Two Linked Cases of Legionellosis
With an Unusual Industrial Source

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To the Editor: A 23-year-old man presented to a Victorian hospital with a 4-day history of fever, rigors, confusion and malaise. A chest x-ray showed left lower-lobe pneumonia, and Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 antigen was detected in his urine. No respiratory specimens were obtained. He recovered completely after treatment for community-acquired pneumonia, including intravenous ampicillin and oral roxithromycin, and returned to work 16 days after onset.

Investigations for the source of the infection included environmental review and sampling of cooling towers near his workplace, home, and other sites visited during the incubation period.

Active workplace surveillance prompted testing for and detection of L. pneumophila serogroup 1 urinary antigen in a second employee, a 53-year-old man who had presented 2 days earlier than the patient above to another Victorian hospital with fever, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Legionellosis was not suspected on presentation. He had no symptoms, signs or radiological evidence of pneumonia. Treatment, including intravenous ampicillin and oral roxithromycin, began when the antigen result was obtained, and he was discharged after 10 days in hospital, although he felt unwell for 2 or 3 weeks after discharge.

The two men worked near each other in a welding area. A water tank was placed at the entrance to the area, with the cover left open. This acted as a heat exchange for the welding cooling system. A high count of L. pneumophila serogroup 1 (1300 colony-forming units/mL) was grown from a sample of this water. It was common on hot days to cool the work place with an industrial fan. The open water tank was between the fan and the two employees during the incubation period. No L. pneumophila isolates were found in any linked cooling towers.

Remedial action included commencing a disinfection program for the water reservoir, and a request to fit the cover correctly and move the fan. No further cases were detected. Because no clinical isolates were obtained, a direct subtype match between clinical and environmental specimens was not possible.
February Meeting Details

Meetings of the San Antonio Chapter ABPA are usually held the second Thursday of every month except December. Dinner and refreshments are served at 6:00 p.m. sharp with the meeting starting at 6:30. The next meeting is:

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2006
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: 6425 Evers Rd.
(Leon Valley Community Center)
Program: Blue Water Complaint (water use survey)
Meal: Provided by Morrison Supply

No alcoholic beverages allowed by Leon Valley

Future Meetings: TBA

No alcoholic beverages allowed by Leon Valley

February A.B.P.A.
San Antonio Chapter Meeting Agenda

4:45 - 5:15 pm  Director’s Meeting
5:15 – 6:00 pm  Meal
6:00 – 6:30 pm  Business Meeting
President Bruce Pearson Presiding

Training Schedule
6:30-8:30pm- Presentation

Director’s Meeting February Agenda

5:00-5:20 pm  General discussions, quorum
5:20 pm  Call Meeting to Order
5:21 pm  Reading and acceptance of the Minutes of the January Meeting.
5:25 pm  Treasurer’s Report followed by comments, questions, acceptance.
5:30 pm  Supply Officer’s Report with action as appropriate.
5:34 pm  Membership Committee’s Report with action as appropriate
5:40 pm  Vice President’s Report on Audit of Newsletter Advertisements with action as appropriate
5:46 pm  Web Master’s Report
5:48 pm  New Business
Formation of a Ways and Means Committee
Education to the Public
5:59 pm  Director’s Meeting Adjourns
6:00pm  Meal is served
6:30pm  General Meeting and Program
8:30pm  Ajourn

Big Thanks

To Bill and Steve with PMI for sponsoring the meeting. Also to Buck for a great presentation on water in a third world country!!!!

Backflow Trivia:
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Safety Tip

CO Could Spell DEATH

What if you knew a killer was stalking your home? A silent, deadly killer that could steal away your family’s lives without warning…wouldn’t you do something about it?

That can be the case with carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels such as natural gas, fuel oil, charcoal, or wood. It can be emitted by any improperly installed or poorly maintained combustion source such as unvented kerosene or gas space heater, furnaces, wood stoves, gas stoves, fireplaces, or gas water heaters. Carbon Monoxide can escape into your home anytime during the year.

The Health Effects of Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide interferes with the proper delivery of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body. When you inhale high concentrations of the potentially deadly gas, it can displace the oxygen in your bloodstream and cause one or more of the following symptoms:

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If the concentration is high enough and the exposure is long enough---it can even lead to death. Approximately 1,000 people die each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

A Little Prevention Goes a Long Way

There are a few simple precautions that can be taken to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Make sure that all combustion appliances (fireplace, stove, gas water heater, furnace, etc.) are (1) installed according to the manufacturer’s specifications and (2) properly adjusted and maintained.
- Have a trained technician inspect all combustion sources on an annual basis.
- Confirm that all combustion sources are properly vented and that your furnace has an adequate supply of outside (combustion) air.
- Open flues when using either a wood-burning or natural gas fireplace.
- Always use the proper fuel in a combustion device.
- Do not use ovens or gas stoves to heat your home.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle, or any other enclosed place.
- Do not leave a motor vehicle or gasoline-powered lawn mower running in enclosed spaces such as a garage or shed.

First Aid for Carbon Monoxide Exposure

1. Get fresh air immediately! Open a door or a window. If you can, turn off the combustion device and get outside!
2. Seek emergency medical care. Be sure and tell the physician that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

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The Latest…

February Happenings

The New Year has come and gone which means that our chapter is embarking on another exciting journey with new training sessions and monthly meetings. I am certainly looking forward to working with our new officers and board in facilitating our sessions so that they will be informative and provide new information for all of us.

At this point we have sessions planned and scheduled for the first five months of the year. We will once again offer CEU’s for Backflow Testers, Water/Wastewater Operators, Irrigators, and Customer Service Inspectors. The training sessions that we have been utilizing for the past two years or so, where we encompass a number of license holders for CEU’s, has allowed our chapter to gain additional training while bringing most facets of the water/wastewater industry together.

The ABPA International Conference and Trade Show scheduled for April 10-12th is close at hand. This has been a major focus for our conference committee that was formed last February. Several individuals have diligently worked throughout the year to insure that we put on a real “slam bang” event from not only the training perspective but also the social events. Our Big Fiesta Welcome Social is the event that kicks the conference off and will take place on Sunday April 9th at 6 P.M. at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The opening event will have food and drinks as well as professional performers to welcome the attendees in a historical presentation of our cultural heritage in San Antonio. The Wednesday Night Closing will take place at the Knibbe Ranch off U.S. 281 in the Hill Country. This Rockin’R Experience is going to have many attractions including good Bar B Que, Drinks, Music, Dancing, Hay Rides of the Historic Ranch, Gunfighters, a Card Shark, Oreo the Longhorn Steer, and YES the DALLAS COWBOY CHEERLEADERS! I just can’t see how anyone would want to miss any of the training or the events. This promises to be one conference like no other. Spread the word; let’s get a great turnout to the conference and all of the events around it. See everyone at the next meeting and the conference as well!!!!!!!

Bruce E. Pearson
ABPA-SA Chapter President

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Carbon Monoxide Detectors---A Good Investment?

Small wall or ceiling-mounted carbon monoxide detectors can be useful and part of an overall home safety program. But keep in mind the following:

1. Most of today’s home-use carbon monoxide detectors aren’t as technologically reliable as smoke detectors, and
2. The installation and use of carbon monoxide detectors is no substitute for the proper use and maintenance of combustion devices in the home.

If you do purchase a commercially available carbon monoxide detector, make sure that if meets Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (“UL”) standards. As is the case with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors should be installed close to sleeping areas.

Remember…only you can keep you and your family safe! Do it Now and Do it right!
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2005 - 2006

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NOTE:
If the director has one * next to their name it means their term is good for one year, if two ** it means term is good for two years.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

EDITOR             BRUCE RATHBURN
ASST. EDITOR        ALL BOARD MEMBERS (assigned monthly duty)
Chris, with American Automatic Sprinklers, recently had his van broken into and his testing device stolen. **Backflow Testing Brand: Midwest, Serial number 225219.** His telephone number is 789-1225, please contact him if you have any further questions.

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**Backflow Trivia Answer:**

Yes, depending on the elevation, it could require a pump to provide pressure to the upper floors, this could subject the service to backpressure.

**Gauge Stolen**

Serial #240375

If you have information relating to the location of this gauge please contact 704-7136

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For further information about ABPA, contact:

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