

Speaker Biographies and Abstracts



Presentation Title: A Guide to Assist You in Amending Your Water and Wastewater Confined Space Entry Procedures

Presented by: Ken Blair – WorkSafe BC

Ken Blair joined WorkSafeBC as an occupational safety officer in 2007. From his base in the Prince George office, Ken has spent the majority of his time inspecting industries throughout B.C.'s central interior. Since 2016, he has been inspecting workplaces around the province as part of the confined space inspection team.

Abstract:

Confined space procedures and protocols are required for water and wastewater facilities. This session from WorkSafe BC will provide information on confined space requirements and changes, and guide you through the practical steps needed to help make your amendments fit the requirements.



Presentation Title: The Latest in Sampling and Analysis Equipment for Water and Wastewater Operators

Presented by: Jeff Spencer – BI PureWater PG

Jeff Spencer, B.Sc., is the Sales Manager (Technical Sales) for BI Pure Water. BI Pure Water is a BC manufacturer that has been providing custom water and waste treatment systems to BC communities for more than 20 years, with hundreds of systems in Western and northern Canada.

Abstract:

Sampling and analysis procedures and the latest in equipment will be the focus of this session. Operators will get instruction on sampling procedures and on how to use handheld and online monitoring equipment. Examples of equipment will be provided to allow operators the opportunity to see and use the latest in equipment that is available.



Presentation Title: Hydrant Troubleshooting, Maintenance and Teardown

Presented by: Joel Sansome – Mueller

With 28 years in the waterworks industry, working at wholesalers, contractors and now at Mueller, Joel has a variety of experience with selling, installing and repairing fire hydrants and other watermain components.

Abstract:

In this interactive session, operators will examine hydrant maintenance, teardown, and assembly. This course – while based on the Canada Valve Century hydrant – goes through the history of, and basic differences in hydrant types and general maintenance of all fire hydrants.



Presentation Title: Water and Wastewater System Pump Troubleshooting, Maintenance and Teardown
Presented by: Neil Thompson – Xylem Inc.

Neil has extensive experience in the maintenance, repair, start-up and troubleshooting of submersible pumps, mixers and controls. He began his career at the Vancouver branch in 1989 and has seen the transition from ITT Corporation to Xylem. With more than thirty years of service, Neil is one of the leading sources of Flygt knowledge in Canada. He is now serving as Shop Foreman of Xylem Canada's Vancouver Branch and helps to support BC and other Canadian branches.

Abstract:

This session will provide operators with hands on instruction on Flygt pumps for both water and wastewater systems. Xylem will be providing pump examples that are common to the region and delivering hands on instruction for maintenance and repair as well as troubleshooting techniques.



Presentation Title: Pressure Reducing and Control Valve Maintenance and Trouble Shooting
Presented by: Jerry Ponikvar – Singer Valve

Jerry Ponikvar is the Canadian Regional Sales Manager for Singer Valve, a Mueller brand. Jerry has over 25 years' experience in the water and wastewater industry designing, building and commissioning water treatment and filtration systems for industrial and municipal applications. He is currently a registered Professional Engineer in Ontario and graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He later studied at the University of Toronto and received his Master's degree in Business Administration. Over the past two years, Jerry has conducted Control Valve training seminars to Engineers and Operators across Canada.

Abstract:

This session will provide operators with hands on instruction on pressure reducing and control valve assemblies. Mueller will provide information on maintenance, repair and troubleshooting. Operators will have the opportunity to work on valve assemblies to learn more on maintenance and troubleshooting techniques.