

Health official tells lawmakers anthrax fears must be kept in perspective

Though bioterrorism scares have prompted a growing number of calls to authorities about suspicious mail, packages and powders, no anthrax has been found in Kentucky, one of Kentucky's top health officials assured lawmakers during yesterday's meeting of the General Assembly's Health and Welfare Committee.

"The biggest public problem at this time is the fear and anxiety associated with the presence of an unknown threat. People are just plain scared," said Dr. Rice C. Leach, Commissioner of the Department for Public Health. "Many people in schools, businesses, and homes, as well as emergency response people, are all understandably apprehensive about dealing with these powders, envelopes and packages. As a result, the response system is receiving many calls for situations that could have been handled with far fewer resources if folks had used more common sense to begin with."

Leach noted that in recent years, authorities have been trained to respond to bioterrorism according to a hypothetical scenario in which people in a single location were exposed to a pathogenic organism. But the anthrax scares of recent days are different, with a number of different reports of suspected bioterrorism

coming in to authorities within a short period of time.

"Today, the disruption in Kentucky is being caused by the way many different groups are responding to an understandable fear of the unknown," Leach said.

With lab tests showing no anthrax has been found in Kentucky, "it is possible to assess the threats differently in terms of the risk to persons," Leach said. "Every letter or powder should be evaluated, but not every one needs to be managed as a hazardous material exposure or a serious crime requiring the FBI to respond."

Leach also offered the following thoughts:

- It's OK to toss out unopened and unwanted mail.
- Not all powders need a police investigation.
- If the mail looks suspicious to you, don't open it. Call 911 and ask someone to pick it up.
- If you find spilled powder, a blend of 1 part bleach in 10 parts water will kill bacteria. That's what laboratories use to clean anthrax spores.

Leach also encouraged lawmakers to "do what you can to help put fear and anxiety in the proper perspective."

TATU training at RCHS

Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, Jessica Ledington, and American Lung Association Representative, Robert Berry, got together on October 3 to educate students about the dangers of using tobacco products. Rockcastle County High School opened its doors to students from Jackson County High School and Clay County High School. The all day training consisted of a program known as TATU, Teens Against Tobacco Use. The students learned many valuable lessons about tobacco use, including marketing and advertisement, physical dependence and illness, costs to the consumer, and ways to help make a difference in their community.

The purpose of TATU is to use the commitment and skills of tobacco-free teens with younger children so they can make a healthy choice to stay tobacco free and be an advocate for tobacco control in their community. TATU teens will now take anti-

tobacco skits and messages to elementary schools in their counties.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Hale, Principal at Rockcastle County High School, for opening up the high school for the training. Also to Trina Bustle, Academic Specialist with the 21st Century Learning Center at Rockcastle County High School and Kathy Bobo, Community Education Coordinator, for helping coordinate the day's events. Another special thank you to Jackson County High School and Clay County High School Youth Services Centers for making travel arrangements for students and taking an active role in TATU.

An enormous thanks to all the students who participated and who will continue to do the work for the TATU program! You will effect and save many lives with the messages you are working so hard on. None of this could have been done without everyone working together. Thank you and great job!

Cold weather tips to keep your car in top shape

Quick trips in cold weather may be hazardous to your vehicle's health. They keep engines from warming up properly and operating efficiently, which can be damaging as temperatures drop. The care experts at Valvoline Instant Oil Change offer the following auto maintenance tips for such severe driving conditions:

- Examine tires for proper inflation and damage. Rotate the best tires to drive wheels for better traction in ice and snow.
- Check battery condition and remaining charge, as a weak battery will not start in cold weather.
- Regularly check the level and condition of engine oil and all other automotive fluids, including transmission, power steering, antifreeze/coolant, windshield washer and transfer case.

• When having the oil or any other fluids changed, consider synthetic or synthetic blends, as they increase gas mileage and, in cold conditions, deliver easier start-ups.

• Test the condition of vehicle lights, a necessity with increased hours of darkness during winter.

• Replace damaged or worn windshield wiper blades.

• Winterize your car's emergency kit by adding a blanket and ice scraper to your flashlight, flares, jumper cables and hand tools that you should have year-round.

Cool weather stresses a vehicle, making it more prone to failure. Proper maintenance can prevent dangerous breakdowns, extend the life of your car and help you avoid expensive repairs. For more on car care, go to www.vicoc.com

Lumber King contributes to national disaster relief effort

In response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Lumber King, Inc., joined other Do It Best Corp. member-retailers around the world to contribute \$235,000 and an emergency shipment of products to aid in the disaster relief efforts in New York City.

"When we first heard of the unspeakable tragedies, all of us at Lumber King, like people all over the world, were saddened, sickened and worried for friends, loved ones and all those we did not know who were directly touched by the events. When our distributor, Do It Best Corp., notified us of the collaborative effort, our feelings quickly turned into a desire to act," said Aaron Terry, store manager.

The Salvation Army will use 100 percent of the \$235,000 cash contribution to fund ongoing relief efforts. The check was presented to Salvation Army officials on Friday, September 28.

In addition to the cash contribution, Do It Best Corp. staff worked with the New York City branch of the Salvation Army to identify products of immediate need to relief workers. An emergency truckload of donated work gloves, bottled water, flashlights, batteries, dust masks, plastic cups, foam cups, plastic trash bags and slush boots were delivered by a Do it Best truck to a Salvation Army drop off site in New York City on Monday, September 17.

"I spoke with members and staff all across America who wanted to help, but didn't know the best way to get involved. I can think no better demonstration of our corporate philosophy 'Serving others as we would like to be served' than by the way the entire Do it Best family has pulled together to aid the valiant workers in their recovery efforts," said Mike McClelland, Do it Best Corp. president and CEO.

Based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Do it Best Corp. is the only member-

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Attention Heat Vendors

The Daniel Boone Development Council will again be administering the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for low-income people in Clay, Laurel, Jackson and Rockcastle Counties beginning November 5, 2001. Vendor packages for last year's participating vendors are being mailed. Application packages for new VENDORS may be picked up at each county office from October 8-12.

The office in Rockcastle County is located at 105 East Main St., Mt. Vernon, Ky.

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