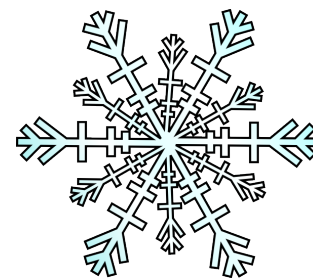


Montana Solid Waste News

2021 FALL (ISH)UE



COVIDITY ABOUNDS

By Fred Collins

WHAT A YEAR AND A HALF IT HAS BEEN! Global pandemics, wildfires, and hurricanes.....oh my! As we approach winter of 2021, there are still so many unknowns. COVID numbers are up and down and there is so much new information every day, it seems. BUT, one thing we do know.....we are all still doing the work....NOW, from the office!

This issue will focus more on recent developments regarding COVID-19 and the Solid Waste Section's current workplan (subject to change, as everything is), staff changes, and events to come! AND, we have both a new governor and a new director of DEQ this year! We like to keep everyone on their toes.

Regardless of all the last year and a half has brought us, this summer, we got to get out and see many of you in person, which was a welcomed treat after over a year of virtual gatherings. We have been able to visit many facilities and septic pumpers over the last couple months and we are impressed! Everyone is doing such a great job, despite the challenges we've all faced!

We look forward to (hopefully) getting out a little more by the end of this year! More to come, to be determined, etc., so on and so forth. In the meantime, read further for some updates, what's to come, some funnies, and a few little blurbs as to what we've been up to. Have a very Merry Christmas and a HAPPY New Year!



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What's the SCOOP?



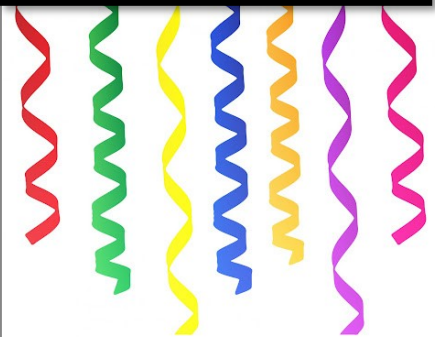
CH-CH-CH-CH-Changes

As you may have heard by now, Ed Thamke, our Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau Chief, retired in June of 2021. As Ed begins his new journey, our bureau begins one of its own with **Rick Thompson** *as our new bureau chief!* YAY RICK!

Congratulations to Rick as he takes on the new role as leader of our bureau. Bear with us as we all transition into our new normal!

In the interim, Brady Christensen, Fred Collins, and Andy Ulven have been rotating weekly as acting supervisor for the Solid Waste Section. Feel free to reach out to them at any time. All DEQ staff are fully capable and are keeping up with duties. Call us anytime!

The Solid Waste Section Supervisor position closed on November 18, 2021. Send good vibes for good candidates to continue to lead our team!



Congrats!



What's the SCOOP?

SOLID WASTE TRAININGS

ATTENTION

As COVID case numbers rose, we felt it best to plan for virtual trainings through the end of 2021. We want to keep everyone safe and keep things on the schedule without worry of cancellation or COVID contact.

MANAGER OF LANDFILL OPERATIONS (MOLO)

TBD (Spring 2022; COVID delay)

Flathead County Landfill

MORE TO COME!

BLUE RIDGE SERVICES WEB SERIES

TBD

We will email another list of webinars to choose from to get us through the winter months and accommodate for COVID.

MORE TO COME!

Contact Fred Collins at
fcollins2@mt.gov or call
406-444-9879 for questions.



SEPTIC TANK PUMPER TRAINING

TBD (Spring 2022; COVID delay)

Location: TBD

What would you like to see?

Email Fred at **fcollins2@mt.gov** with suggestions for septic tank pumper training topics! More on that later in **Pumper, FYI!**





DVD Lending Library



#	<u>Title</u>
LF-00	Machine Maintenance
LF-01	The Basics of Landfill Safety
LF-03	Equipment Safety—General
LF-05	Working in Dusty Conditions
LF-06	Traffic Safety/Road Design
LF-09	Dozer Safety—General
LF-13	Working in Extreme Weather - Hot Weather
LF-14	Preventing Landfill Fires
LF-21	Extreme Conditions - Rain Storms/Wet Weather
LF-40	Equipment Safety—Scraper
LF-41	Methane Gas Safety
LF-43	Working in Extreme Conditions—Cold Weather Phase 1
LF-44.1	Extreme Conditions—Cold Weather Phase 2
LF-44.2	Working in Extreme Conditions—Cold Weather Phase 2
LF-47.1	Slope Stability - Excavation Slopes
LF-47.2	Slope Stability—Excavation Slopes
LF-55	Leachate Management & Handling
LF-70	Landfill Odors: Safety Issues
TS-01	The Basics of Transfer Station Safety
TS-03	Equipment Safety - General Issues
TS-06	Bloodborne Pathogens
TS-28	Dealing With Unruly Customers

MORE TITLES TO COME!

*DVD's from DEQ's Lending Library are **loaned out for fifteen days**. To borrow a DVD, contact:*

Sara Nelsen at snelsen@mt.gov, or call

406-444-3463.



SWAC MINUTES!

October 7, 2021 - 1:36—2:47 pm - DEQ Metcalf Building, Room 111 and Zoom

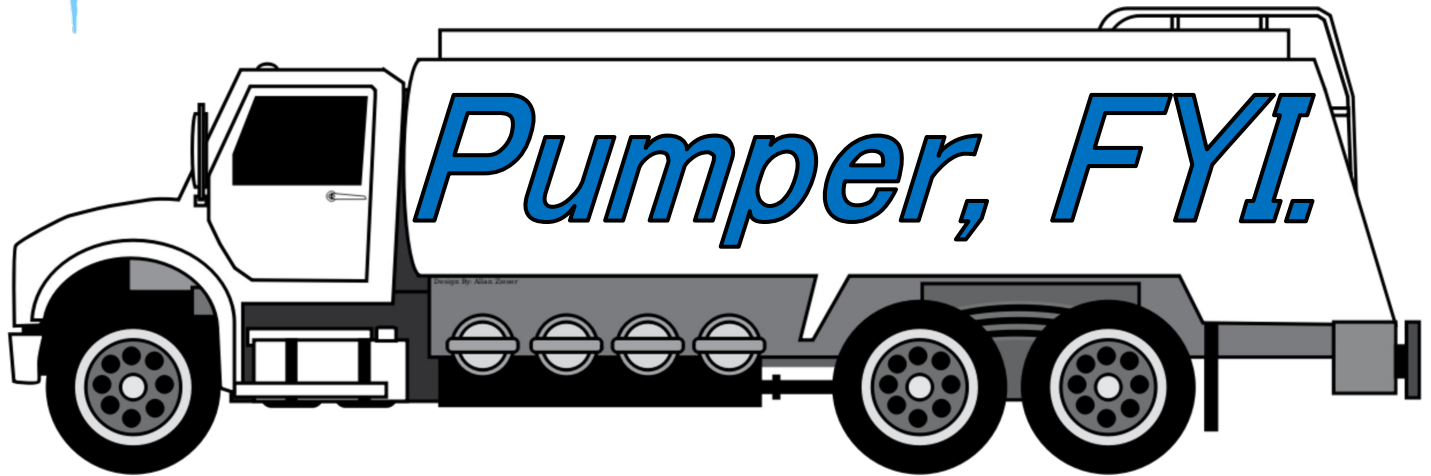
- **Rick Thompson (DEQ, WUTMB Bureau Chief)** - Rick is the new bureau chief for the Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau. Solid Waste Section Supervisor will be hired in the next couple months.
- **Fred Collins (DEQ, Solid Waste Section)** - MOLO to happen in the spring (second week of May 2022); virtual trainings each month through winter and spring. Working with Neal Bolton for logistics. Composting training next June, will work with Jean Bonhotal from Cornell Waste Management Institute.
- **Andy Ulven (DEQ, Solid Waste Section)** - 33 facility inspections in the last quarter; five major violations, five minor violations for 2021 (litter, daily and intermediate cover, asphalt in a Class III); 100 inspections in 2021 thus far; 29 STP land application site inspections in the last quarter; six major violations, four minor violations for 2021; 15 SLAM samples collected; 65 inspections for 2021 thus far.
- **Dusti Johnson (DEQ Materials Management Program)** - Dusti has done two radio shows educating about household hazardous waste collection in Montana; working with someone regarding 3D printing with plastics; E-waste collection in Conrad, six tons collected.
- **Enforcement**—11 asbestos complaints, three hazardous waste complaints; 16 solid waste complaints; one junk vehicle complaint
- **Dept. of Ag Groundwater Protection Program** - Container recycling program has one new driver; landfills have been visited (Gallatin and Lake); Brett Heitshusen is now the main contact; looking for volunteer landfills for Dept. of Ag to sample for possible presence of pesticides in groundwater at Montana landfills; free to landfills; informational only;



The next **Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)** meeting will be held **Thursday, January 6, 2022**, in the **DEQ Metcalf Building, Room 111**.

Attend and come learn more about what's happening in Montana's solid waste arena. OR, you can join virtually via Zoom. If you have agenda items for the winter meeting or want to be added to the SWAC notification list, please contact:

Rick Thompson at rithompson@mt.gov, or call **406-444-5345**.



Who Wants SPAC?

By Fred Collins and Andy Ulven

The Septic Tank Pumper Program has discussed the revival of SPAC, Septic Pumper Advisory Council. We find it extremely valuable to have regular contact with you all so we can chat about operational issues, share ideas, and keep in contact on a more regular basis. We love getting out on inspections, but having a forum for us to meet, virtually or in-person, will give us even more opportunities to connect and collaborate.

If you are interested in representing septic pumpers as a member of SPAC, please contact Andy Ulven or Fred Collins at Andrew.ulven@mt.gov OR fcollins2@mt.gov.

More details to come as we wait to hear back from you! Happy holidays!





What's Regulatory Reform?



A Note from the Director

Dear DEQ Stakeholders,

Many of you may already be familiar with Governor Gianforte's red tape relief initiative. In January, the Governor signed [Executive Order No. 1-2021](#) to implement regulatory reform across state agencies. I am excited for this opportunity to make sure DEQ's regulations and processes are hitting the mark in protecting Montana's environment without being overly burdensome or inefficient.

I recognize that we can always do better, and your insight is invaluable as we seek to improve.

We will follow up with you as this overall project moves forward. In the meantime, I encourage you to reach out to the program (s) at DEQ that you regularly work with regarding specific, individual project impacts and continue to provide feedback. As we work through our full review of environmental rules and statutes, we will take your suggestions into consideration and see how we may implement change.

If you have already provided suggestions to the Governor or Lt. Governor, or to DEQ directly, I want to thank you for your interest and engagement. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Chris Dorrington, Director

What is it?

In January 2021, Governor Greg Gianforte created the Red Tape Relief Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to plan a comprehensive review and reform of regulations in every state agency. The Council will identify:

- Excessive, outdated, and unnecessary regulation
- Regulations especially burdensome on Montana's farmers, ranchers, and business owners
- Regulations that disproportionately impact small businesses
- Appropriate quantitative and qualitative metrics to measure implementation of regulatory reform within each agency

Starting in January, we will discuss the findings at our SWAC meetings! Keep an eye out for an invite to the meeting in January to discuss further!



YOUR SOLID WASTE TEAM

.....in no particular order.....



UNKNOWN—Solid Waste Section Supervisor



Andrea Staley—Data Control Technician



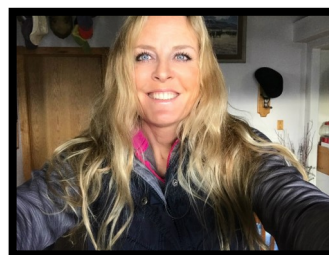
Tim Stepp—Environmental Engineer



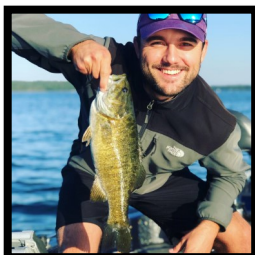
Brady Christensen—Materials Management Program



Mike Eder—Hydrogeologist



Dusti Johnson—Recycling Market Specialist



Andy Ulven —Environmental Science Specialist



Dianna Robinson—Recycling Market Specialist



Fred Collins—Environmental Science Specialist



COVID POSITIVE: A Crossword

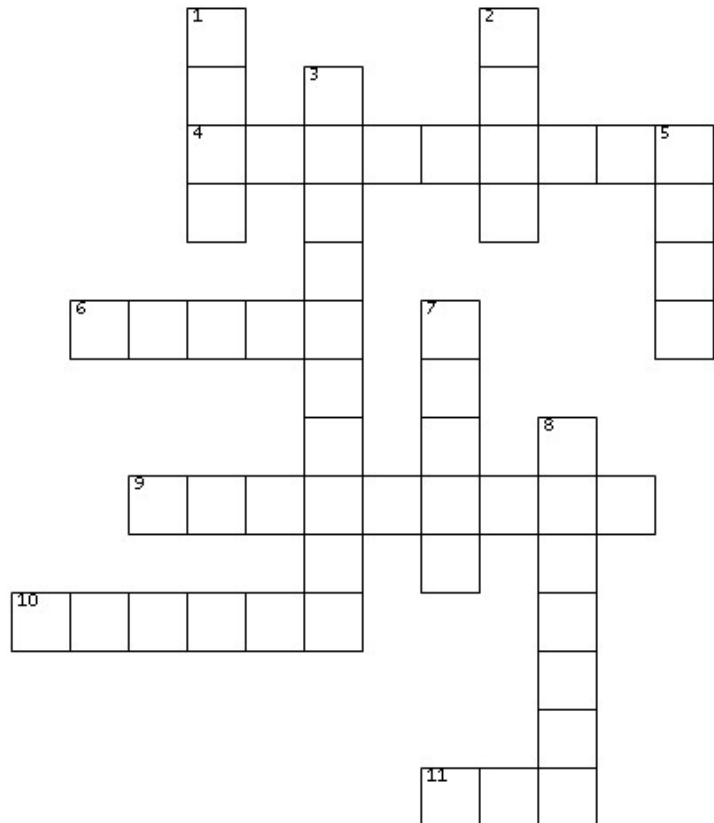
Over the last year and a half, there are many things that have become normal that once were not. **Finish up this crossword** to revisit some of our new COVID vernacular!

DO YOU WANT TO
WIN A PRIZE?

The **first five people** to send the complete crossword to **fcollins2@mt.gov** will receive some

DEQ prizes!

GOOD LUCK!



ACROSS

- 4. Type of bread everyone learned to make during 2020
- 6. A variant of COVID
- 9. Cleansing gel for hands
- 10. Everyone cleaned this in 2020; park your car here
- 11. Number of feet to distance from people in public places

DOWN

- 1. Worn on face
- 2. Program used for virtual meetings
- 3. Intentional seclusion for a period of time
- 5. Where everyone spent most of their time in 2020
- 7. The reason the world shut down in 2020
- 8. Streaming service used to watch Tiger King