Database Provides Pesticide Information
http://ppis.ceris.purdue.edu

The National Pesticide Information Retrieval System (NPIRS) database contains information about registered pesticides at the state and federal levels. It covers pesticide products registered or canceled by the Office of Pesticide Programs, chemical ingredients, company information, and a label system if the product registration number is known. The state database is searchable by active ingredient, site of application, pest to be controlled, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration number, product name, and company name. Multiple criteria can be entered to narrow the products listed.

Summary of Katrina Reports from the White House, the House of Representatives, and the Government Accountability Office
www.astho.org/pubs/KatrinaReportsSummary.pdf

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) has summarized the federal government's Hurricane Katrina reports, emphasizing the public health implications. ASTHO lists the points of commonality found in the reports:

- Command and control was impaired at all levels of government.
- Communications operability was severely weakened because of a damaged infrastructure. In addition, interoperability between responders from separate agencies was weak.
- There was a failure to heed past lessons learned (Hurricane Pam, Hurricane Andrew, and TOPOFF 3 are all mentioned).
- The evacuation, especially of special-needs populations, was very poor.
- Leaders were not well versed in protocol and therefore failed to successfully implement the National Response Plan, and with it the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Both the White House Report and the House Report noted the important role that electronic health records (EHRs) could play in disaster preparedness by ensuring that medical treatment is not delayed as a result of lost or destroyed paper medical records.

(Adapted, with permission, from the ASTHO Web site.)

Carol Newlin—Credentialing Specialist

Editor's note: Over the years, we have been featuring individual NEHA staff members in NEHA News so that you can get to know us a little better. This month, we highlight the staff member behind extension 337.

I appreciate the opportunity I have been given to work here at NEHA as credentialing specialist. Since I joined the staff in February, I have learned a lot about the field of environmental health. It is a pleasure to work with people who are committed to improving and sustaining the quality of life for us all.

My position involves helping candidates apply for NEHA credentials, scheduling and ordering exams, processing scores, and monitoring continuing-education submissions. I get to talk to many interesting people in the field, some with decades of experience and lots of wisdom, and others fresh out of school with enthusiasm for their field and lots of questions.

My bachelor’s degree is in business administration with a minor in political science. I have worked with various types of business regulations including corporate licensing for engineering and architecture, and IRS regulations of employee benefit programs. I am a Denver native married to an environmental geologist. We have two daughters: One is just graduating from college, and the other will be a college junior next fall.

One of my interests outside of work is learning about the history of the Western United States and visiting historical cemeteries from the 1800s. Walking through an old cemetery, whether it is on a high mountainside strewn with wildflowers or on a wind-beaten prairie with scrub oak and tumbleweeds, I feel a tangible connection to the people of the past. It is enlightening first to read about the life of a particular pioneer and then to find that person’s name carved on a headstone still standing and representing his or her life.

One of the most vivid impressions one gets when visiting a historic cemetery is how many people died at a young age. Whether it was cholera caused by drinking unsafe water, typhoid fever from eating contaminated food, or exposure to dangerous substances from working in the mines, there were many causes of early death that we now can control. People in the environmental health and medical professions have made a tremendous difference in our average lifespan. Everyone benefits from the work we do together, and I look forward to a long association with the environmental health community.