

# HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS & PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

A Local Health Officer Perspective  
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Director/Health Officer  
Grant County Health Department

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## Common Complaints Mold



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## Common Complaints Hording/Dirty Homes



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**Common Complaints**

Junk Piles



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**Common Complaints**

Tire Piles



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**Common Complaints**

Dilapidated Housing



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**Common Complaints**  
Housing (building code/asbestos, etc.)



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**Common Complaints**  
Animal Hording



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**Common Complaints**  
Animal Hording



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**Common Complaints**  
Animal Carcasses



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**Common Complaints**  
CAFOs



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**Common Complaints**  
Manure Run-off



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**Common Complaints**

Bedbugs



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**Common Complaints**

Mobile Homes and Parks



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**Common Complaints**

Abandoned Vehicles



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**Common Complaints**  
Flood/Wind Damage



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**Common Complaints**  
Well Contamination

- ☐ Bacteria
- ☐ E-coli
- ☐ Viruses
- ☐ Nitrate
- ☐ Lead
- ☐ Other metals
- ☐ Chemicals , pesticides, and herbicides

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**Common Complaints**  
Drug Labs



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### Issuing Orders

- ▣ Setting a time frame
  - How severe is the violation
  - Who is affected? Kids?
  - How much time is reasonable?
  - Giving extensions
  - Delaying due dates due to circumstances

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### Issuing Orders

- ▣ What do you do when they don't comply
  - Help
  - Give extensions
  - Take to court
  - File a law suit
  - Issue a citation (a great tool)
  - Clean up and put on tax roll

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### Issuing Orders

Trust and support your experienced staff

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## Ordinances

- ☐ Public Health Nuisance  
(<http://ecode360.com/12826504>)
- ☐ Animal (Vicious, Rabies Control, Quantity, Type)
- ☐ Agent related ordinances

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## Training/Certifications

- Training:**
- ☐ Mold
  - ☐ Preparedness Roles/Exercises (flood, ice, etc.)
  - ☐ Well Testing
  - ☐ Hording
  - ☐ Meth Labs
  - ☐ Manure Control
  - ☐ Pest Control (mice, roaches, bed bugs, mosquitoes)
  - ☐ Available equipment from State DH5 and State Laboratory of Hygiene

- Certifications:**
- ☐ Registered Sanitarian
  - ☐ Lead
  - ☐ Asbestos
  - ☐ Agent Trainings (CPO, HACCP, TNC, FBI, Radon, etc.)

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## Covering Yourself

- Clearly define limits of any orders issued
- Clearly define limits of orders closed
- Use expert guidance (mold cleanup, etc.)
- Explain limits of authority
- Get help

**This is very important when trying to :**

- Address things that could be in a gray area
- Address things that are very specific
- Address politically sensitive issues
- Trying to address things that are difficult to fully assess
- When operating on the edge of your expertise

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### Covering Yourself

- Proper precautions should be taken to avoid exposures and potential health issues for both workers and occupants. You should at a minimum follow the guidelines provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services that are attached with this order to address the water damaged areas and any mold that is found. If you feel that you are not able to do the work properly per the guidelines, a professional mold abatement and/or indoor air quality contractor should be hired to perform the work that is required. I am attaching the list of contractors that is supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for your review only. We cannot recommend or endorse any specific contractors. Therefore, ensuring that contractors have proper training, equipment, experience and insurance is recommended. Getting references before hiring a contractor is advisable as well.

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### Covering Yourself

- Note that my inspection was a visual inspection only. There may be other areas of mold, mildew, and water intrusion that could not be seen during my inspection or that may appear in the future. Therefore, you should consider inspecting for other areas of mold that may be obscured. If you feel that you can not properly inspect obscure areas for mold a professional indoor air specialist should be hired to do so. I am also including a list of indoor air specialist that is supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for your review only. If other areas of mold and or mildew are identified in the future, be sure to at a minimum follow the most recent guidelines for its removal.

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### Covering Yourself

- The inspection was limited in scope. As a result there may be other related or unrelated health or safety issues, problems, or violations that exist or will appear or be revealed in the future that were not identified or addressed during my visit.
- Health departments do not employ building inspectors or engineers that can fully assess building codes or the structural soundness of a building. Therefore, we advise you to have the structure inspected by an engineer or building inspector that can further and properly assess the property for potential damage, and possible risk of failure, collapse, injury, or death due to its condition as soon as possible. Should a professional engineer or building inspector find that the potential for further damage, failure, collapse, injury, or death is eminent, probable, or possible, the issues must be addressed immediately.

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### Covering Yourself

Do not provide services for real estate transactions.

Give information and refer to them to the private sector.

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### Multi-County Benefits and Issues

- Interested?

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### Who You Work With Locally

- Sanitarian or other staff
- Corporation Counsel
- Judges
- Building inspectors
- Local officials
- Social Services (Human Services)
- ADRC
- Law enforcement
- Zoning, Sanitation, Land and Water, Tax lister

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### Who You Work With Locally

- ❑ Fire Departments
- ❑ Humane society/Humane Officer
- ❑ Salvation Army/Red Cross
- ❑ Churches
- ❑ Contractors
- ❑ Recyclers (scrap metal, brick, wood)
- ❑ Weatherization Programs
- ❑ Community Block Grant Funding Recipients

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### Who Else?

- ❑ DHS
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- ❑ DNR
- ❑ WSLH
- ❑ EPA
- ❑ CDC

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### What About The Media?

- ❑ Probably will only be involved if it is big news
- ❑ Be responsive but limit information if:
  - An active court case is present
  - There are HIPAA Concerns (You may have to redact information)
  - Others agencies are taking lead roles
  - Information is limited or sensitive
- ❑ Do not limit information that could place the general public at risk. In these cases use your risk communication skills and PIO.

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## Questions?

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