

Spring Newsletter: FOG Forum, Trainings, and More



Virtual FOG Forum 2021

Every year, the Western States Alliance (WSA) coordinates and hosts a Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Forum that is the premier event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, and one of the best in the nation. We provide up to 1.5 CEUs for participants, and include networking opportunities for folks all across the country (even virtually!).

The Forum is designed to inform and train wastewater professionals, restaurant owners, pretreatment folks, plumbers and others on the latest in FOG issues including, but not limited to: upcoming rules and regulations, reporting requirements, data measurement approaches, and newest technologies.

Cost: \$150.00

Scholarships: Limited registration scholarships are available for programs servicing rural, communities with a population less than 10,000. If your community is larger than 10,000 residents, but provides wastewater treatment service to smaller communities of less than 10,000, then you are also eligible for a registration scholarship.

Contact: kthornton@pprc.org

**Register
Today**



Got FOG?



What Authority?

Do you know the primary sources of Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) in your city? Food Service Establishments (FSEs) produce different amounts of FOG based upon their menu, service type, and number of meals they serve. There are some sewer conveyance lines (FOG lines) that likely need regular maintenance in order to avoid FOG build-up that can lead to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). FSEs on these lines may be high producers of FOG.

The [Western States Alliance website](#) contains a useful reference to help identify which restaurants are high FOG producers. It is the [Kennedy/Jenks Brown Grease Study](#). It classifies the FSE as a “very high” (VH), “high” (H), “medium” (M) or “low” (L) producer of FOG. Use information from this study to classify the amount of FOG being produced. Prioritize inspections of the high-FOG producers, especially those on FOG lines, to be sure their grease interceptors are efficiently capturing FOG.



WSA Virtual Trainings: Summer Sessions

We are happy to announce our summer trainings for folks across the country! As our other trainings, these are state specific trainings; however, anyone from any state is welcome to attend. We cannot guarantee CEUs outside of these states though! Feel free to coordinate with your local state coordinator to see if you can get CEUs.

The states are: Michigan South Dakota, Vermont, Arizona, New York, and California.

June Sessions:

MI: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#), [Session 4](#)

SD: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#), [Session 4](#)

VT: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#), [Session 4](#)

AZ: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#), [Session 4](#)

Food Service Establishments (FSEs) have plenty on their plate to worry about - even without a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) inspection. Moreover, their spaces comply with the building and plumbing codes, so what kind of authority do they actually have to implement additional policies?

The [Clean Water Act \(CWA\) of 1972](#) made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source, such as the discharge from the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), into navigable waters without a permit. EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls discharges.

Even if your city does not have an approved Pretreatment program, the POTW must still comply with NPDES. Therefore, the city has the authority to limit FOG into the system. Cities need to protect their citizens from sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) caused by FOG build-up in the sewer conveyance lines. Certainly, **FSEs do not want an SSO in their kitchen!**

Cities can educate FSEs and enact ordinances to assure proper sizing and efficient use of grease interceptors. In some cases, cities use an existing “nuisance” ordinance to assure proper use and maintenance of grease interceptors.

The [Western States Alliance website](#) contains an [Example Ordinance](#) written by USEPA Region 8 Pretreatment Coordinator, Al Garcia. It is a useful place to begin when writing an ordinance for your city.

Self Service FSE FOG Inspection Video:

July Sessions:

**NY: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#),
[Session 4](#)**

**CA: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#),
[Session 4](#)**



PPRC complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. This training is funded, in part, by a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Service. While the content is valid for any size of community, the primarily intended audience is pretreatment/water treatment personnel in rural communities, with population less than 10,000. This training is also enlightening for city commissioners and decision-makers, to understand the costs and issues involved with creating and maintaining a FOG Abatement Program.