



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Galveston District Corps of Engineers continues legionella bacteria efforts

The Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers has undertaken several recent initiatives as part of its campaign to protect its workforce and eradicate the legionella bacteria found in its water system earlier this week.

Tomorrow, the District will continue its education effort with a second Town Hall meeting for its employees (as well as all other organizations which are housed in the Jadwin Building Corps Headquarters on Galveston), according to Galveston District commander Colonel David C. Weston.

"The Town Hall will include guest speakers who are technical experts in the field of Legionnaires' Disease," he said, "and who can discuss it from a medical point of view. This is essential information for our employees, as they deal with potential hazards posed by the bacteria."

The speakers include Dr. Dana Beckham, Chief Epidemiologist/Veterinary Consultant and Director of Diseases and Disaster Preparedness for the Galveston County Health District; Neil Pasco from the Texas Department of Health Services; and Kurt Koopmann, Public Information Officer with the Galveston County Health District.

The Corps is also contracting with the professional services necessary to treat and test the water system. The treatment is scheduled to begin Friday night and run through the weekend. Treatment will begin with a strong chlorine solution pumped into the building's water pipes, contacting the legionella bacteria and killing the disease-carrying microorganisms. The chlorine solution will remain in the pipes at least 48 hours to ensure that pipe, valve, strainer, showerhead and faucet surfaces have been thoroughly treated. After the 48 hour contact period, the entire domestic water system will be flushed with fresh water until a slight residual amount of chlorine remains in the system. Water samples will be taken after flushing has occurred and sent to a laboratory for testing of legionella bacterium.

"To ensure that all traces of the legionella bacteria no longer exist in the building's domestic water system, further testing will be done in accordance with OSHA Standards," Weston said. "The results of these tests will determine if our remedial treatment procedures were successful, and we will act on follow-on measures accordingly."

Plans are also underway for air quality testing since Legionnaires Disease is caused by airborne bacteria.

"The health and safety of our people is our first priority," Weston said, "and we will move forward with whatever it takes to protect them. In addition to their personal safety, it's important that we continue their great contributions to the success and economic well being of the Houston-Galveston area."

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