

Chemical concerns

EDB poison levels above norm at Hardy Campus

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Staff Writer

SPEARFISH — A chemical used to help control an infestation of Rocky Mountain Pine Beetles throughout the Black Hills may be causing problems with water sources at Hardy Campus near O'Neill Pass on the Wyoming and South Dakota border, according to Spearfish/Nemo Acting District Ranger Bill Aney.

Apparently after the chemical, Ethylene Dibromide (EDB), was used in the mid-1970s to control the beetle infestation, containers left over were buried at various U.

S. Forest Service work centers in the northern hills.

"We are checking all of our work centers," Aney said.

"The one at Hardy Campus came up almost one and a half times over the Environmental Protection Agency limit of five parts per trillion," Aney explained.

"People remember burying that in some gravel pits next to Hardy," he said.

Aney said that, because of the distance involved, "we don't think there is a concern for people who have wells up there."

Little can be done right now to

alleviate the situation since the detectors for finding the cancer-causing chemical don't work below 40 degrees and are mounted on the machines which are used to dig up the containers, Aney said.

"We probably won't do anything until Spring," the ranger said.

There are personnel living up there," Aney said. State Game Fish and Parks people who care for the snowmobile trails are stationed at Hardy during the winter.

"We are hauling water into them now," Aney said.

The center was used as a summer campus for students at Black Hills State University for a time but Aney said he didn't think there should be a problem since "it moves out of the body pretty quickly," Aney said.

He added that the Forest Service would be looking at Rochford next but said there shouldn't be a problem with that site because it's downstream from the community.

The Forest Service is still addressing a similar situation at Nemo where several hundred five-gallon containers of the chemical were buried at that work center.

D.A.R.E. Parent Program kicks off

SPEARFISH — The Spearfish Police, the only office in South Dakota, training officers and Department would like to invite you to attend this program.

D.A.R.E. Parent Program which will kick off on Jan. 9. The schedule is as follows: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Jan. 9. The classes are open to the public and Jan. 9. Session 1: Effective Communication.

Spearfish Chamber