



Indoor Air Pollutants

Information from EPA Pamphlet

Most of us think of carbon monoxide when we think of an indoor air pollutant, but it is not the only pollutant that comes from combustible fuel.

For instance, have you ever used your kitchen oven to heat your house during winter? Many of us have. Maybe our furnace was broke, or we were trying to conserve propane, or it was so cold outside that we turned up the furnace and lit the oven too. It's not uncommon, but it can have serious consequences.

The consequences I speak of are known as "combustion pollutants". These types of pollutants are gases or particles that come from burning materials. Some pollutants that are produced from these burning fuels are nitrogen dioxide, particles, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide. Ordinarily, these combustion pollutants go into your home venting systems and exit without causing any harm or problems. But, when you burn gas for a long time on an unvented system such as an

unvented stove, then you run the risk of combustion pollutants. The pollutants cannot exit the house, so they build up. Over time, your indoor air becomes congested with pollutants. If you're leaving the oven on to heat your home, please be sure that it is properly vented so that combustion pollutants escape outside rather than build up in your home.

The health effects of combustion pollutants range from headaches and breathing difficulties to death. Your age and existing health problems can increase the effect. Combustion pollutants can also come from an inefficient furnace. At

times, it is necessary to replace worn out furnaces. If you think you may have an indoor air problem you should find out more about indoor air pollution and what you can do about it. You can call our office at 486-2601 for additional information.



Gleaned from EPA and KDHE information

About Those Compact Fluorescents

By now you have already heard about Compact Fluorescent Bulbs, and how they not only use about seventy-five percent less energy than an incandescent bulbs but can also last six to ten times as long. At a cost of about three dollars per bulb, how can you make sure you get the most usage for your buck?

One of the fastest ways to shorten the life of your bulb is to turn it on and off again quickly. It's generally recommended that a CFL bulb be left on for at least 15 minutes before shutting it off again. If you want to use a CFL in a lamp that has a 3-way light or a dimmer switch, then you'll need to use a CFL bulb that is made especially for

those types of lamps. You should never use a standard CFL bulb outdoors because an indoor bulb will not work outside in cold temperatures. They make a specific type of bulb for outdoor use. Check the packaging to assure that you're getting the bulb you need.

CFL's contain mercury. Dispose of properly.

If your bulb breaks or reaches the end of its life, it is recommended that such bulbs be taken to a recycler since

small amounts of mercury are enclosed in fluorescent bulbs. In NE Kansas, the only bulb recyclers are at Lowe's and Home Depot. Too far? Then put the bulb into a plastic zip bag then into your garbage. If broken, sweep up the small fragments and collect them on duct tape. Don't vacuum and stir up dust that contains mercury. Place the tape and small fragments in a plastic bag then toss.

By Mike Kelly

Meet Our New Workers at the Environmental Office

Here in the Kickapoo Environmental Office we are quite pleased with our new employees and are proud to announce them to you, though you may already be familiar with both of them.

Our new Water Quality Coordinator is Viswa Tej Attili (Tej), and he has actually been on staff since the end of September 2009. Tej has a

PhD from the University of Wyoming in watershed management. He will be working on water quality on the reservation based on streams, ponds, wells, and any other water source.

Tej is single and enjoys adventure sports such as scuba, snowboarding, and racquet ball. He is from Vijayawada, India and is 28 years old.

Our new Air Quality Coordinator is Mike Kelly. Mike was born in Omaha, Nebraska and is a member of the Iowa Tribe. Recently, he has worked for the Sac & Fox Tribe in Reserve. Mike is married, 29 years of age, and has a daughter.

His duties will involve trying to provide education and outreach about how saving energy can improve air quality.

Mike enjoys reading science fiction, board games, and movies. He will also be contributing articles to this newsletter on a regular basis.

Mike is working on an associates degree in secondary education from Highland Junior College.

These two men are welcome additions to our staff and have already contributed in their jobs. We hope you all benefit by their being here.



KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

1107 Goldfinch Rd

Horton, KS 66439

Ph: 787-486-2601

Environmental Office Logo Contest

The Kickapoo Environmental Office is sponsoring a contest open to all residents of the Tribal Community. It is a contest to give us an appropriate design/logo for the environmental office. If you like to dabble in art, enjoy making designs, and could use a Wal-Mart gift card, then you might want to enter this contest.

The words **KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE** will be the only words on the design, and the design that you create might appear on our stationary, our letterhead, and so on.

Give us an organizational logo with an environmental theme, and submit your design to us by March 31, 2010. The end of March is the deadline. Judges will consider all of the entries to determine the winner of the contest. The winner will receive a \$25.00 Wal-mart gift card.

You can work on any drawing or painting media that you choose: a pencil, a pen, pen and ink, charcoal, acrylic or watercolor paint, even crayon. You can draw or paint the logo on paper, canvas, cardboard. It should be standard in size, neat and legible. Bring your design to our office when it is finished. If you don't want it seen until contest time, then please enclose your work in an envelope or something like wrapping paper.

This contest is open to students as well as adults. We look forward to seeing what you submit. Submit only one entrée per contestant.



New Recycling Trailer

The Kickapoo Environmental Office has purchased a new recycling trailer to help with increasing the volume of recyclables that our office can handle. The old trailer will be moved to Site 7, and the new trailer will be positioned where the old one had previously been.

To help us in our recycling efforts please remove lids from plastic bottles, and put your papers in a brown paper bag. You should put your plastic bottles in a plastic grocery bag, but the grocery bags themselves are not recycled. In other words, don't put a bag full of plastic bags in the recycling trailer since they are not a #1 or #2 type of plastic.

There will be signs posted to assist you in using the recycling trailer. If you have additional questions then give us a call at 785-486-2601.