



## Lake County General Health District

### Lake County General Health District Operation Permit Frequently Asked Questions

#### **1. Why do I need an Operational Permit?**

Operational permits are required by the new 2015 Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29. Operational permits will help ensure that proper maintenance is being performed and may increase the life of the sewage treatment system (STS). Also, the permits provide homeowners education regarding maintenance of their STS. Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) will also be able to provide more educational opportunities for the public regarding STS. Resources can be found at our website at: [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org)

#### **2. When does the program start?**

This program started in 2015. LCGHD will implement a phased approach for the operational permits. The phases will be implemented in succession over the course of the next 5 years. Each phase of the program will provide various types of homeowner education opportunities.

#### **3. What are the requirements for my Sewage Treatment System (STS)?**

The maintenance requirements for your STS should be printed on your Operational Permit. If you know your system type you can find the required maintenance at our website at: [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org)

#### **4. How do I find out what type of STS I have and what fees will be assessed to me?**

A copy of your STS records can be requested by calling (440)350-2543. Your fee will be based on system type. The fees range from \$20 to \$40 annually.

#### **5. If I have an old STS will I have to update my system?**

No. Ohio law allows sewage treatment systems in operation prior to the date of the new rules be deemed approved as long as they are not causing a public health nuisance.

#### **6. Will I have to replace my STS if it's found to be creating a public health nuisance?**

No, as long as repairs are made that meet the requirements of the Sewage Treatment Rules and they eliminate the public health nuisance. If repairs cannot be made LCGHD will discuss available options with homeowners.

#### **7. How can I pay for the Operational Permit?**

LCGHD accepts payments of cash or check. The payment can be mailed with the invoice you will receive in the mail, or dropped off in person at our office.

**8. What happens if I do not pay the fee?**

LCGHD will provide notice by mail of any permit fee that is due. We send out the first notices through regular mail and the final by certified mail. Homeowners will receive adequate time to pay the fee. If the fee is not paid following the third notice, LCGHD will place the fee on the tax bill as a lien plus a 25% late penalty. Ohio law allows the fiscal office to charge a fee to cover cost of placing fees on taxes. The lien will then be required to be paid in the next tax year. Also, the final notice will include information on how a homeowner may appeal the action to place a lien.

**9. What is LCGHD planning to do with the monies collected through Operation Permit fees?**

The money generated from the Operation permit program will pay for the materials used for mailings, postage for mailings, personnel cost for running program, which include mailings, maintaining database, reviewing service reports and following up on issues with STS and time conducting quality control to ensure service providers are conducting adequate and accurate services of STS.

**10. Who can perform the required maintenance?**

Any registered service provider that services your type of septic system can perform the required maintenance. A list of registered service providers indicating systems types they service can be found on our website at: [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org).

**11. Do I have to have a registered service provider?**

Depends, some STS require a registered service providers perform the required maintenance. Other systems may only require proof of pumping from a registered septage hauler. In some cases homeowners may even become certified, and provide their own maintenance. Call the health department to determine who can service your type of system.

**12. Who submits the proof of required maintenance?**

A registered service provider or septage hauler must submit proof of service.

**13. I have questions about my Sewage Treatment System (STS). Who should I call?**

You can call a registered service provider or Lake County General Health District at (440) 350-2543.

**14. What happens if I don't do the required maintenance?**

If you do not do the required maintenance it may shorten the life expectancy of your system. An inspection will be done by LCGHD on a pass / fail basis. An additional fee will be charged for the inspection, and orders to repair / replace your septic system may be issued.

**15. Is there any help for homeowner s who cannot afford to replace their STS?**

LCGHD is always in search of grants and low interest loans for low income families to replace their failing STS. For 2018 LCGHD has been awarded \$200,000 dollars from Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan Fund program to assist low income eligible homeowner's repair or replace their failing septic systems.

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