The CW Tea

Monthly Newsletter from CWT Training Academy

Spilling the Tea with CWT - Summer Preppin' (having a blast)

Summer is here—a time when stormwater professionals often see a bit of a break in field activity. But at the Academy, our summer is shaping up to be anything but quiet!

We're kicking off follow-up discussions with organizations interested in **adding the Stormwater Defenders program to next year's schedules**. We see this as an exciting opportunity to help schools and communities strengthen their stormwater education efforts and encourage long-term stewardship. Our K–12 prospectus is nearly finished and will soon be available to those looking for structured, engaging curriculum options.

We're also thrilled to share that we've received approval from the California State Water Quality Board to offer **the first on-demand QSP and QSP Prerequisite training required under the California Construction General Permit.** This approval is a major step toward making essential training more accessible and flexible for professionals who need to meet state requirements!

Beyond **we're developing new industrial training content, including annual refresher courses, new-hire modules, and vendor training materials for multiple clients**. We're also finalizing our Minnesota industrial stormwater training, which we expect to release in the coming months to help meet local regulatory needs.

Finally, we're dedicating time to evaluating and improving our online Portals and other services to make sure they're user-friendly, reliable, and ready for the busier fall and winter seasons. **We've created new online Communities that now include our podcast content, and we've launched a YouTube channel offering free educational videos, which we'll continue to expand over time.**

So while summer might mean drier times in the field, it's a critical period for us to prepare, improve, and create. **We're committed to ensuring that when the rainy season returns, our clients and partners will have the best possible tools and resources at their disposal.**

Nathan Hardebeck, Owner of CWT and CWT Training Academy

In this Issue

CWT Training Academy

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Does your site need a SPCC?

YOUR GUIDE TO SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURES (SPCC) PLANS

When are SPCCs required?

Facilities requiring SPCCs have a total aggregate capacity of aboveground oil storage containers greater than 1,320 gallons of oil, or a total aggregate capacity of completely buried tanks greater than 42,000 gallons of oil, and which have the potential to discharge oil to navigable waters of the US or adjoining shorelines.

How is capacity determined?

Containers less than 55 gallons are not included; however, when determining the oil storage capacity the maximum available volume of the container, NOT the amount of product simply held in the container at any particular time, must be used in the calculation.

What counts as "oil"?

Petroleum-Based Oils

- Gasoline
- Diesel Fuel
- Motor Oil
- Heating Fuel
- Jet Fuel
- Aviation Fuel
- Hydraulic Fluid

Non-Petroleum-Based Oils

- Animal-based Oil
- Vegetable Oil
- Biofuel

Oil-Containing Products

- Oil-based Paint
- Oil-based Thinner
- Oil-based Ink
- Oil-based Washer Solvent
- Roofing Tar

Under 10,000 gallons?

A facility may self-certify their SPCC rather than utilizing a professional engineer if it is prepared by a qualified entity.

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For help preparing your SPCC, or training regarding spill prevention, check out cwtacademy.com or email us at info@cwtacademy.com.

Spill Prevention Programs

The Value of a Robust Spill Prevention Plan

Spill prevention planning is far more than a regulatory checkbox—**it's a critical component of responsible business operations that protects the environment, employee safety, and an organization's reputation and bottom line.** Each year, thousands of spills occur across industries worldwide, many of which could have been prevented with better planning. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), tens of thousands of oil and chemical spills are reported annually in the United States alone, releasing millions of gallons of hazardous materials into the environment.

The financial risks of spills can be staggering. **Cleanup costs alone can range from thousands to millions of dollars, depending on the material and scale of contamination.** Regulatory penalties add further expense: under the Clean Water Act, fines for unauthorized discharges can reach over $60,000 per day per violation. Beyond direct costs, spills can damage a company's reputation, erode public trust, disrupt operations, and create long-term liability for environmental harm. In many industries, having a robust, documented spill prevention plan is also a prerequisite for maintaining operating permits and insurance coverage. **Ultimately, investing in spill prevention is investing in sustainable, responsible business.**

Training - Essential Preparation for a Spill

Employee training is an essential pillar of spill prevention. Even the best-engineered controls can fail if staff are unprepared. **Regular, practical training ensures employees know how to handle materials safely, spot potential hazards early, and respond quickly and effectively if a spill occurs.** According to industry surveys, organizations that invest in regular spill response training reduce average incident costs by up to 40%, highlighting the direct financial benefits of preparedness.

CWT Academy has numerous spill prevention trainings and certifications **including our Spill Control Bundle**!

New California QSP/QSD Certification **Prerequisite** Courses!

California requires Qualified SWPPP Practitioners (QSP) and Qualified SWPPP Developers (QSD) to obtain certification through CASQA; however, certain prerequisite courses are required before an applicant can seek full certification.

CWT Academy is excited to announce that two new courses, WCA0100 and WCA0101 are available and approved by the California State Water Boards for fulfillment of required prerequisites!

Per California Code, a person can obtain a QSD or QSP certification through the CASQA by completing the following steps:

Step 1: Complete a required prerequisite to take the QSD or QSP training course (check out the links above!)

Step 2: Complete the QSD or QSP training course;

Step 3: Pass the QSD or QSP exam; and

Step 4: Register as a QSD or QSP though the CASQA website.

If you need help navigating the certification or prerequisite process, reach out to us today!

EPA ANNOUNCES MAJOR ROLLBACKS TO POWER PLANT POLLUTION LIMITS

Over the past month, the Trump administration's EPA leader has proposed rolling back Biden-era regulations that limited greenhouse gas and toxic emissions from coal and natural gas power plants—**rules credited with preventing thousands of deaths annually and delivering billions in health and climate benefits.** These proposed rollbacks, including lowering and weakening mercury and air-toxin limits, are being justified as cost-saving measures for the industry and the nation, but have sparked strong opposition from health and environmental advocates. Critics warn that allowing higher emissions could significantly worsen air quality, heighten public health risks,
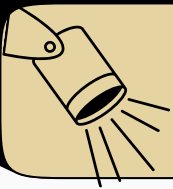
Policy, Compliance, and Regulatory Corner

Helping you navigate change in 2025

(especially for children and vulnerable communities), and undermine U.S. climate goals, potentially triggering legal challenges and regulatory uncertainty. Further, increased air deposition of heavy metals, particulates, and other such contaminants from these facilities **may make it more difficult for nearby entities with water quality permits - which would likely be unaffected by these emissions rollbacks - to achieve compliance.**

SPOTLIGHT ON: IDDE Programs

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) is a critical component of stormwater management programs designed to protect local waterways from pollution. **An "illicit discharge" is any unauthorized flow into a storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater—such as sewage, industrial wastewater, vehicle wash water, or other contaminated runoff.** These discharges can introduce harmful bacteria, nutrients, heavy metals, oils, and toxic chemicals into streams, rivers, and lakes, threatening public health and ecosystems.

Under the Clean Water Act, **many municipalities are required to develop IDDE programs as part of their MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permits.** A strong IDDE program typically includes mapping storm drain systems, conducting inspections, sampling outfalls during dry weather to identify suspicious flows, and investigating sources of contamination. Public education is also essential, helping residents and businesses understand what constitutes an illicit discharge, how to prevent them, and/or how to properly dispose of waste products rather than dumping.

By proactively identifying and eliminating these unauthorized discharges, communities can significantly reduce pollution at its source.

The Academy has numerous IDDE and Spill Control trainings!

STORM-E
CWT Training Academy Exclusive
School

PSCIC
CERTIFICATION

New K-Career Education Prospectus!

CWT Academy recently released a new K-Career education program that is focused on stormwater management through **PUDLE Outreach**. The program, centered around the Stormwater Defenders, helps kids get excited about stormwater, environmental, and construction topics, trades, and careers. Each grade group has an age-relevant Mission Pack that they can work with, and kids can follow a character that they relate to all the way to getting a kick start in a career with job skills and certifications through CWT Training Academy. Rooted in STEM concepts and environmental stewardship, this five-tiered Mission Pack series takes students on an evolving journey from early curiosity to career competence in stormwater management, pollution prevention, and green infrastructure solutions.

The newly available K-Career prospectus, as well as the full lesson plan collateral, create many exciting opportunities for how to help cities and counties utilize this program in school districts to meet their education and outreach goals, as well as how the school districts can take the foundation and customize it for themselves.

To learn more about how the Stormwater Defenders, their nemeses the Degraders, and how their associated education and outreach materials **can help kids, teens, adults, and anyone in between learn about new skills, potential career pathways, and even training and certifications for any background,** check out PUDLEOutreach.com or email Outreach@PUDLEOutreach.com for more information.

The team that trains together, stays together!

Do you have more than one person on your team or crew that needs to get certified or trained? CWT Academy has got all of you covered!

Our Package Discounts allow you to buy registration to trainings or certifications in bulk at a discounted rate so that you can maximize your annual training budget dollars.

Buy 5 or more registrations of any one training or certification, get 5% off. Valid 12 months from date of purchase*. Buy now, train later!

*Certifications can be taken any time within the 12 month period, but must be completed within 5 days of registering-- don't use your registration for a certification until you are ready to begin.

The more you buy, the more you save!

Quantity Range	Percent Discount	Example: CESCL at $400	Example: SWPPP ReCert at $200
5-20	5% off each Learner	$380 per Learner	$190 per Learner
21-30	8% off each Learner	$368 per Learner	$184 per Learner
31-40	10% off each Learner	$360 per Learner	$180 per Learner
41-50	12% off each Learner	$352 per Learner	$176 per Learner
51-75	15% off each Learner	$340 per Learner	$170 per Learner
76-100	20% off each Learner	$320 per Learner	$160 per Learner

SUMMER SPECIAL!
Buy 15 or more of any one training or certification - get a free Portal for 12 months!

Call 206-227-5894 or email robin@cwtacademy.com to purchase your package.

Academy Services Overview:

Portals, Dashboards, and Educational Reporting System (ERS)

Your Custom Reports are below.

Full List	Seats Used	Certificate Expiration Chart	Kanban Report

We are here to support your reporting needs. If you have additional charts or reports you would like to see in your dashboard, please reach out to CWT to discuss upgrading your portal package.

Full List of Enrollments

Sample Company

∨ Individual Learners

Learner	First Name	Last Name	Learner ID	WA CESCL Cert...	WA CESCL Co...	EWT...
sample1@sample.com	George	Washington	CWTA-0000001	EXPIRED	Jul 18, 2019	
sample2@sample.com	George	Washington	CWTA-0000002	EXPIRED	Feb 3, 2017	
sample3@sample.com	Thomas	Jefferson	CWTA-0000003	CERTIFIED	Feb 8, 2024	
Sarge@stormwaterdefenders.com	Willy	Pierce	CWTA-12345678	CERTIFIED	Feb 8, 2024	CE
Sampler@stormwaterdefenders.com	Teresa	Jones	CWTA-12345679	CERTIFIED		
Chitoman@stormwaterdefenders.com	Ben	Thomas	CWTA-12345680	CERTIFIED		CE

Powered by **monday.com**

What is an Education Portal?

Portals are a customizable gateway for Learners to access preselected Academy offerings for your team or clients. Portals are built with you and your team in mind. Branded and customized to include the trainings and content you want to offer your team. The Portal houses your Dashboard of ERS information that will help make your job of communication, reporting and tracking easier!

What is a Portal Dashboard?

The Portal Dashboard is a customizable snapshot that provides a quick overview of team training completions and other features selected in your Educational Reporting System (ERS). Customizations such as alerts, document retention, communications and certification management are all available features.

What is an Educational Reporting System (ERS)?

The ERS is an educational tracking system designed to consolidate all the training needs of your staff into a single location and report generation for recordkeeping. Customizations such as alerts, dashboards and certification management are all available features.

Portals, Dashboards, and Educational Reporting System (ERS)

Choose any of the trainings from the **Course Catalog**, tools from the **Resource Library** or other custom services. We will brand a Portal with your logo, add your desired content and add features to your Dashboard to make tracking a snap! As the **Course Catalog** expands, so can your Portal! Add additional Learners, additional features, new courses, certifications or schools at any time to fit the needs of your evolving team or municipality. Your team can order anything from your portal on-demand. We can customize dashboards to provide alerts, Learner usage, expirations and progress tracking for your team. Keep track of certifications in a variety of ways to ensure your team is in compliance at a glance. **Portals are the easiest way to offer training to your entire team or municipality with customization options and growth potential!**

Portal Feature Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Private portal branded with your logo	X	X	X
Your chosen schools, courses, and certifications included	X	X	X
Access to public CWT Communities	X	X	X
Roster list of Learners registered with course completion dates		X	X
Direct access to Learner Certifications (CWT Issued Certs)		X	X
Timelines for renewals for each Learner		X	X
Alarms sent to Learners and Portal Managers 3 months prior to certification expiration date			X
Seat usage trackers per course			X
Private Resource Library			X
Password protected levels of acces for Portal Manager teams			X
Access to Private CWT Community for your team			X
Addition of entity-owned trainings			X
Tracking of non-CWTA trainings			X
Customizable Reporting to meet your needs			X
Cost Breakdown *All items subject to tax where applicable*	$500 Setup Fee (one-time, first year only) + **$500 / Year** + $180 annual fee (after 1st yr)	$650 Setup Fee (one-time, first year only) + **$650 + ($300 x # of courses)** + $300 / course integration + $180 annual fee (after 1st yr)	$900 Setup Fee (one-time, first year only) + **$2400 + ($300 x # of courses)** + $300 / course integration + $250 annual fee (after 1st yr) + $1500 Private Setup and Training

CWT Training Academy has created Portals for businesses and municipalities across the US. Let the Academy be the foundation of an efficient and effective training program for your staff. **Contact us today to find out how we can expand your staff, increase your bandwidth, and take the guesswork out of employee training and certification tracking!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trainings, conferences, fun, and other happenings to keep you in the know in 2025

We are booking our public, private, in-person, and virtual courses and trainings for October - December 2025 now! Reach out to info@cwtacademy.com or visit cwtacademy.com to check out all of our event offerings

Other Events and Happenings

- **WEF/WEAT Collection Systems and Stormwater**
  July 15-18, Houston, Texas

- **US Water Alliance One Water Summit**
  July 8-11, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- **NACWA Utility Leadership Conference**
  July 22-25, Colorado Springs, Colorado

- **StormCon 2025**
  August 26-28, Orlando, Florida

- **Idaho Stormwater Conference**
  September 16, Boise, Idaho