

# NEWS



Land Services Department  
Environmental Services  
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**CROW WING COUNTY**  
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Chris Pence  
218/824-1125

## CROW WING COUNTY SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS INCREASE

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department reports that the number of septic systems being inspected in the county has increased by 44% since 2007. A total of 455 existing septic systems were inspected in 2007 compared to 771 in 2012 – an increase of 316 inspections.

The County Land Use Ordinance requires septic systems to be inspected in order to apply for land use permits, variances, conditional use permits, subdivision of land or transfer of property. The Land Use Ordinance also requires that septic systems located within a 1000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a stream be assessed every three years to determine if the system needs to have the tanks pumped. This process insures that septic systems within the county are routinely inspected for compliance and proper maintenance.

There are approximately 23,600 septic systems within Crow Wing County. Only St. Louis and Anoka Counties have more septic systems. A recent report from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency estimates that only 3% of these systems in Crow Wing County are not in compliance with none being an imminent threat to public health. This coincides with actual data on file in the Land Services Department.

“The county is dedicated to insuring that septic systems are properly functioning and being maintained” stated Land Services Supervisor Chris Pence. “Making sure that septic systems are operating properly is important to keeping our lakes, rivers and groundwater clean.”

Citizens are encouraged to have their septic system assessed every three years to determine if the tanks need to be pumped. In addition, it is recommended to use minimal amounts of anti-bacterial soaps, bleaches and heavy duty cleaners as this can affect the system operations. It is also important to conserve water through repairing leaky water fixtures within the house as excess water can cause a system to fail prematurely.

The University of Minnesota Extension Office will be providing a class on septic system care on April 8, 2013 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The class will be located in the Land Services Building at 322 Laurel Street Brainerd, MN 56401. There is no cost for this workshop and reservations are not required. For questions, please call (218) 828-2326.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping residents make wise decisions that protect Crow Wing County’s extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 to discuss septic systems or visit the Crow Wing County Web Site at [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us) and search for “Septic Systems” for more information.

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