

ADEM UPDATE

The official newsletter of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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ADEM Employees Complete Hazardous Waste Training

More than a dozen employees at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management successfully completed HAZWOPER training from October 31 through November 4. HAZWOPER is an acronym which stands for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. More than 90 ADEM employees have been through the program since 2013.

The 40-hour course is specifically designed for workers who are involved in clean-up operations, emergency response operations, and storage, disposal, or treatment of hazardous substances or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

The training is required for most engineers, scientists, and chemists at ADEM. It is typically held twice a year at the Department and conducted by staff from the Alabama Fire College.

The training requires classroom work and field exercises in complete protective hazardous materials suits and respirators. It is designed to give employees the opportunity to practice realistic and actual hands-on skills and the manner of treatment of hazardous materials and containers. The HAZWOPER program covers situations involving an oxygen deficient atmosphere, high concentrations of toxic substances, imminent danger to life and health environments, and incidents that require the evacuation of an area.

Following the initial course, workers are required to take an 8-hour refresher course designed to meet the annual training requirement for hazardous waste operations and emergency response workers.

Public Schools to Receive Drinking Water Testing

In an effort to promote public confidence and help schools minimize the potential exposure to possible high levels of lead in drinking water, the Alabama Department of Education in conjunction with ADEM will assist all pre-K thru 12th grade public school systems with testing for lead in drinking water over the next three years.

There has been a tremendous amount of interest nation-wide in the quality of public drinking water, particularly with respect to lead levels in drinking water in schools. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, public water systems are required to test for lead at least once every three years at residences deemed to have the greatest potential for high lead levels. However, there is no federal or Alabama law requiring testing of drinking water in schools, except for those that have or operate their own public water system. (Alabama has only two such schools.)

In a process that began back in July, the State Department of Education and ADEM developed a master plan to determine lead levels that goes above and beyond federal and state regulatory requirements. Samples will be analyzed by state-certified private laboratories chosen and all results will be submitted to both ADEM and the Department of Education along with local public school systems. The results will also be placed in the ADEM eFile system for internet access by the public-at-large.



Fourteen ADEM employees completed HAZWOPER training in November

Operations Plan Achievements from 2016



The October lobby display featured Op Plan Achievements from 2016

A number of achievements under ADEM's Operations Plan for the 2016 fiscal year were highlighted on a pair of banners in the main lobby in October. These accomplishments were also announced to the regular meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission on October 21 by Director Lance LeFleur.

The achievements include the full deployment of n-SPECT as of October 1. The n-SPECT program is a cutting edge mobile inspection application for field inspectors allowing for the collection of environmental data along with quick and efficient inspections that provides maximum flexibility and ease of use for ADEM employees.

The program also increases efficiency and transparency, reduces human errors, and

allows for more inspections to be completed with less personnel. Preliminary productivity increases for the Department have thus far exceeded the original 20 percent rate that was anticipated. An additional bonus of this innovation is that the public at large benefits with the ability to have important information available more quickly in accessible online databases such as eFile. Two other electronic systems from the Op Plan that have been successful include e-DMR and the e-Maps Portal.

The e-DMR program is a web-enabled electronic environmental reporting system for wastewater facilities to streamline the management of discharge monitoring reports and Sanitary Sewer Overflow reports. The e-DMR system provides facilities with an online way to submit data and allows ADEM to electronically validate information, acknowledge receipt, and upload data to the State's central wastewater database.

ADEM's e-Maps Portal provides interactive maps to locate Brownfield sites, underground storage tanks, as well as sites undergoing corrective action. The portal enables citizens to access specific information about activities in their community.

ADEM Hosts Surface Water Meeting in Montgomery

Public water system operators, consultants, and engineers recently conferred on numerous surface water issues and topics at the 19th Annual ADEM Surface Water Meeting. The Department hosted the event at the RSA Activity Center in Downtown Montgomery in October.

ADEM environmental engineers and other presenters discussed important topics, presented updates on regulations for drinking water systems, and provided updates on operator certification.

The meeting helped demonstrate how the ADEM drinking water regulations meet federal requirements and how the Department partners with public drinking water systems to ensure compliance, lessen environmental impacts, and safeguard public health. Participants at the meeting were presented with the latest information on drought management, operator certification, sampling and testing techniques, and drinking water security.



ADEM hosted its Annual Surface Water Meeting in October

ADEM Employees Complete Public Manager Training

At the October meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, ADEM Director Lance LeFleur recognized seven employees who have recently completed important developmental milestones in their careers.

A trio of these ADEM employees finished the rigorous study, training, and testing to earn the designation of Certified Public Managers. Donald Barron, Chief of the Special Services Section in the Air Division; Susan Dingman, Chief of ADEM's Nonpoint Source Unit; and Jerome Hand, Chief of the Public Relations Unit, completed the two-year program at Auburn University - Montgomery that involved more than 250 hours of classroom work and numerous out-of-class activities.



(L-R) Jerome Hand, AUM's Leslie Meadows, Susan Dingman, and Donald Barron

"The CPM program prepares our engineers, scientists, and other employees to assume the managerial duties critical to the success of the Department," said LeFleur. "The professional development of our employees is an important goal in our strategic and annual operating plans."

The graduation ceremony for Barron, Dingman, and Hand took place on October 12 at the State Capitol.

Four additional employees - Mark Davidson, Ashley Mastin, Dan Nobles, and Spring Tate - successfully completed the first year of Certified Public Manager training at AUM in November, and are scheduled to continue CPM II training in January.

The CPM program is a dynamic and engaging opportunity to develop and enhance the skills of managers, and it helps them explore methods to achieve efficiency gains and cost-savings for their agencies. It utilizes projects and course material to inspire new ways of thinking and innovative approaches to problem solving.

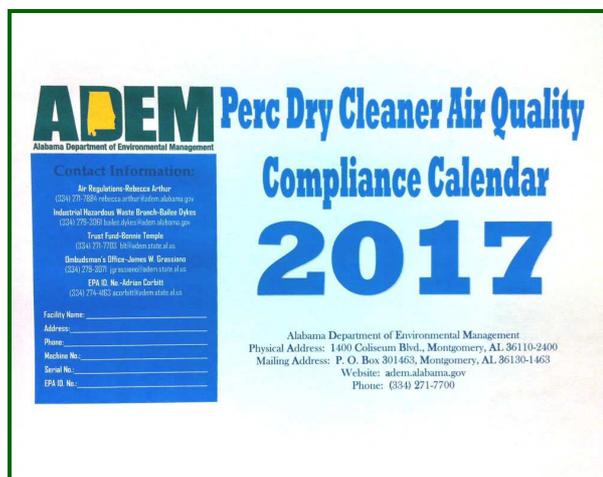
Compliance Calendars Assist Dry Cleaners

For the 17th consecutive year, ADEM is providing free compliance calendars to dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene (PERC) as their primary cleaning solvent.

The 2017 calendars provide logs for documenting the storage and use of dry cleaning chemicals and also feature monthly tips to explain compliance requirements.

ADEM will provide this compliance assistance tool to more than 70 dry cleaners whose use of perchloroethylene requires compliance with specific record-keeping guidelines. In the past, the calendars have proven to be a valuable asset in tracking the use of dry cleaner chemicals, and in meeting regulatory obligations.

The calendars are a compliance tool to help small businesses and can be utilized to enhance compliance efforts, which is a tremendous benefit for small businesses.



The calendars also address additional requirements for PERC usage established by EPA, and contain contact information that dry cleaner owners can use to answer questions they may have regarding environmental regulations, record-keeping, or adding new machines.

ADEM UPDATE Available Online

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management publishes the *ADEM UPDATE* quarterly to inform Alabamians on the latest news and activities of the Department. As a cost-savings measure, the *ADEM UPDATE* is no longer printed. It is distributed electronically and available online through the publications link on the ADEM website at adem.alabama.gov.



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