



PRETREATMENT COMMUNICATOR

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COORDINATORS DESK

Dawn Templin
FDEP Pretreatment Coordinator

We were pleased to see a number of pretreatment programs represented at the November FIPA meeting held in Orlando. As always, pretreatment programs are encouraged to attend the FIPA meetings. These meetings give pretreatment personnel an opportunity to exchange knowledge and discuss current pretreatment issues.

The Department is still working on revisions to Chapter 62-625, F.A.C., and is close to completing the draft Rule, so stay tuned. Also, the Department has a new pretreatment program engineer, **Celina Dozier**. I am sure you will be meeting her on inspections shortly. Please welcome her when you meet her. The Department would like to congratulate St. Johns County Utilities for winning first place in EPA's Clean Water Act Awards for pretreatment programs with 0-5 SIUs. EPA presented the award to St. Johns County at their December 2 Board of County Commissioners meeting.

As mentioned at the November 7 FIPA meeting, the Department has noticed that some control authority inspection and sampling events are not being conducted in accordance with the pretreatment rule. Rule 62-625.500(2)(b)5, F.A.C., requires that inspections and sampling be conducted at least once every twelve months. If the time between inspections is longer than 12 months, the Department may take enforcement against the program. If there are circumstances beyond the control of the pretreatment program and an inspection is not conducted at least every twelve months, please contact the Department to discuss your situation.

We hope that you all have a great holiday season.



ST. JOHNS CO. UTILITIES CLEANS UP WITH EPA AWARD

The St. Johns County Utilities (SJCU) Pretreatment Department won first place, nationally and regionally, in the Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 National Clean Water Act Award for Pretreatment Program Excellence. The Pretreatment Department was recognized for going above and beyond basic requirements. The program was considered for its proactive steps taken to maintain compliance with local, state and national regulations. Violations and wastewater system upsets relating to pretreatment are minimal. The utility's fats, oils and greases (FOG) program was cited as exemplary with no FOG related overflows reported in the system since program implementation. In addition, the department's education and pollution prevention programs have proven very effective in helping customers maintain compliance. The St. Johns County Utilities Pretreatment Department has produced exceptional results that merit national recognition. Congratulations to **Linda Fielder**, Pretreatment Specialist, and **Stacy Kowlsen**, Environmental Coordinator on a job well done!



Bill Young, Stacy Kowlsen, and Linda Fielder of SJCU receive the Clean Water Act Award from Wayne Aronson of the EPA.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Spring 2009 FIPA A,B,C IP Voluntary Cert. Course
 Spring 2009 FIPA FOG Voluntary Cert. Course
 Spring 2009 FIPA Workshop
 March 25-27 NACWA Pretreatment & P2 Workshop
<http://www.nacwa.org/>
 April 7&8 TREEO/FDEP Sampling SOP Training
<http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/course.aspx?p=14&c=2314>
 July 14-16 CWAC Local Limits Training
<http://www.cwaconsultingservices.com/Training.htm>

West Coast, TBD
 West Coast, TBD
 West Coast, TBD
 Charlotte, NC
 Gainesville
 Orlando



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Mathis
 FIPA President

HELP!



We are truly living in complex times to say the very least. The economy is in the can. Businesses are folding. Retailers are scaling back. Congress is contemplating more corporate bailouts.

Where and when does it end? That is hard to know. But, our future is not all gloom and doom. When things are tough people get creative. In a way our problems are opportunities waiting for creative solutions. Please let me share a couple of opportunities that you have to help improve our association.

In order to put on well attended workshops we need pertinent and timely topics, knowledgeable, interesting presenters, comfortable facilities and good food. We strive to meet these objectives while keeping expenses in perspective.

FIPA is very fortunate to be able to offset workshop expenses through sponsor donations. However, it is very likely that FIPA is competing with other organizations for these sponsors. If we are to retain the sponsors that we have we must do a better job managing them. This is an area in which we need your help! We are scouting for a Sponsorship Coordinator among association members that can focus on better managing our sponsors.

Sponsorship Coordinator Attributes:

The FIPA Sponsorship Coordinator has a pleasant personality, possesses marketing, communication and organizational skills and is not bashful about recruiting and asking sponsors for money. Sponsorship Coordinator duties involve the never ending expansion of our pool of sponsors, becoming familiar with sponsor products and services, coordinating sponsor

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LOOKING FOR AN EASY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION?

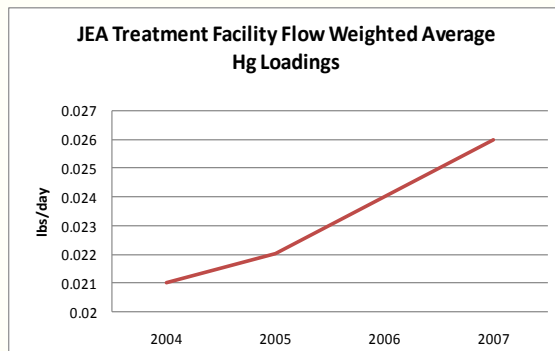
Resolve to renew your FIPA membership early this year. Once you have registered and paid your dues, you are done. No diet, no exercise, no being a kinder person for 365 days!

Annual dues are \$30 and cover the calendar year from January through December 2009. So the earlier you register, the more value you receive from your membership. Look for the 2009 renewal notices in January.

MERCURY RISING

Dan Parnell, JEA

For the past 4 years JEA water reclamation facilities have seen a steady increase in mercury (Hg) loadings.



Since the 1980's, manufacturers have worked to engineer Hg out of processes and products, so an increase in this toxic metal was puzzling. Two potential sources of Hg are the medical and dental fields. Hospital use Hg in reagents, vaccines, and in monitoring equipment. JEA previously worked with local hospitals to minimize Hg laden waste streams
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FLORIDA: NATIONAL LEADER IN PRETREATMENT

Florida has had 4 Clean Water Act Pretreatment award recipients! Three of these in the last four years:

2008 – St. Johns County Utilities

2007 – JEA

2005 – Broward County

1991 – St. Petersburg

(Mercury, Continued from page 2)

and was confident that medical facilities had proper controls. This left dental offices as a source to investigate.

Mercury in dental offices

Hg is a major constituent of amalgam, the most economical and commonly used restorative material. Zinc, silver, copper, and tin are other metals common in amalgam. At one time, dentist mixed their own amalgam using Hg, but modern practices use pre-made amalgam capsules that can be matched to the size of the cavity to be filled. This eliminates the need to store elemental Hg and reduces waste amalgam.

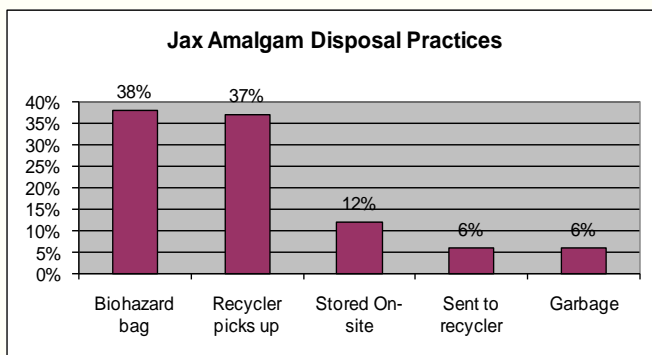
Removing amalgam from the waste stream

Dentists rely on a vacuum system to conduct their work. To prevent damage to the vacuum pump, these systems are equipped with technologies that capture amalgam. The chair side trap and vacuum filter are necessary components of any vacuum system and remove 81% of amalgam in the waste stream. Dentist can further increase removal rates up to 95% by installing an amalgam separator.

Disposing of amalgam

To find out what local dentist did with the trapped amalgam, JEA surveyed approximately 200 offices. The survey results are summarized in the chart below. Almost 40% of the offices placed amalgam in biohazard "red bags" which are typically incinerated introducing the mercury into the atmosphere. About the same percent of dentist had a recycling company pick up the mercury. Further investigation found no companies in Jacksonville

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FIPA HELPS CLEAR THE FOG

FIPA is growing its voluntary certification course offerings. In addition to the traditional Industrial Pretreatment A,B, and C certifications, a FOG voluntary certification course will be offered in 2009. The FOG course will be developed by national IP and FOG instructor John Parnell of Pretreatment Solutions, Inc.

Course topics include:

- CMOM basics
- Collection systems and maintenance
- FOG generation
- Characteristics of fats, oils, and grease
- FOG control devices
- Developing FOG programs
- Monitoring FOG programs

The course will follow the same format as the industrial pretreatment courses with two days of class instruction/activities followed by a certification test on the third morning.

FIPA's FOG course will be a great resource for regulators, collection system operators, FOG hauling companies, food service establishment management, and interceptor vendors.

Look for the inaugural course in Spring 2009!

FIPA STATE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations to FIPA's 2008 John Parnell and Robert Heilman award winners.

Paul Salerno earned the **John Parnell Award** for his dedication to the advancement of Florida Industrial Pretreatment. Paul is a regular instructor in FIPA certification courses.

The **City of Orlando** was the recipient of the **Robert Heilman Award** for its approach in administering the IP program.

The awards will be presented at the FIPA spring workshop.

Congratulations!

(Message, Continued from page 2)

participation, displays and presentations at workshops and coordinating sponsor listings with the newsletter editor and webmaster, etc. The Sponsorship Coordinator periodically updates the FIPA board and attends board meetings.

Taking photographs at events is a great way to preserve the history of our association. We have a few photographs, but all too often this important detail falls through the cracks. An Association Historian would help us close this gap. This is another area in which we need your help! We are recruiting among association members for a person to serve as Association Historian.

FIPA Historian Attributes:

The FIPA Historian is a person that has a pleasant personality and appreciates the historical significance of our association. This person is familiar with and enjoys digital photography, has the ability to electronically transfer digital photographs to a variety of media applications for publication and historical preservation. The FIPA Historian coordinates photography at FIPA events, arranges photographic displays and or presentations and makes photos available to the newsletter editor and webmaster for publication. The Historian takes notes to match photography subject names with photos and, may upon request, email photos to subjects. The FIPA Historian periodically updates the FIPA board and attends board meetings.

You might ask how much these positions pay. Actually these are voluntary chair positions similar to other FIPA board positions. Could FIPA muddle along without someone to help in these areas? Probably so, however, devoting the proper attention to managing our sponsors and cultivating association history will increase the value and benefits of being a FIPA member. Finally, it would be robbery to withhold the satisfaction of a job well done from those of you that have mastered the skills and abilities necessary to perform these functions with ease for the betterment of our association. Please don't wait. Contact me today and let me know that you are interested!

"I am only one; but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

-Helen Keller

WORKSHOP FEES INCREASING

To continue providing quality workshops, FIPA will be increasing registration fees:

Members: From \$25 to \$40

Nonmembers: From \$55 to \$70

(Mercury, Continued from page 3)

that actually picked up scrap amalgam from dentist. This lead to the question; where is this amalgam actually going? Additionally, 18% of the offices either placed scrap amalgam in the trash or stored it on-site. That left only 6% of the dental offices handling amalgam properly by sending via common carrier to recyclers.

Controlling Mercury

There are two aspects of amalgam management. Capturing it and properly disposing of it. Since dental technology innately captures 81% of amalgam there is already some control present. However, amalgam disposal lacked controls, so JEA focused on this aspect.

To ensure proper disposal JEA used best management practices (BMP), which are both cost efficient and effective in controlling pollutants from small commercial facilities such as dental offices. To ensure buy in by dentists, JEA worked with the local branch of the Florida Dental Association to develop and implement a JEA BMP for Dental Amalgam. Dental offices are required to implement the BMP and demonstrate compliance by submitting semi-annual certification along with manifest documenting proper disposal.

At this time, the BMP addresses amalgam separators as optional pretreatment. It was estimated that it would cost the local dental community about \$5 million to install separators resulting in additional removal of only 10 to 14 pounds of mercury per year from 5 regional water reclamation facilities. The environmental benefit seemed fairly small for the high cost burden. JEA has left the door open for amalgam separators if the current control fails to adequately address mercury loadings. For a copy of this and other JEA BMPs, please visit:

<http://www.jea.com/business/services/industrialpre/bestpractices.asp>

***FIPA and FDEP Wishes Everyone
A Happy and Safe Holiday Season !!***