

Health Wise Quarterly

Brought to you by the friendly staff at your

Environmental Health Services Division



Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) offers monthly Food Safety Presentations from 3:00PM - 4:30PM. Trainings are held at Rutherford Lane Campus [1520 Rutherford Lane, Building 1, Suite 205](#). Interested in attending? Register by phone 512-978-0300 or via email: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

January 16, 2018	Requirements for Starting a Food Enterprise and the Inspection Process
February 20, 2018	Requirements and Processes for Submitting a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)
March 20, 2018	Temporary Events and Mobile Vendor Inspections

PERMITS ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE:



Mobile Food Vendors

Temporary Events

There is a distinction between mobile vending units and temporary events. When seeking a permit from Austin Public Health, remember that it is as simple as “*temps are temps; mobiles are mobiles.*” **In no cases may a mobile vending unit operate solely under a temporary event permit without an EHSD variance granted.**

Mobile units are readily movable kitchens on wheels. Mobile units are complicated with water/wastewater systems, cooking heat sources, and areas of potential contamination squeezed together into a very small space. Since they are complicated, mobile units must have a physical inspection every year by an APH senior-level Environmental Health Officer. Some units are required to also pass a fire safety inspection from a Fire Marshal.

After the mobile unit is permitted, if the mobile vendor wants to spread out beyond the confines of the unit, they will need to also obtain temporary event permits. This is because the mobile vending permit is only valid for what is on the physical unit itself. **Ultimately, if the mobile vending unit is not currently permitted, than the mobile vending unit cannot be in use.**

Temporary Events are short-term in nature, lasting from 1-14 days and occurring no more than 6 times per year. Temporary events must be in conjunction with some sort of single special event or celebration. Since temporary events are not a permanent setup, a less stringent set of rules has been developed. This allows for simple setups that are quickly placed and removed without relying on electricity, running water, or drains for the wastewater. Due to the short-term nature and insubstantial amenities, APH senior-level Environmental Health Officers monitor the list of all temporary events occurring in Travis County and provide on-site inspections during operations.

In conclusion, a mobile vending unit has a more complex setup than a temporary event. **Mobile food vendor and temporary event permits are entirely different and may not interchange.**

Reminder: Since October 10, 2017 the mobile vending permitting process works on scheduled appointments. Plan ahead accordingly to allow plenty of time to obtain your mobile vending permit, as a temporary event permit will NOT be granted to a mobile unit that fails the permitting process.

OFFICES CLOSED! Plan Accordingly. EHSD will be CLOSED on:

- * January 1st for New Years Day
- * January 10th from 11 to 4:30 for Training and Austin Public Health Event
- * January 15th for Martin Luther King Day
- * February 19th for President's Day



Vending Machines

Did you know that Austin Public Health permits and inspects vending machines? It's true, however not every vending machine needs a permit. In fact, only vending machines that sell time or temperature controlled for safety (TCS) foods need a permit. These machines typically sell things like sandwiches, yogurt, and milk. When seeking a permit, the owner/operator of the vending machine must submit a paid and complete application with a mechanical diagram that demonstrates compliance with TFER section 228.106(K).

For questions about permitting, please email ehsd.service@austintexas.gov or call 512-978-0300. If you have a complaint about a health violation at a vending machine, please call 3-1-1.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Wishing you a
Happy New Year!
We hope it's your best
year ever.**



Kera Bell Photo Credit





Winter is here. Are you ready? When it gets cold outside, rodents look for a place to stay warm. Ideally they want someplace that provides both food and shelter. Now is the time to seal up holes or gaps, trap any existing rodents, and clean up sources of food or water. Mice can squeeze through a hole the size of a nickel and rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a quarter.

Worldwide, rats and mice spread over 35 diseases. These diseases can be spread to humans directly, through handling of rodents, through contact with rodent feces, urine, or saliva, or through rodent bites. Diseases carried by rodents can also be spread to humans indirectly, through ticks, mites, or fleas that have fed on an infected rodent. The primary strategy for preventing human exposure to rodent diseases is effective rodent control. [What to do about Rodents!](#)



POOL OPERATOR TO DO LIST FOR THE OFF SEASON

It is that time of year for kids of all ages begin to go back to school and work. Pool operators may feel that they get a break too because the pool on their property does not need as much attention after the summer months are over. This is not entirely true, a pool is required to be properly maintained throughout the entire year.

Some items to think about during the off season:



- ✓ Make sure you walk your pool fence enclosure to inspect for any opening greater than 4 inches, such as missing pickets or erosion of the ground beneath the fence
- ✓ Make sure your fence gates self-close and self-latch
- ✓ Make sure your pool chemistry is within proper range and you can see the drains at the bottom
- ✓ Make sure your safety equipment is present and in good condition for future use

Check the [EHSD Pool website](#) for more information.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION CUSTOMER WALK IN HOURS
Lobby Hours Rutherford Lane Campus 1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45AM - 3:30PM Monday - Friday
One-Stop Shop 505 Barton Springs Road 8:00AM -12:00PM Monday - Friday
Mobile Vending Physical Permitting Inspections Rutherford Lane Campus
 1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45 AM - 11:00AM Tuesday and Thursday



EHSD is partnering with Austin 3-1-1 to handle all citizen complaints and environmental investigations. To request services, get general assistance or submit a citizen complaint, dial 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000 if you are calling from outside the Austin service area.

If you feel an inspection issue or complaint investigation has not been satisfactorily addressed, or to speak with a manager regarding administrative issues, please call us directly at 512-978-0300 between the hours of 7:45AM - 4:45PM Monday - Friday.

Mailing Address: EHSD Post Office Box 142529, Austin, TX 78714

Physical Address: Rutherford Lane Campus 1520 Rutherford Lane Building 1 Suite 205 Austin, TX 78754

Email Address: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

Web Address: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/environmental-health-services>

Feedback: Please complete our online survey to help us better serve our customers: www.surveymonkey.com/s/EHSDSurvey

