

HOUSING WORKSHOP 6

Environmental & Home Safety

2 Facilitators Needed

Estimated Time – 2 hr 45 min

Things to Prepare BEFORE WORKSHOP

ITEM	APPENDIX #	PAGE # USED
Flip Chart 6-1	A-6-1	6-3
Flip Chart 6-2	A-6-1	6-3
Flip Chart 6-3	A-6-1	6-4
Flip Chart 6-4	A-6-2	6-4
Flip Chart 6-5	A-6-2	6-6
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Handout 6-1 <i>Agua para Beber Novela</i>	A-6-3	6-7
Handout 6-2 <i>What you Should Know about Space Heaters</i>	A-6-4	6-7
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Handout 6-5 <i>Septic Tanks</i>	A-6-7	6-7
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Evaluation Form	Trainer's Section	6-11

Activity	Page	Time	Materials
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of facilitator, participants, icebreaker • Workshop objectives 	6-1 6-2	15 min 5 min 20 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Flip Chart 6-1 Workshop Objectives
Learning Activity 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potable Water – Reading Novela • Group Comments 	6-4	15 min 5 min 20 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Blank Flip Chart & Markers <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Housing 6-1 Agua para Beber Novela
Learning Activity 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skit on Safe Propane Use • Group Comments 	6-4 6-5	10 min 5 min 15 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Flip Chart 6-2 Safety Tips- Using Propane Safely <input type="checkbox"/> Handout 6-2 What you Should Know about Space Heaters

Break		15 min	
Learning Activity 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skit on Open Trash Burning • Group Comments 	6-6 6-7	10 min 5 min 15 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Handout Housing 6-3 Burning Trash
Learning Activity 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skit on Illegal Abandoned Vehicles and Illegal Dumping • Group Comments 	6-8	10 min 5 min 15 min	No Handouts for this activity
Learning Activity 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion on Carbon Monoxide 	6-9	15 min 15 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Flip Chart 6-3 Carbon Monoxide-Symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Flip Chart 6-4- Carbon Monoxide-Visible Clues <input type="checkbox"/> Flip Chart 6-5 Carbon Monoxide-Invisible Clues <input type="checkbox"/> Flip Chart 6-6 Carbon Monoxide-Household Sources <input type="checkbox"/> Handout 6-4 Carbon-Monoxide
Learning Activity 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skit on Septic Tanks • Distribution of Informational Handouts – Related Topics • Group Comments 	6-10	10 min 5 min 15 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Handout 6-5 Septic Tanks <input type="checkbox"/> Handout 6-6 Rodents and Insects <input type="checkbox"/> Handout 6-7 Other Home and Safety Tips
Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Evaluation 	6-11	10 min 10 min	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation Form

Introduction

Time: 20 Minutes

Materials: Blank Flip Chart & Markers, Selected Icebreaker, Flip Chart 6-1

Reminder: The Trainer's role is always to *educate*, not to provide *advice*.

- **Introduction of Facilitator and Participants**
 - Welcome the participants and introduce yourself to the group
 - Ask the participants to introduce themselves and conduct one Icebreaker selected by the facilitator from the Icebreaker list.
 - Tell the group that this session will focus on Environmental and Home Safety issues

- **Workshop Objectives**
 - Refer to Flip Chart 6-1 Objectives and review it with participants.
 - Hang the Flip Chart so that it is visible to the entire group.

Learning Activity 1: Potable Water

Time 20 min

Materials: Handout A-6-1

Before the Activity - make copies of Handout A-6-1 “*Agua para Beber*”.

Note to Trainer: Tell the participants that together we will read a short *novela* written by the Environmental Center of the University of Texas at El Paso.

Distribute Handout Housing A-6-1 “*Agua para Beber*” (Comic book-style *novela*) Ask for four volunteers to read the parts of Mr. Perez, Mrs. Perez (the homeowners) and Mr. Pacheco and Mrs. Pacheco (their guests) and a fifth volunteer for the narrator.

Reading the *novela* should take less than 10 minutes. Take a few minutes afterwards to ask participants for their comments.

Learning Activity 2 – Short Skit on Using Propane Safely

Time 15 min

Materials: Flip Chart 6-2, Handout Housing 6-2

This skit requires two trainers for the roles of Tina and Mari

Tina: Mari, tomorrow is the funeral for Pati, the two-year old daughter of Gabriel and Luz Maria. Poor Gabriel, how sad he must feel losing his wife and three of his children in a terrible explosion. For a while they thought Pati might make it, but she died from infection after having such serious and extensive burns.

Mari: Yes comadre, how sad. Although no one else blames him, my husband told me that Gabriel is blaming himself for this horrible accident.

Tina: Why should he blame himself? He didn't do anything wrong.

Mari: Well, according to the Fire Department, the reason for the accident was because they were using propane bottles inside the house and the propane was from across the border.

Tina: What’s wrong with that? Many of us do that for heating and cooking.

Mari: The Fire Department told Gabriel that you shouldn’t try to connect Mexican or discontinued U.S. bottles to heating or cooking appliances.

Tina: Why not?

Mari: They said that Mexican propane, which includes butane, puts too much pressure on the connectors and can cause leaks. And, they had one of the bottles connected to a portable camp heater that was not meant for indoor use.

Tina: I didn’t know that.

Mari: So this won’t happen to another family, the Community Center announced a meeting to explain more about such dangers.

Tina: Thanks for telling me. I’m going to go for sure. And I’m going to call several of my friends to make sure they go too. It’s so sad that it takes something this tragic to get the word out.

Mari: Yes, although it is too late for Gabriel and his family, maybe learning more about safety will prevent this from happening to someone else.

Note to Trainer: After the skit, turn to Prepared Flip Chart A-6-2. Distribute Handout 6-2 - “What You Should Know about Space Heaters”, prepared with information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

-----15 min BREAK-----

Learning Activity 3 –Open Trash Burning

Time 15 min

Materials: Handout 6-3

This skit requires two trainers for the roles of Pepe and Chuy

Pepe: It was good seeing you neighbor. I have to go now. I have some chores to do, starting with burning the trash.

Chuy: Hey Pepe, before you start burning, do you know that what you burn can be harmful?

Pepe: Harmful, what do you mean? People have been burning trash for years. Why is it a problem now?

Chuy: You know my son works for the County. He received training about this and shared some of the reasons with me. Let me tell you why it certainly is a problem. First of all, the things we buy are packaged differently now than 20 years ago. Then most items were packaged in glass, wood and steel. Now it is mostly plastic. There are so many toxins in today's trash that are released into the atmosphere when burnt. Burning plastics is the most toxic of all. It is never safe to burn plastics at home.

Pepe: What harm do the toxins cause?

Chuy: Breathing problems such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis can occur after exposure to burning trash. My son said that when trash is burned in barrels, the fire is not hot enough to destroy the poisonous substances. Toxic particles released into the air can enter the body through the eyes, the mucous in the nose or through capillaries in the lungs. And since they are released at ground level they are more likely to be breathed in.

Pepe: That's news to me. I've been burning trash for years and never thought that what I burn as trash, it could be harmful!

Chuy: Worst of all is that children are most affected. My son told me that according to the Environmental Protection Agency, they are at high risk because toxins can affect development and growth.

Pepe: Wow! My son Elias has asthma and my little Josefina is frequently sick with bronchitis! But what can I do? I still need to get rid of my trash.

Chuy: There are four things you can do. Reduce waste by buying things in bulk and avoid products with too much packaging. Reuse, sell or give away anything you no longer need. Recycle whatever you can, including aluminum, glass, paper, steel, cardboard and plastic. I think the kid's school has a recycling program. Lastly, compost kitchen scraps, leaves and other yard waste at home. The County Extension Service has free pamphlets about composting.

Pepe: That doesn't sound too hard. I'll get the kids to start helping and we can do this as a family project. I'll be setting a good example for the kids too. They need to learn to do what they can to be healthy and to develop a community spirit too.

Chuy: I'll have my son come over to talk to you about it. Once you get started, it's not so hard to keep up and I bet you'll see that the kids will have less respiratory problems than before.

Pepe: Thanks Chuy. I'd better get going so I can get started.

Note to Trainer: Distribute Handout 6-3 for the participants to take home.

Learning Activity 4 – Skit -Illegal Dumping and Abandoned Vehicles

Time: 15 min

Materials: None

This skit requires two trainers for the roles of Gustavo and Javier

Note to Trainer: Read: Summer in the southwest is the monsoon season. Our next skit is a conversation about illegal dumping between two neighbors.

Gustavo: Javier, did you see that old Buick abandoned on County Road 27?

Javier: Yeah, there's another one close to the chicken farm and I've seen others here and there. Why do you ask?

Gustavo: Well it's almost time for the rainy season. Don't you remember what happened last year? The County couldn't get through to open the roads after one of the big storms we had. I had a hard time getting to work and I almost got fired!

Javier: Cars aren't the only thing I've seen dumped. There are old tires, sofas, refrigerators, batteries and all kinds of other junk.

Gustavo: Well this year I'm going to ask the County officials to do something about it before the rains come. I can't afford to lose my job.

Javier: If you get the County to do something about it, they're going to start issuing citations and giving fines to our neighbors.

Gustavo: Unfortunately, that's the only thing that will catch their attention and get them to cooperate. And I don't feel that bad about it because children sometimes play in those old cars and can get hurt. Floodwaters can wash motor oil, radiator fluid and battery acid into the soil, causing more problems for our whole community.

Javier: If you like, I'll go with you to the County. I need to be sure to get to work too. Those cars can block graders and street sweepers from doing their job. And I have kids too. You never know what they're thinking. It would be awful for one of them to get hurt playing in one of those vehicles.

Note to Trainer: Ask the group to discuss any experiences they have had or are aware of in their area and what steps they are willing to take to resolve them. Offer your help to follow through with them.

Learning Activity 5 – Discussion about Carbon Monoxide

Time: 15 min

Materials: Blank Flip Chart & Markers, Flip Chart 6-4,
Flip Chart 6-5, Flip Chart 6-6, Flip Chart 6-7

Note to Trainer: Read: Carbon monoxide is a deadly killer. Nearly 300 people die needlessly each year from carbon monoxide poisoning. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, any fuel-burning appliance in the home can cause carbon monoxide poisoning if it is not in good working condition.

Open a blank flip chart page. Ask the group to tell you if they know what their house could be telling them about the presence of carbon monoxide. Write key word responses on the flip chart.

Afterwards, turn to Prepared Flip Charts 6-4 through 6-7. Compare the responses. Inform the group that the information you are presenting comes from The Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Learning Activity 6 – Skit on Septic tanks

Time: 15 min

Materials: Handout 6-5, 6-6, 6-7

This skit requires two trainers for the roles of Carmen and Olivia

Carmen: Our septic tank is starting to make the house smell really bad. All that money we spent to install a septic tank and now we have more problems.

Olivia: Have you had the septic tank pumped recently?

Carmen: Pumped, no, what do you mean?

Olivia: The only way to insure that your septic system does not become faulty is to pump the tank every three to five years. We had ours pumped a few months ago.

Carmen: We've had our system for six years now. I didn't know you had to do that.

Olivia: Oh yes, regular maintenance will extend the life of the septic tank. Some people think that additives will reduce or eliminate the need to periodically pump the tank, but so far no additives have been proven to be effective. Pumping removes accumulated solids that can stop-up the soil where the wastewater accumulates.

Carmen: Does it cost a lot?

Olivia: No, call around. If I remember correctly, it cost us about \$75. A licensed septic tank pumper can also check the condition of your tank as well as the pipes.

Carmen: I'd better start calling and get somebody out here. The stench is pretty bad already.

Olivia: It's like changing the oil filter in your car -- it's cheaper to do preventive maintenance before the system fails. If that happens, you'll have to replace it and failed systems are hazardous to your family's health.

Note to Trainer: Distribute Handout 6-5 Septic Tanks after the skit. At this time you should also distribute Handout 6-6 Rodents and Insects and Handout 6-7 Other Home Health and Safety Tips. Explain to the participants that although these topics were not covered during the session, they will find additional useful information to keep their families safe and healthy.

WRAP UP

Time: 10 min
Materials: Evaluation Form

- **Evaluation of Workshop**

- Distribute Evaluation Forms
- Ask the group to please take a few minutes to complete the Evaluation Form with their comments
- Let them know that their comments are important to further improve the module
- Thank them for taking the time to attend the workshop and ask them if they have any questions.
- If you cannot answer a particular question, write it down along with the contact information for the person who asked the question. Contact them later with an answer.

FLIP CHART 6-1 Workshop Objectives

- Environmental Issues
- Home Safety Issues
- Keeping Your Family Safe

FLIP CHART 6-2 Safety Tips – Using Propane Safely

- Only use propane delivered by certified carriers
- Do not connect Mexican propane bottles to your appliances
- Only use heating and cooking appliances approved for indoor use
- Only use extension cords if absolutely necessary and then only use extension cords marked #14 or #12 AWG
- Never use gasoline in a kerosene heater

FLIP CHART 6-3 Carbon Monoxide - Symptoms

- Flu-like symptoms, except for fever (dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea and irregular breathing)
- Victim feels better when outside the home

FLIP CHART 6-4 Carbon Monoxide – Visible Clues

- Rusting or water streaking on vent or chimney
- Loose or missing furnace panel
- Sooting
- Loose or disconnected vent/ chimney connections
- Debris or soot falling from chimney, fireplace, or appliance
- Loose masonry on chimney
- Moisture inside of windows

FLIP CHART 6-5 Carbon Monoxide - Invisible Clues

- Internal appliance damage or malfunctioning components
- Improper burner adjustment
- Hidden blockage or damage in chimneys

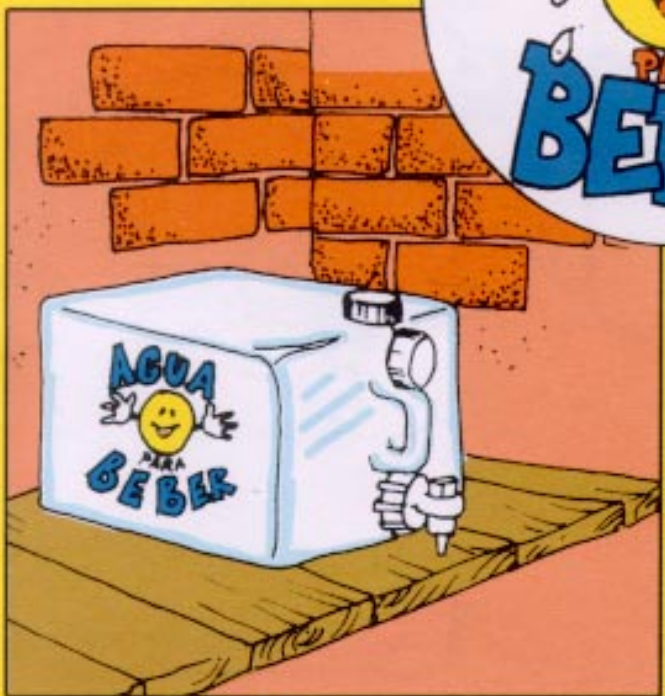
FLIP CHART 6-6 Carbon Monoxide – Household Sources

- Room heater
- Furnace
- Charcoal grill
- Stove
- Water Heater
- Fireplace
- Auto running in closed garage



PRESENTA:
**"Agua que no has de tratar
mejor dejala correr"**

vol. 1



Hervir el agua
durante 1 minuto...



...o agregar
-2 gotas de cloro
por litro
-8 gotas
por galon
-40 gotas
por recipiente
de 20 litros
(agua para beber)

AQUELLA TARDE LA FAMILIA PACHECO HABIA CRUZADO LA CIUDAD PARA VISITAR Y CELEBRAR CON SUS AMIGOS LOS PEREZ...



IHASTA QUE LLEGARON COMPADRES, YA NOS TENIAN PREOCUPADOS!



...PUES AHI LA LLEVAMOS, LO PRIMERO ERA ESTABLECERNOS, LO DEMAS POCO A POCO VA SALIENDO



SI, YA VE CUANDO RECIEN LLEGAMOS, NO HABIA NI UNA SOMBRITA DONDE FRESQUEAR...



¡SOMBRIITA?! ¡NOMBRE! SI NI AGUA HABIA AMIGOS Y NI DONDE CONSEGUIRLA!!



PARA QUE EL AGUA NO NOS HAGA DANO HAY QUE TRATARLA HIRVIENDOLA DURANTE 1 MINUTO ...

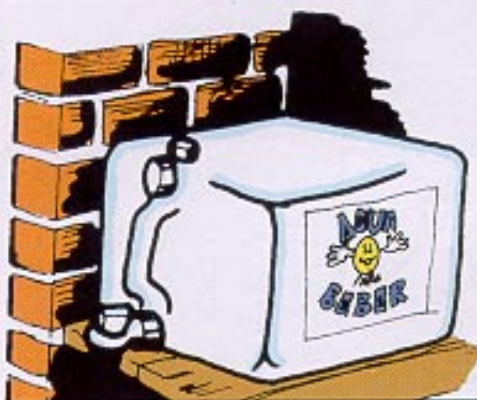
...O AGREGAR:
-2GOTAS DE CLORO POR LITRO
-8 GOTAS POR GALON
-40 GOTAS POR RECIPIENTE DE 20 LITROS (AGUA PARA BEBER) U OTRO RECIPIENTE



NO SAQUE AGUA DEL TAMBO METIENDO TODA LA MANO, PARA ESO TIENE EL RECIPIENTE "AGUA PARA BEBER"

MANTENGA EL RECIPIENTE "AGUA PARA BEBER" EN UN LUGAR LIMPIO Y ALEJADO DEL SOL

LIMPIE EL RECIPIENTE UNA VEZ AL MES CON UNA SOLUCION DE AGUA Y CLORO



ASEGÚRESE QUE LOS TAMBOS ESTEN BIEN LIMPIOS Y NO SE HAYAN USADO PARA ALMACENAR QUÍMICOS O SUBSTANCIAS PELIGROSAS!

EL TAMBO SE TIENE QUE TAPAR MUY BIEN PARA PROTEGER EL AGUA DEL POLVO, ANIMALES E IMPUREZAS



¿TODO ESO NOMAS
PARA EL AGUA?!



NO MI AMIGO, ESO ES LO
PRINCIPAL!!, TODAVIA FALTAN
OTROS CUIDADOS...



ADULTOS Y NIÑOS DEBEN LAVARSE
MUY BIEN LAS MANOS ANTES DE
COCINAR, COMER Y DESPUES DE IR
AL BAÑO



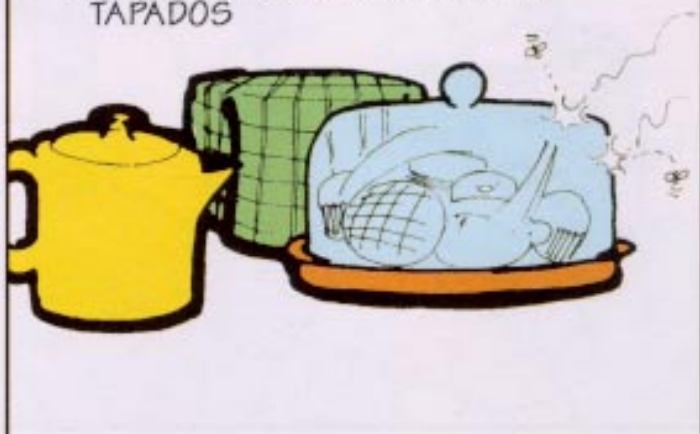
EL EXCREMENTO AL AIRE LIBRE ES
UNA DE LAS PRINCIPALES CAUSAS
DE LA DIARREA, POR LO TANTO HAY
QUE USAR LETRINAS O ENTERRARLO



EN UNA CASA LIMPIA NO ENTRAN
LOS MICROBIOS. HAY QUE
ASEARLAS SEGUIDO



~LAVE FRUTAS Y VERDURAS
~MANTENGA LOS ALIMENTOS
BIEN CALIENTES O BIEN
FRIOS
~CONSERVE SUS RECIPIENTES
TAPADOS



¿ TANTA IMPORTANCIA TIENE EL AGUA Y LA LIMPIEZA?



¡CLARO! SIN AGUA NO HAY VIDA, SIN HIGIENE HAY ENFERMEDADES QUE PUEDEN SER LA MUERTE Y EL AGUA SIN CUIDADOS PUEDE HACER MAS DAÑO QUE BENEFICIO



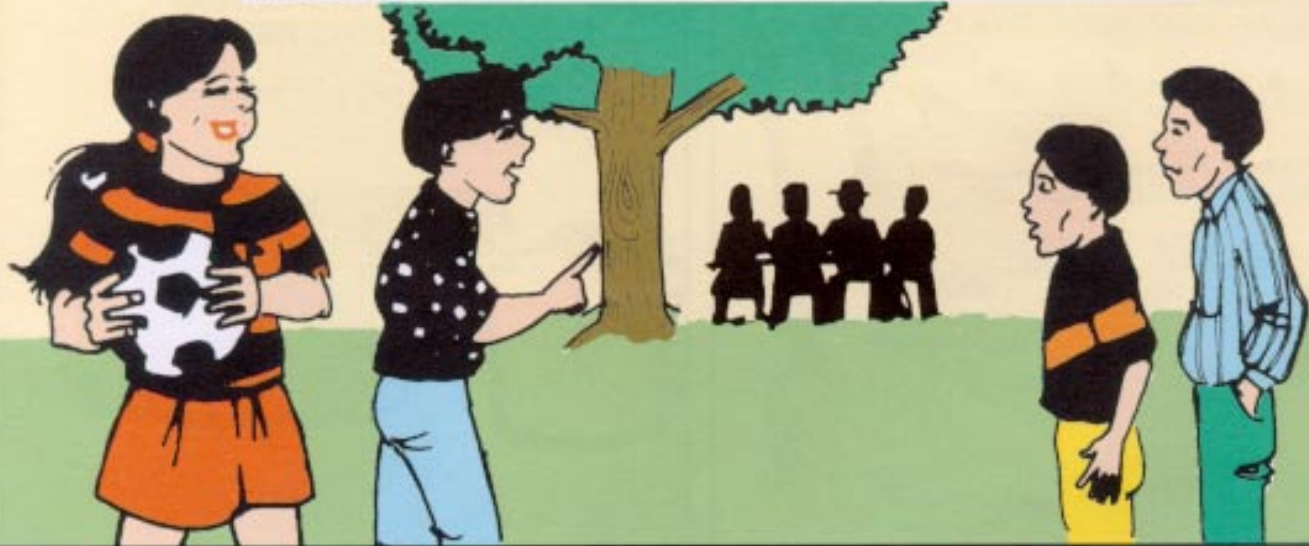
POS NOSOTROS NO HACEMOS TODO ESO Y IMIRENOS!



AMIGOS, CON TODO RESPETO SUS CHAMACOS Y LOS NUESTROS SON DE LA MISMA EDAD...



...Y LOS NUESTROS SE VEN MAS CRECIDITOS Y MUY SANOS



¿Y APOCO ES POR ES0?,
ES QUE EN SU FAMILIA
SON GRANDOTES...

TAMBIEN EN LA SUYA COMPADRE, PERO
NOSOTROS DESDE QUE EMPEZAMOS CON
ESO DE CUIDAR EL AGUA, LAVARNOS BIEN
LAS MANOS, GUARDAR BIEN LA COMIDA...



...YA NO NOS HEMOS
ENFERMADO DE LA
PANZA AQUI EN LA
CASA



¡HUY!, NOSOTROS NO NOS LA
ACABAMOS CON LAS VUELTAS AL
DOCTOR, YA SEA POR DIARREA,
DOLOR DE PANZA O VOMITOS.



AMIGOS;
MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS .
CON ESTA INFORMACION,
YA ESTUVO QUE ESPANTAMOS
LAS
ENFERMEDADES
DE LA FAMILIA



HIGIENE



MIRE COMPADRE: ESTO ES LO QUE OCASIONA LA CACA O POPO AL AIRE LIBRE, LA FALTA DE HIGIENE Y LA FALTA DE CUIDADOS EN EL AGUA



EN CAMBIO CON HIGIENE Y CUIDADOS
TODOS ESTAREMOS SALUDABLES



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



Centro para La Administración de Recursos Ambientales de
La Universidad de Texas en El Paso

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PORTABLE ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

- Only use on the floor, away from furniture
- Unless certified for that purpose, do not use in wet or moist places such as bathrooms
- Do not hide cords under rugs or carpets or place anything on top of the cord
- Do not use an extension cord unless absolutely necessary. If necessary, cord must be marked #14 or #12 AWG bearing label such as U.L. or E.T.L
- Be sure plug fits snugly in outlet to prevent plug from overheating and causing a fire
- Do not attempt to repair broken heaters - have them checked and repaired at qualified service centers.

WOOD BURNING HEATERS

- Follow building codes and/or manufacturer's instructions during installation
- Be sure stove is certified to meet EPA emission standards →

- Check frequently and repair immediately chimney and stove pipes during heating season
- Place stove on approved floor protector or fire resistant floor
- Use only proper fuel
- Use metal container for ash removal.

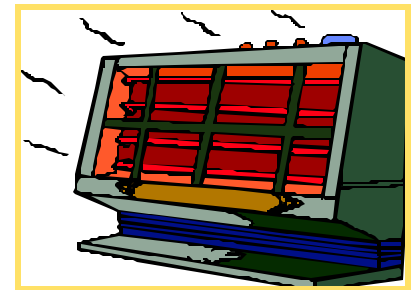
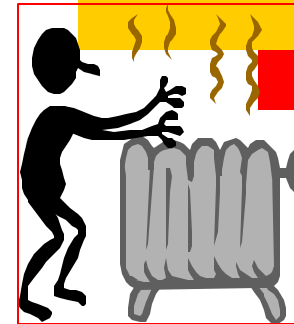
GAS SPACE HEATERS

- Unvented heaters (manufactured after 1983) should be equipped with an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) that detects a reduced level of oxygen in area where heater is operating and shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide accumulates
- Always have your gas heater and venting system professionally installed and inspected according to local codes
- Vented gas-fired heaters can cause carbon monoxide poisoning if improperly vented
- Older heaters may not have safety devices
- If you smell gas, do not try to light the appliance. Turn controls off, open window or door and leave. Then call a gas service person.

This pamphlet was produced with information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission For more information, call: 800-638-2772

What You Should Know About SPACE HEATERS

Prepared by the
El Paso Collaborative



Handout 6-2
A-6-4

About Space Heaters

There are more than 25,000 residential fires each year in the U.S. More than 300 people die in these fires and about 6,000 persons are treated for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations.

HAZARDS

- Fires and burns caused by contact or close proximity to flame, heating element or hot surface area
- Fires and explosions caused by flammable fuels or defective wiring
- Indoor air pollution caused by improper venting or incomplete combustion
- Carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL SPACE HEATERS

- Select a heater with a guard around flame or heating element
- Buy correct size for area you want to heat
- Read the operating instructions aloud to the whole family
- Keep children and pets away
- Keep doors open to rest of house when using an unvented fuel-burning space heater
- Always turn heater off when you go to sleep or leave the area
- Never use flammable liquids such as gasoline around a space heater
- Be aware that mobile homes require specially designed heating equipment
- Place heater at least 3 feet away from objects (bedding, furniture, drapes, etc)
- Never use to dry clothes or shoes

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

KEROSENE SPACE

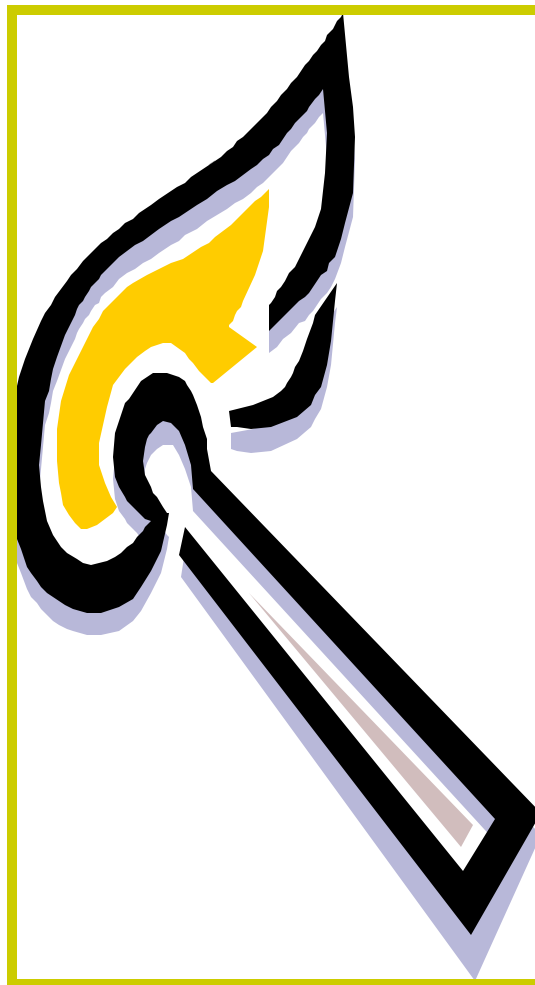
HEATERS



- NEVER use gasoline
- Only use 1-K kerosene
- Never fill beyond the full mark
- Do not attempt to remove fuel tank or refuel when it is operating or hot
- REFUEL OUT OF DOORS
- If flare-up or uncontrolled flaming occurs, do not try to move the heater. Activate the manual shut-off switch. Do not try to extinguish fire with water or blankets. If shut-off switch does not extinguish the flame, leave the area immediately and call the fire department
- Store kerosene outside in a sealed blue container labeled "Kerosene"



This pamphlet was produced with information from the Environmental Protection Agency. For more information; CA and AZ residents call: 866-EPA-WEST NM and TX resident call 800-887-6063:



*Prepared by
the El Paso Collaborative*

**HANDOUT 6-3
A-6-5**

OPEN TRASH BURNING

Burning solid waste in steel drums and other containers that lack enclosed burning devices and that do not control temperature or emissions is considered open burning.

IS IT DANGEROUS?

Household garbage now contains harmful toxins and poisons that are released when burned. Burning plastic is especially harmful and is never safe to burn at home.

When trash is burned in barrels, the fire does not get hot enough to destroy the poisonous substances. The poisons are released into the air and can enter the body through the eyes, mucous in the nose or capillaries in the lungs.

RELATED ILLNESS

Respiratory problems such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis can occur after exposure to burning trash. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, direct inhalation is not the only risk associated with open burning. Burned particles and ash are deposited on soils, crops and gardens and then ingested.

MOST AT RISK

Children are most affected and vulnerable to the consequences of burning trash for these reasons:

- Their bodies absorb up to 6 times more particles than adults breathing in the same air. This can affect their growth and development
- Children eat and drink proportionately more than adults and they play outside a lot, creating more exposure to pollutants.

Children are least able to protect themselves. Their tendency to explore can cause more exposure to harmful substances.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORHOOD

REDUCE waste. Buy in bulk. Avoid products with too much packaging.

REUSE, sell or give away things you no longer need.

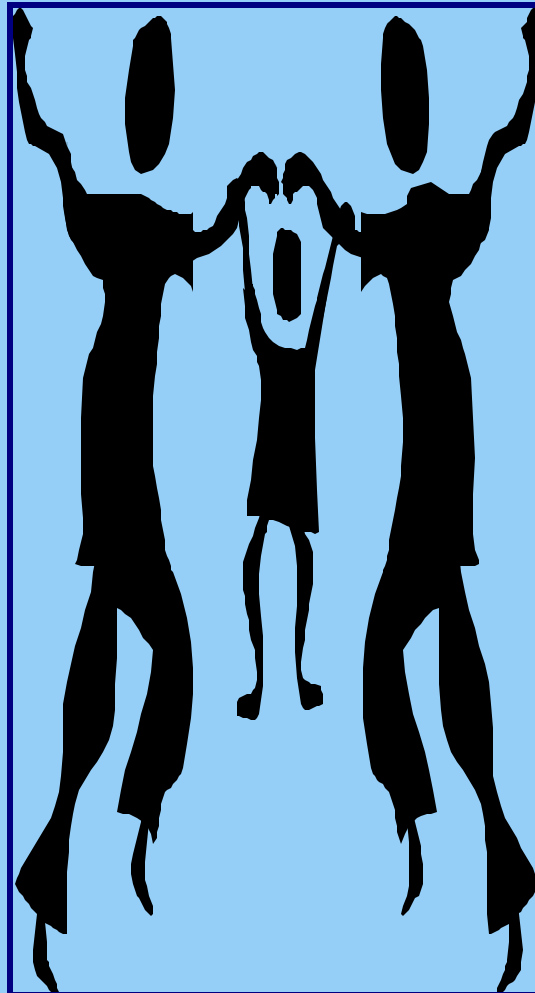
RECYCLE such items as aluminum, glass, paper, steel, cardboard and plastic. Look for recycling centers or programs in your area.

COMPOST kitchen scraps, leaves and other waste at home. County Extension Services can provide more information about composting.

**This pamphlet
was
produced with
information
from the U.S.
Consumer
Product Safety
Commission**

**For more infor-
mation, call:**

800-638-2772



CARBON MONOXIDE



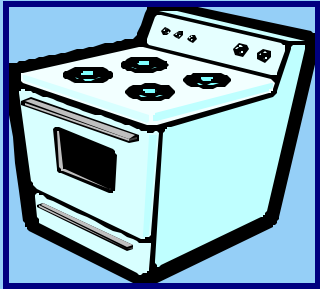
Prepared by the
El Paso Collaborative

HANDOUT 6-4
A-6 -6

Carbon Mnoxide

What You Can do to Prevent Carbon Monoxide from Killing Your Family

- **Never use the gas range or oven for heating**



- **Never service appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools**



- **Never operate unvented gas-burning appliances in a closed room**



- **Never leave a car running in a garage**



- **Never burn charcoal indoors or in a garage**



- **Install a carbon monoxide detector and keep it in good working order**





WHAT TO DO IF YOUR
LEACHING SYSTEM
FAILS

- If you start to experience back-up in your tub or shower, you may just have a clog and not a failed system. If using the plumber's "snake" or a roter service doesn't fix the problem, it may be time to call in a professional plumber.
- If a professional has determined that your leaching system has failed, a portion or all of the system may have to be replaced.
- This can only be done by a licensed septic tank contractor.
- The old system may not need to be abandoned completely. The contractor may advise simply adding on to the system with a new seepage pit.
- It is always a good idea to obtain bids from a several contractors.

Septic Tanks



Prepared by the El
Paso Collaborative

HANDOUT 6-5
A-6-7

Septic Tanks

Your septic tank will last longer without problems if you take the following precautions.

USE LESS WATER BY:

- Taking shorter baths or showers
- Installing a water-saving device in your toilet
- Brushing teeth with water turned off
- Running washing machine for full loads only
- Checking fixtures and repairing leaks immediately

MINIMIZING SOLIDS BY

- Not disposing non-biodegradable paper products in your system
- Never disposing of paints, oils, insecticides or other poisonous liquids in your system

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- Don't plant large trees over the absorption system
- Don't allow rainwater or drainage to pond
- Keep vehicles off the leachline/bed system
- Don't construct walkways, driveways or permanent structures over the leachline/bed area

LEARN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FACT AND FICTION

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- Placing a dead cat or a pound of yeast into a new septic tank. The bacteria your system needs to do the job properly will occur just by using the system.
- Relying on additives to make old systems like new. Products containing yeast, bacteria, enzymes or chemical degreasers won't cause a problem but they probably won't help either.

WHAT DOES WORK

- A septic system is a natural sewage and disposal system that relies on bacteria to digest and clean the wastewater. The bacteria in the tank eat the solids turning them into liquids and gases. These foul smelling gases are vented off through pipes on the house roof.
- The liquid waste flows to the drain-field and is purified by organisms living in the soil. However, all of the waste is not removed by bacteria. The accumulated waste (sludge) can only be removed by pumping.
- Pumping your tank every 3 to 5 years is the only reliable way to keep your septic tank in good working order.
- An often heard myth is, "I never had to pump my septic tank before". Pumping will rid your system of accumulated solids that can stop-up the soil where the wastewater is absorbed.
- If you wait until you have a problem, your system could fail, resulting in costly replacement.
- Pumping is relatively inexpensive and should be part of your home's planned maintenance.

This pamphlet was produced with information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission For more information, call:

800.638.2772

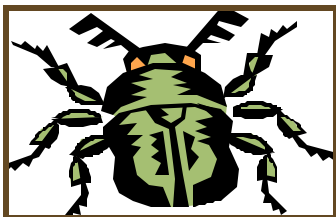


What they like to eat

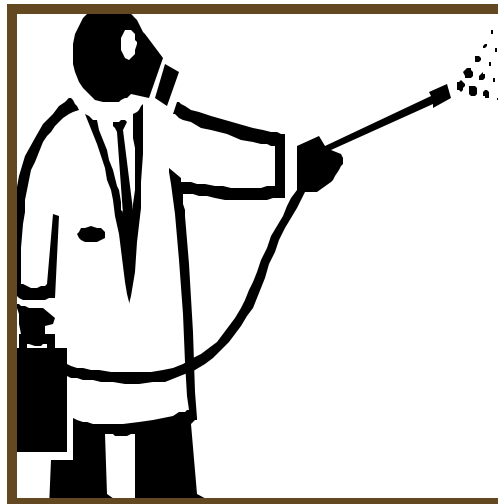
- Meat and grease
- Starchy foods
- Sweets and baked goods
- Other food
- Leather, book binding and wallpaper paste

HOW TO CONTROL

- Inspecting your home and outbuildings regularly
- Keeping your home as sanitary as possible by washing dishes as soon as possible and not leaving uncovered food out overnight
- Cleaning spilled liquids quickly
- Removing left over pet food after your pet has eaten and either covering or disposing of leftovers

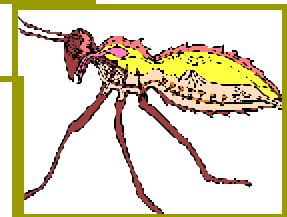
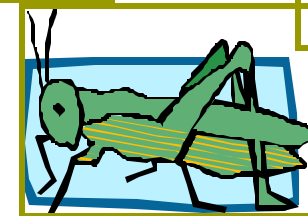
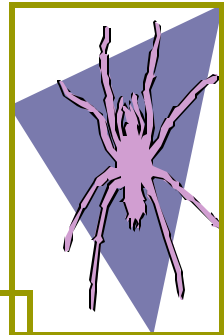
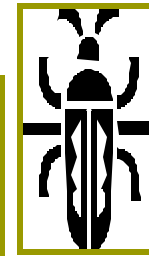


- Sealing cracks around foundations and walls
- Eliminating hiding places
- Setting box-shaped traps
- Using insecticides in their daytime hiding places both inside and outside your home
- Hiring a professional exterminator if you cannot stop the infestation yourself



This pamphlet was produced with information from the Centers for Disease Control
For more information, contact your County Extension Agent.

Rodents and Insects



HANDOUT 6-6
A-6-8

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Rodents

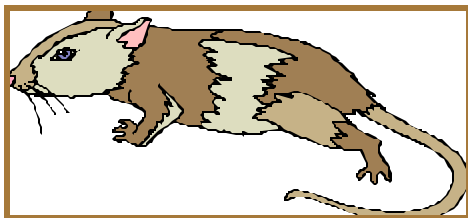
Rats and mice are found in many homes, sheds and garages. They are harmful in a variety of ways.

Rodents:

- Contaminate food
- Damage and destroy property
- Carry diseases that harm humans and animals such as typhus fever, trichinosis, plague, infectious jaundice and salmonella food infections.

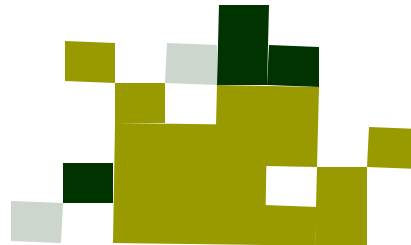
How can you tell if your house is infested?

- Presence of fecal droppings
- Tracks in moist earth or dusty places
- Burrows in the ground
- Fowl smell in poorly ventilated rooms



How to control

- Removing their shelter by removing piles of lumber, trash or other materials. Store materials at least 18 inches from the ground and leave space between the material and the wall
- Removing their food and water by storing food in glass or metal containers; covering garbage with tightly covered trash cans and repairing leaky faucets or any sources of water in an around your home.
- Using traps and poisons. Be sure to read labels and use safety precautions to prevent harm to children or pets.
- Sealing off places where they can enter your home with hardwarecloth or steel wool.

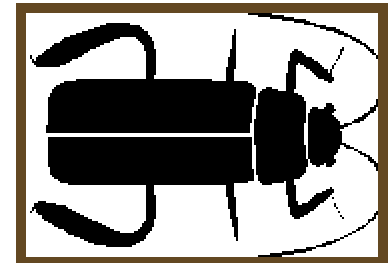


Cockroaches

Cockroaches are not just unpleasant. They contaminate food and can transmit diseases. They can live in clean homes and extra precautions are needed to control them.

Favorite hiding places

- Boxes and grocery bags
- Furniture
- Dried pet foods
- Kitchen sink or drainboard
- Upholstered furniture
- Motorized compartment of refrigerator, washing machines and other appliances



Falls

According to the National Safety Council's 2000 figures over 7,500 accidental deaths resulted from falls. To reduce the risk follow these tips:

- Add night lights especially by stairs and in bathrooms
- Keep a charged flashlight near your bed for emergencies
- Remove throw rugs or secure them with adhesive double-stick tape
- Eliminate clutter from floors and especially in walkways
- Store frequently used items between eye and hip level
- Use a sturdy stool to reach overhead
- Wipe spills immediately
- Use non-skid mats in bathrooms

Repair broken or worn steps and install or repair missing railings

Gas Safety

Smell and listen for leaky connections. Leave immediately if you suspect a leak, leave doors or windows open and call the Gas Service immediately. Never strike a match or turn on or off anything electrical

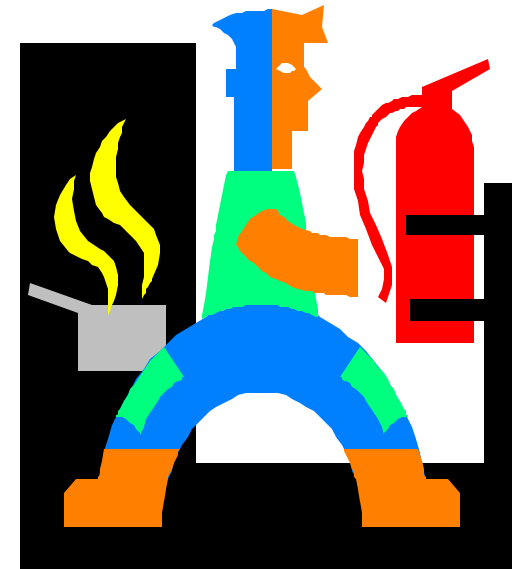
Summer Storms

- Be careful during storms—lightning can create an electrical charge and intense heat that can electrocute on contact, split trees and cause fires
- Pools of water and appliances can be electrically charged and dangerous
- Appliances that have been exposed to water can short and become fire hazards
- Home generators that are improperly used and maintained can be very dangerous

Miscellaneous

- Keep cords for draperies and blinds out of reach of children to prevent strangling
- Don't let children play with plastic bags
- Window screens are not strong enough to keep children in—keep furniture that children can climb on away from windows

Other Home and Safety Tips



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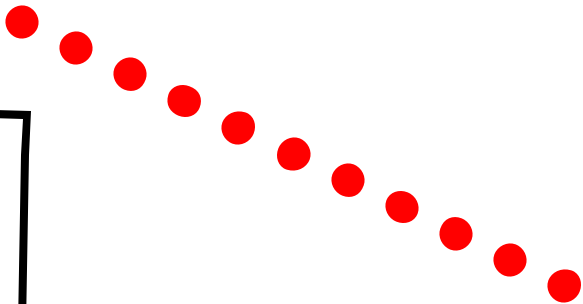
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Electrical Safety

Electrical fires are one of the leading types of home fires, especially in mobile homes. Follow these tips to avoid electrical fires.

- Do not install electrical devices yourself. Get professional help to avoid errors that lead to overheating and arking.
- Use the right size fuse and never put a penny behind the fuse when you don't have a spare.
- Don't place towels or clothing on top of lampshades and never use table lamps without lampshades (could fall onto bed or sofa)
- Use proper watt light bulbs as specified by the light fixture

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- Don't use extension cords unless absolutely necessary. If used temporarily, don't run under rugs or furniture
 - Never use stiff or cracked electrical cords
 - Watch for potential problems such as flickering lights, lights that dim every time you turn on appliances, sparks appearing upon insertion or removal of a plug, warm cords, frequently blown fuses or broken circuits and frequent bulb burnout

Chemical-related



Fire Safety

Store combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid and paint thinner in proper containers in well-ventilated areas away from heat sources and out-of-reach of children

More Tips

- Keep candles away from children and combustible objects
 - Install and maintain smoke (and carbon monoxide) alarms. Test batteries twice a year.
 - Set water heater settings at or below 122 to 130 degrees F.
 - Be sure there is one window per room that can be used for a fire exit. Do not block with bunk beds or other furniture.
 - If you install burglar bars, be sure they can be opened from the inside.
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