

General Session

Traffic Safety/Stop the Bleed

(Sara Litkie, Injury Prevention Coordinator / Legacy Health Trauma Department)

This engaging presentation will provide a condensed version of the traffic safety class offered at Legacy Health. Participants will explore the leading causes of fatal crashes, local crash statistics, seat belt use, distracted driving, speeding, and practical ways to become a safer driver. The presentation will also include a condensed version of the Stop the Bleed class offered by Legacy Health. Participants will learn three simple steps to control life-threatening bleeding and provide critical assistance until first responders arrive.

Collection Systems

(All Sessions are in Alphabetical Order)

All Things Sewer Roundtable (Jeff Farschon, City of Medford)

Open discussion on challenges that Sanitary Sewer Workers encounter daily. Combination Machine and Jetter Truck Operators face several problems daily, from roots and grease to manholes you can't get a truck to. We will cover solutions for tackling these issues.

Best Practices for CCTV Inspection (Chris Young, SWS Equipment)

Learn about best practices when performing pipeline inspections. This class will cover safety procedures, inspection technologies, how to increase efficiency, and methods to maximize the life of inspection equipment.

Decarbonizing the Flow (Terrance Romaine, Clackamas Water Environment Services)

Carbon Management Strategies in Wastewater Collection & Resource Recovery - outlines the modern paradigm shift from traditional wastewater treatment to operating Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRF). The ultimate goal of this transition is to achieve Net Zero emissions by implementing circular economy principles, with key focus areas including energy neutrality, nutrient recovery, and greenhouse gas mitigation.

Illegal Connections and Illicit Discharge Detection (Jeff Farschon, City of Medford)

This session will cover ways to detect illegal connections (Sewer-to-Storm System) and identify Illicit Discharges. Sanitary sewer collection system maintenance crews need to be aware of the possibility/probability of these connections and discharges occurring in the infrastructure they maintain.

Lessons Learned: Long-term Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities

(Zoe Schroeder, Bureau of Environmental Services - City of Portland, OR)

In this presentation, I will share a few of the lessons learned when it comes to maintaining stormwater facilities to help give the audience a view of stormwater management through the lens of maintenance staff. I will give a brief overview of our operations and maintenance stormwater program, show photos and give examples of the work we do every day, and then share some special projects and challenges we experience out in the field.

Navigating an Environmental Criminal Investigation

(Cassandra Bantz & Patrick Aitchison, Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Justice-Environmental & Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit)

This course provides an overview of environmental crimes investigations. Speakers will explain the referral process, how referrals develop into formal investigations, and what an environmental crimes investigation typically looks like from start to finish.

Pre-trip Inspection and Load Securement (AJ Collins, Jackson County Roads)

As operators maintaining sanitary sewer systems, we need to be able to respond safely while transporting our equipment. In this session, we will review essential, mandatory processes for drivers to check their truck and trailer daily before driving, ensuring the equipment is in good operating condition, and the load is properly secured in accordance with FMCSA rules.

Safe Hydro-Excavator Operation Practices (Chris Young, SWS Equipment)

This course will prepare attendees to perform hydro-excavations properly and safely. Operators will learn how to dig properly around sanitary sewer and stormwater utilities with proper digging wand techniques and pressure control. Additional discussions will revolve around vacuum safety, personal protective equipment, overhead safety, fall protection, and emergency preparedness. This session will also emphasize OSHA requirements for trench safety and confined space entry requirements.

Safety-At-Heights Fall Protection (Greg McDonald, Ritz safety, LLC)

Fundamentals of safety-at-heights fall protection, regulations, fall hazard control methods, physics of a fall, Anchor points, Identifying and selection of equipment, building systems-work positioning, restraint & personal fall arrest, calculating fall distances, suspension trauma & rescue requirements and equipment inspections.

Sewer Cleaning Nozzles 101 (Chris Young, SWS Equipment)

Join this session as we cover sanitary sewer or stormwater pipe cleaning basics and safety. Students will learn the basic nozzle construction and jets and how to select the proper nozzle for the application.

Sewage Pump Station Upgrades and Rehabilitation

(Robert Skinner, Clackamas Water Environment Service)

Come learn about bringing aging sewage pump stations in to the 21st century. We will discuss the challenges that come along with these important upgrades and roadblocks that may be faced. We will also discuss the importance of ensuring Engineering and O&M work collaboratively from design to construction and creating standards around these Capital Projects for future work.

Sonetics: How to get the most out of them (Dan Nelson, Owen Equipment)

Introduction to Sonetics and how they work. Learn operating functions of the sonetics headsets and how to get the most out of them. Learn how the comhub works and how to get the most out of it. Troubleshooting and updating firmware for headsets and comhub. Go over accessories and how they can help improve Sonetics use.

Traffic Control for Sanitary Sewer Operations (Tim Zacha, City of Medford Public Works)

Traffic Control for Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Operations. We will discuss proper traffic control as outlined in the MUTCD and the Oregon Orange Book. We will have a couple of workshops where we will design and evaluate Traffic Control Plans.

Understanding Inflow & Infiltration-Manhole Inspection (Jim Brown, True North Equipment)

This class covers the differences between Infiltration and Inflow, where to find it, and different methods of correction. It also introduces manhole inspection methods and coding.

Updating Our Wastewater Pipe and Manhole Rehabilitation Approach

(Andy Bachman, Water Environment Services)

Water Environment Services (WES) owns and operates more than 350 miles of wastewater pipe and has begun allocating an annual budget within the Capital Improvement Plan earmarked for rehabilitation of existing assets in the collection system. To efficiently make use of funding, WES has developed an approach to identify and rehabilitate wastewater infrastructure by utilizing GIS mapping, standard asset scoring, and in-house specifications and drawing templates. WES is completing construction of a CIPP lining package that includes approximately 9400 linear feet of sanitary sewer in summer 2026. WES is also in the process of updating specifications, drawing templates, and performing an inflow and infiltration study in a high peaking portion of the collection system to improve future projects. This presentation will provide an overview of the rehabilitation work to date, lessons learned from previous design and construction, and next steps to continue an improved rehabilitation approach.

Using Artificial Intelligence in Sewer Inspections and Coding

(Jim Brown, True North Equipment)

This session introduces artificial intelligence software and the methods used to develop it. Also discuss where it is being used, the benefits and estimated costs of AI software.

Wastewater Operator Certification Basics (Kimi Grzyb, DEQ)

This presentation will provide an overview of DEQ's Wastewater Operator Certification program, including how to become certified and renew current certifications. We will also discuss reciprocity, Designated Supervisory Operators, and offer an opportunity for questions and/or program feedback.

WES Strategies to Extend Sewer Service Eastward

(Andy Bachman, Water Environment Services)

Clackamas County WES previously developed a Sanitary Sewer Master Plan (SSMP) to identify immediate needs in the sanitary sewer system and develop a corresponding set of capital improvement opportunities that WES can implement through the year 2040. WES recently developed an addendum to the SSMP. The presentation will include an overview of the following: summary of the existing SSMP, scoping and procuring modeling and engineering services, studying areas outside the SSMP, developing alternatives analysis and conceptual design, communications with the public and other municipalities, and next steps once planning is concluded. Issues evaluated include balancing gravity sewer and pump station/forcemain within the conceptual design, planning within the Urban Growth Boundary/Rural Reserves, and navigating ADA compliance with final documentation.

Street Maintenance Session

(All Sessions are in Alphabetical Order)

Hearing Conservation (Michael Eastman, ODOT - T2)

We will look at the anatomy of hearing to enhance understanding of the effects of noise exposure. We will review OR-OSHA requirements for hearing protection, as well as testing, and methods of protecting and preserving hearing.

Best Paving Practices (Dave Minor, PBOT & Lindsay Hammond, Terracon)

Successful pavement programs depend on strong coordination between engineering and operations from planning through final compaction. This session, presented by the APWA Oregon Chapter Op/Engine Committee, highlights practical paving practices that align design intent with field execution. Drawing from real-world experience, it covers treatment selection, base repair sequencing, preventive maintenance, and critical construction practices that improve pavement performance, extend service life, and protect public investment.

Pavement Markings - New Federal Retro Requirements, Recommended Approaches, and ODOT's QPL System (Frank Belleque & Dean Chess, Oregon Department of Transportation)

We will cover the federal retro reflectivity requirements that came into effect this year. This will include what the retro requirement is and some of the recommended methods to maintain that standard. We will also go over the updates ODOT has made to its qualified product system.

RS-4 Environmental BMPs 1 (Patty Caswell, Will Lackey, ODOT)

This is a required core class for those in the Roads Scholar Level 1 program. The class provides an overview of Best Management Practices available to minimize the impact of maintenance activities on water quality.

RS-5 Asphalt Pavement Maintenance 1 (Tony Jobanek, Oregon T2 Center)

This is a required core class for those in the Roads Scholar Level 1 program. Provides an understanding of what goes into the construction and maintenance of a good road. Covers traffic, road geometrics, drainage, materials, and pavements.

RS-6 Asphalt Pavement Maintenance 2 (Tony Jobanek, Oregon T2 Center)

This is a required core class for those in the Roads Scholar Level 1 program. Reviews the types of asphalt pavements and the causes of pavement distress. Presents preventive maintenance alternatives, including fog, slurry, and chip seals.

RS-15 Roadway Safety Fundamentals 2 (Tony Jobanek, Oregon T2 Center)

This is a required core class for those in the Roads Scholar Level 2 program. Safety topics in this session include: bicycle facilities, railroad crossings, parking, traffic calming, clear zones and sight distance, drainage features, roadside barriers, and road surface and pavement management.

What's Wrong with this Sign? (Michael Eastman, ODOT - T2)

Students will identify real world errors of installation, maintenance and use of traffic control devices, including work zone traffic control, flagging, and placement and use of traffic control devices of all kinds. The class includes extensive discussion of best practices and the hazards of poor practices.