

News from the Water Resources Department's Well Construction and Compliance Section

## RECOMMENDATIONS SOUGHT FOR OWRD WEBSITE REDESIGN

The Oregon Water Resources Department is working to improve our website and we would like your input. The goal of this project is to make the website more user friendly to both first-time and daily users by improving the structure and layout.

The survey consists of multiple choice questions followed by areas where you can offer comments and suggestions. The anticipated time to complete the survey is about 10 minutes.

Please follow this link to take the survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/f/95ZXVMO>



## OREGON WATER LAW CONFERENCE

*Conference*

The Oregon Water Law Conference is coming to Portland on November 16 & 17, 2016. The conference will cover legislative, administrative and judicial water law and policy developments, and will feature experts from all levels of government, tribes, nonprofits and private practice.

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will be discussing recent legislative and rule making developments, the impact of cannabis legalization on water usage, and upcoming adjudications around the state. Updates on water issues in key basins as well as the Columbia River Power System and the Hells Canyon Complex will also be included. In addition, there will be a follow-up with Oregon's neighbors on the region's water supply and drought conditions. The full agenda, including registration information and pricing, can be found at: [www.TheSeminarGroup.Net](http://www.TheSeminarGroup.Net). The seminar will also be available via Live Webcast.

## MEET THE GROUNDWATER USE REGISTRATION COORDINATOR

Scott Kudlemyer has been with OWRD for eight years and is currently the coordinator of the Groundwater Use Registration Program. Prior to coming to the Well Construction and Compliance Section, Scott worked in the Department's Water Rights Division for two years processing extensions, and spent 14 years with the City of Eugene, Wastewater Division. Scott received his degree in geography from the University of Oregon, which is especially helpful when assisting customers with mapping the location of their new wells. Scott enjoys what he does here at the Department and especially appreciates the daily interaction with customers.



When Scott isn't busy in the office responding to phone calls, generating maps and overseeing customer accounts, he enjoys spending time managing softball teams and being with his family.

Questions about the Groundwater Use Registration Program should be directed to Scott at (503) 986-0861 or by e-mail at [Scott.B.Kudlemyer@ wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Scott.B.Kudlemyer@ wrd.state.or.us).

### ARTICLES

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Water Resources Department is pleased to announce the addition of Kevin Gill to the Continuing Education Committee. Kevin, who has been a licensed driller in Oregon for over 20 years, is the owner/operator of Clouser Drilling in Grants Pass. He has served on the Groundwater Advisory Committee, as well as the Rules Advisory Committee. Kevin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and is a welcome addition as we move forward.

After serving two terms on the Continuing Education Committee, Angela Garner departed from her position on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 when her current term ended. The Oregon Water Resources Department would like to thank Ms. Garner for her hard work and professionalism while serving on the Committee. The Department wishes her all the best in her endeavors.

Questions about the Continuing Education Committee or continuing education credits should be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us).

### WELL RESCUE

Improperly constructed, poorly maintained, or neglected hand dug wells can pose a serious safety risk or health threat due to their size, depth, and historical construction methods. Recent cases show just how dangerous these wells can be.



For example, in May, 2016 a Grants Pass woman fell into a hand-dug well located in a nearby town. It was reported that the woman was standing on a wooden cover over the well when it collapsed. The woman fell into the water, but was able to hold on to a pipe, keep her head above water, and shout for help. The woman was in the water about four hours before a resident of the property heard her shouts and called the local Fire Department to rescue her. She was pulled from the well with a harness and was attended to by emergency services.

The Water Resources Department works very hard to get these historical dug wells either repaired or permanently abandoned. In this case, we are working with the property owner to properly decommission the well.

Questions about hand dug wells, such as the one described in this article, should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by e-mail at [Joel.W.Jeffery@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@wrd.state.or.us).



View of the hand-dug well with a new cover after the rescue.

AN  
OUNCE  
OF  
PREVENTION...



View of the interior of the hand-dug well.

## E LICENSE EXAM FULL HOUSE

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The Well Construction and Compliance Section would like to remind contractors that individuals who would like to take the well constructor licensing exam need to *preregister* by submitting an application to Laurie Norton, Well Constructor Licensing Specialist, so that we may prepare and have available enough exam packets for all interested parties.

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Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of people showing up to take the test. In fact, we had a full house during the most recent exam in July. In order to assist applicants to prepare for the exam, the Department has placed licensing exam study packets and applications on our website at: [http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/GW/Well\\_constructors.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/GW/Well_constructors.aspx).

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Questions about well constructor licensing exams should be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us).

## BURIED WELLS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Damaged wells can easily become a conduit for contamination, a health hazard, safety risk, or a source of waste. The Well Construction and Compliance Section has recently seen an increase in the number of lost, or buried, wells on property under development.

In one recent case, a well inspector was driving by a piece of property being developed and recalled inspecting a well on site prior to construction activity. The well was located near a building that is under construction. After checking Department files for a record of a well abandonment, the inspector concluded that the well had either been buried or destroyed. This was later confirmed when the inspector returned to the site and used GPS coordinates, photos, and a metal detector to try and locate the missing well. In this case, the inspector was able to gain voluntary compliance from the property owner, who hired an excavator to come in and locate the well so that it could be properly decommissioned. The well ended up being approximately four feet underground, under newly installed conduit, and was damaged beyond repair. The well is now in the process of being abandoned.

If you or someone in your organization knows about a lost well, please contact your local well inspector to report it. You may also contact Joel Jeffery in the Salem office. The Department would like to get these wells repaired or abandoned, and would appreciate any assistance that is provided.

Joel can be reached by phone at (503) 986-0852 or by email at [Joel.W.Jeffery@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@wrd.state.or.us).



Scott Ceciliani, SW Region Well Inspector

### WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at [www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/gw/forms.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/gw/forms.aspx). Please share with others at your organization.

*Well Said* is a production of the Oregon Water Resources Department's Well Construction & Compliance Section and is designed to inform the drilling industry and the public about program activities and other items of interest.

Questions or suggestions about this newsletter may be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851 or [Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrd.state.or.us)



For Well Construction & Compliance resources, log onto [http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/gw/wcc\\_index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/gw/wcc_index.aspx)

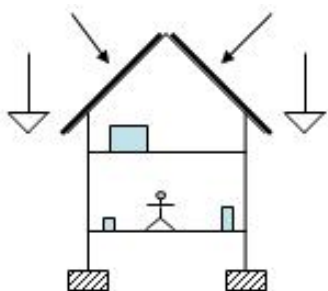
## LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recommend that all school districts and child care programs test drinking water this summer as part of a statewide plan to reduce student exposure to lead. The plan is in response to Governor Kate Brown's April directive to the agencies to review water quality in schools and develop recommendations.

Most Oregon schools and child care programs get their drinking water from municipal or community water systems. These water systems must regularly test water at specific numbers of home taps to ensure that it meets requirements for lead levels at the tap. However, unless a school district maintains its own water supply, schools and child care programs are not subject to required testing. In some cases, this may be a problem. It has been noted that in a number of school buildings, the outdated plumbing systems can leach lead into the water students and staff drink during the school day. The joint OHA-ODE plan addresses this regulatory gap by ensuring that water in school fountains and taps meets the same lead restrictions municipalities are required to meet.

For more information about this topic, visit the Oregon Health Authority website at: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/Pages/index.aspx/>.

Article adapted from June 8, 2016, OHA press release.



## FLOOR LOADS

Did you know that every building "used for mercantile, business, industrial or storage purposes," except where domestic mining or agricultural work is performed, requires load capacity ratings on them under Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) General Industry Rules?

OSHA's rules require that loads approved by the building official must be marked on plates supplied by the building owner and securely affixed where they can be seen. The plates cannot be removed or defaced. If they are lost, then the building owner must replace them. The rules also indicate that it is unlawful to place a load on the roof, or floor, of a building that is greater than the load approved by the building official.

If you do not know the load capacity of your building, call the local building inspector in the city or county where your building is located, and ask if there is a building plan with listed floor loads on file.

More information about determining load capacities is available in OSHA's June-July, 2016 issue of *Health and Safety Resource* at <http://osha.oregon.gov/pubs/newsletters/Pages/resource-newsletter.aspx>.

G R O U N D W A T E R

### PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



The top of the same Water Supply Well, uncovered following a magnetic search

Drill rig recently set up near covered power lines.



Buffy Gillis, Well Log Review Coordinator, recently discovered this hand-dug well in Harrbäcken, Sweden. It was constructed in the late 1800's and is 43 feet deep. The well was used until 1980.



"Serving the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management."





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### Well Construction & Compliance Staff Directory

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### Region Office Directory

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