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International Association
of Plumbing and Mechanical
Officials

4755 E. Philadelphia St.
Ontario, CA 91761 USA
Phone: 1-909-472-4100

Fax: 909-472-4150

E-mail: iapmo@iapmo.org
Website: www.iapmo.org

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Understanding Coronavirus Exposure for Plumbing Professionals

In 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) started monitoring the outbreak of a new coronavirus which ultimately was named COVID-19. The virus was first identified in Wuhan, China. This paper is intended to provide practical guidance for plumbing professionals who work on sanitary waste and sewer systems on how to protect themselves, their loved ones and their coworkers during the current pandemic.

Coronaviruses are so named because, when viewed under a microscope, they have protrusions that resemble a crown. They belong to a family of viruses common in both humans and many animal species. In rare occurrences, animal coronaviruses can mutate to the point where they are able to also infect humans, which is likely what occurred in China late last year. The potential for viruses that cross over from animals to humans to develop into an epidemic, happens when the virus can then be transmitted between humans. The COVID-19 virus is highly transmissible between humans and can cause respiratory illness and even death.

As of this writing on March 11, World Plumbing Day, the WHO has announced the outbreak qualifies as a pandemic, having spread on all inhabited continents. The worldwide number of humans diagnosed with COVID-19 has surpassed 120,000, with more than 4,300 deaths (see chart below). These numbers are predicted to grow. Unfortunately, there's much we still don't know about the virus, including important details about its transmissibility, how long it can survive on various surfaces or in water, and the range of illness severity amongst various population groups. It is known that the elderly and those who are immuno-compromised with pre-existing medical conditions are the most vulnerable for poor medical outcomes, which is consistent with other pathogen-based diseases, including influenza. However, contrary to some misinformation that's currently available, the coronavirus is in fact considerably more dangerous than the current annual influenza virus.

Read more: www.iapmonline.org/Documents/archive/20200316_Coronavirus_Plumbers.aspx

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IAPMO Seeks Technical Correlating Committee Members

IAPMO is seeking volunteers to participate on the Technical Correlating Committee (TCC) to work toward the correlation of the 2024 editions of the *Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®)* and *Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC®)*.

The deadline to submit an application is May 4.

Members are being sought in the following interest categories: manufacturer, user, installer/maintainer, labor, research/standards/testing laboratory, enforcing authority, consumer, and special expert. This committee is appointed by the IAPMO Standards Council in accordance with the IAPMO Regulations Governing Committee Projects.

The TCC is the body responsible for resolving conflicts, achieving correlation among the recommendations of the technical committees, and correcting errors and omissions. All persons wishing to apply to the TCC must complete an application for Technical Correlating Committee Membership (see link below), including a résumé of qualifications.

Anyone interested in serving can complete the application online at the [Code Development web page](#).

For specific information about the TCC, please contact Enrique Gonzalez at (909) 230- 5535 or e-mail your question to enrique.gonzalez@iapmo.org or contact Zalmie Hussein at (909) 218-8122 or e-mail your question to zalmie.hussein@iapmo.org.

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IAPMO Co-Hosts Congressional Briefing About Water Access Study on World Plumbing Day

On March 11 IAPMO, DigDeep, the US Water Alliance and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) marked the 11th annual World Plumbing Day by co-hosting a congressional briefing on the recently released report, "Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States: A National Action Plan."

DigDeep and the US Water Alliance, with assistance from IAPMO, produced the report, which found more than 2 million Americans live without running water, indoor plumbing or sanitation service. TV and print outlets throughout the United States have highlighted the report and its findings since its November release.

The event included representatives from DigDeep, the US Water Alliance and RCAP, representatives from communities mentioned in the report such as the Navajo Nation and the Deep South, and others who came to present the findings and recommendations to Capitol Hill.

The study recommended a series of remedies, including re-introducing Census questions about whether homes have working taps and toilets, as well as changes to how the federal government funds and regulates water systems to support rural and unincorporated areas. There are also several recommendations for the philanthropic and global WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) sectors to drive community empowerment, deploy innovative technologies, and apply successful WASH models from abroad here in the United States. The full report is available online at [closethewatergap.org](https://www.iapmo.org/group/update/2020_wpd_congressional_briefing).

Read more: https://www.iapmo.org/group/update/2020_wpd_congressional_briefing

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IAPMO Board of Directors Issues TIA UPC-002-18 and Petition No. 02-21

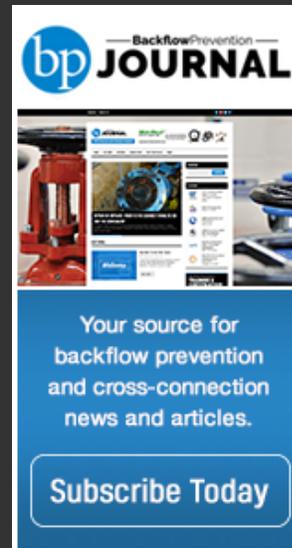
The IAPMO Board of Directors on Jan. 22 issued one Tentative Interim Amendment and granted one petition affecting the 2018 and 2021 editions of the *Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®)*, respectively. TIA UPC-002-18 revises text in the 2018 *UPC* Section 715.3 regarding existing sewers. Petition No. 02-21 revises text in the 2021 *UPC* Section 715.3 regarding existing sewers.

The TIA was balloted through the Plumbing Technical Committee in accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects to determine if there existed the necessary three-fourths majority support on technical merit and emergency nature to establish the recommendation for issuance. In the case of TIA UPC- 002-18, the letter ballot did not pass on both accounts. Subsequently, the applicant appealed the TIA to the IAPMO Standards Council; the Council declined to issue the TIA. Upon a Petition to the IAPMO Board of Directors, the Board found contrary to the *UPC* TC that the TIA possesses technical merit. Further, the Board recognized Section 5-2(f) of the IAPMO Regulations Governing Committee Projects reads, in its entirety: "The proposed TIA intends to correct a circumstance in which the revised document has resulted in an adverse impact on a product or method that was inadvertently overlooked in the total revision process, or was without adequate technical (safety) justification for the action." The Board determined that the TIA satisfies this section. As a result, the TIA has been issued and Section 715.3 of the 2018 *UPC* shall read as set forth in the below link.

Regarding the petition on this same Section 715.3 of the 2021 *UPC*, the Board of Directors acted upon a finding of extraordinary circumstance in accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects. Read the petition in its entirety at the link below.

- To examine TIA UPC 002-18 in its entirety, please click [HERE](#)
- To examine petition No. 02-21 in its entirety, please click [HERE](#)

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.



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UPC AND UMC**

2018 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE (Green cover)
2018 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE (Blue cover)

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TIAs are proposals based on the determination of an emergency nature requiring prompt action to amend code that contains an error or omission that was overlooked during the regular code development process, contains a conflict within the document or with another IAPMO document, or to correct a hazard, promote an advancement in safeguarding the public or provide an opportunity to correct an adverse impact on a product or method of installation.

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IAPMO Hires Carrier as Senior Vice President of UES, IBT

IAPMO has hired former Glen-Gery Corp. Director of Research and Development Jerry Carrier as Senior Vice President of Uniform Evaluation Services (UES) and the Institute of Building Technology (IBT). Carrier will oversee UES operations and the building products test lab in this newly created position at The IAPMO Group World Headquarters in Ontario, Calif.

A graduate of the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in architecture, Carrier joined Glen-Gery Corp., one of the largest brick and stone manufacturers in the United States, in 1989 as a design advisor. He was promoted to director of Technical Services in 2001 and director of Research and Development in 2008. He brings more than 15 years' experience in strategic and technical/business leadership in addition to his 30-plus years of providing design, detailing and installation advice to owners, architects, engineers, contractors and masons to ensure code compliance, durability and performance.

Read more: <https://www.iapmo.org/group/update/carrier-ues-ibt>

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IAPMO Promotes Hansen to Executive Vice President

IAPMO, in recognition of his vital work in Washington, D.C., and across the globe, has promoted Dain Hansen to Executive Vice President of Government Relations.

Since joining The IAPMO Group in 2010, Hansen has overseen an unprecedented expansion of the association's influence among government policymakers both in the United States and abroad, including notably India, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, where national standards based on IAPMO's codes have been established. Hansen manages IAPMO's global policy interests before foreign governments, U.S. Congress, the White House, federal and state regulatory agencies, and state legislatures.

Further, Hansen has guided IAPMO's work with the U.S. Department of Commerce to help facilitate exports of U.S. plumbing products abroad and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure continuation of the popular and highly effective consumer product labeling program, WaterSense.

Read more: http://www.iapmonline.org/Documents/archive/20200302_Hansen_EVP.aspx

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EPA's National Water Reuse Action Plan Makes Reuse a National Priority

Last month the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), alongside federal partners, released the **National Water Reuse Action Plan: Collaborative Implementation**, a collection of bold actions developed in collaboration with water sector organizations that will reshape the way communities around the nation manage our most precious resource – water. The plan identifies 37 actions across 11 strategic themes to give communities tools to consider and adopt water reuse as part of an integrated water resources plan.

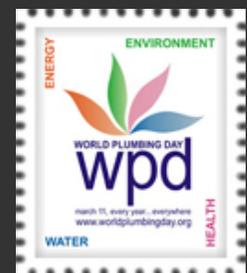
EPA announced its intent to facilitate the development of the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) one year ago on February 27, 2019. National water organizations including the WaterReuse Association, American Water Works Association (AWWA), Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), and The Water Research Foundation (WRF) worked in partnership with utilities, businesses, and government to develop recommendations for the plan.

The WRAP identifies tools related to education, policy, technology development, research, and a variety of other mechanisms to increase the likelihood that more cities and states will consider incorporating water reuse into their water management strategy.

EPA along with other federal agencies such as the U.S. Departments of Energy and State and the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as national water associations will lead actions and collaborate on others to ensure implementation. Actions led by national water sector organizations include developing a database to track and report state-level policies and regulations, coordinating research, and workforce development.

Read the full release: <https://watereuse.org/epas-national-water-reuse-action-plan-makes-reuse-a-national-priority/>

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Flint Slow to Use Federal Funds for Water Crisis

Flint has left more than \$87 million in federal funds appropriated for fixing its infrastructure on the table, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says.

An EPA official advised Mayor Sheldon Neeley and Liesl Eichler Clark, director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, of the unused funds in a Feb. 27 letter. The letter urged the city to “advance the schedule of remaining projects in order to complete work during the project period of the grant which ends Dec. 31, 2021.”

The EPA award \$100 million for Flint Water Infrastructure upgrades three years ago.

Read more as reported on mlive.com: <https://www.mlive.com/news/flint/2020/03/epa-says-87-million-banked-for-flint-water-crisis-still-hasnt-been-spent.html>

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Celebrate Fix a Leak Week

Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, so each year we hunt down the drips during Fix a Leak Week. Celebrate EPA's annual Fix a Leak Week, March 16 through 22, 2020—but remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long.

From family fun runs to leak detection contests to WaterSense demonstrations, Fix a Leak Week events happen from coast to coast and are all geared to teach you how to find and fix household leaks. See the [Event map](#) (or on [Facebook](#)) to find events near you and view past events!

Learn how to find and fix leaks during Fix a Leak Week. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

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IWSH Announces Postponement of Upcoming CPC Indonesia Construction Week

In light of the current global COVID-19 Coronavirus health crisis, IWSH Foundation announces the postponement of the upcoming Community Plumbing Challenge Indonesia Construction Week project.

Originally slated for May/June 2020, this event intended to assemble an international team of volunteer tradespeople to build a new public toilet and wash facility in Untia village, Makassar, South Sulawesi; realizing a design proposal that was developed and approved in successful collaboration with local residents during Design Week, in November, 2019.

The decision to postpone the upcoming Construction Week project is made with respect to current concerns around international travel, virus containment, and with the health and safety of all participating volunteers, host community members and local partners in mind.

IWSH will announce new arrangements for the Construction Week project in due course, in response to further developments impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

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Emerging Water Technology Symposium Postponed

The co-conveners of the 2020 Emerging Water Technology Symposium (EWTS), which was scheduled for May 12-13 in San Antonio, have postponed the event and tentatively rescheduled it for next year, May 11-12, 2021.

“This change was necessitated after thoughtful consideration of the growing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said IAPMO’s Peter DeMarco, the event’s lead technical organizer. “The health and safety of our attendees, presenters and staff is, of course, our highest priority.”

The decision to postpone the symposium for a full year was made in consideration of other co-convenor sponsored technical events that remain scheduled in 2020. Organizers recognize this change may not work for all attendees, sponsors, exhibitors and speakers. Accordingly, all registrations will be fully refunded and all hotel reservations that were made under the EWTS room block will be automatically canceled. Registrants should receive a cancellation notification from the hotel.

Organizers will be reaching out to sponsors, exhibitors and speakers in the days ahead and will work closely with all parties to help determine their plans for the rescheduled EWTS.

“The postponement is especially disappointing to the organizing technical committee when considering the amazing program that was on tap,” DeMarco said. “Our registration numbers were by far the highest ever and the event was well on the way to selling out. We will work hard to generate the same level of excitement for the 2021 EWTS.”

Co-convened biennially by the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), in cooperation with the World Plumbing Council (WPC), EWTS is designed to provide a portal for the host organizations' partners in the manufacturing, engineering and trade industries to display and demonstrate their innovative solutions to legislative and regulatory developments that often alter industry landscapes.

For further information, please contact Maria Bazan at (708) 995-3000 or maria.bazan@iapmo.org.

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Industry Calendar

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September 13-17, 2020

Watersmart Innovatgions 2020
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2020

Upcoming Seminars

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ARIZONA SEMINARS		
May 11-15, 2020	Phoenix, AZ	ASSE 5130 Backflow Prevention Assembly Repairer Training and Certification Examination Class
May 16 & 30, 2020	Tempe & Phoenix, AZ	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 Hr Course and Exam
June 1-6, 2020	Phoenix, AZ	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
June 20 & 27, 2020	Tempe & Phoenix, AZ	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 Hr Course and Exam
CALIFORNIA SEMINARS		
October 19-23, 2020	Ontario, CA	CA-2019 Plumbing Code Changes
October 23, 2020	Ontario, CA	CA-2019 Mechanical Code Changes
COLORADO SEMINARS		
May 6-7, 2020	Denver, CO	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr Course & Exam
May 20-21, 2020	Denver, CO	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr Course & Exam
June 8-12, 2020	Grand Junction, CO	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
June 11-12, 2020	Grand Junction, CO	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr Course & Exam
IDAHO ONLINE SEMINARS		
IOWA ONLINE SEMINARS		

LOUISIANA SEMINARS

June 1-5, 2020	Baton Rouge, LA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
June 5, 2020	Baton Rouge, LA	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course / WSPS Conversion Class
June 6, 2020	Elmwood, LA	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course and Exam

MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS

[Session 11 Training available - click here for info!](#)

MINNESOTA SEMINARS

May 18-22, 2020	Anoka, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
May 22, 2020	Anoka, MN	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam

NEW JERSEY SEMINARS

May 4-8, 2020	Pennsauken, NJ	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
May 11, 2020	Pennsauken, NJ	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course and Exam

OKLAHOMA SEMINARS

June 8-12, 2020	Oklahoma City, OK	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
June 12, 2020	Oklahoma City, OK	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam

PENNSYLVANIA SEMINARS

June 15-19, 2020	Scranton, PA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
June 19, 2020	Scranton, PA	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course and Exam

SOUTH DAKOTA SEMINARS

[Click Here to Find a Class](#)

WEST VIRGINIA SEMINARS

October 5-9, 2020	Martinsburg, WV	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
October 9, 2020	Martinsburg, WV	ASSE 5110 Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam

IAPMO is an approved provider for Continuing Education by USGBC, IACET, AIA and many local organizations and jurisdictions. Contact the IAPMO Training staff to register at 1-877-427-6601, or go to our website <http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/Seminar.aspx> to register online. New training dates are added periodically!



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