



October 2018 | HEADLINES

- » [Navajo Nation CPC Begins in Thoreau, New Mexico](#)
- » [IAPMO's 89th Annual Education and Business Conference Wraps Up in Philadelphia](#)
- » [Revised Section 608 Refrigerant Management Regulations](#)
- » [IAPMO Enters Memorandum of Agreement with U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration](#)
- » [September Construction Starts Settle Back 5 Percent](#)
- » ["Flushable" Wipes Clog South Carolina Sewage Plant](#)
- » [EPA to Sunset WaterSense Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Specification](#)
- » [Supreme Court Declines to Hear HFC Case](#)

## Navajo Nation CPC Begins in Thoreau, New Mexico

The International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (IWSH) Foundation's 2018 Community Plumbing Challenge (CPC) began today in Thoreau, New Mexico. The CPC's focus is the Navajo Water Project, an initiative of the nonprofit organization DigDeep that was among the 2018 recipients of the U.S. Water Prize. The initiative's goal is to help ensure that every American has clean, running water forever. The CPC, which runs through Friday, is hosted by the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in Thoreau, a small town in Northwestern New Mexico.

The Navajo Nation CPC assembles a multi-disciplined team of skilled tradespeople to execute plumbing and construction projects that will improve living conditions in approximately 10 households nominated by U.S.-based nonprofit organization DigDeep. Inside homes, a range of bathroom and kitchen renovations will be carried out, including the installation of new basins, taps, toilets, water tanks, water pumps,

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and hot- and cold-water pipework. These renovations and repairs are required in order for these homes to be connected to water supply systems. Meanwhile, efforts outdoors will address the installation of, and connection to, new wastewater systems.

After the morning's welcome ceremony, participants in the exclusive Ambassador Program took part in the "Water and Sanitation Crisis in America Roundtable: Government & Industry Working Together for Solutions" at the Thoreau Chapter House. In addition to focusing on issues concerning tribal lands, the roundtable looked at issues facing the more than 1.6 million people across the U.S. without access to clean water and safe sanitation.

U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., and representatives from the offices of U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján, D-Santa Fe, and U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-Albuquerque, attended the welcome ceremony and roundtable. Also in attendance were officials from LIXIL, Reliance Worldwide, Milwaukee, GE Appliances, Winsupply of Albuquerque, Indian Health Services, Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department, DigDeep, the Mechanical Contractors Association of New Mexico, as well as Tom Bigley, director of plumbing services for the United Association, and representatives from numerous plumbing local unions.

Heinrich said the geography of the Navajo Nation is so challenging that multiple things must be done at the same time to be able to create the basic infrastructure in places like Thoreau. The federal Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project will result in hundreds of miles of new supply line, but remote areas such as Thoreau may remain out of reach for the time being.

"That still doesn't connect people in these really remote areas," he said. "You have to have multiple different approaches, and having skilled labor come and make sometimes really basic fixes that make things work in somebody's own home? That's just invaluable, absolutely invaluable, and so I think we need to learn how to walk and chew gum at the same time, really build on these partnerships, look at how we do the same sort of approach for electrification in many of these remote locations, and all work together as a team."

Work on the projects is scheduled to be completed by Friday. A 90-minute community forum and presentation will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Baca-Prewitt Chapter House. The farewell ceremony is set for 6 p.m. Friday at the El Rancho Hotel in Gallup, New Mexico. To learn more about the event, visit the project website at [www.commplumbing.org](http://www.commplumbing.org) or email [info@iwsh.org](mailto:info@iwsh.org). Visit [www.iwsh.org](http://www.iwsh.org).

[<Return to top>](#)

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**IAPMO's 89th Annual Education and Business Conference Wraps Up in Philadelphia**



**NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

A subscription to Official is just one of the many benefits available to members of IAPMO, which include substantial discounts on most IAPMO publications and educational programs, the opportunity to update and improve the UPC and UMC, participation in local IAPMO chapters and an invitation to attend IAPMO's Annual Education and Business Conference. The conference offers superb educational seminars. Find out more at [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org).

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) concluded its 89th annual Education and Business Conference today at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel in Philadelphia. The four-day event offered a number of unique education sessions, a Chapter Leadership Summit, and evening networking events.

- Dave Straub elected president
- David Gans elected vice president
- Marty Cooper elected secretary/treasurer
- Allen Becker elected to Board of Directors, two others reelected

"I am honored and humbled to be elected president of this distinguished organization," Straub said. "None of us would be here today if it weren't for the enduring strength and influence IAPMO has exhibited during its 92 years of existence."

Conference awards were presented to Mike Layton, Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 business manager (American Flag Award); Steve Nastruz, senior plumbing inspector, King County, Washington (Government Person of the Year); Randy Lorge, instructor of Plumbing Apprenticeship, UA Local 400 (Industry Person of the Year); Amir Tabakh, manager of LADWP's La Kretz Labs and Energy Efficiency Solutions Engineering (Joseph Kneidinger Green Professional of the Year); and Denver Boney, retired chief plumbing inspector, District of Columbia (George Kauffman Lifetime Achievement Award).

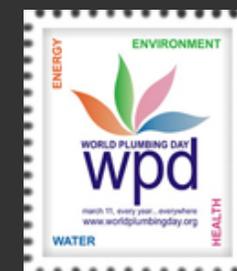
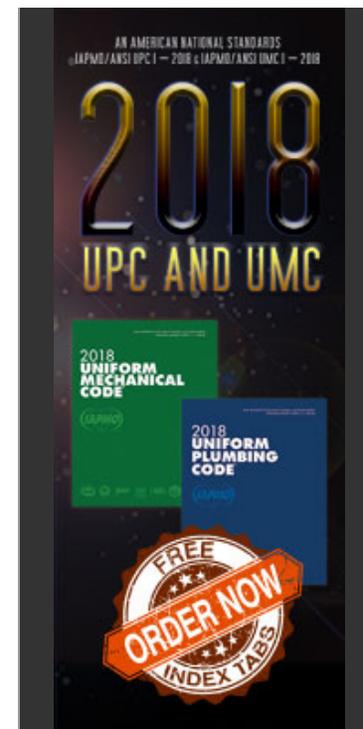
Former NBA all-star Mark Eaton, a 12-year veteran with the Utah Jazz, delivered the keynote address. Eaton has transitioned from the NBA to become a successful entrepreneur, TV and radio talk show host, and world-class speaker, trainer, and coach.

Dain Hansen, IAPMO's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and the Managing Director of the International Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (IWSH) Foundation, delivered several presentations on this month's Navajo Nation Community Plumbing Challenge. Set for Oct. 22-26 in Thoreau, New Mexico, the collaboration with DigDeep will provide about 10 households with access to water and improved sanitation.

In addition to top-notch educational seminars, code workshops, industry expo, and invaluable networking opportunities, conference goers had the opportunity to participate in the Assembly Consideration Session toward development of the 2021 editions of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC<sup>®</sup>) and Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC<sup>®</sup>). IAPMO is employing an accelerated schedule within its ANSI-accredited code development cycle for these editions.

For more information, visit [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org).

[<Return to top>](#)



## Revised Section 608 Refrigerant Management Regulations

On September 18, 2018, EPA issued a proposed rule *Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revisions to the Refrigerant Management Program's Extension to Substitutes*.

This action proposes to revisit the Agency's recent approach to regulating appliances containing substitute refrigerants such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by proposing to rescind the November 18, 2016 extension of the leak repair provisions to appliances using substitute refrigerants. This proposal also requests public comment on rescinding other provisions that were extended to substitute refrigerants. This proposal would not affect the requirements for ozone-depleting refrigerants.

If finalized as proposed, this action would rescind the leak repair and maintenance requirements at 40 CFR 82.157 for substitute refrigerants. Therefore, appliances with 50 or more pounds of substitute refrigerants would not be subject to the following requirements:

- conduct leak rate calculations when refrigerant is added to an appliance,
- repair an appliance that leaks above a threshold leak rate,
- conduct verification tests on repairs,
- conduct periodic leak inspections on appliances that exceed the threshold leak rate,
- report to EPA on chronically leaking appliances,
- retrofit or retire appliances that are not repaired, and
- maintain related records.

EPA is also requesting comment on rescinding other provisions that were extended to substitute refrigerants, including the following:

- anyone purchasing refrigerant for use in an appliance or handling refrigerants (e.g., air-conditioning and refrigeration service contractors and technicians) must be a Section 608-certified technician,
- anyone removing refrigerant from a refrigeration or air-conditioning appliance must evacuate refrigerant to certain level using certified refrigerant recovery equipment before servicing or disposing of the appliance,
- the final disposer (e.g., scrap recycler, landfill) of small appliances, like refrigerators and window air conditioners, must ensure and document that refrigerant is recovered before final disposal, and
- all used refrigerant must be reclaimed to industry purity standards before it can be sold to another appliance owner.

### Key Documents

- [Federal Register link to 2018 Proposed Rule](#)
- [Docket link](#)

More info: <https://www.epa.gov/section608/revised-section-608-refrigerant-management-regulations>

[<Return to top>](#)

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## **IAPMO Enters Memorandum of Agreement with U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration**

IAPMO, which strives to enhance public health and safety by working with government and industry representatives to implement comprehensive plumbing and mechanical systems worldwide, has entered in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) in support of the U.S. plumbing industry.

In particular, the partners will collaborate on a program of activities to increase U.S. plumbing exports to Southeast Asia by increasing adoption and use in that region of standards and conformity assessment methods commonly used by U.S. companies. IAPMO works to coordinate the development and promotion of plumbing and mechanical standards worldwide and has a robust presence in the Indo-Pacific. Advocacy for standards directly benefits the American companies that use them and aligns with ITA's mission to promote U.S. standards in export markets in order to boost the competitiveness of the U.S. industry.

"We have been fortunate to work with the Department of Commerce and ITA for many years — a relationship that has proven mutually beneficial," said IAPMO CEO GP Russ Chaney. "Together we have expanded market opportunities for the industry, increased standardization in new markets, and worked to protect the public's health and safety across the globe. Formalizing our working relationship as strategic partners makes perfect sense, and we are thrilled to take this relationship to the next level."

Read more: [http://www.iapmonline.org/Documents/archive/20180917\\_IAPMO-ITA\\_MoU.aspx](http://www.iapmonline.org/Documents/archive/20180917_IAPMO-ITA_MoU.aspx)

[<Return to top>](#)

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## **September Construction Starts Settle Back 5 Percent**

### *Nonresidential Building Continues to Recede*

NEW YORK – October 18, 2018 – New construction starts in September fell 5% from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$709.6 billion, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The September downturn followed 9% declines in both July and August, as the pace of construction starts has now pulled back for the third month in a row after reaching the current year's high in June. By major sector, nonresidential building weakened further in September, sliding 6%. Nonbuilding construction

dropped 13% in September, due to sharp retrenchment for the electric utility/gas plant category while public works held basically steady. Residential building was the one major sector posting a gain in September, rising 2%. Through the first nine months of 2018, total construction starts on an unadjusted basis were \$599.9 billion, down 1% from the same period a year ago. The year-to-date volume for total construction starts was dampened by a 49% plunge for the electric utility/gas plant category. If the electric utility/gas plant category is excluded, total construction starts during the first nine months of 2018 would be up 1% compared to the same period last year.

September's data produced a reading of 150 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), after the 157 reported for August.

"The pace of construction starts has clearly slowed over the past three months, following what was unsustainably high levels during May and June," stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics.

Read more: <https://www.construction.com/news/september-construction-starts-back-5-percent-oct-2018>

[<Return to top>](#)

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### **"Flushable" Wipes Clog South Carolina Sewage Plant**

In what is becoming a reoccurring story around the globe, flushable wipes are again being blamed for clogging sewer pipes, this time in Charleston, South Carolina.

The wipes clogged the sewer system at the Plum Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in James Island.

"It took a few days for us to get divers in here to actually dive down about 80 feet into raw sewage with their bare hands and feel around in total darkness," said Mike Saia, the plant's communications director.

The Charleston Water System says the divers are hosed down with "straight bleach" before they are able to remove the dive suit.

Experts advise wipes to never be flushed down the toilet, even if they're labeled as "flushable" or even bio-degradable.



Charleston Water @ChasWaterSystem · Oct 15

Then we sent divers 80-90 feet deep into the wet well/raw sewage to search in complete darkness with their hands to find and identify the obstruction. As we expected, they came up with these large masses of wipes in their first two loads, with more to come.



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[<Return to top>](#)

## EPA to Sunset WaterSense Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Specification

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing to sunset its WaterSense<sup>®</sup> labeling specification for pre-rinse spray valves (PRSVs), as the federal standards regulating PRSVs have been updated.

PRSVs are commonly used in commercial and institutional kitchens prior to dishwashing. EPA released the *WaterSense Specification for Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves* on September 19, 2013, establishing the water efficiency and performance criteria necessary to earn the WaterSense label, so that manufacturers could differentiate PRSVs in the marketplace that used less water and still provided adequate spray force to remove food waste from dishes.

In 2016, DOE revised the federal energy conservation standards for commercial PRSVs. The new regulation, effective January 28, 2019, classifies PRSVs into three product categories, differentiated by spray force, each with its own maximum allowable flow rate. The revised federal regulations, based in part on the WaterSense specification, will require every PRSV sold in the United States to meet or exceed the efficiency criteria established in the WaterSense specification.

Because there is limited opportunity for additional water savings beyond the new DOE regulation, EPA intends to sunset the WaterSense specification on January 1, 2019, before the DOE regulations take effect. On this date, WaterSense will no longer label pre-rinse spray valves. With this announcement, EPA is releasing a [Notice of Sunset](#) that describes the timeline and steps in the process for sunsetting the specification.

### **Review Notice of Sunset for PRSVs**

WaterSense thanks its program partners and stakeholders for their collaboration in developing and promoting the WaterSense specification. Implementing rigorous water efficiency and performance criteria across this product category is a major accomplishment for WaterSense, its stakeholders, and water efficiency in commercial and institutional settings. This latest rule change is a reflection of the PRSV market transformation the program initiated in 2013.

If you have questions about EPA's sunsetting of the *WaterSense Specification for Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves* or about the WaterSense program in general, please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367) or e-mail [watersense@epa.gov](mailto:watersense@epa.gov).

[<Return to top>](#)

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### **Supreme Court Declines to Hear HFC Case**

The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear the appeal of a 2017 Court of Appeals case that restricted the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate HFCs under the Significant New Alternatives Program (SNAP).

This leaves in place last year's court decision, which overturned the EPA's directives to ban high GWP refrigerants such as R-404A and R-410A from use in certain applications.

"Coming only a day after the world's leading climate scientists called for urgent action to curb dangerous carbon pollution, the court's decision lets irresponsible companies continue harming our planet — even though safer alternatives exist," said David Doniger, an attorney and Senior Strategic Director of the Climate and Clean Energy Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Thankfully, states are stepping up. Four already have committed to curbing HFCs, and more are expected soon to follow the leadership of California, New York, Maryland, and Connecticut."

[<Return to top>](#)

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## Industry Calendar

**2018 NSPC Technical Meeting**  
December 5-6, 2018  
Philadelphia, PA  
[www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

**AHR Expo 2019**  
Jan. 14-16, 2019  
Atlanta, GA  
<https://ahrexpo.com/>

**KBIS 2019**  
February 19-21, 2019  
Las Vegas, NV  
[www.kbis.com](http://www.kbis.com)

**2019 UPC and UMC Technical Meetings**  
April 29-May 2, 2019  
Denver, CO  
[www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

## Upcoming Seminars

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ALASKA ONLINE SEMINARS		
ARIZONA SEMINARS		
November 5-9, 2018	Phoenix, AZ	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
November 9, 2018	Phoenix, AZ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
December 17-21, 2018	Phoenix, AZ	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
December 21, 2018	Phoenix, AZ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
CALIFORNIA SEMINARS		
December 3-7, 2018	Ontario, CA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
December 7, 2018	Ontario, CA	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
IDAHO ONLINE SEMINARS		
IOWA ONLINE SEMINARS		
LOUISIANA SEMINARS		
November 5-9, 2018	Kinder, LA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
November 9, 2018	Kinder, LA	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course / WSPS Conversion Class
MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS		
<b>Session 11 Training now available - <a href="#">click here for the schedule!</a></b>		
MINNESOTA SEMINARS		
December 3-7, 2018	Anoka, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
December 7, 2018	Anoka, MN	ASSE Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam

**NEW JERSEY SEMINARS**

October 20, 21 & 27, 28	East Brunswick, NJ	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
October 28, 2018	East Brunswick, NJ	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course and Exam

**SOUTH DAKOTA SEMINARS**

[Click Here to Find a Class](#)

**VIRGINIA SEMINARS**

December 10-14, 2018	Chantilly, VA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
December 14, 2018	Chantilly, VA	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam

**WISCONSIN SEMINARS**

June 3-7, 2019	Appleton, WI	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
June 7, 2019	Appleton, WI	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam

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