

# Safe Drinking Water Act for Tribal Systems

## Description:

This Training is based on the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for tribal water systems aiming to educate tribal leaders, water operators, and other stakeholders about the law's requirements, its application to tribal systems, and the steps needed to ensure compliance with water quality standards. The training is designed to build the capacity of tribal communities to manage and maintain safe drinking water systems.

## Participants will learn:

- The history and importance of the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Basic responsibilities of a water system under the SDWA
- Sampling, record keeping, and public notification
- Types of waterborne disease and contaminants

We will be using the Go To Training (GTT) virtual platform to present this workshop. Attendees will participate through pre and post-tests, polls and interactive exercises.

## Schedule

9:00 – 9:10 Introductions

9:10 – 9:20 Pre-Test

9:20 – 10:00 Safe Drinking Water Act history and inception

10:00 – 10:45 Types of waterborne disease and contaminants

10:45 – 11:45 Basic responsibilities of a board/system under SDWA

11:45 -12:00 Post Test

**Zach Sorensen**  
**Tribal Drinking Water Consultant I**

**Portland, OR**

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### **Skills**

- Water distribution
- Wastewater collection
- Technical support and assistance
- Utility installation and maintenance management

### **Experience**

Zach Sorensen joined RCAC in October 2024. As a Tribal Drinking Water Consultant he provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to small, disadvantaged Indigenous community water and wastewater systems so they can operate sustainably and deliver quality services to the communities served. Mr. Sorensen works closely with Indigenous residents and local leaders to assist them to develop and manage water, wastewater, or solid waste systems. Additionally, he prepares and delivers classroom and individual trainings as needed to build the capacity of local partners.

Prior to joining RCAC, Zach spent 12 years working for 3 different municipalities in their water and wastewater departments as a utility worker. In this position he helped to install and maintain both water and wastewater infrastructure. In these positions, he fixed and installed new mains, service lines, fire hydrants, meters, and backflow devices, as well as maintained wells, pumps, and water storage facilities.