register to attend the Integrating Data to Empower Advancement (IDEA EH) Virtual Conference on February 14 and 15! IDEA EH is an opportunity to learn about the latest tools and resources for data-driven decision making, network with environmental health professionals across the country, and learn about successful programs and models. During IDEA EH, you can view over 15 presentations on topics such as data standardization, predictive analytics, open data, and more. There will be opportunities to network with colleagues, participate in facilitated discussions, and network with exhibitors. IDEA EH is free to attend and is preapproved for NEHA continuing education credits!

June 25–28, 2018

NEHA 2018 AEC & Exhibition and HUD Healthy Homes Conference

Anaheim Marriott Hotel
Anaheim, California

Register Now: The 2018 AEC is only five months away! You don’t want to miss out on all the amazing education and networking opportunities we are planning. Attendee registration is now open! You can also reserve your group rated hotel room and check out other travel information. Early exhibitor registration ends February 28, so take advantage of the best pricing and booth selection by acting now!