



WATER TAP

WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER



Volume 25, #3 - September 2010

Five surface water treatment plants recognized for treatment excellence



Stevens Pass Water System achieved five years of continuously optimized performance. Charles Cruickshank (right) accepts his Silver Optimization Award from Steve Deem, an engineer from our Northwest Regional Office.

In June this year, we presented certificates of achievement to five water systems that consistently met the Treatment Optimization Program (TOP) turbidity goals for three or more consecutive years.

TOP works with water systems that treat surface water using direct, conventional, or in-line rapid-rate filtration.

To earn recognition, the systems had to meet or exceed the following turbidity goals and remain free of any drinking water violations during the evaluation period:

- Achieve a combined filter effluent (CFE) turbidity of 0.10 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) or less in 95 percent of maximum daily measurements each year.
- Never exceed a maximum filtered water turbidity of 0.30 NTU.

These goals are more stringent than the regulatory standards. Water systems that meet the goals provide better public health protection to consumers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency endorses these goals, which are similar to goals now established in some other states.

In recognition of excellent performance

Congratulations, plant operators and system administrators!

Bronze Award Recipients	Silver Award Recipients
Three years of continuously optimized performance, 2007-2009	Five years of continuously optimized performance, 2005-2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Energy-200W • Eastsound Water Users Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoquiam Water Department • Lake Chelan Reclamation District • Stevens Pass Water System

(Continued on Page 7)

Are you wired?

We e-mail updates!
Send your system name, ID number, region, and e-mail address to odw.mail@doh.wa.gov
If your e-mail provider filters spam mail, don't forget to add odw.mail@doh.wa.gov to your address book.

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THE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

BY DENISE ADDOTTA CLIFFORD



Let's chat about the Group B Rule

I know some of you have been following our progress in revising the Group B Rule. We're almost ready to take the proposed revisions out for public comment, so this seems like a

good time to tell you what we've been up to.

The governor and Legislature set a new direction last year when they eliminated state funding to regulate Group B water systems and changed the law that established ongoing requirements for these systems.

Since then, we've been working with the State Board of Health and local health jurisdictions to draft revisions to the Group B Rule. Ultimately, the State Board of Health is responsible for adopting the revised rule. We anticipate the Board will adopt the rule next year.

We are trying to develop a rule that reflects the best approach to protecting public health with extremely limited resources. We have about 13,000 Group B water systems in Washington, each serving fewer than 15 homes and fewer than 25 people. Collectively these small water systems serve 110,000 customers—about 2 percent of our state's population.

The strategy that makes sense to us is to concentrate our efforts on making sure new Group B systems are designed and constructed properly. We also think it's important to provide new and existing systems with guidance on how to keep their drinking water safe and reliable.

So now, it's your turn. We want to hear your comments and concerns about how the draft changes would affect you. We will offer informal public workshops this month to talk about the draft Group B Rule before we prepare a final draft.

Group B Rule public workshops

(All workshops are scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

- Sept. 14: Ellensburg, Hal Holmes Center
- Sept. 15: Spokane, WSU Cooperative Extension
- Sept. 29: Tumwater, State Department of Health
- Sept. 30: Mount Vernon, Skagit PUD

We have more information about the public workshops on our website at <<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/groupb.htm>> If you cannot make it to one of our workshops, please use the e-mail link on the Web page to comment directly to us.

Denise A. Clifford

Agency closes on temporary layoff dates

The state Department of Health will close on eight dates between now and June 2011 because of state-mandated temporary layoffs.

On those dates, the Office of Drinking Water will have one person on duty to lend technical assistance to water systems in case of emergency.

We will continue to offer staff coverage on weekends. However, short of a major emergency, our ability to respond during weeks with temporary layoff days will be limited.

Closure dates

- Tuesday, September 7, 2010 (also closed September 6 for Labor Day holiday)
- Monday, October 11, 2010

- Monday, December 27, 2010 (also closed December 24 for the Christmas holiday)
- Friday, January 28, 2011
- Tuesday, February 22, 2011 (also closed February 21 for Presidents Day holiday)
- Friday, March 11, 2011
- Friday, April 22, 2011
- Friday, June 10, 2011

Guidance for utilities and labs

Utilities that have a drinking water emergency on one of the closure dates should call the after-hours emergency number: (877) 481-4901.

Labs should also call the emergency number when reporting coliform test results during drinking water emergencies on closure days and weekends. Please report both satisfactory and unsatisfactory results.

Happy Anniversary! Computer-Based Certification Exams

It's been one year since waterworks operators began taking computer-based instead of written certification exams. About 562 operators took their exams between June 2009 and May 2010. By most accounts, it appears the switch from written to computer-based exams is a success.

"I'm really impressed with the new exam," said Clive Defty, a contract operator in Island County. "It was easy to set up with the flexible schedule, nice to do the test on the computer, and immediate feedback is great."

The computer-based exam has many advantages over the written exam. For example, we offered the written exam only three times a year. With computer-based testing, operators can now take their exams daily (see locations at right).

"The results are immediate, no more biting fingernails for two months waiting for the results," noted one operator. In the past, operators had to wait several weeks to find out whether they passed the written exam.



The pass rate is just over 77 percent, about the same as the written exam. But, now operators who fail the exam can retest in as few as 14 days instead of waiting several months for the written exam.

On average, the time from our approval to the time when the applicant takes the exam shrank from three months to 23.5 days. In one case, it took only five days.

Out-of-state applicants appreciate the opportunity to take the exam at sites throughout the country. Previously, they had to travel to Washington to take the written exam.

Initially, there were five exam sites. Now, operators can take their exams at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily at the following locations:

Bellevue	Seattle
East Wenatchee	Spokane
Everett	Tacoma
Kennewick	Vancouver
Portland	Yakima

Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) evaluates site demand and adds new sites as needed. If demand at a site is high, AMP may add evening exams. For more information, call (800) 525-2536.



U.S. EPA sponsors free access to WaterISAC security resources

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is offering a free, 12-month subscription to WaterISAC Pro for staff at U.S. drinking water and wastewater utilities, water associations, state environment and homeland security agencies, and circuit riders. WaterISAC stands for Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center. WaterISAC Pro provides decision-relevant, risk-based information on infrastructure protection strategies and all-hazards threats.

WaterISAC Pro's secure online portal contains a library of more than 2,000 white papers, best practices, three chemical and biological contaminant databases, vulnerability assessment tools, research reports, and more.

Subscribers to WaterISAC Pro also get access to free informational webinars and training on current topics such as lessons learned from natural disasters, emergency response planning and insider threats.

WaterISAC is the official communications arm of the Water Sector Coordinating Council, a homeland security advisory group of utility managers. It was established in 2002 as a nonprofit water-sector organization in support of infrastructure protection.

To sign up for 12 months of free access to WaterISAC Pro, visit <https://portal.waterisac.org/web/index.jspa>

RULEMAKING

Workshops scheduled for public comments

We are preparing for public workshops to get your feedback on draft rule language for the following rules:

- **Group B Systems:** See the director's column on page 2.
- **Drinking Water Laboratory Data Reporting:**
Moses Lake, September 16
Tumwater, September 23

For dates, locations (including driving directions), and times, please visit us online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/regula.htm>

Get rule updates

Keep informed! Sign up for our special e-mail list to get automatic rulemaking notices. Go to our Web page at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/#Join_> to subscribe.

And, while you are there, check out other rulemaking activities:

- Federal Groundwater Rule
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Rule
- Federal Lead & Copper Short-Term Revisions Rule

Is it Easy to Contaminate a Coliform Sample?

Operators often call our coliform staff to report that their coliform sample was unsatisfactory because they contaminated it during or after sample collection. This is a common concern, so the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a study in May to find out whether "sampling error" could contaminate a coliform sample.

EPA asked people to generate false positive results in the ways listed below. Then, under controlled conditions, 87 coliform samples were collected and processed using the EPA-approved Colilert test.

- **Breathed into the sample bottle**
28 samples: 0 were unsatisfactory.
- **Dropped the cap onto carpet or the ground**
25 samples: 0 were unsatisfactory.
- **Swirled fingers into the sample prior to capping**
34 samples: 1 was unsatisfactory.

The people contaminated only 1.1 percent of the samples. This study agrees with previous studies that showed samplers were unlikely to cause a coliform sample to have an unsatisfactory result due to sampling error. It also explains why we don't automatically discard samples that operators call about. The complete results of the study are online at <<http://www.asdwa.org/datamanagement>>

Source Water Protection

New York City, Seattle, and several other cities made early, strategic decisions to protect their source waters. As a result, New York has some of the cleanest, tastiest water in the world and Seattle has one of the most pristine drinking water sources in the country: the Cedar River Watershed. These forward-thinking cities saved millions of dollars in expensive treatment technologies over the long term.

Source water protection is a planning strategy that focuses on preventing drinking water contamination and loss of supply. Preventing contamination or supply problems in the short term is usually far less difficult and expensive than installing treatment or finding a new source later.



In fact, source water protection is the first barrier in the multiple-barrier approach to safe and reliable drinking water. It ensures protection if treatment fails.

Washington's Source Water Protection Program requires public water systems to protect their drinking water sources through sanitary control area protection and wellhead or source water protection planning. Water system operators and board members play major roles in protecting your drinking water source.

We are rekindling our source water protection efforts and outreach to water systems.

We will provide new outreach tools and information over the next few months at <<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/swaphome.htm>> For more information, call Kitty Weisman, source water program lead, at (360) 236-3114 or e-mail kitty.weisman@doh.wa.gov

Flood!



The City of Morton sent boil-water notices to 1,020 customers after floodwater washed away its river water intake. Damages exceeded \$180,000 to date for emergency and permanent repairs.

Photo by Washington Emergency Management Division

It's September. The weather is nice and things may be going really well at your water system. It may be hard to think about flooding now. But, a flood and potential damage could be just a storm front away.

The last big flood hit the state in January 2009. That month, a severe winter storm yielded widespread, damaging effects from flooding, mudslides, landslides, avalanches, high winds, and freezing rain.

The storm caused about \$1.5 million in damages to water systems. Most damages occurred in Western

Washington, and affected both small and large systems.

Water systems in 10 counties issued boil-water notices. Statewide, more than 8,100 people received boil-water notices, and nearly 900 residents had no water at all.

If the forecast predicts flooding in your area

- Have enough coliform sample bottles on hand to sample each well and the distribution system daily for at least a week.
- If you routinely disinfect your water system with chlorine, increase the chlorine level. This will not ensure your drinking water will remain safe, but it will make it easier to monitor chlorine residuals in your system. A decline in the chlorine residual may indicate contaminated water entered your system.

If your well floods

- Advise residents to bring their drinking water to a rolling boil for one minute to kill disease-causing bacteria and parasites. Do this even if you chlorinate your water system because your treatment may not be effective against contaminated floodwaters.
- Collect coliform samples at your well and throughout the distribution system as soon as you are able to gain safe access. Exercise extreme caution any time an electric power supply component is under or near floodwater.
- Contact the Office of Drinking Water any time you advise customers to boil their water, or when water test results show coliform bacteria is present.

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Upcoming ABC Exam Changes

Beginning January 1, 2011, the water distribution manager (WDM) and water treatment plant operator (WTPO) multiple-entry exams will have only 100 questions. Currently, the level 2 exam has 120 questions, level 3 has 150, and level 4 has 180. These exams include need-to-know material from lower level exams. For example, a WTPO 3 exam also covers need-to-know material for levels 1 and 2.

An Association of Boards of Certification committee studied the multiple-entry exams and recommended the change. The study found that most operators scored higher on the lower level questions than the higher ones. As a result, an operator who would not have passed a standard level 4 exam could pass the multiple-entry exam by scoring high on the lower level questions (WDM 1-3). The new exams will test for proficiency at each level. They will not include questions specifically related to lower level need-to-know material.

We will continue to allow an operator to test at the level for which he or she is qualified. You don't have to take a WDM 1 exam before taking the WDM 2, or the WDM 2 before taking the WDM 3.

Health labs: Who ya gonna call after hours?

Most labs are great about staffing on weekends for drinking water emergencies. For a community under a boil-water advisory, a weekend read of sample results could shorten the duration of an advisory by as much as two days.

However, to make sure the word gets out swiftly, lab staffs need to call the Office of Drinking Water emergency line—(877) 481-4901—to report satisfactory or unsatisfactory sample results after hours. We have managers on call around the clock primed to take your call and ensure that water systems take the appropriate steps.

Unfortunately, some labs recently left messages about sample results with our regional offices on weekends. And, our regional staff didn't hear the messages until the following Monday.

So remember: If you're working with a water system in a drinking water emergency outside of business hours, or on one of our closure days (see page 2), call our emergency line when you have water sample results at (877) 481-4901. Our on-call manager will return your call within 30 minutes.

Calling the right number can make all the difference. All together now: **(877) 481-4901!**



ASK BUCK...

Dear Buck,

My pipes are leaking, my water tastes funny, and a family of mice is living in the pump house. My water system infrastructure is so old that no one can even remember the last time we made any improvements. To make matters worse, our operator just quit! What do you advise?

Signed, Worn Out in Waterville.

Dear Worn,

No wonder you're tired! The first thing you should do is contact the Operator Certification Program for help finding a new operator, pronto! Next, gather your Board or Council and take a tour of your water system with your new operator and your DOH regional engineer. Give each tour member a copy of your last sanitary survey follow-up letter.

List all the improvements you'd like to make, and estimate a cost for each one. Organize the improvements in order of public health priority and develop a schedule for doing the work. This will be your capital improvement plan (Element 16 of your Small Water System Management Program).

Remember, you can't fix everything at once. It will take a few years! Be patient. Find out if your existing reserve accounts will pay for your improvements. If not, consider raising your rates and applying for grants and loans. Ask for help if you need it and, over time, you will make progress.

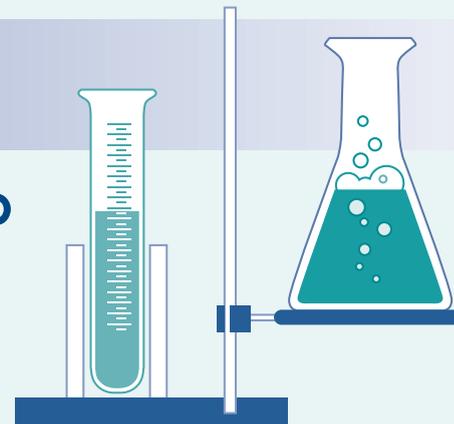


Scholarship Opportunity

The Model Forest Policy Program is accepting applications for its 2011 Climate Solutions University for Forest and Water Strategies (CSU). Scholarships for \$10,000 are available to allow communities to attend the CSU webinar-based education and coaching program.

The program will help communities assess local climate-related risks and opportunities, and create and implement a customized local climate action plan for forest and water protection. Information and application instructions are online at http://www.mfpp.org/Climate_Solutions_University/2011.html Hurry! Applications are due September 15.

LAB CORNER



Future changes to the coliform lab reporting templates

We plan to adopt the new Groundwater Rule (GWR) in November 2010. The rule requires all Group A public water systems to take groundwater source samples if any routine sample collected under the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) is total coliform-positive.

Due to federal reporting requirements, we must distinguish these GWR samples from those collected for compliance with the TCR.

We notified the labs in July that we are making minor changes to the *Coliform Bacterial Analysis* lab slip templates. We will develop draft templates as soon as possible and send them to the lab community for comments.

Our goal is to have the new templates in use by November 2010. If possible, coordinate use of your current stock of coliform slips and ordering additional slips with this November 2010 goal in mind.

Until the new template is available, continue to follow these instructions to identify GWR samples properly:

- Water systems should be marking lab slips as “GWR” in the comments field. Labs may want to ask the system if the sample is for compliance with the GWR.
- Water systems serving 1,000 or fewer people can submit one of their GWR source samples as a repeat sample and get credit for the GWR and the TCR. If those water systems have more than one source, they should mark the other source samples as RAW.
- All source samples for compliance with the GWR must be tested for *E. Coli*.

Excellent performance... (Continued from Page 1)

We started our recognition program in 2009, when we recognized 14 systems that consistently met the TOP turbidity goals for three or more consecutive years (see *Water Tap*, December 2009).

For more information

Read about treatment optimization and the tools we use to help systems succeed in *Water Tap*: June 2006 (page 18), March 2007 (page 8), and September 2007 (page 14) online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/watertap.htm>

Visit us online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Programs/surface_water.htm>

Contact Stephen Baker (360) 236-3138
E-mail stephen.baker@doh.wa.gov

Ethan Moseng (253) 395-6770
E-mail ethan.moseng@doh.wa.gov



Work for Water website

The American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation collaborated to launch a new website that features resources for water recruiters, job seekers, and students.

About 30 percent of certified operators are expected to retire in the next few years, leaving numerous unfilled positions across all utility levels.

The website includes video clips from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Water You Waiting For” initiative that highlights water-related professional positions and comments from “on the job” high school and vocational school interns at drinking water utilities. It also features sections specifically for college students, second career and retired military job seekers, and advanced science professionals.

Check it out at <<http://www.workforwater.org/>>

New & Revised Publications

Sanitary Control Area Protection (331-453)

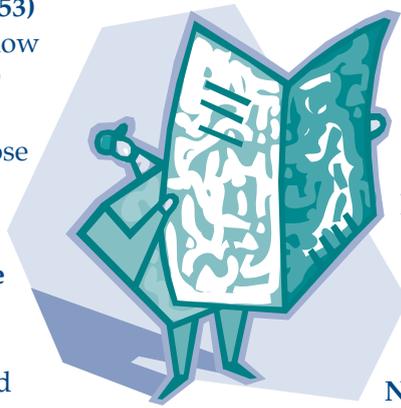
New! August 2010. Four pages explain how water systems must control and monitor their sanitary control area regularly to ensure land uses and activities do not pose a contamination threat to their drinking water source and distribution system.

Wellhead Protection Program Guidance Document (331-018).

Revised June 2010. 111-page guidance document outlines DOH's Wellhead Protection Program and explains how Group A public drinking water systems can implement their own program.

Nitrate in Drinking Water (331-214). Revised June 2010. 2-page fact sheet describes nitrate as a drinking water contaminant. Explains where it comes from, health effects, regulations, and preventive measures. Also available in Spanish **Nitratos en el agua potable (331-214s).**

Online pre-adequacy water system information (331-090). Revised June 2010. 2-page fact sheet explains the process local governments use to verify



water systems are adequate to provide service to a proposed property before they issue building permits.

How to Handle Chlorine Gas Safely (331-364).

Revised May 2010. Six pages describe what chlorine is, how to detect chlorine leaks, safety tips and protective equipment, chlorine first aid, and how to change chlorine cylinders.

Nitrate Public Health Advisory Packet (331-259).

Revised May 2010. We designed the materials in this packet to help you respond during times of high nitrate levels in your water supply.

For copies of our publications, call (800) 521-0323 or visit the website at <<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/publications/publications.cfm>>

Get e-mail copies of new and revised publications. Sign up at <<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=wa-drinkingwaterpub&A=1>>

A few common sampling errors 'So when do you dump the chlorine in?'

Everyone who takes a basic waterworks course learns the importance of monitoring water quality. Instructors teach them how to take water samples



and the conditions under which they should sample. When they become operators, we give them a monitoring schedule that tells them what samples to take and when.

Usually, that system works well, but occasionally we see situations where an operator doesn't

understand or ignores the requirements, creating a potentially dangerous situation for customers.

For example, one former operator routinely disinfected the well before taking coliform samples. The situation came to light when the lab that received the samples returned them because they contained too much chlorine and notified the Office of Drinking Water.

Fortunately, scenarios such as this are rare, but mistakes happen, and when they do, public health is at risk.

Some other common sampling errors include putting the sample cap down on a surface where it can become contaminated while drawing the sample, or taking samples at inappropriate locations, such as:

- Frost-free yard taps, which can cross connect with water puddled below the weep hole.
- Kitchen taps without first removing the aerator. The aerator can contain food particles, which will contaminate the water sample.
- Dead-end lines without first flushing the line.

Utilities, ask yourselves how well you train your staff. Do they have access to easily understood materials to help ensure they follow proper sampling procedures?

Lab owners, are your technicians trained to watch for irregularities with water samples?

We all like to think that our drinking water is safe. Our sense of security is realistic when our staff is well-trained and alert.

Training and education calendar: September - December 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Cost/CEU</u>
Sept. 7	Intro to Water Rights/Watershed Planning & In-stream Flows	Friday Harbor	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Sept. 7	WAC Review	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Sept. 7-9	Water Distribution Manager Certification Exam Review	Olympia	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$225/\$275/2.2
Sept. 8	Confined Space Entry for Water/Wastewater /Utility Workers	Wenatchee	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Sept. 9	Bacteriological Sampling Basics for Small Systems	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.4
Sept. 10	IC & NIMS Training	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Sept. 10-17	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Sept. 13	IC & NIMS Training	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Sept. 13-14	Advanced Cross-Connection Control: Risk Assessment	Mt. Vernon	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Sept. 13-17	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Sept. 14-16	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$360/2.1
Sept. 15	Excavation Safety/ Competent Person Certification	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Sept. 20 - Oct. 23	Water Distribution (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$449/3 CR
Sept. 20 - Oct. 23	Pumps and Pumping Systems (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$449/3 CR
Sept. 20 - Oct. 23	Utility Worker Safety (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$449/3 CR
Sept. 21-22	Components of a Small Public Water System	Longview	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$210/\$235/1.4
Sept. 22	Cross-Connection Control Specialist Cert 1-Day Exam Review	Spokane	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Sept. 22	Advanced Math for Water Treatment Plant Operators	Issaquah	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$60/\$85/0.4
Sept. 22-23	Arithmetic for Operators of Water/Wastewater Systems	Longview	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Sept. 23	SEMS-Water/Wastewater Ops and Compl Reporting Made Easy	Bonney Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.4
Sept. 23-24	Competent Person for Cave-In Protection	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Sept. 24	Anatomy of a Public Drinking Water System	Moses Lake	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Sept. 29-30	Managing Water and Wastewater Systems Series	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$249/1.4
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Managing Water and Wastewater System Series	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$249/\$328/1.4
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Water Works Basics	Camas	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$325/2.1
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Fire Hydrants: Install, Test, Operate and Repair	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$279/1.4
Oct. 1	Managing Water and Wastewater Systems Series	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179-0.7
Oct. 4-8	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Oct. 5	Intro to Water Rights/Watershed Planning & In-stream Flows	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-5272-5981	\$110/135/0.7
Oct. 5	WAC Review	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Oct. 5-7	Operator Training Short School	Moses Lake	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$125/0.6/\$335/1.8
Oct. 5-7	Water Distribution Manager Certification Exam Review	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-562-0858	\$225/\$275/2.2
Oct. 6-8	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$325/2.1
Oct. 7	Advanced Control Valves	Wenatchee	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$85/0.7
Oct. 7-9	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$335/2.1
Oct. 11-15	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Oct. 12-14	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$360/2.1
Oct. 14	Excavation Safety/Competent Person Certification	Longview	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Oct. 15	Basic Electrical for Water/Wastewater Utilities	Friday Harbor	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.8
Oct. 19-20	Components of a Small Public Water System	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$210/\$235/1.4
Oct. 20	Small System Board Training	Longview	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$60/\$85/NA
Oct. 20-21	Fire Hydrants: Install, Test, Operate and Repair	Lacey	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$279/1.4
Oct. 21-22	Arithmetic for Operators of Water and Wastewater Systems	Spokane Valley	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Oct. 25	Anatomy of a SCADA Controlled Pump Station	Lacey	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Oct. 26-28	Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification Exam Review	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$225/\$275/2.1
Oct. 26-28	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Camas	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$325/2.1
Oct. 26 - Dec. 3	Disinfection and Chemical Feed Systems (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$449/3 CR
Oct. 26 - Dec. 3	Water Hydraulics (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$449/3 CR
Oct. 26 - Dec. 3	Water Regulations (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$325/2 CR
Oct. 26 - Dec. 3	Water Sources (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/1 CR

Training and education calendar: September - December 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Cost/CEU</u>
Oct. 26 - Dec. 3	Water Treatment 1 (online)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$449/3 CR
Oct. 27	Water Quality Complaints: Response, Investigation	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Oct. 29	SEMS-Water/Wastewater Ops and Compl Reporting Made Easy	Bellingham	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.4
Nov. 1-5	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Nov. 2-3	Components of a Small Public Water System	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$210/\$235/1.4
Nov. 2-4	Cross-Connection Control Specialist Certification Exam Review	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$225/\$275/2.1
Nov. 3	Intro to Water Rights/Watershed Planning & In-Stream Flows	Bremerton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Nov. 4-5	Advanced Cross-Connection Control: Risk Assessment	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Nov. 5	Sample Collection Techniques and Sampling Plans	Mt. Vernon	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Nov. 9	Interpreting Utility Maps and Drawings	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$80/\$105/0.5
Nov. 9-10	Advanced Backflow Assembly Test/Troubleshoot/Repair	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$305/2.1
Nov. 10	Cross-Connection Control Specialist Cert 1-Day Exam Review	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Nov. 10	Small System Board Training	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$60/\$85/NA
Nov. 12	Basic Electrical for Water/Wastewater Utilities	Bonney Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.8
Nov. 15-17	Basic Electrical	Mt. Vernon	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$335/2.1
Nov. 16	Managing a Public Water System	Omak	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Nov. 17	Cross-Connection Control Specialist Cert 1-Day Exam Review	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Nov. 17-19	Cross-Connection Control Basics and Exam Review	Lacey	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$335/2.1
Nov. 18	Advanced Control Valves	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$85/0.7
Nov. 18	Excavation Safety/Competent Person Certification	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Nov. 30	Anatomy of a Public Drinking Water System	Lacey	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2	Water Distribution Manager Certification Exam Review	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$225/\$275/2.2
Dec. 1-2	Arithmetic for Operators of Water/Wastewater Systems	Mt. Vernon	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Dec. 2	Introduction to Pumps	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Dec. 2	Water Distribution Specialist Certification Exam Review	Lacey	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Dec. 3	WAC Review	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Dec. 7-8	Components of a Small Public Water System	Mt. Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$210/\$235/1.4
Dec. 8	SEMS-Water/Wastewater Ops and Compl Reporting Made Easy	Goldendale	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.4
Dec. 8-9	Advanced Cross-Connection Control: Risk Assessment	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$259/1.4
Dec. 8-9	Fire Hydrants: Install, Test, Operate and Repair	Everett	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$279/1.4
Dec. 9	Anatomy of a Public Drinking Water System	Camas	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$179/0.7
Dec. 9	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Dec. 9	Excavation Safety/Competent Person Certification	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Dec. 13-17	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Dec. 13-17	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$675/3.7
Dec. 14	Confined Space Entry for Water/Wastewater/Utility Workers	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$110/\$135/0.7
Dec. 15-17	Water/Wastewater Disinfection	Lacey	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$325/2.1

Our training calendar is updated monthly; please visit the additional training links for current information.

For information about distance learning activities, call Certification Services, Green River Community College at (877) 780-2444, Ext. 3.

Additional Training Links:

AWWA King County Subsection website <<http://www.kcawwa.org/>>

ERWOW website <<http://www.erwow.org/>>

WETRC website <<http://www.wetrc.org/>>

AWWA Pacific Northwest Section website <<http://www.pnws-awwa.org/>>

EPA Drinking Water Academy <<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/>>
(No CEU assigned to these courses.)

Partnership for Water Conservation <<http://www.partners4water.org/>>

For the complete Training Calendar, visit the Drinking Water Homepage and click on Training - <<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>>

NOTE: Links to external resources are provided as a public service and do not imply endorsement by the Washington State Department of Health.

Backflow assembly tester exams changing January 2011

The practical exam for backflow assembly testers (BATs) will change January 1 to follow test procedures in the new **Manual of Cross Connection Control, 10th Edition**, published by the University of Southern California (USC). The change affects both the initial certification and the professional growth exams.

Test procedures will not change for certified BATs who take their professional growth exam between now and December 31, 2010. Practical exams will follow USC's 9th edition test procedures until the end of the year.

Exam applicants may still use their own test kit if they provide the exam proctor with current verification of accuracy.

We directed Washington Certification Services to implement these changes to the BAT practical exam. Certification Services already notified all BATs certified in Washington about the changes.

BAT Exam Preparation

Training is not required to apply for a BAT exam. However, if you plan to enroll in BAT training to prepare for an exam in 2011, you should contact the training sponsor to make sure the course covers the new 10th edition test procedures. We notified all of Washington's major BAT training sponsors that the test procedures used to administer state BAT exams will change on January 1, 2011.

For more information

You can purchase the 10th edition of USC's manual online from Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research at <<http://www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr/>>

If you have questions about BAT exams, call Washington Certification Services at (253) 288-3357 or toll-free (877) 780-2444.

Flood!... (Continued from Page 5)

If your distribution system floods

- Monitor chlorine residuals and system pressure as soon as you can safely gain access to the system and its control facilities.
- If the system loses pressure at any time while the area is flooded, advise residents to bring their drinking water to a rolling boil for one minute to kill disease-causing bacteria and parasites. Collect coliform samples throughout the flooded area and let your customers know when the water is safe to drink.
- If you are monitoring chlorine levels and notice a drop in the residual while the area is flooded, advise residents to bring their drinking water to a rolling boil for one minute. Collect coliform samples throughout the flooded area, especially in the area where chlorine is low.
- Even if you don't believe your system flooded, plan to collect extra coliform samples.
- Contact the Office of Drinking Water anytime you advise customers to boil their water, or when water test results show fecal coliform bacteria is present.

Communicate with your customers

- Your customers' perception of risk during a flood may be high. They need timely and accurate information about the quality of their drinking water.
- Not all customers experience the same flooding conditions. Some may feel a direct threat from floodwaters while others do not. It's important to know your water quality and communicate to all customers.
- Be conservative and informative, not sorry later on! Make sure your customers have the information they need to make good drinking water decisions.

Where to go for help

Call our regional office or visit us online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/dwflood.htm>

Eastern Region, Spokane Valley (509) 329-2100

Northwest Region, Kent (253) 395-6750

Southwest Region, Tumwater (360) 236-3030

After hours and weekends (877) 481-4901

You can also call your local health or emergency management agency. Contact information is online at <<http://access.wa.gov/emergency/index.aspx>>

To Do List!

- ✓ Renew operator certification by Dec. 31st
- ✓ Take required samples by Dec. 31st -
See story below
- ✓ BAT exam format changes Jan. 1st -
See page 11

Visit the Office of Drinking Water online
at <<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>>



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The End is Near... chemical monitoring

December 31 marks the end of the current annual, three-year and nine-year compliance periods for chemical monitoring. If your system is scheduled to collect samples this year, don't wait until it's too late. If you do not collect the required number and types of samples, your system will have a monitoring violation.

To ensure you are in compliance, **compare the requirements in the table in Part 4 of your Water Quality Monitoring Report (WQMR*) to the samples you've already collected.** If a sample is required before the end of the year and you haven't yet collected it, you need to do so before the end of 2010. For ALL Group A systems, make sure you have collected a sample for nitrate analysis from each active permanent and seasonal source.

Where should you collect chemical source samples? All **chemical source samples should be collected after treatment but prior to the first distribution connection.** Remember to include your water system ID and source number on your laboratory paperwork. If you have questions about your monitoring requirements, call our regional office. See phone numbers at bottom of page 11.

*Only Group A community and nontransient noncommunity systems receive a WQMR.

In This Issue

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