



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

May 2020 – 97th Edition

Hazard Assessment Training

Uncertainty in our lives is not the most comfortable feeling for any person. In safety and business, uncertainty can mean the difference in success or failure in any program. How do we account for uncertainty and manage it? Hazard or risk assessments are a key process that Safety Professionals have used for years to identify and manage hazards and risk. We cannot eliminate all risk in projects but we can plan for it as best as we can. Are you familiar with the Risk Assessment process? If not, NASA offers a great course in SATERN for anyone that would like to know the basics of Hazard assessment.:

- [SMA-SS-WBT-200](#) “Hazard Analysis Basics”
 - This course is a high level introduction to the Hazard Analysis (HA) Process and covers:
 - Basic HA definitions
 - Approaches to the flow of HA and the key elements of an HA
 - Types of HAs
 - Basic steps of Has
 - How to document an HA



Not in Safety? This training is beneficial to all WFF personnel (not just SMA personnel) including Engineers, Project Planners, System Designers, Managers, Operators, etc. This training provides non-safety personnel a standard level of understanding to the HA process. Understanding this information ensures all personnel, regardless of technical expertise, is speaking the same HA language. This training can be used to evaluate projects, missions, processes, and other key tasks where risk can cause negative impacts such as mission delays or unplanned costs.



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Nest News

Piping Plovers: Piping Plovers became protected under the Endangered Species Act in 1986 and are listed as threatened. To enable mission and institutional projects on Wallops Island, WFF negotiated several agreements with US Fish and Wildlife Service resulting in the requirement to monitor Piping Plover activity.



Piping Plovers create a nest which is a shallow scrape in the sand, sometimes lined with tiny shells or pebbles. Three Piping Plover pairs created 3 nests with a total of 8 eggs. To protect the plover nests from predators, 48-inch diameter exclosures were built around the nests. Unfortunately, the cold and windy spring and a recent storm has been



hard on the Piping Plovers. All nests were over-washed during by Tropical Storm Arthur this week.



American Oystercatchers: Although not listed as threatened or endangered, American Oystercatchers (AMOY) are listed by Virginia as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need because of

their small population, widespread habitat loss, and the threats faced both during the breeding and non-breeding seasons. AMOY first breed at age 3-4 and may mate for life. Both males and females incubate the eggs.



This year, two nests were established on Wallops Island with a total of 4 eggs. Tropical Storm Arthur also washed out both nests this past week.

Daily beach monitoring continues for all species. Please contact Shari Miller at x2327more information.

Sources:
<https://www.audubon.org/>
<https://www.fws.gov>

Environmental Editor: Marianne Simko

You Can Help the WWTP

Have you ever thought about what happens to the water that goes down the sink drain after you wash your hands at work? You probably guessed that the water ends up at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), but what happens next?



The basic function of wastewater treatment is to speed up the natural processes that purify water. There are two basic stages in the treatment of wastewater, primary and secondary. In the primary stage, solids are allowed to settle and are removed from wastewater. The secondary stage uses biological processes to further purify waste water.

The secondary stage of treatment removes about 85 percent of the organic matter in sewage by making use of the bacteria in it. In order for the bacteria to do their job, they need healthy conditions to live and grow.

When chemicals or solutions that are toxic, contain metals, or corrosive, are flushed into the sanitary system and arrive at the WWTP, they kill bacteria. With fewer bacteria, the WWTP is unable to purify the water to the level needed prior to discharge.

Discharges of chemicals or solutions to storm sewer, WWTP, or to the ground may be a permit violation with warnings or fines.



Please contact the Environmental Office for approval every time a planned use of any equipment or a maintenance activity would result in the discharge of chemicals or solutions to the sanitary sewer. This includes routine and non routine emptying of dip tanks, cleaning of chillers/cooling towers, and other similar processes.

For questions contact Owen Hooks at x1941.