



Rocky Mountain Water
Environment Association
Elevating Water Professionals

RMWEA Operator Training WEFMAX.21 Pacific NW CWA



Who We Are



- Serving Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming
- About 1,400 members
- ~17,000 operators
 - 15,686 certified in Colorado



Rocky Mountain Water
Environment Association
Elevating Water Professionals

Operator Training Require



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Colorado Certified

Colorado Certified Water Professionals

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Water Quality

WATER QUALITY

> Water and Waste Advisory Board

• Groundwater

• WYPDES

• Watershed Protection

• Water & Wastewater

> CAFOS

> Operator Certification

> Permitting

> Source Water Wellhead Protection

> State Revolving Loan Fund

> Subdivision Review

PROGRAM RESOURCES

> 1. Login

> Become an Operator

> Documents

> Exam Study Materials

> Schedule an Exam

> Search For Information

> Training Opportunities

DEQ / Water Quality / Water & Wastewater

Operator Certification

Wyoming's certified operators protect public health by providing safe drinking water. They protect the environment by cleaning up our wastewater before releasing it. They also protect the investment Wyoming's taxpayers have made in our water and wastewater infrastructure by operating facilities correctly. The Wyoming Operator Certification Program ensures that operators obtain the correct training to become certified, keep their certifications current, and also requires that facilities are operated by correctly certified operators.

Governor Gordon proclaims February 1st through 7th, 2021 as Wyoming Professional Water and Wastewater Operator Week. [Read the proclamation!](#)

[New Login Process Is Here!](#) Review these simple instructions to help you navigate the new process and set up your new, easier-for-you login!

Hundreds of in-person, online, correspondence and virtual trainings are available for you! New trainings are added frequently, so check back often!

- Find scheduled [In-person Training](#), or
- Browse [Upcoming Webinars](#), or
- Search for an [approved training](#) listed by training type (core or rule), provider, or title!

Emergency Contact Information:

Wyoming DEQ is coordinating with the following entities to cover any operator shortages that may arise due to COVID-19. For information about the current COVID-19 virus status in Wyoming, please visit the Wyoming Department of Health's [COVID-19 website](#), or the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) [website](#).

- EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program: [Contacts and Rule Managers](#) Phone 1-800-227-8917 | After-hours Phone Line: 303-312-6327 | email: r8dww@epa.gov
- Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems ([WARWS Contacts](#))
- Wyoming Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network ([WYOWARN](#))

For more information on how to become a Wyoming certified operator, including directions on

Important Operator NEWS & Updates HERE!

KEY INFO for OPERATORS...



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Operator Training Requirements - Colorado

License renewal requirements (every 3 years):

- Class A – 30 hours
- Class B – 24 hours
- Class C – 18 hours
- Class D – 12 hours

Training Unit Categories

- Water
- Wastewater
- Industrial Wastewater
- Collection
- Distribution
- Supplemental
- Regulatory – 1 contact hour required each time

license is renewed



Wastewater treatment plant operators remove pollutants from domestic or industrial waste.

Used water, also known as wastewater, is treated and either returned to streams, rivers and oceans, or used for irrigation. Operators operate equipment to purify and clarify the water or dispose of sewage. They clean and maintain equipment, tanks, filter beds and other work areas.

Classes (levels) of Colorado domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facility operators:

- Wastewater Treatment Class D - entry level
- Wastewater Treatment Class C
- Wastewater Treatment Class B
- Wastewater Treatment Class A - most advanced
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment D - entry level
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment C
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment B
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment A - most advanced

Wastewater collection operators maintain and repair wastewater collection systems.

Operators ensure public health and safety by preventing and/or responding to sewage overflows and blockages. They inspect, clean, maintain, construct and repair the wastewater collection systems including sanitary sewers, storm drains, pump stations, pipes, manholes and catch basins.

Classes (levels) of Colorado wastewater collection system operators:

- Collection Class 1 - entry level
- Collection Class 2
- Collection Class 3
- Collection Class 4 - most advanced level



Operator Training Requirements – New Mexico

Certificate renewal requirements (every 3 years):

- Water Sampling
- Small Water / Advanced
- Water Supply
- Distribution Systems
- Small Wastewater / Advanced
- Wastewater
- Wastewater Lab
- Collection Systems

WASTEWATER			
Wastewater Certifications	Examination Application Fee	Experience Required (Years)	Training Credits Required
Small Wastewater (SWW)	\$25	1	10
Adv. Small Wastewater (SWWA)	\$25	1	10
Wastewater Level 1 (WW1)	\$30	1	10
Wastewater Level 2 (WW2)	\$30	2	30
Wastewater Level 3 (WW3)	\$30	4	50
Wastewater Level 4 (WW4)	\$30	1 year as WW3	80
Wastewater Lab Tech 1 (WWLT1)	\$25	1	10
Wastewater Lab Tech 2 (WWLT2)	\$30	2	30
Wastewater Lab Tech 3 (WWLT3)	\$30	4	50
Collection Systems 1 (CS1)	\$30	1	10
Collection Systems 2 (CS2)	\$30	2	30

Operator Training Requirements – Wyoming

- Certificate renewal requirements every 3 years
- 24 hours required
 - 8 in Core topics
 - 2 in Rules training
 - 14 in Non-core areas
- Core (just a few listed)
 - Backflow prevention
 - Emergency response
 - Instrumentation/SCADA
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant O&M
 - Collection System O&M
- Rule (just a few listed)
 - SDWA
 - CWA
 - Regulatory updates
- 1 CEU = 10 hours of training

CERTIFICATE NAME Operators must live in or work in the State of Wyoming. The equivalent of a High School Education (HSE) is required for all certifications.	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT (Based on a 40-hour week)	TRAINING REQUIREMENT (Lifetime total of training hours)
Small Systems Certifications Well System (small water systems with wells and distribution systems) Lagoon System (small wastewater systems with sewer systems and lagoons)	6 months of Well System 6 months of Lagoon System	35 hrs in Water 35 hrs in Wastewater
Water Treatment Plant Certifications (surface water treatment plants) Level 1 Water Treatment Plant (also covers Level 1 Distribution Systems) Level 2 Water Treatment Plant Level 3 Water Treatment Plant Level 4 Water Treatment Plant	6 months of Water 1 year of Water 2 yrs, 1 at Class 2 plant or higher 3 yrs, 2 at Class 3 plant or higher	35 hrs in Water 70 hrs in Water 300 hrs in Water 400 hrs in Water
Wastewater Treatment Plant Certifications (mechanical plants and activated sludge) Level 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant (also covers Level 1 Collection Systems) Level 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Level 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Level 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant	6 months of Wastewater 1 year of Wastewater 2 yrs, 1 at Class 2 plant or higher 3 yrs, 2 at Class 3 plant or higher	35 hrs in Wastewater 70 hrs in Wastewater 300 hrs in Wastewater 400 hrs in Wastewater
Distribution Systems Level 1 Distribution Systems (covers ONLY Level 1 Distribution systems) Level 2 Distribution Systems	6 months of Distribution 1 year of Distribution	35 hrs in Distribution 70 hrs in Distribution
Collection Systems Level 1 Collection Systems (covers ONLY Level 1 Collection systems) Level 2 Collection Systems	6 months of Collection 1 year of Collection	35 hrs in Collection 70 hrs in Collection



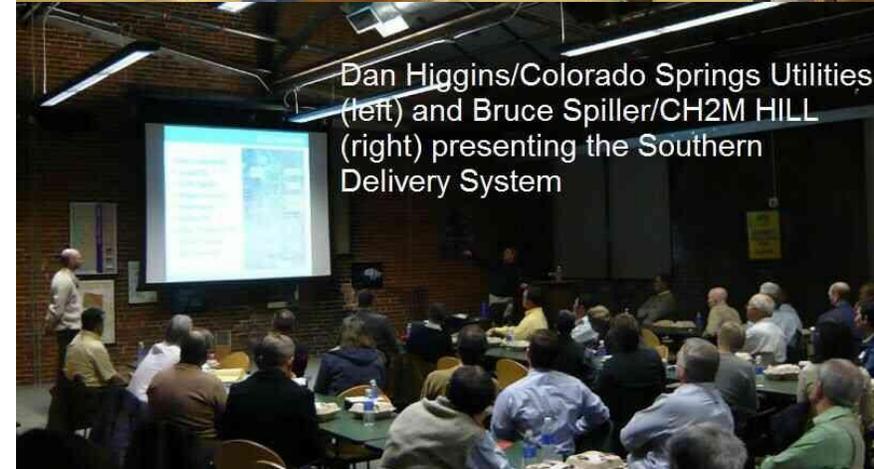
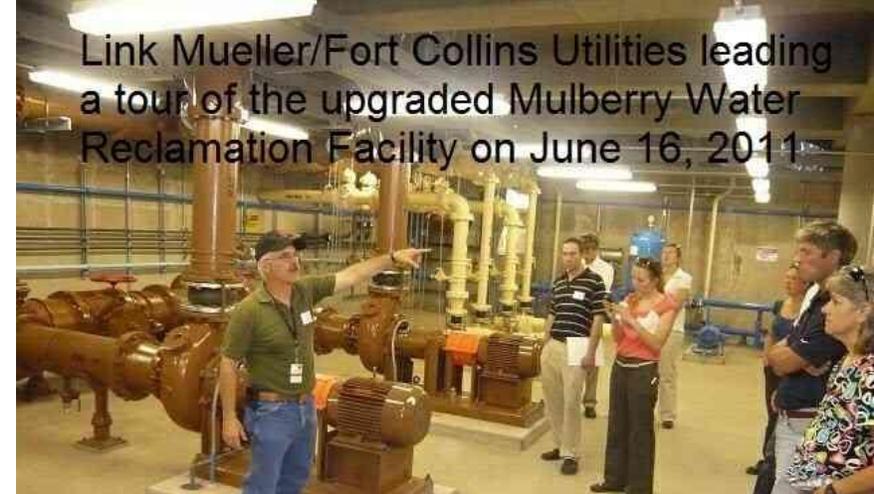
Operator Training Opportunities

Opportunity	Platform	Frequency	Duration	Cost Impact
Technical Advisory Committee	Typically In-Person Currently Virtual	Monthly	Luncheon	\$
Professional Wastewater Operator (PWO) Seminars	Typically In-Person Currently Virtual		One-Day	\$\$
Operator Schools	In-Person	3 schools held annually		\$\$\$
Annual Conference	Typically In-Person Currently Virtual	Annually	3 days, one full day operator focused	\$\$\$
New Mexico Water Conference	In-Person	Annually	2 days	\$\$\$
Committee Events	Typically In-Person Currently Virtual	Few times a year	½ day – full day	\$
Electronic Training	Virtual			\$



Technical Advisory Committee

- Lunch events
- Usually focused on specific topic
- Location – specific to presentation subject
- Followed by a tour
- Training units not always available but very informative sessions
- Excellent networking opportunity
- Attended by cross-sectional groups of people (operators, engineers, vendors, academia)



PWO Seminars

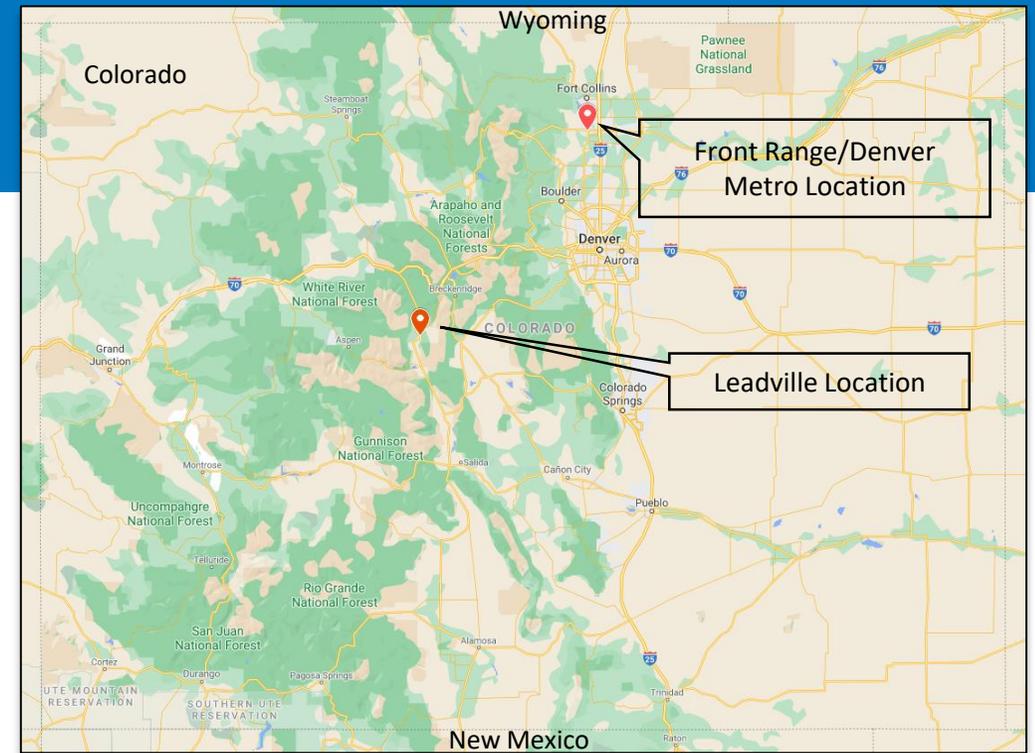


- One day seminars spread throughout the year at different physical locations
 - Established annual locations: Englewood, Vail, Estes Park, Greeley
 - Random locations: Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Durango, Albuquerque
- Focused on current topics including regional
- Usually two free seminars each year
- Invited speakers
- Focused on getting 5 to 7 credit hours applicable for Operator License renewal
- Attended by operators



Operator Schools

- Week- long schools started in 1980s focusing on exam preparation
- Exam sessions scheduled at the end of the weeks (same location)
- Denver Metro - beginners, intermediate and advanced schools
- Leadville School – mountain focus – attractive opportunity for speakers and students at 11,200 feet
- Low cost \$400 per week
- Great networking opportunity
- Extra events: operator help nights, toilet bowl trivia night, steak night



Leadville Operator School



Annual Conference



- Regular technical 3-day multiple tracks with training units available and posted
- Special operator focused track
 - Usually one full day
 - Regulatory class (required since 2019)



Committee Events

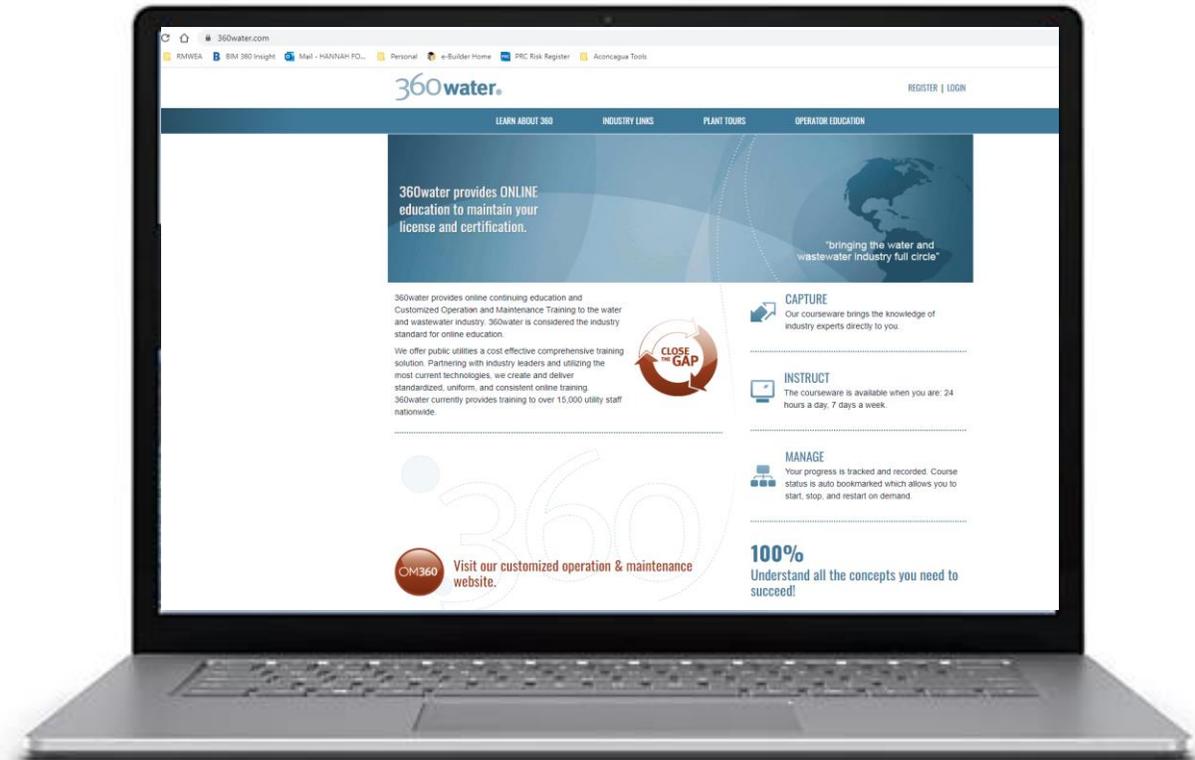
- Innovative Water Technology
 - Focused on new technologies and solutions
 - Actual solutions and pilots highlighted (tours prior to pandemic)
- Biosolids
 - Annual Biosolids Seminar
 - Biosolids Land Appliers certification
- Collection Systems
 - One day seminars
 - Outdoor equipment exhibit (prior to pandemic)



INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE



Electronic Training



- 360 Water – not as popular as the other events
- Used mostly by operators in need of last-minute training units



Takeaways

- Multiple physical locations to serve our members
- Short and long training opportunities
- Basic to advanced topics to fit various needs
- Range of costs, some free
- Some paid presenters, most volunteers



THANK YOU!



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