

Environmental Health and You

Every day, you probably use more Environmental Health and Engineering services than you realize. See what the Department of Health in Lee County Environmental Health and Engineering sections do on a typical day to protect your health and the health of our community



Environmental Health and Engineering Ensures a Safe Public Water Supply

protecting you everyday.....6:00 A.M.



Morning Shower

You head for the shower, and brush your teeth. The water coming out of your faucet from the public utility or the limited use water system is clean and safe to use, thanks to the monitoring samples taken and tested by our Environmental Engineering staff.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects School Facilities

protecting you everyday.....7:00 A.M.



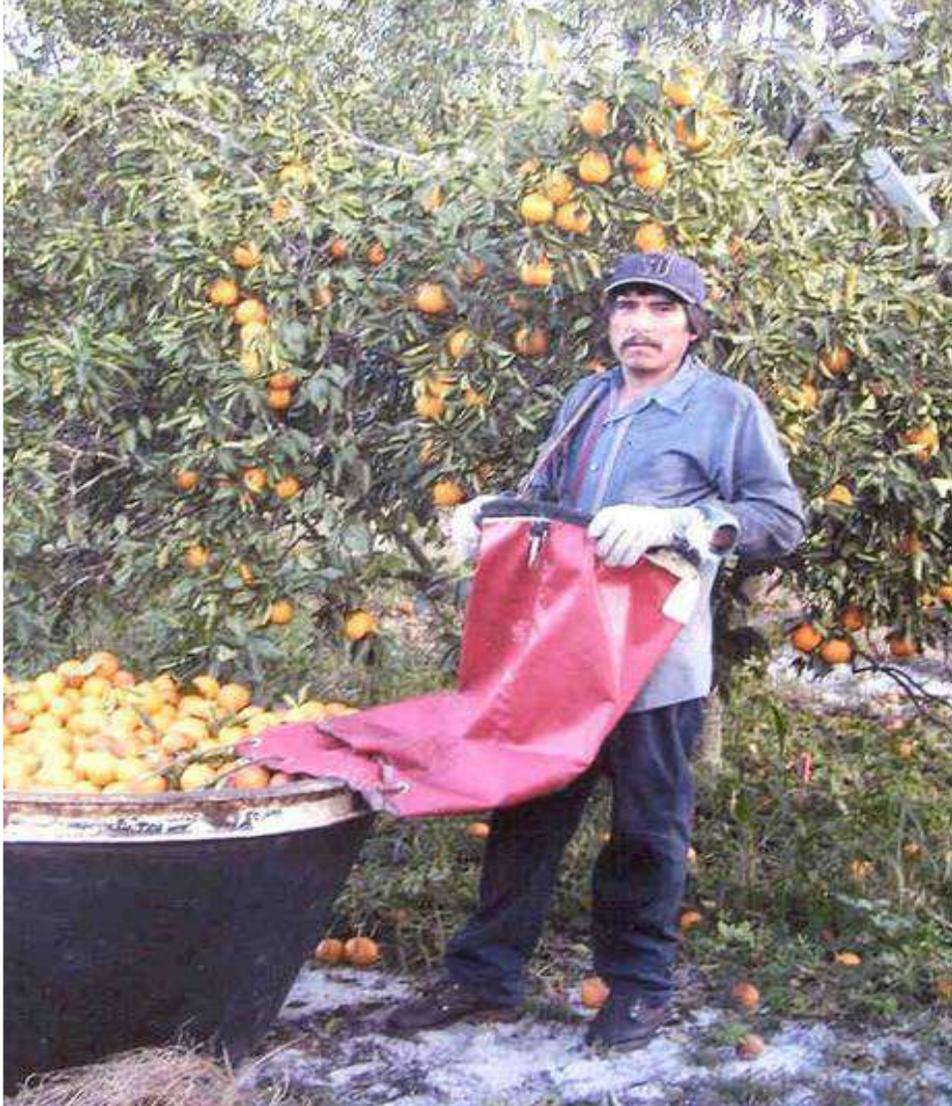
Children off to School

Both public and private schools are inspected by Environmental Health to ensure compliance with regulations for sanitation and safety. We work with schools to keep your children safe by checking classrooms and other student accessible facilities associated with public and private education.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Farmworker Housing

protecting you everyday.....7:30 A.M.



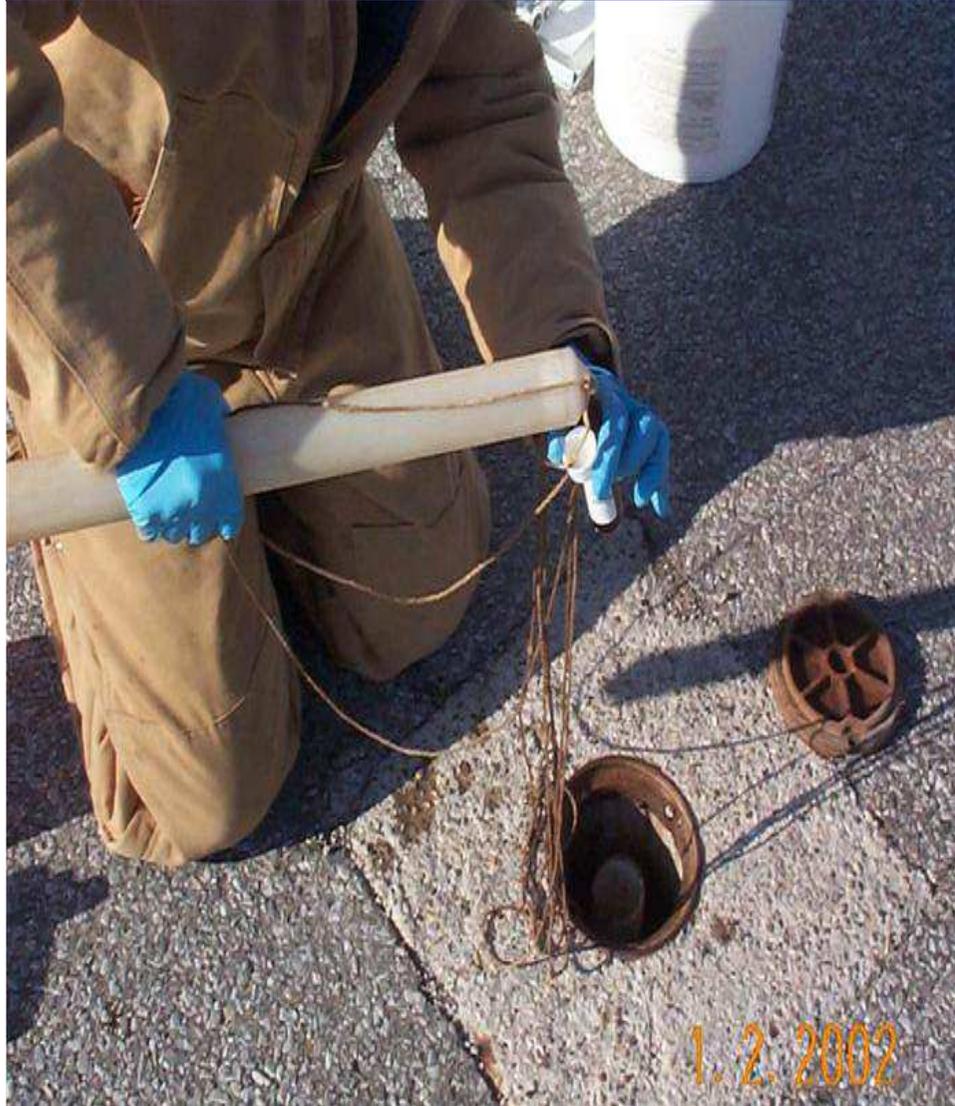
Grab an Orange for Breakfast

If it's a local orange, it was most likely picked by a migrant farmworker living in housing licensed by Environmental Health. We inspect labor camps twice each quarter to ensure the living conditions meet minimum standards for safe and healthy housing, which helps ensure a safe produce supply.



Environmental Health and Engineering Monitors Contaminated Sites

protecting you everyday.....8:00 A.M.



Getting Gas

You stop at the new convenience store, down the road from where the old gas station used to be. Staff from our department regularly monitor and sample the wells around the old gas station to ensure that the leak there many years ago has not affected any of the drinking water wells in the area.



Environmental Health and Engineering Enforces the Clean Indoor Air Act

protecting you everyday.....9:00 A.M.



On to Work

As you enter your office, you notice that a “This is a Smoke Free Building” sign on the front door. Environmental Health investigates complaints of violations of the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act (FCIAA) in public buildings and places of employment.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Group Homes

protecting you everyday.....10:00 A.M.



You check in on your elderly aunt

In conjunction with other state agencies, our staff regularly inspects residential care and assisted living facilities to help prevent the outbreak of disease and prevent injuries to the residents.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Food Service Providers

protecting you everyday.....12:00 NOON



Have lunch with your son at his cafeteria

Food sanitation at institutions is one of the departments primary concerns. We visit these facilities three or four times a year to check for sanitation and proper food preparation and handling.



Environmental Health and Engineering Issues Septic System Permits

protecting you everyday.....1:00 P.M.



Building your new home

Your contractor can't start construction until he has received the Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permit. Before issuing the permit, Environmental Health staff check the soil conditions at the site, the size of the system, and the location of the system to ensure the system will properly treat and dispose of the sewage for the size of home that is proposed.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Onsite Wastewater Systems

protecting you everyday.....1:30 P.M.



Visit your new home site

You see an Environmental Health Specialist at the home site next door. She is inspecting the newly installed septic system for system size, separation from the ground water, distance to your well and your neighbor's wells, and setbacks to surface water and the property lines. She will inspect the system at least once more once it is covered before final approval.



Environmental Health and Engineering Monitors Biomedical Waste Disposal

protecting you everyday.....2:30 P.M.



Go to your Doctor for your flu shot

While you're there, you notice an Environmental Health Specialist checking the biomedical waste containers. Health Practitioners must obtain a permit and keep records to show that they have properly disposed of needles, sharps and other biomedical waste.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Public Swimming Venues

protecting you everyday.....3:00 P.M.



You drop your son off at swim practice

At least twice a year we inspect public swimming pools and spas for safety, cleanliness and disinfection. Environmental Engineering also permits and inspects all new or modified public pools for construction compliance before issuing the operating permit and being placed into service.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Indoor Tanning Salons

protecting you everyday.....4:00 P.M.



Daughter goes to tanning salon

We regularly inspect indoor tanning businesses for compliance with safety and sanitation rules, for approved equipment, correct exposure times, and protective eyewear requirements.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Body Piercing Salons

protecting you everyday.....5:00 P.M.



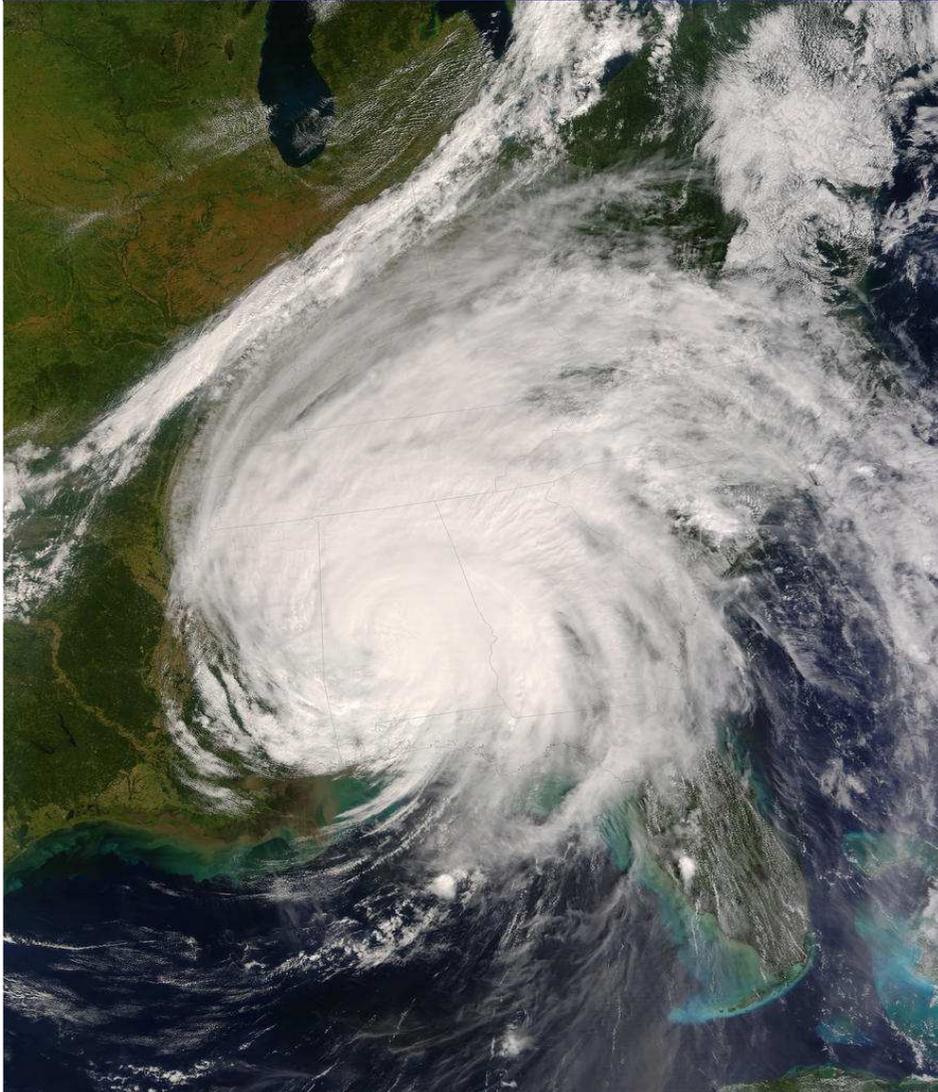
Your niece shows you her new jewelry

We license body piercing salons and inspect them for sterile procedures, and a sanitary, safe premises. We also inspect their records for compliance with age restrictions and parental approval



Environmental Health and Engineering Responds to Disasters

protecting you everyday.....5:30 P.M.



Tropical Storm in the Gulf of Mexico

Environmental Health and Engineering staff have been trained to respond within hours of activation to disaster situations. We perform community assessments, inspect emergency feeding areas and shelters, check the safety of damaged water systems, the functionality of wastewater systems, and evaluate licensed facilities' ability to safely operate after an event.



Environmental Health and Engineering Investigates Sanitary Nuisances

protecting you everyday.....6:00 P.M.



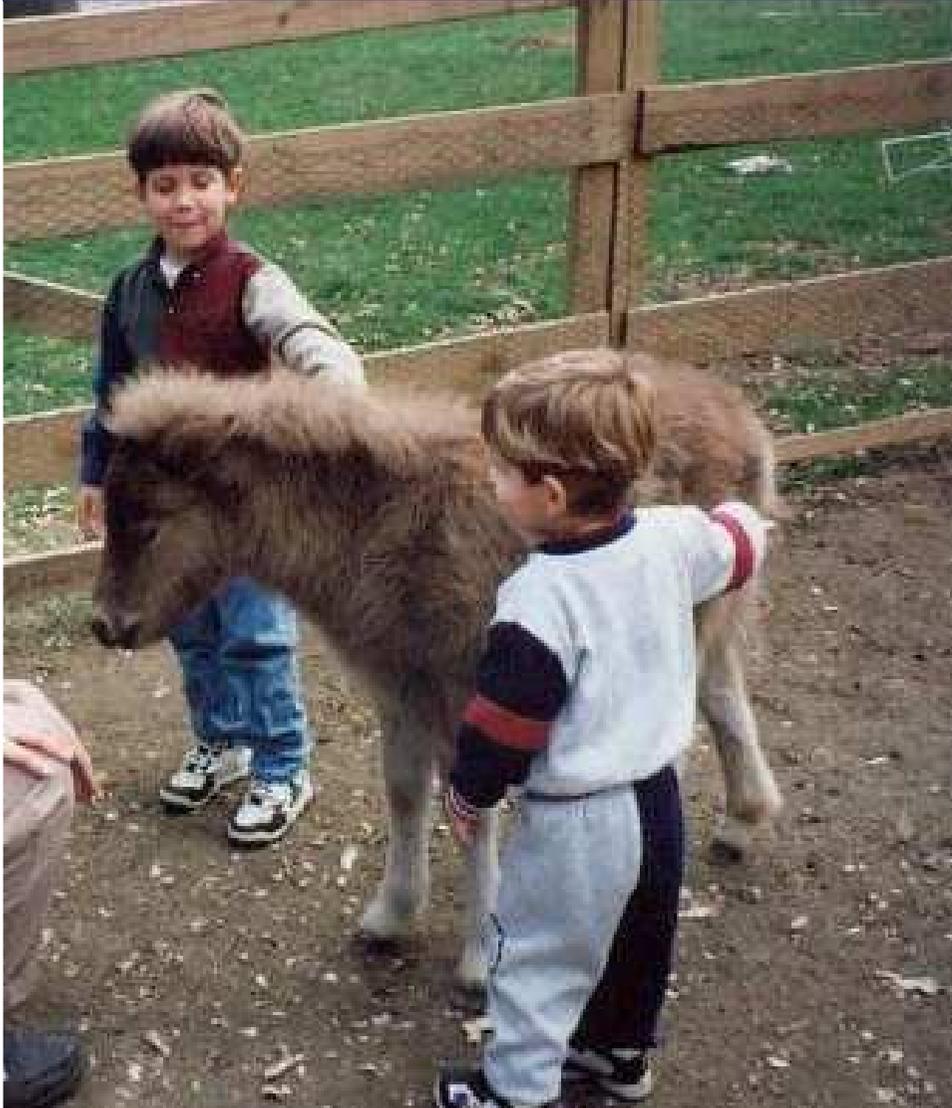
Someone has dumped garbage on the empty lot on your street

Investigation and enforcing abatement of sanitary nuisances considered a public health hazard is required by Florida Statute. This may include sewage on the ground, harborages for flies or rats, dead animals, and/or garbage.



Environmental Health and Engineering Provides Health Promotion Messages

protecting you everyday.....7:00 P.M.



Family Fun

Everybody is home in time for a trip to the Lee County Fair! Before entering the petting zoo, you review one of the posted signs we've produced on how to prevent exposure to harmful bacteria. It reminds you to make sure your family washes their hands after visiting the animals.



Environmental Health and Engineering Inspects Mobile Home Parks

protecting you everyday.....8:00 P.M.



Visit your mother's Mobile Home Park

Environmental Health inspects mobile home and recreational vehicle parks for adequate sewage disposal, routine garbage removal, and that the park is kept free of conditions that could breed insects or rodents. Environmental Engineering permits the water plant and regularly tests the water supply.



Environmental Health

Manages the Used Sharps Program

protecting you everyday.....8:30 P.M.



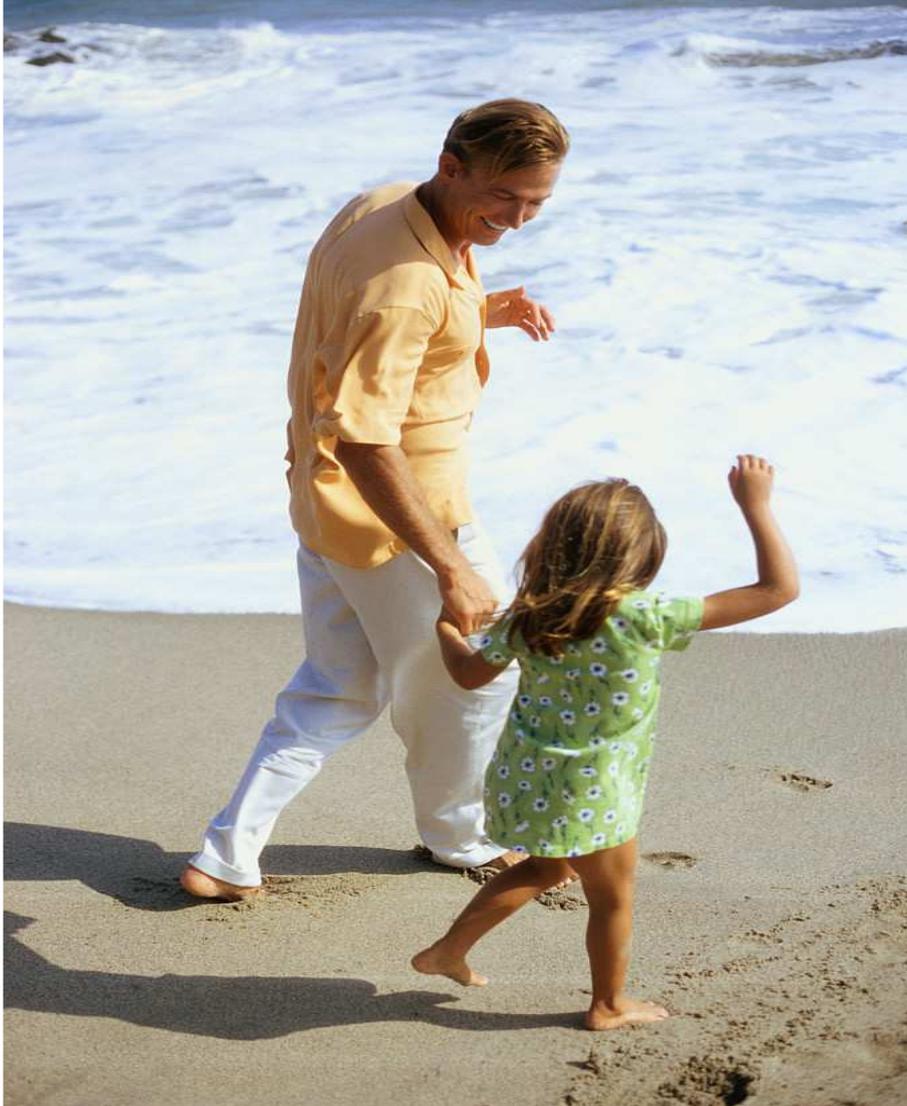
Help your mother check her blood sugar level

For the thousands of diabetics and other home users syringes in Lee County, we established the Used Sharps Collection Program. Any resident can get a free container, and when full can take it to the nearest Fire Station for disposal, and trade it for a new container. This prevents these materials from entering the local waste stream.



Environmental Health and Engineering Monitors Beach Water Quality

protecting you everyday.....9:00 P.M.



Plan a Trip to the Beach Tomorrow

You check the Department of Health web site to make sure the beach water quality is safe. Environmental Engineering tests the water at our local beaches each week, and posts the results there. We may also post an advisory if the tests show bacteria levels are high.



Environmental Health and Engineering Investigates Food & Water Illness

protecting you everyday..... 10:00 P.M.



Local News Reports Food Illness

You turn on the TV and the newscaster reports that a group of teachers attending a local conference became ill from food they ate at the luncheon. Environmental Health has sent out a team to investigate the banquet facilities where the conference attendees ate to determine the cause of the illness, and prevent it from reoccurring



Environmental Health Permits Tattoo Artists

protecting you everyday..... **11:00 P.M.**



Tattoo You?

You've considered getting a tattoo. But first, you check with Environmental Health to see if the facility and the artist is licensed. We inspect all tattoo locations and issue annual licenses to tattoo artists who reside in Lee County. Permanent makeup also falls under the definition of tattooing.



Environmental Health and Engineering On Call for Public Health Emergencies

protecting you everyday.....11:30 P.M.



Bedtime

While you sleep, our on-call staff is available 24/7 to respond to emergency calls about sewage spills, safe drinking water, and other environmental public health emergencies.

