Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) has expanded their disaster response capabilities to such an extent, that this entire issue will overview some of the new advances. First, ACHD has added two radiological pass-through pedestrian portal monitors to support their radiological emergency plan. The two radiation detection units are a permanent loan to ACHD made by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

The monitors were acquired to help ACHD prepare for the reception and care of persons who may be evacuated to Audrain County from areas with Missouri and/or Callaway County as a result of an incident which could potentially involve the release of radioactive material from areas, such as the Callaway County nuclear power plant in Reform, MO. In such an event, an influx of evacuees may occur in Audrain County. The pass-through portals will enable the ACHD to process persons potentially exposed to radioactive materials in an expeditious manner. Exposure confirmation and decontamination efforts will occur more quickly by having the equipment readily available and not waiting for equipment to be transported to Audrain County from other locations.

The ACHD has also added belt-clip dosimeters for their Environmental Public Health Specialist to use when responding to truck rollovers or railroad derailments in order to detect if radioactive material is involved. The ACHD also has a pancake dosimeter for use in limited, small-scale exposure scenarios. For more information, call Sandra Hewlett at 573-581-1332.
Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) has added two fleet vehicles to the department for use by Nursing Services and Environmental Public Health. Two 2017 Ford Escapes were purchased using the State of Missouri Fleet Vehicle Purchasing program, which provides a significant discount. The ACHD is also a participant in the State of Missouri fuel saving program via WEX, Inc.

The first vehicle has been assigned to Nursing Services for use with TB patient monitoring, remote immunizations, the Vandalia WIC and Foot clinics, health screenings, and other nursing activities. The second vehicle is assigned to ACHD’s environmental Public Health staff to use for all field-based activities throughout the county.

The fleet program is reducing mileage and operating costs by more than 75% each month; averaging about 31—33 miles/gallon. In addition, space in these vehicles also allow ACHD to staff to use one vehicle to haul supplies and equipment to an event, versus the using two to three autos. Finally, the vehicles eliminate liability issues associated with using personal vehicles, as well as wear and tear on the staff’s personal vehicles. For more information, call Chris Schroeder, CPA, Accounting Manager, At 573-581-1332.

(2017 Ford Escape SUV)
ACHD has built a new Disaster Response Building (DRB at the east end of the main campus property. The new building allows ACHD staff to have immediate access to emergency response supplies and equipment in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Prior to having the DRB, the ACHD gear was located off-site in remote storage on the outskirts of town. In a disaster, swift access could not be assured.

The inventoried unit houses cots, blankets, pillow, signage, go-kits, and other emergency response materials. The 12' x 16' building is connected to an adjacent ACHD storage building and the main building via a newly poured concrete walkway.

For more information, call Sandra Hewlett at 573-581-1332.

National Certification: ServSafe

Sarah Palmer & Larry Teson, EPHS: Successfully completed the national ServSafe™ food certification exam. In the first quarter of 2017. Congratulations!
Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) has expanded its tele-communications capabilities over the last 24 months to ensure that ACHD’s emergency response is as up to date as possible and is integrated with other local and state-wide communications allowing for quicker response to incidents inside and outside, if requested by other agencies, of Audrain County.

The Everbridge Notification Systems is used on the local (county) level to alert employees at ACHD, and private citizens as well when they sign up, of emergency situations such as severe weather or emergency situations in Audrain County that need quick dissemination of information.

WebEOC is a state-based Internet platform we use to send updates on situations in Audrain County to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and to request resources from other counties through SEMA.

MO-HNS is the Missouri Health Notification System, another state-wide tool that allows us to request resources from other health organizations and departments from throughout the state. The ACHD Administrator can use this as a way to request other healthcare responders when, and if, they are needed via a mutual aid agreement.

MOSWIN is the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network that allows ACHD employees to contact other health departments and emergency service agencies throughout the state of Missouri through a series of towers placed strategically around the state over a wireless radio system.

ACHD’s Complete Tele-Communications capabilities include:

1. ACHD Public Information Officer(s): Sandra Hewlett & Chris Newbrough.
2. Everbridge Emergency Notification System
3. WebEOC (emergency Operations Center)
4. MO-HNS (Missouri Health Notification System)
5. MOSWIN (Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network) Radio System
6. Motorola PS-25 Radios
7. Walkie Talkies
8. VHF Scanners
9. Weather Radios
10. New ESI telephone system
11. Wifi capability and cloud-based storage
12. Tablets, Cellphones and Laptops

For more information, Sandra Hewlett at 573-581-1332.
Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) has developed a Mosquito-Borne Disease Plan (MBDP). The purpose of the MBDP is to provide a framework of response activities by the health department in order to decrease the chance of mosquito-borne illness.

ACHD Pre-Mosquito Season Activities:

- Public education campaign to include steps to protect against mosquito bites.
- Educate residents & businesses about methods to protect to reduce or eliminate mosquito habitat/breeding sites.
- Review maps identifying the mosquito species present in area.
- Provide a larvical control agent to residents and businesses, if requested. This vector program is grant-sponsored by the Edmonston Foundation and is available in Audrain County to those with open containers of water, such as stock tanks, gutters, & birdbaths.

ACHD Mosquito Season Activities:

- Distribute mosquito-borne disease brochures & mosquito repellent as requested, and at county fairs, festivals and screenings.
- Provide mosquito education for county school children; grades 1–8.
- Develop disease messaging for the public, healthcare partners, OB/GYN's & travelers.
- Educate businesses to avoid standing water in tires, etc. and provide free larvacide.

For more information, call Sarah Palmer or Larry Teson, EPHS Specials, at 573-581-1332.

Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) has developed six Point of Dispensing (POD) sites as part of ACHD’s emergency response POD plan and contractual agreements are in place. PODS are locations strategically located throughout Audrain County that would be used to distribute vaccination medications or anecdotes in a large scale effort, to Audrain County residents in the event of a public health emergency, such as the need to respond to an act of bioterrorism. The six Audrain County POD sites include:

1. Mexico Middle School
2. Hawthorne Elementary School
3. Missouri Military Academy
4. Community R-VI
5. Van-Far Middle School
6. Audrain County Health Department
The Mission of ACHD:
To protect and promote the public health and community well being of the residents of Audrain County.

The Audrain County Health Department is for everyone in our community.
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm
Our services include: Blood Pressure Screening, WIC, Foot Clinic, Immunizations, STI, Pregnancy, and TB Skin testing, Birth and Death Certificates, Environmental Public Health Services, and much more.

ACHD’s On the Move...

We wish to congratulate several ACHD staff for following notable achievements:

◊ Faye Fairchild (Chair) and Clark Andelin, MD (Member): Sworn in on April 12th, to begin their new term on the Audrain County Board of Health and we thank them for their service.

◊ Sarah Palmer & Larry Teson, EPHS*: Successfully completed the national ServSafe™ food certification exam.

◊ Sarah Palmer, Larry Teson, & Becky Wieberg : Completed HAZMAT IQ training.

◊ Chris Newbrough: Completed his certification, a Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) facilitator.

◊ Sandra Hewlett completed Epidemiology Training.