

Canton City Health Department Monthly Report - February 2005

Highlights from the Health Commissioner - Robert E. Pattison, MPA

In any given month, the health department is made aware of many hazards involving diseases or hazardous chemicals. However it is unusual to receive reports of acute illnesses caused by common chemicals that are frequently used and not normally considered to be hazardous. Two separate incidents have recently come to our attention involving Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). Carbon Dioxide is a naturally occurring gaseous compound that is invisible and odorless. It is the same gas that is exhaled in our breathing process and is used by plants for photosynthesis. It is also used by businesses to carbonate soft drinks and to make soda water. CO₂ can be turned into a solid (Dry ice) below temperatures of -100^o F. At this very cold temperature, it will sublime directly from a solid to a gas without going through a liquid phase. One report involves CO₂ in a gaseous form and the other in a solid form. In West Virginia, a couple experienced unusual symptoms, including shortness of breath, lightheadedness, dizziness and fatigue, shortly after moving into a new home. The symptoms were experienced mainly when they were working in the basement. After two years of searching and missed diagnoses, it was discovered that the home had been built over an underground mine and that carbon dioxide was migrating into their home from the mined area. The problem was resolved by installing a system to vent the unwanted carbon dioxide away from the home. The second case, in Alabama, involved the improper transportation of a large amount of dry ice. A 100 pound block of dry ice was purchased, divided into four parts, put into paper bags and placed in the front seat of the man's pickup truck. The windows were closed and the air conditioner was set to recirculate the air inside the cab. He made it only a mile and a quarter from the ice house when he experienced shortness of breath, pulled his truck into a parking lot and lost consciousness. In neither case did anyone experience irreversible health effects. These experiences are good reminders that any enclosed space, including a home or a vehicle, is susceptible to an environment that may not have enough oxygen available to sustain life under some circumstances. If you have questions concerning indoor air quality, please contact our Environmental Health Division at 330-489-3327.



Vital Statistics

Leading Causes of Death - Canton City

Disease	Month	YTD
Heart Disease	042	099
Cancer (All Types)	030	047
Flu/Pneumonia	019	044
Stroke	009	019
Accidents	000	000
Emphysema	002	002
Suicide	000	000
Homicide	000	000
Diabetes	000	000
All Other Causes	060	110

Births and Deaths - Residents and Non-Residents

Births Registered	191	510
Deaths Registered	162	321
Single Parent Births	070	205
Teenage Births (age 11-19)	017	047

Births and Deaths - City of Canton Residents

Births Registered	045	133
Deaths Registered	053	107
Single Parent Births	031	088
Teenage Births (age 11-19)	008	022

AIDS Statistics

	Month			1982 - Present		
	HIV Infected*	AIDS Deaths	AIDS Deaths Year-To-Date	HIV Infected	AIDS Cases	AIDS Deaths
Canton City	00	01	01	165	119	086
Stark County**	00	00	00	221	197	143

*Includes HIV, Non-AIDS, and AIDS. **Includes Alliance, Canton & Massillon

Nursing Statistics

Selected Reportable Diseases

Disease	Month	YTD
Campylobacter	001	002
Chlamydia	071	129
Encephalitis	000	000
Giardia	000	001
Gonorrhea	027	052
Haemophilus Influenza	000	000
Hepatitis A	000	000
Hepatitis B	000	000
Hepatitis C	000	000
Legionella	001	001
Meningitis	000	001
Meningococcal Disease	000	000
Pertussis	000	001
Salmonella	000	001
Shigella	000	000
SIDS	000	000
Syphilis	000	002
Tuberculosis	000	000
Other mycobacterium	000	000
Amebiasis	000	000
Crypto Sporidiosis	001	001

Average Daily Pollen Count

Week Pollen Mold

PROGRAM SUSPENDED FOR WINTER

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)



