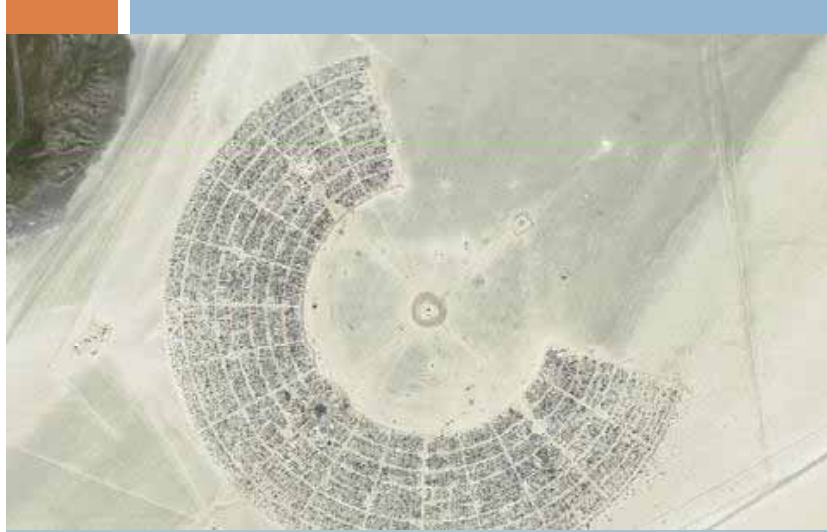




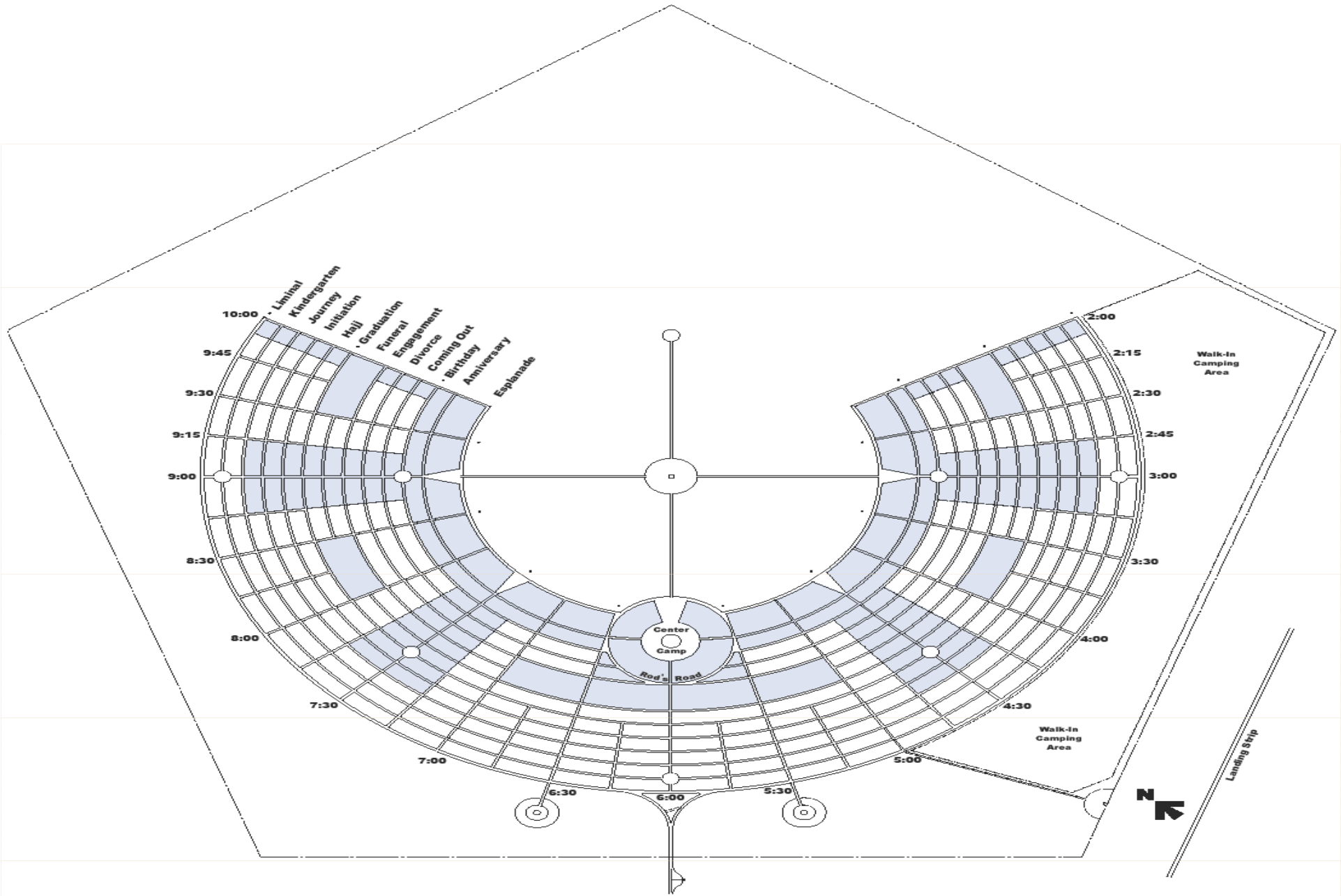
“BURNING MAN – EXTRAORDINARY TEMPORARY
EVENT”

**Nevada State Health Division's Management of
this Event Since 1999**

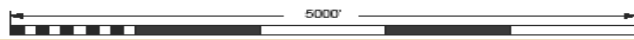
The Event- Burning Man Starts



- Burning Man is run by Black Rock City, LLC
- City population- 60,000
- 107 miles from Reno, 15 miles from Gerlach on the playa of the Black Rock Desert National Conservation Area.
- Permitted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)with stipulations such as
 - Trash clean-up; burn pads; dust abatement; population limits; environmental assessments; etc.
- Coordinating Partners/ Cooperators Meetings
 - Law Enforcement (Pershing Co, Washoe Co, BLM; Black Rock Rangers; Highway Patrol; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe;) Humboldt General Hospital EMS; fire fighting teams; mental health providers; ACLU
- Black Rock City Departments:
 - Rangers; Dept of **Mutant** Vehicles; Dept of Public Works; Gate Crew; Center Camp; Fire Inspections; Art Inspections; Perimeter crew etc.



BLACK ROCK CITY 2011





BURNING MAN'S TEN PRINCIPLES

Radical Inclusion

Anyone may be a part of Burning Man. No prerequisites exist for participation in the community. Kids included.

Gifting

Burning Man is devoted to acts of gift giving. In order to preserve the spirit of gifting,

Decommodification

the community seeks to create social environments that are free of commercial sponsorships, transactions, or advertising. They stand ready to protect their culture from such exploitation & resist the substitution of consumption for the participatory experience.



Radical Self-reliance

Burning Man encourages the individual to discover, exercise and rely on his or her inner resources.

Radical Self-expression

“Radical self-expression arises from the unique gifts of the individual. No one other than the individual or a collaborating group can determine its content.”

Communal Effort

“Our community values creative cooperation and collaboration. We strive to produce, promote and protect social networks, public spaces, works of art, and methods of communication that support such interaction.”

Civic Responsibility

“We value civil society. Community members who organize events should assume responsibility for public welfare and endeavor to communicate civic responsibilities to participants. They must also assume responsibility for conducting events in accordance with local, state and federal laws.”

Leaving No Trace

“Our community respects the environment. We are committed to leaving no physical trace of our activities wherever we gather. We clean up after ourselves and endeavor, whenever possible, to leave such places in a better state than when we found them.”

Participation

“Our community is committed to a radically participatory ethic. We believe that transformative change, whether in the individual or in society, can occur only through the medium of deeply personal participation. We achieve being through doing. Everyone is invited to work. Everyone is invited to play.”

Immediacy

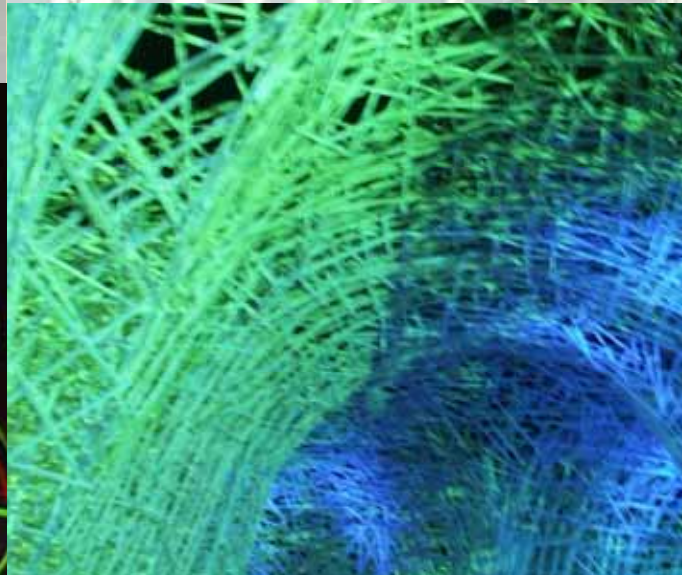
“Immediate experience is, in many ways, the most important touchstone of value in our culture. We seek to overcome barriers that stand between us and a recognition of our inner selves, the reality of those around us, participation in society, and contact with a natural world exceeding human powers. No idea can substitute for this experience.”

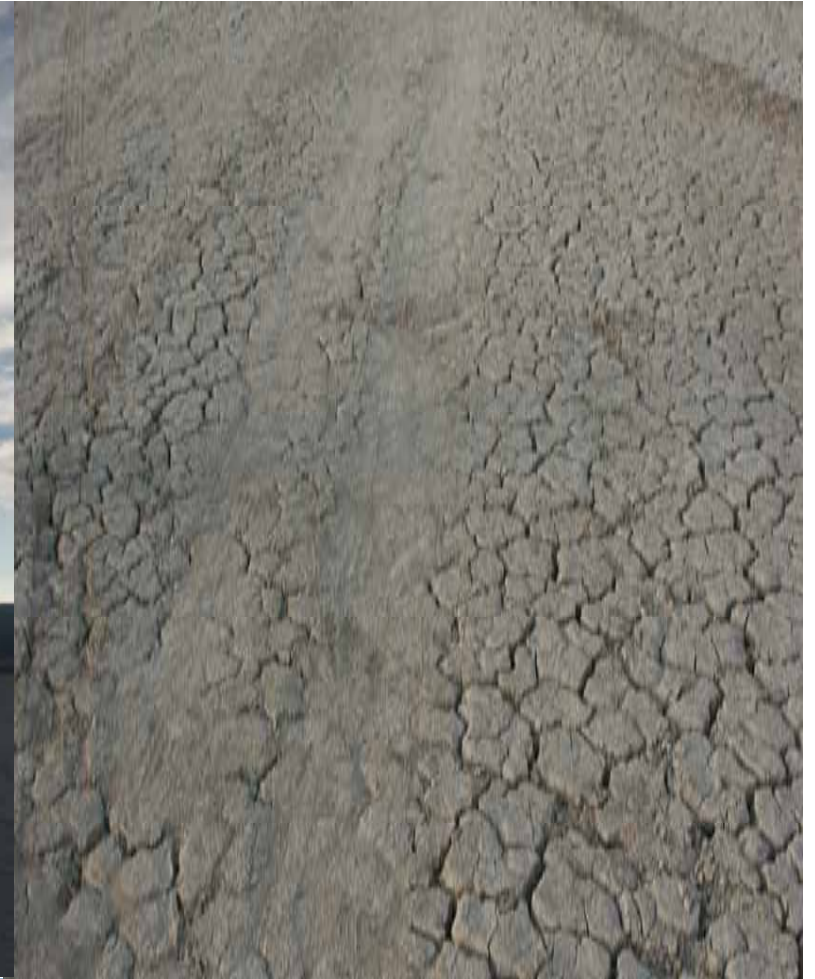
Environmental Health Services (EHS) is responsible for safeguarding the health of Nevada residents and visitors by preventing avoidable death and disease. From our proactive stance, we utilize the following public health protection tools: education, frequent inspections and enforcement action, when necessary.



EHS staff respond to emergencies impacting public health such as food truck wrecks, floods, sewage discharge, fires, and foodborne illness outbreaks.

Why are We Here?





What Are the Challenges we Face at Burning Man?

Lack of Facilities- No Plumbed Facilities, No Water, No Power

The Unique Environment- Heat, Sun Exposure, Wind, Dust, White Outs, Mud

Limited Access to Assistance- Remote Location

- **Food Service-** Commissary, Center Camp Café and Camp Arctica, Theme Camps, Food Vendors.

- **Sewage-** Ensure proper number of portable toilets are set-up and maintained and that only permitted septic

pumping trucks are used.

- We do gift condoms, bottled water etc.



What is EHS's Role on the Playa at Burning Man?

- **Hand Washing Facilities** – Only hand sanitizer provided not sinks or water for washing. It is the lesser of two evils.
- **Dust Abatement-** We monitor the Non-portable water trucks and they are required to be posted as non-potable to discourage bathing.

**“NAC 444.5482 Fees.
(NRS439.150
439.200)**

The Health Division shall charge and collect fees for a permit to operate a temporary mass gathering in accordance with the following schedule, except in areas where the laws and regulations governing temporary mass gatherings are administered by local health authorities.”



Mass gathering: NAC 444.5482 Fees. (NRS 439.150, 439.200) “The Health Division shall charge and collect fees for a permit to operate a temporary mass gathering in accordance with the following schedule, except in areas where the laws and regulations governing temporary mass gatherings are administered by local health authorities.”

The mass gathering fees collected for this event for 2010 were \$22,902.00. This event is close to 100% fee funded.

For a permit to operate a temporary mass gathering with an anticipated attendance of:

	Fee per day
500 to 1,000 persons.....	\$500
1,001 to 5,000 persons.....	\$750
5,001 to 10,000 persons.....	\$1,000
10,001 or more persons.....	\$2,644



Food Service at Burning Man: Burning Man's Café and Camp Arctica - Theme Camps - Food Gifting

We permit all those who wish to share food with the public and all who will cook/serve 125+ people within the theme camp on a consistent basis.

Same permitting process as traditional special event permits - \$50 permits; All food prepared on-site or prepared commercially; All food from approved sources; Must have hand sink set-up; dishwashing set-up; sanitizer; gloves; thermometer to check cooking temps; etc.

No permits are issued at the event.



Center Camp- Café and Camp Arctica

There are no contracted commercial food vendors because the event promotes community, sharing, and self-reliance. The only items you can buy in Black Rock City with actual money are ice and coffee.

Most food service is run by volunteers, not professionals. So education is critically important here and at all camps.

We send out 3 informational documents to each permittee- the temp food regulations; the self-inspection checklist; and a Burning Man food service info sheet.

We always meet with the café and commissary coordinators a few weeks prior to the event and inspect these set-ups as soon as possible.



Café at Center Camp – Food Service

Set-up: Under large tent; hard surface flooring to help control dust; catch buckets for waste water; all food off the ground.

Limited enforcement of clothing regulations. We do not allow out and out nudity here – at least on the service and prep side of the counter.



Traditional Food Vendors- Gifts of Food Given Out to Participants – No Money Exchanged

In 2010 we issued 105 temp food permits for Burning Man and inspected just over half of those food operations due to lack of manpower, inability to find them, weather conditions and limited time.

- Many vendors are smaller scale food service generally.
- Often these operate only 1-2 days of the week for a few hours.



Prioritize Inspections – We concentrate inspections on more complicated food service operations and those camps who serve the largest number of people.

We do not issue permits to folks who give away food that will not be handled- individually, pre-packaged foods like bags of chips, bottles of water, etc. We do not require permit in bars because of manpower and inability to assess what is private and what is public. **“Yes I do have 300 friends at Burning Man and they are all in here drinking with me right now...”**



So - What are our standard concerns? What do we always look for in theme camps serving PHF?

- Food storage/cold holding temps (coolers w/ice- thermometer)
- Proper cooking temp (thermometer)
- Prevention of cross-contamination between raw meat and other foods

- Dishwashing/sanitizing
- Gloves/utensils in use to serve food to eliminate bare hand contact with RTE food.
- Hand sink set-up and hand washing done
- Catch bucket for waste
- No reheating of leftovers!



Some Challenges for Safe Food Handling:

- Keeping food cold – Temperatures reach into the 100s during the day.
- Protecting food from environmental and human contamination – Participants exhibit poor judgment at times. Wind gusts of 50-60mph. Temperatures at night can drop into the low 50's
- Such limited facilities that proper cooking, etc. is a worry. We prohibit re-heating of leftovers.



Theme Camps- "A Collective of People Representing Themselves Under a Single Identity"

Must get a permit if serving 125+ people on regular basis.

This is where many participants eat their daily meals and sleep and commune in close quarters.

Large refrigerated trailers used to hold food, cooking done under tents.

All water must be brought in with the participants.



“PANCAKE PLAYHOUSE” Theme Camp

Appropriate utensils in use.

Gloves worn to eliminate bare hand contact.

Trash containers.

Tent set-up.

These guys serve hundreds of people a day!

Superstars on the playa with compliance.



The Commissary – Inspected Daily

Only food service run by professional company. The commissary serves around 2,000 meals/day to Black Rock City employees and other special workers. Those eating in this environment are monitored for proper handwashing with soap and water as well as application of hand sanitizer **before** they can enter the premises. And nudity is not allowed within this area. “Cover Up Your Naughty Bits!!”



Hard Plastic interlocking flooring that can be cleaned, NSF equipment, certified food handlers, power by generators and a water system.



Kitchen Trailer



(REALLY) Dry Food Storage

Challenges & Solutions: Changing & Growing with the Event



- **Inability to find camps**
 - We retain the permit and have the permittee pick them up during the event at Playa Info, so we can get an exact location of their camp. This new method has greatly increased our inspection rate and efficiency.
- **Increased number of permittees/Inability to inspect all vendors**
 - We no longer require permits from drink vendors who do not serve potentially hazardous foods.
- **Bigger Theme Camps**
 - Previously, there are no health regulations that applied to a 'communal kitchen' as long as you were not feeding people other than those within the group. However;
 - Because of the complicated and large scale food production with many camps serving 100+ people, as well as a few fbi scares, we pushed to get these kitchens permitted and inspected as our highest priority this year.
- **Unpermitted-Illegal Food Vendors (theme camps & elsewhere)**
 - The notice of requirement for a food permit has been added to many locations on the Burning Man website and also in "Jack Rabbit Speaks" newsletter.



Ideas for the Future

- Requiring an on-line competency exam for food vendors serving potentially hazardous foods to ensure that individuals attempting large scale food preparation can demonstrate competency and knowledge with basic food safety and sanitation principals.
- How can we get more staff onto the playa to work – they're needed but this is a big challenge...

Challenges with Epidemiology

- We often do not receive direct complaints or speak with the patients themselves because we are on the move. We are equipped with both a pager and a radio for emergency notification.
- Foodborne illness, intoxication, and dehydration/sun exposure symptoms often mimic early onset fbi symptoms.
- Often it takes a few days for symptoms of a fbi to become present, by then the event is over and ill participants are back home in respective states/cities/countries.
- Potential exposure source is very large. There is so much sharing of food and water as well as limited hand washing facilities, which makes it difficult to pin-point a source of the contamination or illness.
- To date we've been successful in our efforts. No **major** fbi or other disease outbreaks have occurred.



Spread of Disease at Burning Man

What challenges are there to preventing the spread of disease?

- People may come out to the playa with no symptoms, but may develop illness while in camp.
- No water based hand washing at porta potty banks - only hand sanitizer. We require it to have a 60% alcohol content. Provided by United Site Services staff.
- LOTS of physical contact between participants.
- Sharing of food and water is common.
- Bare feet. (Bare everything sometimes.)
- Muddy playa if it rains or gets wet – messy and dangerous.
- Playground for adults- sharing of slides; recycled water/pools (no longer permitted); bars/lounges.
- Shared port-a-potties.
- A few folks who would never do certain things at home have a different standard of behavior while at Burning Man.





Recycled Water Attractions- Pools, Misting Tents, Communal Showers, Water Slides, etc.

Not Allowed- risk of pathogenic disease transmission

Transmission of skin ailments; muddy playa and mud brought onto slide; slick surface. BLM does not allow pools. (Thank goodness.)

This is one of our bigger challenges. It is difficult to find these tents/attractions.



HORSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT?? REALLY??

Because of the nature of the participant camps having close living quarters and marginal food preparation areas, unrestricted horse access could conceivably track manure into kitchens and contaminate food or spread illness. It is also conceivable that participants, some who do not wear shoes might come in contact with manure with their bare feet and also trek the contaminated manure through a kitchen. This idea has gone away along with the personnel who proposed and supported it.

Mud AND Manure – Not a Good Mix for Man nor Beast...

Concern- Increased pathogenic transmission possibilities.

Idea of law enforcement to bring out horses to more quickly access people in need if there is mud on the playa and vehicles are stuck and/or to get quickly into congested areas.



DUST

- Hazard of Concern-

- Giardia

Despite signage on the trucks and warnings online, participants continue to run after non-potable water trucks.

We continue to work with BRC and the truck operators instructing them to immediately shut off water if people are bathing.

If these measures cannot be implemented with some degree of success it may only be a matter of time before a waterborne illness outbreak can be expected to occur.



Dust Abatement

Non-potable water trucks are used to keep dust down. Unfortunately, this water is often used for showers and cooling off by participants.

When the porta potty sanitizer is empty this increases the risk of food borne illness and the spread of other bacteria or viruses throughout the Burning Man population. This is one of our major concerns.



Porta Potty Use and Hand Cleanliness

Hand sanitizer is required to be provided per the Nevada State Board of Health variance issued for the Burning Man event. This was allowed rather than hand wash stations due to the playa surface becoming a peanut butter like consistency when wet & the increased contamination potential and the slipping hazards of having water on the playa. People will drink from hand washing stations.

We conducted spot inspections of portable toilet banks across the BRC playa and generally find them well service, but sometimes not adequately stocked with hand sanitizer.



We Also Inspect the Septic Pumpers – The Busiest Guys on the Playa.

In 2010 we inspected two mother tankers and twenty-five United Site Services 1000 gallon septic tank pumping trucks for compliance under NAC 444. All sewage is trucked via mother tanker to Reno – 120 miles one way. USS pumps, services and transports sewage 24/7. USS also services RV's. Want to know how many people are really on the playa at any given time? Ask these guys.





Burning Man is a Leave No Trace Event -Pack it In, Pack it Out!

Black Rock City changes back into the Black Rock Desert, High Rock Canyon, Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area within a month of the end of the event.

QUESTIONS? VOLUNTEERS? BYORV! Thanks Ellen Kunz!