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WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at
OWRD home page, under
Agency Spotlight >

Well Said Newsletter.

Please share with others at
your organization.

Well Said is a production of
the OWRD 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) 991-2470 or email at
Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov



Serving the public by practicing
and promoting responsible water
management.



MEET RYAN CARR

OWRD would like to introduce Ryan Carr, SW Region Assistant Watermaster. Born in Virginia Beach, Ryan grew up surfing, sailing, and fishing in the tidewater region of Virginia, and driving to the Blue Ridge Mountains to climb, hike, and kayak.

Mr. Carr attended Colorado State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and a Master of Science degree in Entomology. His studies focused on Insect Evolution and Classification and the Ecology of Aquatic Insects. Ryan spent his college years working as an Aquatic Entomologist

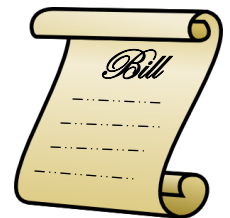
with an ecological consulting firm specializing in Threatened and Endangered fish species in the Rocky Mountain and SW regions. Working as an Environmental Scientist in the Mid-Atlantic and SE regions, Mr. Carr specialized in wetlands regulation and compliance in association with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. In the agricultural industry, Ryan has worked in organic vegetable production on farms around Puget Sound and managed commercial hops processing and distribution here in Oregon.

After a stretch working as Assistant Watermaster in the Willamette Valley, Mr. Carr is now based out of our Grants Pass District 14 Watermaster Office. Ryan is particularly interested in the varied geology along Oregon's southern coast and the implications for domestic water usage.

Please contact Mr. Carr at (541) 297-6157 or Ryan.J.Carr@Oregon.gov with any questions or concerns regarding the SW Oregon.

MODERNIZING OREGON'S WELL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: HOUSE BILL 2145

With more than 250,000 wells in Oregon and approximately 3,000 new wells drilled each year, it is critical that the Department implement measures that will prevent deficiencies in well construction, ensuring that we serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management. Since WRD is unable to inspect all new wells across the state, House Bill (HB) 2145 aims to prevent well construction deficiencies by:



- Ensuring that licensed well constructors have the necessary knowledge of best practices to prevent construction deficiencies.
- Maximizing the Department's limited resources by improving the ability to plan and efficiently conduct inspections.
- Facilitating timely voluntary correction of issues, and when warranted, more timely enforcement by the Department.
- Addressing well constructor concerns about time responsible for a construction deficiency while considering the Department's limited resources and the burden on landowner.
- Provide assistance to well owners by establishing a funding program to address well construction issues.

Continued on Page 2

House Bill 2145, cont'd



More information about the bill can be found here: https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/WRDReports/2021-2023_HB2145_WellConstruction.pdf. The Department is currently working on amendments to the bill and some proposals outlined in the handout will change.

For questions or feedback regarding HB 2145, please contact Racquel Rancier, Policy Manager at (503) 302-9235 or Racquel.R.Rancier@oregon.gov. You may also contact Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator at (503) 302-7584 or Bryn.Hudson@oregon.gov.

Continuing Education Credits AVAILABLE ONLINE

Well constructors whose licenses expire on June 30, 2021 will be required to fulfill the **14** Continuing Education Credit (CEC) requirement. The Oregon Online Rules course can be found here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gw/cec_rules_course/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fapps%2fgw2fcec_rules_course%2f. You will use the same login credentials as you use for electronic submittal of start cards and well reports. The Oregon Rules course login page will request that you click "I agree to the above statement of integrity" before entering the site.

Upon the successful completion of the online rules course, please print the invoice offered at the end and mail to the OWRD Salem office along with a check or money order for **\$80** (2 CECs X \$40). Unfortunately, online payment for the Oregon Rules course is not available at this time.

For additional online coursework, go to <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WCC/resourcesforwellconstructors/Pages/Continuing-Education.aspx> and choose "Online Courses" under approved & Pending Courses". Choose "current"; each individual PDF document provides information regarding the cost, full website description and contact information for the course vendor, including Oregon OSHA.

As a reminder: the online Oregon OSHA courses are free, but there is a limit of **4** CECs in the safety category per licensing cycle. Please check the Oregon Water Resources Department webpage for possible additional future CEC opportunities.

For questions regarding the continuing education program, please contact Buffy M Madrigal-Adams at Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@oregon.gov or (971) 287-8305.

Thank you to the drilling community for your continued diligence and support for each other as we all continue to navigate these challenging conditions.

NEW WCC PHONE NUMBERS

The Well Construction and Compliance Section is asking customers and stakeholders to update their phone lists as the WCC desk phones are no longer in use. As the Department continues to telecommute into 2021, cell phones have been issued to WCC staff with the purpose of offering enhanced availability to those needing our services.

Here are the new cell phone numbers for WCC staff:

Buffy Madrigal-Adams(971) 287-8305
Well License Program Coordinator

Ladeena Ashley(971) 287-8218
Well ID Program Coordinator

Linda Walker(971) 287-8201
Well Report Review Coordinator

Scott Kudlemyer(971) 287-8360
Exempt Use Program Coordinator

Travis Kelly(503) 302-8618
Well Construction Program Coordinator

Kristopher Byrd(503) 991-2470
Manager, Well Construction & Compliance

FLOWING WELLS REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION

When flowing artesian conditions are encountered during well construction, it is a requirement that the well be continuously cased and sealed into the confining unit immediately overlying the artesian water-bearing zone. When a confining unit cannot be established, then the seal depth is determined in consultation with the department, or the well may be sealed consistent with the minimum standards for artesian wells with a confining unit. Flowing artesian wells also must be equipped with a watertight cap and control valve so that all flow of water from the well can be completely stopped. A pressure gauge with a petcock valve also must be installed, and the shut-in pressure and free flow discharge of the well recorded on the Well Report.

For questions regarding artesian wells, please contact Travis Kelly, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at (503) 302-8618 or by email at Travis.N.Kelly@oregon.gov.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION WELL INSPECTOR

The Well Construction and Compliance Section would like to congratulate Erik Thomasser on his new position in the Water Resources Department as the Umatilla River Coordinator, effective January 1, 2021. Prior to accepting the new position, Erik served as the North Central Region Well Inspector for the past six years out of the Pendleton office.

While the NCR well inspector position is vacant, please direct your well construction questions to Travis Kelly, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at (503) 302-8618 or Travis.N.Kelly@oregon.gov

OREGON UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER

In 1995, the Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) as a state agency.

The mission of the agency is to "operate and maintain a state-of-the-art one-call system for the State of Oregon to reduce damages to underground facilities and promote public safety related to excavation issues." Oregon law requires a call to the One Call Center prior to digging on private property or any public right-of-way. After the call is received, the One Call Center will notify all affected operators. The operators then have two business days to locate and accurately mark their underground facilities using color-coded paint.

To request locates for proposed excavations, call the locate center by dialing 811 or 1-800-332-2344.

Locates can also be requested online:

www.digsafelyoregon.com.

Contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center to protect your employees' safety and protect yourself from the liability of thousands of dollars to repair damaged facilities in the event of a dig-in accident.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY FALLS IN WELL

On December 8, 2020, a young boy was rescued after falling into a water supply well and getting stuck. The four-year-old boy and his parents were taking a walk on a ranch in Garceño, Texas when he fell into the 44-foot deep well. Firefighters and first responders were applauded and cheered as they pulled the boy from the forgotten well. The young boy was alert and later flown to an area hospital where his condition was stabilized. According to the Mission Fire Department assistant fire chief, the young boy was lodged roughly between 8 and 9 feet below land surface. To see video footage of the rescue, please visit the City of Mission TX Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofMissionTX/videos/418955325812903>. Old or forgotten wells can be potential safety hazards and should be properly decommissioned by a licensed and bonded well constructor.

For questions regarding well abandonment, please contact Travis Kelly, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at (503) 302-8618 or Travis.N.Kelly@oregon.gov.

Credit: Jones, K, Smith, K. "A 4-year-old boy was rescued six hours after falling into a water well in Texas", December 9, 2020. www.cnn.com.

Speaking of dangerous wells, here is an **OLD DUG WELL** that was found under a house.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



A well that was constructed to allow for seasonal high water level.



An old dug well that has collapsed.



A new water supply well at the coast.

Running a down-hole camera in the snow in Eastern Oregon.





WELL CONSTRUCTION & COMPLIANCE SECTION
OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
725 SUMMER ST NE, SUITE A
SALEM, OR 97301

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Phone: (541) 306-6885
Fax: (541) 388-5101

North Central
Phone: (541) 278-5456
Fax: (541) 278-0287

Eastern
Phone: (541) 523-8224 x231
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