DEQ

WATER BUREAU
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER:	WB-DWEHS-001	
SUBJECT:	TENTS IN CAMPGROUNDS	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	JANUARY 17, 2007	PAGE: 1 OF 3
REVISION DATE:	(5-YEAR REVIEW FREQUENCY)	

ISSUE:

The purpose of this policy is to allow more than one tent on a campsite. The statutory provisions for campgrounds, Michigan's Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended (Act 368), limit each campground site to one recreational unit, and the definition of a recreational unit includes a tent. A tent is no longer used solely or primarily for temporary living quarters. Today's campers frequently place more than one tent on a campsite. These tents are typically placed over the picnic table and over an area used for seating or activities. The tents enhance the camper's experience by not only providing protection from rain, sunlight, small animals, and vandalism, but they also provide protection from mosquitoes and the associated public health concerns with the West Nile Virus. Other requirements are in place to ensure adequate spacing for access to all parts of the site by emergency personnel and also to limit the number of people that may occupy any given campsite.

AUTHORITY:

The statutory provisions for campgrounds are contained in Act 368, and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to the act. The applicable sections of the act and applicable rules are as follows:

333.12501 Definitions; principles of construction.

Sec. 12501(1)(f). "Recreational unit" means a tent or vehicular-type structure, primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use, which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle which is self-powered. A tent means a collapsible shelter of canvas or other fabric stretched and sustained by poles and used for camping outdoors . . ."

R 325.1556 Sites; size and arrangement; identification and location; location of recreational units and other structures; permanent structures prohibited; construction verification; marking; drainage; occupancy.

Rule 6 (7). A campground owner shall ensure that a site is occupied by not more than 8 persons and by not more than 1 recreational unit.

This policy provides guidance to staff regarding the implementation and interpretation of laws administered by the DEQ. It is merely explanatory, does not affect the rights of or procedures and practices available to the public, and it does not have the force and effect of law.

DEFINITIONS:

Staff from the Campgrounds and Pools Unit, Drinking Water and Environmental Health Section, Water Bureau, and staff from the local health departments are responsible for conducting inspections of campgrounds and for implementation of this policy during campground inspections.

POLICY:

The use of more than one tent and the use of a tent in combination with another type of recreational unit shall be allowed on a campground site. This policy does not relieve the campground owner from ensuring compliance with other provisions of the act and rules. It is especially important that compliance with the requirement limiting occupancy of any site to not more than eight persons shall continue to be enforced as well as the requirement for maintaining an unobstructed path, not less than four feet wide, completely around the tent(s) and other recreational unit.

REFERENCES:

This policy applies to the following program and functions of the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Section, Water Bureau:

Program:

Campground Permit and Inspection Program

Function:

Enforcement
Administration

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION: Water Bureau Internet Website for the Campground Program and mail to local health departments and stakeholders.

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PROCEDURE:

Responsibility	**Action**
Staff from the Campgrounds and Pools Unit, Drinking Water and Environmental Health Section, Water Bureau	Convey this policy to local health departments, campground owners, and other stakeholders as part of the implementation of the campground program. Assure compliance with this policy upon receipt of campground inspection reports.

APPROVED: Wm. Elgar Brown DATE: 1-18-07
Wm. Elgar Brown, Chief
Drinking Water and Environmental Health Section
Water Bureau

LAST REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Name
Title

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