

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Environmental Health Section

EHS Circular Letter #2018-25

DATE: September 25, 2018

TO: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Code Advisory Committee

FROM: Robert W. Scully *RWS*
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Environmental Engineering Program

RE: Use of Wastewater Holding Tanks at Family Campgrounds

The Environmental Engineering Program (EEP) has been contacted on numerous occasions over the last several years regarding improper use of wastewater holding tanks, and the practice of using portable wastewater holding tanks (a.k.a., blue boys) to transport wastewater from internal camping unit holding tanks to sanitary disposal stations at family campgrounds. The practice of using portable wastewater holding tanks to transport and dispose camping unit wastewater is NOT recognized as an acceptable method of wastewater transport and disposal. EEP staff has been in contact with the Connecticut Campground Owners Association and provided information (attached) on acceptable wastewater transportation and disposal practices at family campgrounds.

Wastewater from a camping unit's internal holding tank can be directed to an on-site subsurface sewage disposal system or disposed of directly at the campground's sanitary disposal station. Alternatively, the family campground regulations authorize campgrounds to provide mobile pump-out services to collect wastewater from camping unit internal storage tanks. Such service is provided by campground personnel and is governed by Section 19a-2a-29 (g) (4) of the Regulations of CT State Agencies. The regulations stipulate that wastewater collected by a mobile pump-out unit shall be disposed at the campground's sanitary disposal station. Local health departments should review each campground's wastewater storage, transportation, and disposal arrangements during the required annual inspection.



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EEP has been made aware of the installation of unpermitted wastewater holding tanks at family campgrounds. In most instances these are above ground plastic tanks placed under decks or camping units. The installation of a wastewater/sewage holding tank on a site, including a family campground, with a design sewage flow of 7,500 gallons per day (GPD) or less requires approval from this Department in accordance with Section XI G of the *Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems*. Approval of a wastewater/sewage holding tank on a site with a design sewage flow exceeding 7,500 GPD requires approval from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Holding tank approval requests shall be routed to the applicable state agency through the local health department.

Questions regarding the use of wastewater holding tanks at family campgrounds can be directed to Amanda Clark at 860-509-7368 or Amanda.Clark@ct.gov. General questions regarding family campgrounds should be directed to the Department's Recreation Program

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., M.P.H., Chief, Environmental Health Section (EHS), DPH
Recreation Program, EHS, DPH
CT Campground Owners Association

Attachment: September 17, 2018 EEP Memo to Connecticut Campground Owners Association

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MEMO

Date: September 17, 2018
To: Connecticut Campground Owners Association
From: Environmental Engineering Program (EEP)
Re: Family Campground Wastewater Holding Tanks

This memo is to confirm comments made by EEP staff to local health officials and family campground operators about the use of wastewater holding tanks in family campgrounds. The EEP has been contacted on numerous occasions over the last several years regarding improper use of wastewater holding tanks, and the practice of using portable wastewater holding tanks (a.k.a., blue boys) to transport and dispose camping unit wastewater at the campground's sanitary disposal station. In at least one reported instance black water (toilet waste) was discharged onto the ground surface after an incident occurred when a "blue boy" was being dragged by a motor vehicle to a sanitary disposal station. Specifically, this practice is NOT recognized as an acceptable method of wastewater transport and disposal within a family campground.

Wastewater from family campground camping units can be directed to on-site subsurface sewage disposal systems (a.k.a., septic systems) or disposed directly at the campground's sanitary disposal station. Alternatively, the family campground regulations authorize campgrounds to provide mobile pump-out services to collect wastewater from camping unit storage tanks. The regulations stipulate the wastewater collected by the mobile pump-out unit shall be disposed at the campground's sanitary disposal station.

EEP has been made aware of the installation of unpermitted wastewater holding tanks in family campgrounds. In many cases they are above ground plastic tanks which have been placed under decks or camping units. Installation of a wastewater holding tank in a family campground requires approval from the local health department. Family campgrounds seeking approval for the installation of a wastewater holding tank should contact their local health department directly.

Questions can be directed to Amanda Clark at 860-509-7368 or Amanda.Clark@ct.gov.

C: Recreation Program, Department of Public Health



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