

## **The Public Health Department**

### **Sangre Grande Regional Corporation**

Public Health Administration includes the Principal Medical and Health Officer, the Public Health Supervisor, Public Health Officers. The department is responsible for the delivery of environmental health services throughout the region. It operates legally under Act No. 21/1990, Chapter 12 No.4, WASA Act 1965 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The following are the environmental services presently provided by the Public Health Section.

#### **(1) Collection, removal and Disposal of Solid Waste.**

There are two distinct services for the removal of solid waste.

- a) Compactor Services- Household Compactable Waste
- b) Open Tray Service- Old Appliances, grass cuttings, tree trimmings, silt from drains

Removal of bulk waste is done upon request, prior to the placing of same on roadways and sidewalks.

Failure to comply with this request would result in householder being prosecuted under the Litter Act. See overleaf for contact numbers to make request.

#### **(2) Desilting and maintenance of drains and minor water courses**

This includes:-

- a) Cutlassing of overgrowth, desilting and removal of garbage that are likely to impede the flow of water in drains and other water courses.
- b) Sweeping, weeding and cleaning of road edges.
- c) Removal of litter from Various Areas eg Town Centers

#### **(3) Collection and disposal of liquid waste**

This service is limited to faecal waste only and involves the emptying of septic tanks and pit privies.

Service is available upon payment with response time – frame of seven to fourteen working days.

**For emergency cases the response time frame is two working days upon payment of Two hundred and Fifty (\$250.00) dollars.**

**See Fees-Public Health Department**

#### **(4) Litter Prevention Warden monitors, controls and takes legal action of littering**

The corporation hires equipment (trucks and backhoe) to facilitate the cleaning of illegal dumping sites. Cleaning-up campaigns are done in response to efforts

made to control the outbreaks of communicable diseases e.g. Leptospirosis, Dengue Fever, Gastro-enteritis, and Samonella. This exercise targets the removal of bulky waste, and other items that are liable to harbour or breed vectors

#### **(5) Rodent Control**

The control program aims at surveying all premises in order to determine the extent of rodent infestation.

This program also includes:-

- a) The battling and resurveying of positive premises
- b) Annual inspection and surveying of all the schools
- c) Surveying and baiting of all government institutions
- d) The investigation of complaints of rodent infestation.
- e) The surveying and baiting of premises in response to the investigation of Leptospirosis cases.

#### **(6) Complaint investigation**

Complaints are investigated to determine the nature of response needed to rectify and abate public health nuisances. See complaint Form

Corrective measures undertaken include:-

- 1) Cleaning and breaking of chokes at culverts and in drains, Minor Water courses
- 2) Serving of notice.
- 3) Health Education.

## **(7) Distribution of Truck Borne Water (Free Service)**

During the dry season potable water is delivered to communities that do not receive a supply of pipe borne water. There are 25 areas on schedule. See Water Distribution Schedule.

## **(8) Canine Control**

At present there are no canine control units, however arrangements are made quarterly with other corporations for the removal of stray dogs.

## **(9) Other Functions.**

a) Conducting Health Education programmes in communities

e.g. Distribution of leaflets, and lecturing on environment sanitation and vector control.

b) Collaborating with other government agencies, County Medical Officer of Health, Insect Vector Control Department and NGOs with respect to the controlling and preventing of communicable diseases.

c) Cleaning of the immediate environment for religious celebrations and national festivals in communities, beaches, rivers etc.

d) Portable Chemical Toilets provided along the various beaches, rivers and main areas where events are held.

e) Provision of aluminium recycle bins for the collection of cans plastic bottles and glass bottles.

(f) Issuing of market License (SGRC market)

## ***Public Health Guidelines***

Vectors breed and live in and around home.

Here are some of the ways to eliminate them:

- 1) Place all garbage in properly covered containers, protected from dogs, cats and rodents until collection day
- 2) Cut all overgrown bushes regularly to eliminate shelter for rodents and mosquitoes
- 3) No not dump garbage in rivers, drains, vacant lots and on the roadside. Call the SGRC to arrange for the removal of bulky items
- 4) Keep yard and open spaces free of junk and debris. Store items such as wood and galvanise at least twelve inches (12") off the ground.