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# Oregon Association of Water Utilities

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OAWU's mission is to provide service, support and solutions for Oregon water & wastewater utilities to meet the challenges of today & tomorrow.

# Life Examples

by Jason Green, Executive Director

It is bitter-sweet to have worked alongside a person for years and then see them retire. Over the years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to be a part of several retirement send-offs. OAWU has had a great run of long-serving employees and board members — great folks and working relationships and we miss them when they say goodbye.

One of the many things we do as we prepare for the final day of work or service, is to discuss and remember the benefits, skills, personalities and memories they brought and shared with us over the years - they leave us these treasures to remember and occasionally contemplate. When a board member or staff person leaves, not only do we miss the person, the friendship and what they brought to the table, there is now a vacancy, a hole to be filled by someone new. This changing of the guard has a way of impacting interactions and relationships both with what is missed and with what is now new. The board or staff as a whole becomes something new as unit or body.

As I write this, the Association has received the official resignation notice and retirement of long time board member, Mark Snyder. Mark worked for many years as the Superintendent for Kernville-Gleneden Beach, Lincoln Beach Water and Wastewater Districts. He served on the OAWU board from 2001 until June 2016 and has been an active, involved board member serving three terms as board president. Considering Mark's service and character, he left us with many great life examples. My observations revealed a person who takes his responsibilities seriously and does what he says he will do. A confident and measured man who is quick to listen and help people any way he possibly can. I have always respected and appreciated Mark's ability in making it a priority to consistently support staff and co-workers and give credit when and where possible for work well done. Mark would regularly inquire how the membership, the board of directors and the OAWU staff are doing or would ask if we needed anything, or how we could improve and serve better. Placing others first and making it a priority to consider others' needs first has been a hallmark of Mr. Snyder. So it is on behalf of the membership, the board of directors and staff that we wish Mark Snyder well in retirement. We will miss your expertise, qualities and strengths you gave, but we won't say goodbye - we will say "Thank you for all the years of service and please enjoy retirement, we look forward to seeing you again soon." Best wishes!









# CS<sup>2</sup>—Common Sense in

# by Tim Tice, Projects Manager

Effective January 1, 2015, rule changes for Confined Space Standards were adopted for "General Industry" (March 1, 2015 Construction). The adopted rule requires employers to identify their "permit-required" spaces, implement "alternate entry steps," if they wish to, and review rescue methods. Let's take a moment to highlight some points regarding the rules and present a practical approach for staying in compliance.

A key feature to a successful program is understanding the "evaluation" aspect of the program, section 4 of the rule. Not a rule, but a recommendation that you perform a routine assessment of the confined spaces annually, which seems to be appropriate for most entities. Keep in mind, the reasoning behind a routine evaluation is proving the spaces remain consistent to the initial evaluation. Another significant point is that we, who oversee such a program, need to have this information fresh in our mind. During the evaluation process we must look for spaces that will be "permit-required." If the evaluations are completed by using the previous year's assessment, the annual assessment should be relatively easy to complete.

Permit required spaces can be gauged by the following points:

- Contains, or has a potential to contain, a hazardous atmosphere.
- Contains a material that has the potential to engulf an entrant.
- Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could become trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard that can inhibit an entrant's ability to escape unaided.

If you know of or find a space(s) that exists within your facility, begin to outline a permit, section 5 of the rules explains the requirements for "permit-required" spaces. The rules give seven major points with 23 minor points needed for proper paperwork. There are various methods of filing paperwork, the main point is to ensure the permit-required paperwork is completed, kept separated from other confined space information and, most importantly, understood by staff.

Upon the initial findings of permit-required spaces, as a lead person, the first question is "can we enter these spaces under 'alternate entry'?" If you must enter a space to perform an evaluation, to prove (A) and (B) below, it must be performed under the requirements in section 5. The details that allow alternate entry are found in section 10 of the rule and are summed up in two points.

- (A) All hazards have been eliminated; or
- (B) All physical hazards, if any, have been eliminated and all atmospheric hazards are controlled with continuous ventilation.

The "alternate entry" has a couple key notes regarding lock-out and tag-out, as well as, continuous ventilation. Familiarity with the rule will help with the development and implementation of "alternate entry" and the paperwork associated with it. An example of one specific item for "alternate entry" is "performing

# **Confined Spaces**

continuous monitoring for all atmospheric hazards during the entry." All in all, section 10 of the "alternate entry" portion of the confined space program has ten major points and 28 minor points, not much different from the number of points found in section 5.

Once the confined spaces are identified at a facility, we can note the hazardous conditions, categorize those spaces with similar hazard conditions, and create paper entry permits to use in the field. Ensure the categorization method is consistent and known to all workers who work in and around a confined space.

An entry permit, the written authorization to enter and perform work, should be specific to any given space. Where a different hazard exists, highlight those hazards on the permit itself. A wastewater lift station will not have the same hazardous conditions or concerns as a meter vault. Categorize them as "A" and "B," using master copies for all

relevant spaces. With this approach, as job tasks begin, the paperwork becomes a tool to create a safer process.

Realistically, if a team were routinely performing work in confined spaces (2-3 tasks/month), only then does the task become repetitive. Due to the nature of confined space work, the potential for harmful conditions is increased when it is a repetitive task. Throw the psychological effect into the mix and our awareness requirements should stay at a heightened level.

If you wish to discuss aspects of the confined space program, give our office a call. We would be happy to share our experiences, discuss methods that work, and emphasize key areas.

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Oregon OSHA: http://orosha.org/pdf/notices/adopted2014/ao52014-div2J-ltr.pdf

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# **Protect Your Assets**

by Jeff Crowther, Wastewater Technician

For public works staff, a lot of complaints come from the public regarding the items that they can visually see, such as a park with high grass or a street that is in poor repair or has potholes.

As water and wastewater professionals, our underground utilities are out of sight and out of mind. As long as the water flows into their homes and the wastewater flows away, our customers are happy and content. The complaints start coming in from citizens and council when they see the roadway trench patch failing from poor repair and/or a poor installation.

It is our responsibility to see that the contractor doing the installation or repair is protecting our assets. We need to be onsite and inspecting not only the line installation, but also the backfill and street repair.

Installing new piping can be a challenge, especially in areas where other infrastructure already exists. A balance has to be struck between fixing or updating the underground system, and maintaining the asphalt or other surfacing material of the roadway. With some simple guidelines, we can have both new underground pipes and a roadway that will last for the full expected design life.

The first thing to look into is the age of the roadway where we are going to create the trench. Many jurisdictions create a moratorium over the roadway for a minimum of 3–5 years after roadway improvements. This is to stop trenching that occurs just after updates and can leave the new road looking haggard. This moratorium would typically require a 2" grind inlay for a distance of at least the width of the roadway on either side of the saw-cut and trenching.

If new piping is to be installed in an older roadway a T-cut procedure can be used. Many jurisdictions have created details for this procedure, which can be used for your own jurisdiction. Where available, we should always use local geotechnical specifications, but if this information is not available, I like to use the Clean Water Services details as a guide. These details specify both the T-cut procedure and the backfill requirements, both within roadway right-of-way and outside of the right-of-way.

These details call for the asphalt replaced following the trenching to be a minimum of the width of the trench plus 6" on either side. When sawcutting for the trench, we should always remember to make it a minimum of your compactor plus 2". We should also make sure that the extra 6" of saw-cut surface on either side of the trench is done after the initial trench and backfill, so that we can have a clean saw-cut with no chipping from the trench excavation.

When backfilling the trench, we should pay special attention to weather we are within the right-of-way or outside of it. The backfill within the

right-of-way should be able to withstand the loads of the truck traffic expected on the roadway. Clean Water Services detail 590 provides a standard backfill for both situations, and is my go to reference when no other information exists. This detail calls for ¾ "-0" rock within the pipe bedding and cover zones compacted to 90% per AASHTO T99, and ¾ "-0" rock compacted to 95% per AASHTO T99 within 48" of the wearing course. The wearing course should be restored to its original state following construction.

The bottom line is jurisdictions should have clear and concise guidelines for contractors installing or repairing infrastructure. We want to make sure that our assets are protected which includes the integrity of the roadway. Don't let a contractor perform poor workmanship on a road repair because it will be something that the citizens will have to look at for many years to come. •

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# Life's Surprising Journey,

by Hans Schroeder, Circuit Rider

During my travels around Oregon I met with an operations specialist that is a close friend of mine. Our daughters are friends; we have shared many "away from work activities," elk hunting, and family BBQs. We visited over lunch for awhile and he shared with me that he found out that he had a sister in Washington. He excitedly told me that he went up there and met her. He said it was an amazing experience.

I asked if he thought he might have any other siblings. He stated that in the past, his father had been humble and slightly embarrassed when mentioning that there were other siblings. My stomach was stirring. I had a picture of a birth certificate in my phone pictures that surely proved there was at least one other sibling; the name on the birth certificate was exactly the same as his.

As my heart was pounding I asked myself, *How do I share this information?* Knowing the operator as well as I do, I knew he would openly accept the information I was about to share with him. I opened my phone pictures and showed him the birth certificate image. He looked at it and says, "Hey, how'd you get my birth certificate?" I said look at it closer. He then said, "That's 3 years before I was born!" With a goofy look he asked, "Schroeder, what's going on here?"

I stated you're absolutely correct, I am confident you have a brother! You two look so much alike.

He then says, "Well let me know, who is this guy? What does he do? Where does he live? How do you know him?"

So I then started explaining that he is a water operations specialist such as yourself. I'm surprised you two haven't seen each other at an OAWU class or conference. He was so amazed, I gave him his name (I had previously been approved to do so), which was the same as the birth certificate, except the last name was changed. I told him his newfound brother has been watching him on Facebook. He loves how you are so family-oriented and how all your posted pictures share about your family, kids and trips. He then immediately got on Facebook and found him and friended him. I then said "Oh watch, I'll be getting a call or text from your brother any minute now."

Just as I predicted, boom! I received a text stating, "You won't believe what I just received on Facebook." So I replied, "What?" He said, I just "friended" my brother. Both were so elated!

Since this reunion has begun, the two brothers have spent many endless hours catching up. Sharing about family, relations, children, hunting,

# Part 2

fishing stories and so much more. They have met on multiple occasions, at their children's sporting events and even to the coast for long weekend trips. It has been so exciting to receive texts, pictures and calls from both of them sharing in their new found relationship. It has just amazed me how two families have melded together in such a short amount of time—it was just meant to be. Two water operation specialists at opposite ends of the state have become inseparable.

There is a family reunion planned this summer that I have even been invited to. I am so looking forward to attending the reunion and watching this new family bond that I helped to unite! It is so enjoyable being a circuit rider, being able to meet so many people along the way. Many have become good friends of mine outside of work. It has been my pleasure to watch this relationship blossom.

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# Water Loss Control

by Scott Berry, Operations Manager

In my travels throughout the state of Oregon Speaking with water operators, there is a common theme in just about all of those conversations. Everyone is trying to come up with ways to save money in their operating budget; to do more with less. Water utilities can no longer tolerate water loss in water distribution systems. Tightening regulations about the amount of water that is lost to leakage, increases in pumping, treatment and operational costs make these losses prohibitive.

In general, a 10 to 20 percent unaccounted-for loss rate is considered acceptable. My preference is to figure the percentage, as well as, track the number of gallons of lost water in order to keep a better perspective on the scope of the problem. A 5 gpm leak (216,000 gallons per month) could be a vastly different percentage in June than it will be in December when the production rate is much lower. Most of the publications on this topic will tell you to assess the cost/benefit of leak detection and repair. My opinion on this is simple; find them and fix them.

Large leaks do not necessarily contribute to a greater volume of lost water over time, particularly if water reaches the surface; they are usually found quickly, isolated and repaired. Undetected leaks, even small ones can lead to large quantities of lost water since these leaks might exist for long periods of time. The silver lining here is that small leaks are easier to detect using an audible leak detector. The most difficult leaks to detect and repair are usually those understream crossings.

Unmetered losses include all unauthorized uses and perceived losses from accounting errors, malfunctioning distribution system controls, thefts, inaccurate meters or leaks. Some unauthorized uses may be identifiable. Some unmetered water is taken for authorized purposes, such as fire fighting and flushing. These



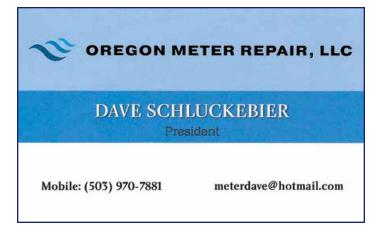
quantities are usually fairly small and should be estimated as an accounted-for amount, if possible.

The primary cause of excessive unaccounted-for water is usually leaks. There are many possible causes of leaks, and often a combination of factors leads to their occurrence. The material, composition, age, and joining methods of the distribution system components can influence leak occurrence. Another related factor is the quality of the initial installation of distribution system components.

Water conditions are also a factor, including: temperature, aggressiveness, presence of sediment and pressure. External conditions, such as: stray electric current, contact with other structures, stress from traffic vibrations, frost loads, and freezing soil around a pipe can also contribute to leaks.

All water plants will benefit from a water accounting system that helps track water throughout the distribution

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# **Calculating Unaccounted-for Water** as a Percentage of Total Production

Percentage of unaccounted-for water is the difference between total water produced at the source or the treatment facility and the amount of water that has been accounted for by all of the customer meters for a specific time period.

 $\frac{\text{(production - metered use)} \times 100\%}{\text{(production)}}$ 

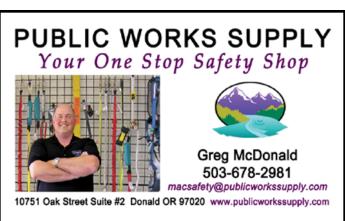
system and identifies areas that may need attention, particularly large volumes of unaccounted-for water.

Determine how long it has been since the production meters were calibrated and do so if needed. Are your customer service meters reading reliably? Once you have determined that the meters are accurate and are still getting higher than 15% unmetered loss rate, it's time to hit the ground.

In the next issue: Leak detection and repair strategy. ♦











# **Prioritizing Our Time**

by Mike Collier, Deputy Director/Sourcewater Specialist

What do you think of when you read the title of this article? Most probably think of the tasks we need to get done at work. I agree that is an important part of life we need to set priorities and work toward completing tasks in a, somewhat, orderly process. We will briefly go through this idea in this article, but I also want to consider how we prioritize our time throughout the day, month, and year in regard to our personal time, time spent off the clock.

With spring and summer here we start to have nice weather, warm sun, and longer days to enjoy. However, we often have multiple projects at work and home that have been building up over the wet, short days of fall and winter. Do we chose to spend all our time on the tasks that need to get done, or do we take time for ourselves and our families to reconnect and recreate during this time of the year? Are these things mutually exclusive or is there a way to complete all of these important things?

To have a healthy life we need to include time for ourselves and our families and not just work all the time, especially during the beautiful Oregon spring and summer. To do this we need to learn how to prioritize our time. This means we need to be efficient with our time, both at work and at home, this probably means we need to plan our time out and schedule things beforehand.

I know this can be difficult and counter to what some of us want to do naturally. I also do recognize that there are situations when it is beneficial to be spontaneous. Having stated that, let's begin with the workday. To help prioritize this time, I tend to ask myself a few questions: When is the task due? How long will it take? How important is it? Is it a need or a want? Is it vital, for health or safety? Was it a priority of a boss/board/council?

Also, spending some time at the beginning and end of each day (right when you arrive at the office and right before you leave) to think over the accomplishments of the day and make a plan for tomorrow are great strategies to be able to better handle the business that occurs during each work day.

Now for our personal life. How can we prioritize our time here? Making sure we put tasks, like painting, washing, yardwork, behind our most important relationships (kids or spouse). I try to think of it this way, what is the worst thing that could happen if I neglect painting my house for one extra month? Now what is the worst thing that can happen for not putting some time and energy into my relationship with my wife or kids? If there is an emergency on the house or at work, or if you already have plans scheduled that is one thing. I try not to make it a habit to put my family after everything else in my life.

We also have to make some time for exercise (particularly if you are a "Desk Jockey") this can be with the family (two birds, one stone – like family basketball Wednesdays), it can be used as time to decompress after a long day, or in the morning it can be used to begin preparing for your day. Even a simple walk can be useful for accomplishing this.

I know this is a short article for a pretty extensive topic, but I hope it just gives us all a few moments to think about the way we prioritize what we do and to take some time to ask the questions needed to help us improve on this area of our lives. •



# NRWA's Palmer Scholarship awarded to Oregon student



DUNCAN, Okla. – Jenni Green, a senior at Nestucca High School, has been awarded a Joe and Jean Palmer Endowment Scholarship by the National Rural Water Association. The Palmer Scholarship is a four-year scholarship valued at \$8,000, which is awarded to the children and step-children of the Rural Water staff across the nation.

Jenni is the daughter of Jason Green, Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Water Utilities. She plans to attend Western Oregon University and study Elementary Education.

Jenni has a grade point average of 3.87. She was a member of the student council, received varsity letters in volleyball, softball and cheer and was the Cheerleading Captain.

Palmer Scholarship recipients are selected by the NRWA Scholarship Committee, based on the applicant's academic record, awards, honors, leadership, activities and content of a 500-word essay. The scholarship honors the memory of Joe and Jean Palmer, and reflects their character and contributions to the rural water industry. Joe Palmer was a retired engineer, co-founder the Georgia Rural Water Association and served as President of NRWA from 1994 to 1996. Jean Palmer was a former science and chemistry teacher.

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Contact OAWU for more details: office@oawu.net or 503-837-1212.

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# Catching up with OAWU scholarship recipient Travis Gibson

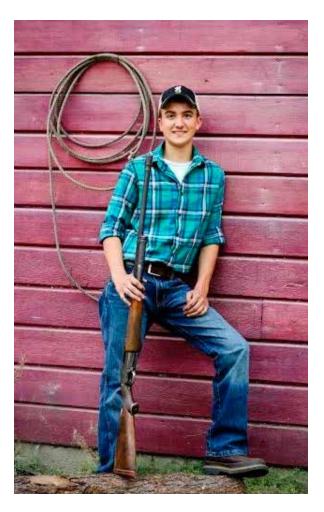
My name is Travis Gibson, and was born and raised in Monmouth, Oregon. Ever since I can remember I have had a passion for the outdoors, which is why I believe that I was drawn so strongly to the water and wastewater field.

My main hobbies include duck hunting, deer and elk hunting, as well as fishing, hiking, and exploring the amazing places that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

I made the decision to not play sports in high school. Instead of playing sports, I chose to become involved with the FFA and I also traveled to competitions around the entire state of Oregon and competed at trapshooting events. Throughout this experience I was able to achieve my biggest goal, winning a state championship in both of the events that I competed in.

I graduated from Central High School in 2015, with my heart set on enrolling in the Water, Environment and Technology Program at Linn Benton Community College. I am currently finishing up my first year of the program, and I could not be happier with my decision. I have gained countless amounts of knowledge pertaining to watersheds, water and wastewater collections/treatment systems, as well as, the infrastructure that goes along with them.

I want to thank OAWU and Jeff Swanson for this scholarship. I am extremely grateful.



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# **USDA Rural Developmen**

From USDA Rural Development • Submitted by Heath Cokeley, Programs Manag

For nearly 80 years, USDA Rural Development (RD) has worked with rural America's smallest and most needy communities. The current issues surrounding water in our country, including drought, contamination, and aging infrastructure, are just as critical now as they were 80 years ago. The need for RD's water programs remains high.

Since 2009, we have helped more than 18 million rural residents receive new or improved water and waste disposal services, emergency water assistance, and technical help. Our assistance includes new or upgraded water and sewage treatment plants, equipment, wells, and for drought-afflicted communities, the delivery of potable water.

In fiscal year (FY) 2015, RD funded more than \$1.6 billion in loans, grants, and guarantees in all 50 states, and we rely on the work of our partners, like the National Rural Water Association, to help us provide essential water and waste services to our rural communities. Now is a great time for the communities you work with to seek funding – RD's infrastructure loans and grants are available at historically low interest rates, and we have improved our processes to help our customers get the funding they need in a timely manner. Eligible projects can seek funding at the lowest rates the program has seen in many decades, ranging from 1.75 percent to 2.875 percent. The next quarterly rate adjustment occurs July 1.

Our customer service goal is for our loan and grant applicants to receive funding decisions within 45 days of submitting a complete application. We have proven this goal is attainable. In FY 2016, the Charleston Sanitary District in the city of Coos Bay, Oregon received a \$5 million loan and a \$3.5 million grant to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant within 23 days of submitting its application to RD. In Illinois, the Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District in Sangamon County was awarded a \$4 million loan to expand its water treatment plant within 16 days of submitting its completed application. \And in record-setting time, the Kent County Levy Court in Milford, Delaware received a \$3 million loan to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant within three days.

To expedite the loan and grant process, we have made use of improved technologies, streamlined our underwriting processes, and increased our employee training and engagement as well as our collaboration with other agencies. On September 28, 2015, we launched RD Apply at the National Rural Water Association Water Pro Conference in Oklahoma City. RD Apply is our new online application system. Applicants can register to use the system on any electronic device, and then complete and submit their applications online. Since its launch, RD staff has attended rural water conferences and other events across the country to demonstrate RD

# nt: Still Going Strong

### er/Circuit Rider

Apply to community leaders, engineers, and circuit riders. To date, over 131 applications have been filed using RD Apply. In the fall of 2016 we will unveil our new electronic, interactive Preliminary Engineering Report, ePER at the NRWA annual conference in Orlando. Don't miss your opportunity to give it a test drive! Visit http://rdapply.usda.gov for more information.

In FY 2014, we began streamlining our underwriting process by introducing new procedures to decrease our processing times for Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG) applications. This program helps eligible communities prepare for, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water for households and businesses. As a result of the streamlined process, we have had a record increase





# USDA Rural Development still meeting water, wastewater needs of rural America nearly 80 years after its founding (continued from previous page)

in the number of ECWAG grants we have processed in the last two FYs. We are now revamping our guaranteed loan program.

RD is intensifying employee training and customer outreach efforts. Making sure our staff has the knowledge and skills to effectively deliver our programs is critical to the success of the program.

Collaboration with other state and federal agencies remains a priority. Our partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency on a rural system sustainability assessment tool and a sustainability workshop guide, also known as "Workshop in a Box," has proven to be very successful. The guides are available online at http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/services/sustainable-management-tools.

The assessment tool gives systems a simple and objective way to evaluate their strengths and areas for improvement. Together, we have trained more than 1,600 trainers to facilitate the workshop. Workshops have been held in more than 140 locations across the country. Through this program and many more collaborative efforts, we are building capacity and leveraging knowledge and financial resources.

To learn more about how RD can help meet the water and waste needs of your rural communities, please visit our website: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs or contact your local USDA office: http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

We look forward to working with you and the rural communities we all serve! ♦



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# UPCOMING CONFERENCES







# Keeping Workers Safe During Night-

Working at night on pipe repairs is always more difficult than during the day. Workers are usually tired, having already worked a full day, and visibility is greatly reduced due to shadows, darkness and poor lighting at the worksite. Throw in drivers who are also tired and perhaps driving faster than usual due to reduced traffic, and you have the makings of a high-risk situation.

Your employees are your most valuable asset, so every precaution should be taken to make sure they come home safely every day.

Here are six things to ensure your night time workers are safe, and get the job done effectively.

# 1. Move carefully and deliberately on the worksite

Many times, workers will want to get the job done quickly and skip some steps. This is understandable, but it's important to remind them to slow down and work more cautiously than they do during the day. Even if they are very familiar with performing certain repairs, dark areas and shadows can hinder their perception of risk.

Planning and communication become crucial during nighttime operations. Before the job starts, supervisors should have a brief meeting to ensure all team members understand what will take place at the worksite, what their role is, and where they will be located throughout the night.

Plan your work and work your plan!

Make sure everything is done with a focus on safety. This includes wearing reflective clothing in accordance with the law and using a trench box or shoring to ensure that the trench doesn't collapse while workers are inside. There are many who never use a trench box because it gets in the way of some repairs. At night, the use of trench boxes and shoring is even more critical. Make trench boxes a normal part of every excavation, and never put speed ahead of safety.

# 2. Have the right repair products on hand for every possibility

Always make sure that you have repair products on hand for every situation. There is nothing worse than not having the right parts during an emergency repair. Poor planning results in the job taking longer to complete, delays in returning water service to normal, and disgruntled customers.

Krausz designs and manufactures a variety of repair couplings that are quick and easy to install, and are

extremely useful for night conditions. The HYMAX VERSA coupling can attach to two pipes of differing diameters and materials, which comes in handy when the exact material or diameter of the pipe are not known in advance.

The coupling also features top-facing bolts which are simple to tighten, and drastically cut installers' repair time. The product has a stab-on design and does not need to be disassembled – there is nothing more aggravating for an operator than losing a bolt in a water-filled ditch at night.

Another unique feature is its MAG dry anti-galling process that prevents galling, enables repeated bolt tightening and eliminates the need to grease the bolts, preventing dust and dirt build-up.

# 3. Keep a close eye on the crew

Supervisors need to keep a close eye on workers who will be tired from working a full day and prone to making mistakes. Supervisors should patrol their work area to see how workers are doing, and offer food and drink on a regular basis. Flaggers in particular should be checked as they play a critical role in making sure night time operations are safe.

Crews want to make the repair and then get some rest before having to get up and do it all over again. A lack of rest or sleep accumulates over time. It's important that crews are not run down to the point where they become exhausted and unable to perform. Provide them with the proper tools and repair parts to get the job done.



The HYMAX VERSA coupling can attach to pipes of differing diameters and materials.

# 4. Keep work areas lit and clear

In the interests of saving time, sometimes workers will use the lights of the backhoe to do this job without auxiliary lighting and a generator. These lights will not supply enough illumination for the worksite and compromise safety.

Use floodlights to illuminate any equipment crossings, and other areas where crew members will be working. Flaggers in particular should be well lit to ensure their own safety, and the safety of the work zone. If drivers can't see the flagger, his or her ability to slow down, divert or stop traffic is hindered.

Floodlights can also blind drivers entering a work zone. Once lights are set, a worker should drive through the area to observe the lights' positioning and make adjustments as necessary. The use of self-righting work lights are a great way to provide light without causing it to shine in motorists' eyes.

Keep the work area also clear of obstacles, tools, and equipment.



Use floodlights to illuminate areas where crew will be working.

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\*Product lengths of 15" and higher have more than 2 bolts



For more info, visit krauszusa.com or call 855-457-2879 (855-4KRAUSZ)

## Keeping Workers Safe — continued from previous page

The use of rotating or flashing amber lights on service vehicles is necessary and required by law in most states, however, these lights can be their own hazard. They can be very bright and blind drivers who are traveling the roadways and prevent safe driving. Wherever possible, direct lights so drivers can see properly as they drive through to ensure worker safety.

# 5. Manage traffic

If possible, close the roadway where the repairs are taking place and direct traffic away.

If you can't close the roadway, place warning signs or lights in a way that will give motorists more time to react and slowdown before reaching the work area. Ensure that your signs are clean and have good reflectivity.

Make the work zone as large as possible to give employees more buffer and to keep them safe. After the repair is completed and the roadway re-opened, do several drive-throughs to make sure that the road is clear and the road repair is safe for the public's use.

## 6. Notify the public

Make every effort to contact law enforcement, fire and rescue services, emergency dispatch centers and the general public about the night time operation.

Notify the above organizations, and local radio and television stations, in advance by sending a concise email and following up by phone. Include information about where the repair is taking place, why it's happening and any roads that will be closed off.

These agencies and media outlets will appreciate the information, and keep the community aware of the repair.

Doug Riseden is the Technical Support Manager for Krausz USA, and has worked in the public utility field for over 20 years. His extensive experience with water and wastewater repairs and operations includes working for municipalities and private contractors, and providing water services to the NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



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# QUIZ CORNER

- 1. You have just rewired the motor on a centrifugal pump. The pump is now running but generating little pressure and flow. What is the most likely cause?
  - A. Speed of the impeller is too high
  - B. Pump is primed
  - C. Water leak in seal
  - D. Wrong direction of impeller rotation from improper wiring
- 2. A Pump Curve plots the relationship between the system head and the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Fluid temperature
  - B. Flow
  - C. Impeller type
  - D. Casing type
- 3. A reduced pressure zone device consists of 2 spring-loaded check valves with a(n):
  - A. Air gap located between them
  - B. Vacuum Breaker located between them
  - C. Pressure regulated relief located between them
  - D. none of the above
- 4. What type of meter consists of a chamber of known size that measures the volume of water flowing through it by means of a moving piston or disk?
  - A. Turbine
  - B. Positive-displacement
  - C. Venturi
  - D. Proportional
- 5. The idea of self-government is in the first words of the Constitution. What are these words?
  - A. We the People.
  - B. In God We Trust.
  - C. Freedom and Liberty.
  - D. Liberty for all.

- 6. Which of the following are two rights from the Declaration of Independence?
  - A. Right to practice any religion and right to free speech.
  - B. Right to work and right to vote.
  - C. Right to travel and right to happiness.
  - D. Right to life and right to liberty.
- 7. When working in a confined space, a permit is NOT required when the space can be maintained by using?
  - A. Continued mechanical ventilation
  - B. When gas meters show non detected limits on all gases
  - C. Gas meter shows oxygen level is above 18.5%
  - D. On all horizontal configured spaces
- 8. Acceptable oxygen range levels for confined space entry are 16.5% to 18.5%.
  - A. True
  - B. False
- 9. According to energy conservation experts, homeowners can save energy by using cooler water when washing clothes. Using hot water for both washing and rinsing uses how much more energy than using warm wash and cold rinse options?
  - A. Slightly more
  - B. Twice as much
  - C. 3.5 times as much
  - D. Five times as much
- 10. Which test is used to determine the correct dose when using polymer solutions?
  - A. Suspended solids
  - B. Settleable solids
  - C. Jar test
  - D. Ammonia

Questions 1 & 2 are from the WEF/ABC Wastewater Operators Guide Preparing for the Certification Examination.

VANSWERS: 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-A, 6-D, 7-A, 8-B, 9-C, 10-C

# NRWA Fleet Program

The National Rural Water Association has created partnerships with the Ford Motor Company and the Chrysler Group to offer special fleet discounts to State Rural Water Associations and their utility system members. This partnership combines the buying power of 31,000 individual utilities to provide reduced fleet pricing on utility vehicles.

The Rural Water Fleet Program is a valuable member benefit for water and wastewater utilities. State Rural Water Associations determine eligibility for their members, and provide a fleet code that allows access to substantial vehicle discounts to fill the need for reliable work vehicles.

Contact your State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Fleet Program. Vehicles may be purchased at your local dealer or



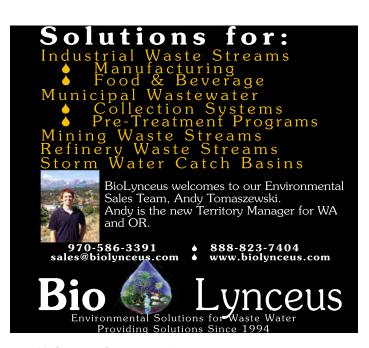
through the national fleet auto group at www.nrwafleet.com. Incentive discount pricing is available on fuel efficient cars, vans, SUVs and trucks. Systems can save up to \$6,750 off factory invoice per vehicle.

Happy shopping!



# **Program Details**

- Entities must be current members of State Rural Water Associations to be eligible.
- There is no limit to the number of vehicles that can be purchased under the program.
- Incentive pricing is deducted off the factory invoice.
- Fleet vehicles must be in service for a minimum of 12 months or 20,000 miles.
- Vehicles must be registered and operated in the United States.
- Call OAWU today to get your Fleet Identification Number (FIN).





# **USDA Rural Development Lowers Rates**

Washington D.C. (March 30, 2016) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced new, low rates for their Rural Utility Services loan programs.

The following rates will be effective on April 1:

Market: 2.875%Intermediate: 2.25%Poverty: 1.75%

"These new low interest rates for the USDA Water and Waste Disposal Program are an opportunity for rural communities to upgrade, expand, or replace their infrastructure affordably and bring cleaner, more reliable service to rural residents," said RUS Administrator Brandon McBride. "Funding is available and USDA is ready to work with rural water leaders now while this low rate window is open."

USDA's Rural Utilities Service administers programs that provide infrastructure and infrastructure improvements to rural communities.

"USDA plays a critical role in helping to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural Americans," said Sam Wade, CEO of the National Rural Water Association.

"These rates are incredibly low, and systems would be wise to take advantage of this opportunity to make needed improvements."

Project loans can have up to 40-year payback period, based on the useful life of the facilities financed. The interest rate is based on the need for the project and the median household income of the area to be served. Applications are accepted year round at local offices of USDA Rural Development, or online using RDApply: https://rdapply.usda.gov.

# **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS**

Don't forget your CCR! Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) must be delivered to customers by July 1st. By rule, a copy of the CCR must also be submitted to Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) by July 1st. Tired of mailing out your CCR?

OAWU can host your CCR on our website!

IF YOU NEED HELP DEVELOPING A CCR,CALL OAWU: (503) 837-1212





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# Need to Review Water or Sewer Rates? OAWU Can Help!

Take advantage of your Association's services!

OAWU has built a solid reputation for providing water and wastewater systems with factual, user-friendly, and defendable Rate Studies. Our rate studies, once implemented, have allowed many systems to obtain Capitol Improvement funding from various private and government lending agencies. An OAWU rate study can also provide a plan for systems to gain the capitol to "pay as you go" by outlining a strategy to maximize and streamline revenue and thereby allow water/wastewater system administrators to forecast projects that may be funded in-house. OAWU will provide you a professionally compiled rate study and supporting documentation that will allow you and your council or board to adopt new rates necessary to meet your system needs. •

For bids or estimates, call OAWU: 503-837-1212.



# 2016 TRAINING & EVENTS SCHEDULE

Date	Class Title	Location	CEU Information	ESAC#, Fo	ee/Free
June 14	Math for Operators	Winchester Bay San.	0.4 Water/Wastewater/OS	2885	Fee
June 14	Source Water Protection Planning	Winchester Bay San.	0.3 Water	3152	Fee
July 12	Mini Expo	Independence	0.4 Water/Wastewater	3232	FREE
July 13	Pumps and Pumping	Tillamook	0.4 Water/Wastewater/OS	2862	Fee
July 13	Math for Operators	Tillamook	0.3 Water/Wastewater/OS	3153	Fee
July 19	Pumps and Pumping	Pendleton	0.4 Water/Wastewater/OS	2862	Fee
July 19	Math for Operators	Pendleton	0.3 Water/Wastewater/OS	3153	Fee
August 10	Developing Your Operations & Maintenance Manual	Eagle Point	0.6 Water/Wastewater	2780	Fee
August 17-18	Water Treatment Water Distribution Certification Review	Bend	1.4 Water/0.7 Wastewater	2787	Fee
August 22	Effective Utility Management	Seaside	0.6 Water/Wastewater	3235	FREE
August 22-25	22nd Annual Summer Classic	Seaside	1.7 Water/1.8 Wastewater	3235	Fee
Aug 31-Sep 1	Wastewater Treatment/Collections Certification	Salem	1.4 Wastewater/0.6 Water/0.4 OS	3 2882	Fee
September 20	Water Meters and Service Lines	Independence	0.4 Water	3138	Fee
October 5	SDWA Update	Salem	0.4 Water	2887	FREE
October 5	Confined Space	Salem	0.3 Water/Wastewater	3151	Fee
October 19	Control Valves	Newport	0.7 Water	2863	FREE
November 7	Effective Utility Management	Hillsboro	0.6 Water/Wastewater	3235	FREE
November 7-10	2016 Fall Operators Conference	Hillsboro	2.0 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee
November 29	Water & Wastewater Field Operations & Safety	Salem	0.6 Water/Wastewater	2944	Fee
December 5	Effective Utility Management	Hood River	0.6 Water/Wastewater	3235	FREE
December 5-8	18 <sup>th</sup> Annual End of Year Operators Conference	Hood River	2.0 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee

### Levels 1-4 Water Operator Exams

Trained and certified operators are necessary to ensure that the systems are managed in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. The OARs for certification stipulate that the qualifying experience for applicants for certification as a water treatment plant operator must attain at least half the required operating experience at a public water purification plant that uses complex filtration technology and is not more than one classification lower than the level of certification they are seeking. In other words, if you have only worked for a Class 2 treatment plant, we allow you to apply for a Level 3 certification but not a Level 4 certification. If you move on to a Class 3 plant, then you must have ½ the qualifying experience (at the Level 3 plant) before allowing to apply for a Level 4 certification. Reciprocity from state-to-state ensures that the operator have the operating experience for which they are certified.

For additional information, please visit http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/Levels1-4/Pages/exams.aspx

### More Resources

Drinking Water Data Online https://yourwater.oregon.gov

Center for Health Protection
Drinking Water Services

http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/Program.aspx?pid=4
http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/Program.aspx?pid=58

Training class dates, class topic and/or locations may be subject to change as needed.

For more information on any class by OAWU, please contact the office at 503-837-1212, office@oawu.net or visit www.oawu.net.

# System O&M Manuals Required

# Have you completed your state-required Operations & Maintenance Manual?

Oregon Association of Water Utilities has prepared a full day class to assist operators in outlining an operations and maintenance manual per the Oregon Administrative Rule 333-061-0065 which requires each water system to develop an operations and maintenance manual. This class will assist the water and wastewater system operator in outlining the specific points in developing the draft of the O&M manual. Step by step, each attendee will create their draft as it relates to their utility system during class. The e-file may then be completed back at the system office.

Class cost is \$155, or if you are unable to attend a class you may purchase a thumb drive with e-files for \$155. To sign up for the class, or to have a thumb drive mailed to you, contact OAWU for more information.



# WHY AREN'T YOU A MEMBER OF OAWU?

**Serving Water & Wastewater Utilities Since 1977** 

- We provide **onsite technical assistance and training**, meaning that we will come to you and help with any problems you may be encountering with water or wastewater.
- We provide water and sewer rates and lagoon profiling. Call OAWU at 503-837-1212 for a bid or estimate. We can save you money!

These are just a few facts about OAWU. The next time you are in need, pick up the phone and call us before hiring outside help. We are here to help. It's our industry. It's what we do.

To join or for more information, visit www.oawu.net or call 503-837-1212.

Oregon Association of Water Utilities 935 N. Main Street Independence, Oregon 97351 Phone (503) 837-1212 Fax (503) 837-1213 www.oawu.net



OAWU's mission is to provide service, support, and solutions for Oregon water and wastewater utilities to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:			
Address:			
City/State:			
County: ZIF			
System Email:			
Phone: Fax			
Operator:			
Contact Person:			
Number of Hook-ups:			
Were you referred? By whom			
Type of System:			
□ Water □ Wastewater	□ Both		
Membership Category  ☐ Regular Member	Amount of Dues  \$ See schedule below		
☐ Associate Member☐ Individual Member	\$400.00 \$75.00		
Regular Member Dues Schedule			

1 to 100 \$75 + 31 cents per hookup \$80 + 31 cents per hookup 101 to 500 501 to 1,000 \$90 + 31 cents per hookup \$100 + 31 cents per hookup 1,000 and up

Maximum dues is \$940.00

**Mail payment to: OAWU** 

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If paying by credit card, please call the OAWU office at 503-837-1212 for processing and receipt.

# Membership Types

### Regular Member

A Regular Member shall be any water or wastewater utility, public or private, engaged in the production, distribution or reclamation of water. A Regular Member shall have one vote.

### Annual Dues - See Dues Schedule

### Associate Member

An Associate Member shall be any organization individual or corporation, supplying services or equipment to water and wastewater utilities. An Associate Member shall have one vote. For Associate Member Benefits, please contact OAWU.

### Annual Dues \$400.00 per year

### **Individual Member**

An Individual Member shall be an individual involved in the water/wastewater industry or a user of such utilities. The membership is informational in nature and shall be non-voting.

### Annual Dues \$75.00 per year

## Benefits of Membership

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