

Issue #6

# Spring 2022

News + Updates



## The Virtual FOG Forum

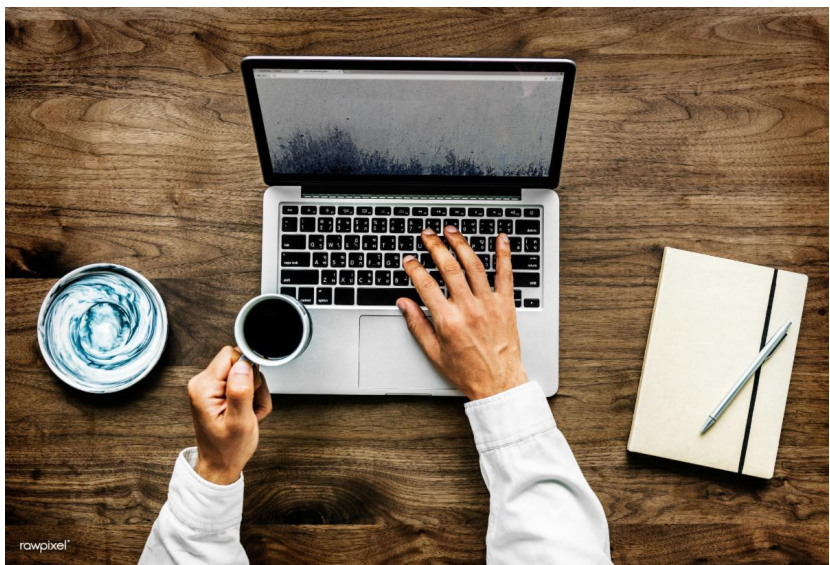
Every year, the Western States Alliance (WSA) coordinates and hosts a Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Forum that is the premier event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, and one of the best in the nation.

**This year, the FOG Forum will be held virtually and you can log in from anywhere.**

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.

[Register Here!](#)

**Four Half Day Sessions:**  
May 25 & 26 and June 1 & 2  
9am - 1pm PDT each day



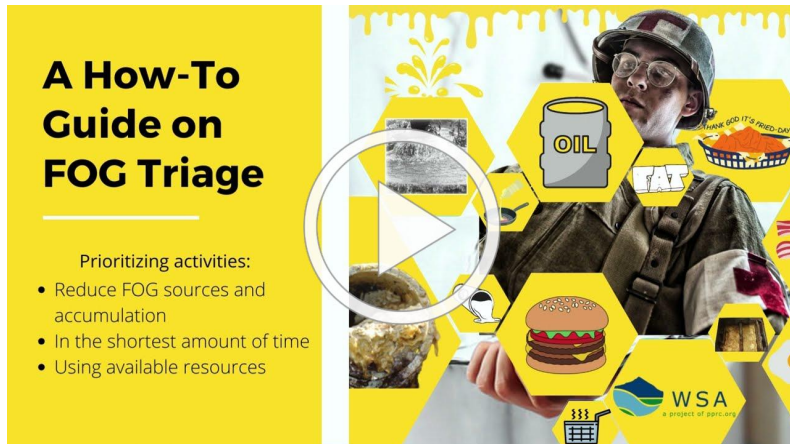
### Highlights from this year's FOG Forum line-up:

- **Mobile Food Vendors: Mouthwatering or Miasma?**
- **Enabling Better FOG Data Management with Aquatic Compliance Platform**
- **Greasezilla FOG Separation Systems**
- **Endura's High-Efficiency Hydromechanical Grease Interceptors**

The registration fee is \$150 for the entire event and CEUs will be available in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Please inquire about coordinating CEUs in other states.

Limited registration scholarships are available for programs servicing 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.

**Please contact Jean Waters at [jwaters@pprc.org](mailto:jwaters@pprc.org) to**



## A How-To Guide on FOG Triage

Prioritizing activities:

- Reduce FOG sources and accumulation
- In the shortest amount of time
- Using available resources

### This How-To Guide on FOG Triage covers:

- Identifying departments with which you can collaborate to get information and assistance
- Identifying the expected FOG production from Food Service Establishments (FSEs)
- The value of using a map to identify FSE locations compared with high cleaning frequency locations
- Prioritizing which FSEs you ought to inspect
- Identifying FSEs with an interceptor and those without
- Gathering data for better efficiency
- Educating FSEs on their FOG generation for improved compliance

## Watch Our New FOG Triage Video!

This video is a **How-To Guide to executing a FOG Triage Program** for jurisdictions thinking about starting a FOG program or those with existing programs trying to get the "biggest bang for their buck," improve overall compliance, and increase operational efficiency.

### We define FOG Triage as:

*Prioritizing your activities to reduce FOG discharges and accumulation in sewer lines in the shortest amount of time and with available resources.*

[Explore Our FOG Trainings + Other Resources Here!](#)

## FOG Program Case Study

The city of Denton, Texas recently reported on implementation of a FOG abatement program, which was done in response to sanitary sewer overflows. Their program was implemented in 2012 when there were 45 sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). From 2015-2020, there were an average of 13.3 SSOs per year.



Denton has a population of about 140,000 people covering 98 square miles. There are more than 570 regulated FOG-producing facilities. The program was established via a city ordinance in 2012. While a success, there are still challenges. For one

thing, turnover at Food Service Establishments (FSEs) necessitates the need for frequent communication and inspections. The facilities with high rates of FOG production are prioritized for inspections.

Denton specified the size of grease interceptors based on FOG production: “Heavy Food Preparation” and “Light Food Preparation” and seating capacity. Both terms are defined in the ordinance. However, there are some FSEs, such as coffee shops, that have significant drive-through business and generate significant FOG, which are not required to have large grease interceptors. The result is that the city must require increased maintenance on the grease interceptor, which corresponds to increased regulatory burden for the city.

Some keys to success are inclusion of the City Administration, which is the vital player to implementation of the laws. The program succeeds by influencing the actions of the FSE. They found that partnering with the FSE and community and educating them on the need for FOG reduction was essential.

Data is also important. It’s not necessarily a good metric to look at the number of failed inspections. Failed inspections can lead to better maintenance and reduced FOG entering the wastewater conveyance system. Denton was able to document savings in the reduced lift station pump replacement, and reduced gravity main and wet well cleanings. They also gained the benefit of increased public exposure to the treatment works.

For other municipalities instituting a FOG Abatement program, Denton recommends:

- **FOG abatement programs are a great tool to reduce the number of SSOs**
- **Explaining long-term benefits of a FOG abatement program to FSEs results in better compliance and rapport**
- **Public buy-in and trust is fundamental to the success**

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