Poison ivy rash is caused by an allergic reaction to an oily resin called urushiol (u-ROO-she-ol). This oil is in the leaves, stems and roots of poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Wash your skin right away if you come into contact with this oil, unless you know you’re not sensitive to it. Washing off the oil may reduce your chances of getting a poison ivy rash. If you develop a rash, it can be very itchy and last for weeks. You can treat mild cases of poison ivy rash at home with soothing lotions and cool baths. You may need prescription medication for a rash that’s severe or widespread — especially if it’s on your face or genitals.

**Symptoms**

Signs and symptoms of a poison ivy rash include:

- Redness
- Itching
- Swelling
- Blisters
- Difficulty breathing, if you’ve inhaled the smoke from burning poison ivy

Often the rash looks like a straight line because of the way the plant brushes against your skin. But if you come into contact with a piece of clothing or pet fur that has urushiol on it, the rash may be more spread out. You can also transfer the oil to other parts of your body with your fingers. The reaction usually develops 12 to 48 hours after exposure and lasts two to three weeks. The severity of the rash depends on the amount of oil that gets on your skin. A section of skin with more urushiol on it may develop a rash sooner. Your skin must come in direct contact with the
**Staff Directory**

You will need to dial 860-342-1688 for every person working at the Portland Housing Authority. Only the extensions differ. Please note the correct extension for the person you may be trying to reach.

Marilyn Rivera, Executive Director:
860-342-1688 ext. 111

Terry Incognito, Administrative Coordinator:
move-ins, rent changes and calculations, Section 8: 860-342-1688 ext. 113

Libby Johnson, Housing Coordinator and Work Orders:
860-342-1688 ext. 110

Dan Rafaniello, Accounting and HR:
860-342-1688 ext. 112

BJ Carrabbia, Resident Service Coordinator:
860-342-1688 ext. 115

Jon Twichell, Maintenance Supervisor:
860-519-3251

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**5 Fun Things You Didn’t Know About Cinco de Mayo**

1. **Not a celebration of independence**
   Cinco de Mayo is not a celebration of Mexico’s Independence (which is actually September 16th), but rather a celebration of Mexico’s victory in the battle at Puebla on May 5th, 1862 during the Franco-Mexican war. It was an unlikely win for the Mexican militia who were heavily outnumbered by the French. The victory became a source of pride for the country and is the reason we continue to celebrate today.

2. **Mexico won the battle, but not the war**
   Although the Mexican Army won the battle at Puebla on May 5th, 1862 the French went on to win the war, occupying the region for five years.

3. **Abraham Lincoln sympathized with the Mexican cause but…**
   Abraham Lincoln sympathized with the Mexican cause during the French occupation but was unable to lend direct support to the nation due to the U.S. Civil War, which was taking place at the same time. When the Civil War finally ended, the U.S. forced France to withdraw its troops from Mexico and their empire collapsed.

4. **Not a federal holiday in Mexico**
   Cinco de Mayo is not a federal holiday in Mexico and is a relatively minor holiday outside of Puebla, Veracruz and the United States. In Puebla and Veracruz, however, Cinco de Mayo is a very important state holiday celebrated with parades, festivals and reenactments.

5. **Roosevelt helped popularize Cinco de Mayo in the U.S.**
   Cinco de Mayo became a popular holiday in the U.S. after President Franklin Roosevelt enacted the “Good Neighbor Policy” in 1933 to improve relations with Latin American countries.

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**Barbeque**

MAY 5TH, 2019 11:00 AM

EVERYONE IS INVITED

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**Basic Things to Do If You Do Get Stung or bitten**

1. Remove the stinger as soon as you can
2. Apply an ice pack to the site of the sting.
3. Apply Benadryl with a tip. Or if the itching is bad take a tablet such as Tylenol or ibuprofen for the pain