



## NAWT provides two new training programs

In 2006, NAWT continued to work on development of two new training programs that are now being offered, the Vacuum Truck Technician Training and Certification program, and the comprehensive Operation and Maintenance Training and Certification program.

The Vacuum Truck Technician Training course is targeted to those who own or operate a vacuum truck that is used to clean septic tanks, aerobic treatment units, holding tanks or grease traps. It is directed specifically at owners and employees who are just starting in business and need a good solid base of information to work with to perform their daily tasks. At the same time, this one-day training provides a good refresher and overview for experienced operators.

Topics of instruction include:

- Materials to pump and avoid
- Government regulations
- Truck equipment and components
- Drive and control mechanisms
- Basic and advanced pump-out skills and procedures
- Loading and unloading
- Safety and emergency response plans
- Customer interaction and education
- Reasons to manage these materials
- Basic science of vacuum and pressurization
- Pumps
- Basic pump truck operation
- Manifests and reports

This training is done through the use of presentations, videos and hands-on exercises with a pump truck. The program has been developed with a grant from the USEPA, with funding provided through the NAWT Education program and in partnership with the National Onsite Wastewater Education and Research Foundation, Inc., and the Pennsylvania Septage Management Association (PSMA). The PSMA has developed and conducts a "train-the-trainer" program so that the course can be

presented in your state or within your company.

In 2006 and early 2007, this course was presented and refined at Sanitation World in Dallas and at the Pumper and Cleaner Environmental Expo in Nashville, as well as twice in Ohio to satisfy Ohio's new education requirements for pumpers. If you are interested in becoming a trainer or in having the course conducted near you, contact the NAWT office at 800/236-6298.

The other course, Operation and Maintenance Training, is actually two courses that cover all aspects of the operation and maintenance of the whole range of onsite treatment systems. The first part of the course focuses on the basics surrounding operation and maintenance of conventional systems, with an introduction to aerobic treatment systems and media filters. The second part of the course focuses in detail on the advanced, or alternative, treatment systems. The course uses materials and a manual developed by the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT). The materials have been modified somewhat, and both parts include a "hands-on" session in the field to look at the different systems. NAWT will work with states and trainers that have gone through the CIDWT "train-the-trainer" session. These courses were initially offered in Ohio and have become a regular offering of the California Onsite Wastewater Association (COWA). If you are interested in bringing this program into your state, contact the NAWT office at 800/236-6298.

### Inside Scoop

**2** *President's Message*

**2** *Gene Dube*

**3** *Pumping Standards*

**4** *Training & Certification Schedule*

# President's Message

Monday, April 23, 2007

Writing this column is one of my first official acts since taking over as President of NAWT at the February Board meeting in Nashville. I have been a member of NAWT since its beginnings in 1986, and have served as president in the past. Over the years, we have seen a lot of changes in the industry, and I expect that in the coming years we will see even larger changes. I am honored by the opportunity to come back into this leadership role. Some of the programs and activities that were just ideas a decade ago have actually happened! It is very exciting and satisfying to know that NAWT is making a difference. Our work on the MOU with USEPA and other organizations to bring us closer together as an industry is very important, and will be something I will probably report on regularly.

On a more sober note, I would like to address a continuing issue for all of us in the industry. That is the continual need for vigilance and action when it comes to our safety as pumpers and the safety of our

clientele and the general public. This was brought home by Jim Kneiszel's article in the April issue of *Pumper* magazine about the 3-year-old Montana boy who fell through a damaged riser lid on a septic tank and drowned. This story highlights that one of the best services we can provide is to continually speak to issues of safety around the operation of these onsite wastewater treatment systems. In future newsletter articles, we will address safety topics and how to avoid such tragic occurrences. In the meantime keep up the good work you do!

Sincerely,  
Hollis Warren



**NAWT President Hollis Warren**

## IN MEMORIAM: Eugene "Gene" Louis Dube

Gene Dube died Tuesday, April 24, 2007, surrounded by his family at Maine General Medical Center, Thayer Unit, in Waterville, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Gene was the owner and president of Pat Jackson Inc./Tri City Septic Services, in which he had great pride and passion. A man of great ingenuity, he was the first to build a private wastewater treatment plant in the state of Maine. With the environment in mind, he started recycling septage by composting. He was involved with the State of Maine in educating septic inspectors for certification, and became one of the first NSF accredited wastewater inspectors in the country.

Whether it was the State of Maine, city sewer treatment plants all over the state, a class on septic design that needed to be taught for the Department of Human Services, big box stores, farmers, schools or a home owner at midnight—most of all, anyone who needed Gene's help anytime from any walk of life—if you could hear, "Hello, this is Gene," you knew things would only get better.

Gene was a big-hearted man who would drop what he was doing to help anyone who needed a hand. He trusted everyone and could always see the best in them. John de Rham, one of Gene's industry friends, attended Gene's funeral. John says, "Gene's funeral was very touching;

it was a celebration of a life cut too short and of a guy who really did just try to help along anyone he met along his life's path."

Those who desire may make donations to: Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, Maine General Health, P.O. Box 828, Waterville, ME 04903. Condolences to the family may be expressed via the funeral home Web site at <http://www.plummerfh.com>.



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# Onsite Treatment Tank Pumping and Cleaning Code of Practice

## Safety

At all times, the technician's personal safety, as well as protection of the environment and the customer's property, shall receive the highest priority.

Generally, the tanks should not be entered as they are a hazardous environment. If entry is required, appropriate confined space entry procedures consistent with OSHA requirements should be employed.

## Accessing Tanks

Tanks shall ONLY be pumped from/through the manhole/access port of each tank or tank compartment.

Tanks shall NOT be pumped from/through the observation port.

If the customer insists upon the tank being cleaned through any opening other than the access manhole, the customer shall be required to sign a waiver acknowledging the fact that he has been informed of the proper procedure and the reasons associated with that procedure.

No liquids or solids are to be discharged into/through the outlet pipe.

## Tank Cleaning

The liquid, solid, and semi-solid material in a treatment tank is removed by a vacuum or centrifugal pump fitted with a hose which delivers the material to a truck-mounted, sealed tank.

Cleaning procedures should include agitating all solids, but only after lowering the liquid level to 12 inches below the outlet. This is necessary to insure no solids are allowed to escape the treatment tank. Agitation methods vary, and may include alternate pumping and back flushing, forcing air into the tank, or mechanical stirring.

When back flushing or injecting air, care shall be taken NOT to fill/refill the tank to a level greater than 12 inches below the elevation of the outlet pipe.

Tanks shall be deemed to be clean when all organic solids are removed and the total average liquid depth remaining in the tank is between 1 inch and 3 inches.

When using equipment that is specifically designed and operated to remove the material from the treatment tank, separate the solids and the liquids, and return the liquids to the tank, the following additional conditions must be met. The liquid discharged to the treatment tank must have a TSS (Total Suspended Solids) of 400 ppm or less, and the volume of returned liquid must be less than the volume of the treatment tank (measured to the invert of the overflow pipe) so as not to have liquid overflow into the absorption area.

## Standard Services

Every pump-out shall include a visual inspection of the interior of the tank. The inspection shall include a determination regarding the presence of baffles and their condition as well as the physical condition of the treatment tank.

Observations of any unusual conditions such as high or low liquid level, run-back from the absorption area, defective or broken components, missing or broken observation port(s), lush vegetation, and/or sewage overflows should be reported to the customer.

During system maintenance it is advisable to observe sewage flows from the building into the tank. Corrective action for obstructions should be recommended.

Any unsatisfactory conditions should be noted on the sales slip or receipt.

Future maintenance frequency should be communicated to the customer at the time of service.

## Additives

NAWT has no position on the use of chemical or bacterial additives for treatment tanks as the research on these is inconclusive.

## Local, State, and Federal Laws and Regulations

At all times, and in all phases of operations, pumper businesses and equipment operators shall comply with all laws and regulations regarding the activities associated with onsite wastewater system maintenance and disposal of materials removed therefrom.

## Reports

Where the municipality requires documentation of pump-out and tank and site conditions, the pumper shall not be prevented by the customer from complying with municipal requirements. A copy of the report sent to the municipality shall also be provided to the customer.

## Responsibility

While NAWT has adopted this Code of Practice as a recommended standard it accepts no responsibility for the actions of any individual with regard to this standard. It is the responsibility of the contractor to give ethical and professional services to its customers and the responsibility of the customer to assure quality control.

*Adopted by the NAWT Board of Directors, 2006*

# Training and certification schedule

## Inspector Training & Certification

### May 7-8, 2007 – New Braunfels, Texas TOWA

Location To Be Determined  
NAWT Inspector Training Course  
Contact: TOWA office at 512-494-1125 or [www.txowa.org](http://www.txowa.org).

### July 13-14, 2007 – San Antonio, Texas

TOWA at the TAREI Conference  
NAWT Inspector Training Course  
Contact: TOWA office at 512-494-1125 or [www.txowa.org](http://www.txowa.org)

### August 28-29, 2007 – Arizona

Location To Be Determined  
NAWT Inspector Training Course  
Contact : Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836  
[kittfp@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kittfp@ag.arizona.edu).

### October 4-5, 2007 – Riverside, CA COWA

Location To Be Determined  
Contact: COWA office at 707-579-4882

### November 6-7, 2007 – Ft. Worth, TX

TOWA Fall Conference  
Location To Be Determined  
NAWT Inspector Training Course  
Contact: TOWA office at 512-494-1125 or [www.txowa.org](http://www.txowa.org).

### January 2008 – Laughlin, NV

Location To Be Determined  
NAWT Inspector Training Course  
Contact : Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836  
[kittfp@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kittfp@ag.arizona.edu).

## Installer Training

### June 1, 2007 – Payson, Arizona

Contact: Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836 or <http://ag.arizona.edu/waterquality/onsite/>.

## Treatment Symposium

### September 12-13, 2007 – Lancaster, PA

2nd Annual Septage/Grease Trap Waste Treatment Symposium  
Conference Details to be Determined  
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298.

## Vacuum Truck Technician Training

### September 11, 2007 – Harrisburg, PA

Holiday Inn  
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298

### To Be Determined - Pittsburgh, PA Area

Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298.



## NAWT News

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