



# Environmental, Health and Safety News

May 2011

We're Proud of Our Work

It's 2011 and during this year.....  
"BE SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY!" is our cheer!



### Something to Think About

"In a free society, in a free republic, if we are to keep it, sometimes bad things happen to very good people. It can't be the mission of the federal government at every turn to try to stop it, because it will fail." - - Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN)

That being said, there is no reason for imi to not do everything we can to prevent bad things from happening to good people, our people!! - - Walt Tharp

## Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus – What the heck is that!?

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection is caused by a strain of staph bacteria that has become resistant to the antibiotics commonly used to treat ordinary staph infections.

Most MRSA infections occur in people who have been in hospitals or other health care settings, such as nursing homes and dialysis centers. When it occurs in these settings, it's known as health care-associated MRSA (HA-MRSA). HA-MRSA infections typically are associated with invasive procedures or devices, such as surgeries, intravenous tubing or artificial joints.

Another type of MRSA infection has occurred in the wider community – among healthy people. This form, community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA), often begins as a painful skin boil. It's spread by skin-to-skin contact. At-risk populations include groups such as high school wrestlers, child care workers and people who live in crowded conditions

### Causes

There are different varieties of Staphylococcus aureus bacteria, commonly called "staph." Staph bacteria are normally found on the skin or in the nose of about one-third of the population. The bacteria are generally harmless unless they enter the body through

a cut or other wound, and even then they usually cause only minor skin problems in healthy people.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 percent of the population carries the type of staph bacteria known as MRSA.

### Antibiotic resistance

MRSA is the result of decades of often unnecessary antibiotic use. For years, antibiotics have been prescribed for colds, flu and other viral infections that don't respond to these drugs. Even when antibiotics are used appropriately, they contribute to the rise of drug-resistant bacteria because they don't destroy every germ they target. Bacteria live on an evolutionary fast track, so germs that survive treatment with one antibiotic soon learn to resist others

The community-associated MRSA has been reported in many of the major league sports teams and even among high school and college sports teams. During training with the aggregate group this past winter, the instructor from Vincennes University reported that MRSA has been identified among maintenance crews at some aggregate operations. The number one way that MRSA enters the body is through breaks in the skin. Four significant prevention procedures that can help



