



National Environmental Health Association

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The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) represents more than 6,600 environmental health professionals throughout the United States and around the world. NEHA is the profession's strongest advocate for excellence in the practice of environmental health. NEHA's mission is the advancement of the environmental health professional and it serves to provide quality training, continuing education, and credentials to its members and environmental health professionals.

NEHA Proclamation on The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s SepticSmart week program, July 2021

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) holds SepticSmart week every year in order to promote proper care of septic systems. During this week, the EPA, state and local agencies, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partners, such as NEHA, participate in outreach activities including writing newsletters, releasing proclamations, and posting Quick Tip videos to educate communities on how to maintain septic systems. The EPA provides shareable resources on important topics including proper disposal of waste, routine inspection of septic systems, and infrastructure and landscaping changes to divert water from drainfields (U.S. EPA, 2021). SepticSmart week helps to mobilize relevant public health actors through distributing such resources and knowledge to their communities.

Wastewater management and education is important to protect the health of communities, the environment, and can save homeowners money on costly repairs to their septic systems. While there are numerous, simple ways for homeowners to protect septic systems, many of these methods may not be well known, and thus not practiced. Septic systems are also at risk of impacting nearby water sources, such as private wells for drinking water, and nearby waterbodies (U.S. EPA, 2021a), so a well-maintained septic system prevents contamination of waterways and the spread of harmful bacteria to humans.

NEHA recognizes the crucial role that environmental health professionals play in keeping wastewater treatment systems safe, through conducting inspections, evaluating potential sites for wastewater systems, and operating and repairing systems (NEHA, 2021). Along with other states, leaders, and health officials and agencies, NEHA supports continuing efforts to educate the community on septic safety and care and water quality protection (NEHA, 2021). NEHA recognizes SepticSmart week as a useful event to garner support of septic system management and care from related agencies in order to protect public health.



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References

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- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021). Septic Systems: SepticSmart Week. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-week>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021a). Septic Systems: How Your Septic System Can Impact Nearby Water Sources. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-your-septic-system-can-impact-nearby-water-sources>

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roy Kroeger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roy Kroeger, REHS
NEHA President