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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

## Celebrate World Plumbing Day on March 11

Initiated by the **World Plumbing Council**, **World Plumbing Day** is an international event observed every March 11 that celebrates the important role plumbing plays in the health and safety of modern society. We know that negative connotations are sometimes attached to plumbers and plumbing, so we wanted to engage the public in changing people's perception of them and have a little fun.

Natural disasters such as the typhoon in the Philippines and the devastating earthquake in Haiti reveal how easy it is to take for granted the availability of safe drinking water and sufficient sanitation systems – until those systems cease to function properly.

IAPMO is a proud member of the WPC. The safety and abundance of drinking water is, of course, a concern for most people all over the world, but what is not often emphasized is the work the plumbing industry contributes every day to alleviate these concerns.

### WORLD PLUMBING DAY EVENTS

In Australia, IAPMO will co-sponsor a World Plumbing Day event held by the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC). The event will include a luncheon, trade show and skills competition for up and coming apprentices. There also will be an exhibition for some of the artwork entered in the "Water Is Life – International Poster Art Competition."

Key speakers will include The Honorable Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, and Justin Madden, Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Victorian Building Authority. PICAC CEO Shayne La Combre and Chair Earl Setches will provide updates on the

progress of the Centre and where PICAC stands today.

IAPMO representatives will speak at elementary schools using a presentation developed by the WPC to educate children ages 5-10 on the importance of plumbing. Children also will be encouraged to participate in the WPC's international poster competition. The top three entrants will be awarded \$100, \$50, or \$25, with their schools receiving \$1,000, \$500, or \$250.

Once again, the WPC encourages individuals and member organizations to get involved by:

- Making presentations at schools on water and plumbing. A PowerPoint presentation is available for download at [www.worldplumbingday.org](http://www.worldplumbingday.org).
- Organizing local schools to participate in the International Poster Competition.
- Arranging events or meetings that highlight World Plumbing Day.
- Spreading awareness about World Plumbing Day's message through such social media outlets as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

For more information, please direct your Web browser to [www.worldplumbingday.org](http://www.worldplumbingday.org).

Additional resources can be found at [www.iapmo.org/Pages/WorldPlumbingDay.aspx](http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/WorldPlumbingDay.aspx).

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## IAPMO Seeks Technical Committee Members

IAPMO is seeking volunteers to participate on two technical committees working toward the development of the 2018 editions of the *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code (USPSHTC)* and *Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code (USEHC)*. The deadline to submit an application is July 1, 2016.

The *USPSHTC* and *USEHC* technical committees each seek members in the following categories: manufacturer, user, installer/maintainer, labor, research/standards/testing laboratory, enforcing authority, consumer, and special expert. These committees are assembled in accordance with the *Regulations Governing Consensus Development of the USPSHTC and USEHC* and the *Guide for the Conduct of Participants* in the IAPMO codes and standards development process. These documents may be viewed at the following URL:

<http://codes.iapmo.org/docs/ConsensusCodeDevelopmentCycle.pdf>

Within them, prospective technical committee participants can find information on the scope and general guidelines for conduct of these committees.

IAPMO first adopted the *USPSHTC* and *USEHC* in September 1976. The provisions of these codes apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to or maintenance of any solar energy, hydronic heating/cooling, swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system. The 2009, 2012, and 2015 editions of these codes were produced using a consensus process similar to the one used to develop the *Uniform Plumbing Code*<sup>®</sup> and *Uniform Mechanical Code*<sup>®</sup>, which are designated as American National Standards.

Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees can complete the application online at the Code Development web page:

[http://forms.iapmo.org/iapmo/committee/app\\_tech\\_committee\\_ps.asp](http://forms.iapmo.org/iapmo/committee/app_tech_committee_ps.asp)

For specific information about the *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code*



### 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).

### BPPS MAGAZINE



Backflow Prevention & Plumbing Standards (BPPS) magazine is the only monthly trade publication dedicated to the backflow prevention and plumbing industries. BPPS is specifically designed to address each of our audiences - including contractors, plumbers, sprinkler fitters, irrigation personnel, backflow prevention assembly installers and testers, water utilities, water operators, inspectors and manufacturers - in each and every issue.

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Technical Committee, please contact Enrique Gonzalez at (909) 230-5535 or e-mail your question to [enrique.gonzalez@iapmo.org](mailto:enrique.gonzalez@iapmo.org). For the *Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code* Technical Committee, contact Hugo Aguilar at (909) 472-4111 or e-mail your question to [hugo.aguilar@iapmo.org](mailto:hugo.aguilar@iapmo.org).

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## IAPMO India, WQA India Sign MOU to Collaborate on Certification Program for Drinking Water Treatment Systems

IAPMO India and Water Quality India Association (WQA India) have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) establishing an agreement to collaborate on the administration of the Certification Scheme for Drinking Water Treatment Systems that Make Microbiological Reduction Claims.

WQA India, an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to water quality improvement, has developed a microbiological standard for evaluation of water treatment devices that make claims of microbiologically safe water. Products meeting this standard will be given the "Seal of Purity" by WQA India. This will be an important differentiator in the marketplace between compliant and non-compliant products.

IAPMO India, which operates successful certification programs for the plumbing industry, will now undertake certification of products seeking listing to the new microbiological standard. Some of IAPMO's better-known certification programs include *Uniform Illustrated Plumbing Code – India (UIPC-I)*, *Uniform Mechanical Code – India (UMC-I)*, *Uniform Solar Energy Code – India (USEC-I)*, and *Water Efficient Products – India (WEP-I)* standards.

"IAPMO is excited to partner with WQA India on this effort," said Tom Palkon, IAPMO Senior Vice President – Water Systems. "Product testing and certification of water treatment equipment provides consumers added confidence in products they purchase to protect their family."

Point-of-use systems for drinking water treatment are used in households to alleviate health risks by reducing numerous potential disease-causing contaminants, including bacteria, viruses, and disinfectant resistant parasites. The new certification scheme, which conforms to ISO/IEC 17067 "Conformity Assessment – Fundamentals of Product Certification and Guidelines for Product Certification Schemes," establishes standards by which such products' reduction claims may be measured and certified as satisfying.

"Microbiological impurities, such as bacteria and viruses, are the number one cause of waterborne diseases and infant deaths in India," said Rajul Parikh, President, WQA India. "WQA India has launched a product certification program, which will certify that the product in question meets with stringent microbiological norms. Such complying products will be marked with a unique "Seal of Purity," easy for the customer to recognize. WQA India plans to offer newer certifications in the future, testing water purifiers to different standards, and will be collaborating with IAPMO toward this goal."

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## New Poll Finds 95% of Americans Want Public Officials to Invest in Water Systems, 60% Are Willing to Pay More for Secure Water Service

On February 24, 2016, the Value of Water Coalition released the results of a new

education: 800-SAVE-H2O  
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national poll on public attitudes and concerns about water. The poll found that Americans are deeply concerned with the state of water infrastructure that we all rely on.

Respondents were evenly split (47 percent/47 percent), initially, with their willingness to personally spend more on their water bills for increased investment in water systems. Once poll respondents received additional information about water issues, 60 percent of Americans are in favor of paying more to invest in water infrastructure-an increase of 13 percent.

"This is a critical time and important opportunity to have a conversation across the country about the importance of investing in our water systems. Being able to drink water straight from the tap and knowing that wastewater is safely and responsibly treated are top concerns for Americans. As a nation, we must prioritize investment in our water systems-to maintain high-quality water service today and for future generations," said Radhika Fox, director of the Value of Water Coalition and CEO of the US Water Alliance.

In light of the crisis in Flint, Michigan, 95 percent of respondents said it was important or very important for public officials to invest in water systems so other communities didn't face what happened in Flint.

The issues that resonated with Americans were clear: we're all dependent on water infrastructure, and we need to invest in it.

About the Poll: American Viewpoints and Hart Research conducted this national poll via phone of 1,000 adults across the country in January 2016. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent at 95 percent confidence, and fifty percent of the interviewees have a cell phone.

*The Value of Water Coalition educates and inspires people about how water is essential, invaluable, and needs investment. The Coalition has come together to advance positive solutions to our nation's pressing water challenges.*

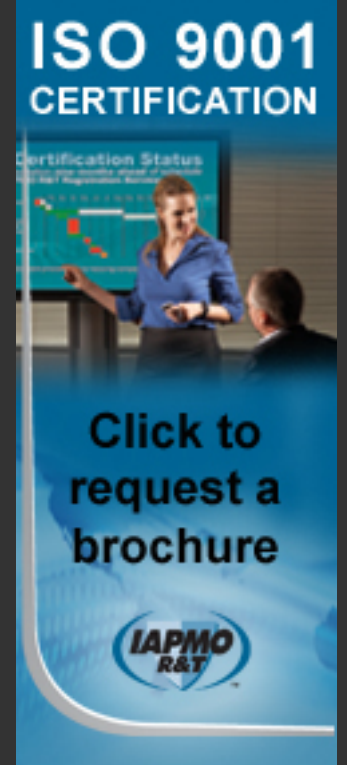
Learn more about the Coalition at [www.thevalueofwater.org](http://www.thevalueofwater.org)

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## January Construction Starts Rise 2 Percent

The value of new construction starts in January grew 2% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$607.9 billion, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The gain for total construction relative to December reflected moderate growth for housing. At the same time, nonresidential building retreated slightly in January, as increases for commercial building and manufacturing plant construction were offset by diminished activity for institutional building. The nonbuilding construction sector also retreated slightly in January, as modest improvement for public works was offset by a downturn for the electric utilities/gas plant category. On an unadjusted basis, total construction starts in January were reported at \$40.6 billion, down 14% from the same month a year ago which featured the start of two massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal projects in Texas. If these two LNG terminal projects are excluded, total construction starts in January would be up 1% from last year's corresponding amount.

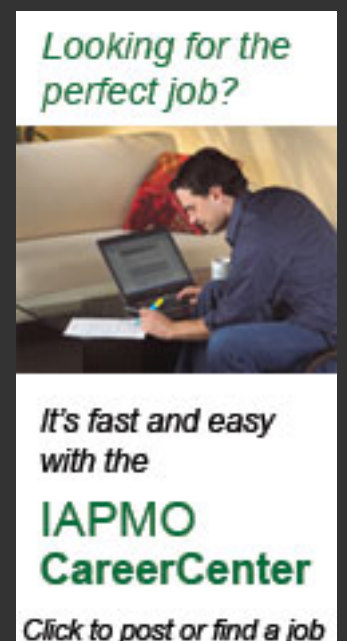
The January statistics raised the Dodge Index to 129 (2000=100), compared to a revised 127 for December. "The construction industry, as shown by the construction start statistics, seems to be gradually regaining upward momentum," stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "Last year construction activity



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proceeded at a healthy clip during the first half, followed by a 20% drop in the third quarter, and then a slight 1% rebound in the fourth quarter. January's modest gain for construction starts is consistent with what was shown at the end of last year. On the plus side, long-term interest rates remain low in early 2016, and such market fundamentals as occupancies and rents are supportive of further growth by multifamily housing and commercial building. The new five-year federal transportation act is in place and fiscal 2016 appropriations have been passed, which should help public works construction. On the negative side, the struggling global economy, the extended drop in energy prices, and the sliding stock market in early 2016 have raised the degree of uncertainty in the economic environment, which may contribute to a more restrained approach towards investment in the near term."

Read the full report: <http://construction.com/about-us/press/January-Construction-Starts-Rise-2-Percent.asp>

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## Chicago Lead Lawsuits Pressure Water Sector

Lawsuits filed against the city of Flint, MI and the city of Chicago could have a broad, long-term impact on the entire US water sector, Fitch Ratings says. Utilities are stepping up education efforts to bolster public confidence while also evaluating their existing treatment protocols to ensure ongoing water quality. Significant investment in service line replacement also may be forthcoming over the near term, particularly if the Environmental Protection Agency materially alters existing rules.

Various lawsuits filed against Flint and certain government officials allege that the water residents were using was unsafe. The city had changed water sources and the lawsuits state that the newer source had higher corrosive properties that eroded the pipes, leading to highly elevated lead levels in the water. Separately, certain Chicago residents filed suit against the city within the last several days alleging that repairs by Chicago to its water system allowed dangerous levels of lead to enter the drinking water supply and that the city did not sufficiently notify residents that they may have been exposed.

The EPA currently regulates drinking water exposure to lead based on its Lead and Copper Rule, which seeks to minimize lead in drinking water primarily through corrosion control of lead pipes. If corrosion control is not effective the rule can require water quality monitoring and treatment, corrosion control treatment, the removal of lead lines and public education. The EPA is considering strengthening the rule sometime later this year or next. In light of these lawsuits and the heightened public focus on possible lead contamination, Fitch expects any proposed rule revisions will likely move the industry toward removing all lead service lines.

Reprioritizing and accelerating lead pipe replacement would add significant additional capital needs to the sector and could compete with other critical infrastructure projects, including developing sufficient long-term water supplies and replacing aging infrastructure components other than lead lines. Some sources estimate over 6 million lead service lines exist across the US. Many of these are located in the Northeast, Midwest and older urban areas. We believe the capital costs to replace these lines could exceed \$275 billion. The EPA's latest survey estimated the entire sector needs \$385 billion in water infrastructure improvements through 2030 and this estimate includes the costs to only partially replace lead pipes. Either level of capital cost would likely be manageable for the sector as a whole if it is spread out over a time frame like the one in the EPA survey. However, implementation over a shorter time span may create stress for individual credits.

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## Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Investigating Engineering Fraud

*The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Fraud and Cyber Crimes Bureau detectives held a press conference January 29, seeking public assistance with an Engineering Fraud investigation.*

On April 16th 2014, Palos Verdes Engineering Company, a civil engineering firm doing business in the city of Rolling Hills Estates since 1985, contacted the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Fraud and Cyber Crimes Bureau and informed them of suspected fraud involving former employees of the company. Through the investigation, Wilfrido Rodriguez and Ruben Gutierrez, former employees of the firm, became persons of interest in an ongoing criminal investigation involving the potential crimes of Civil Engineering Fraud, Grand Theft of Money, Theft of Company Identity, and Forgery of a Civil Engineer's Seal and Signature.

Rodriguez and Gutierrez worked as architectural and engineering drafters. The alleged fraudulent acts are said to have occurred between the dates of late 2003 and early 2014. Palos Verdes Engineering Company is a victim in this matter and had no business relations with the persons of interests during the time the alleged fraud was occurring. Due to the fact Rodriguez and Gutierrez are not licensed professional civil engineers, structures built based on their engineering calculations and specifications may be unsafe and not suitable for habitation.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has sent contact letters to homeowners, developers, and architectural designers whose properties have been identified as possibly being associated with fraudulent structural engineering. Investigators believe additional properties associated with structural engineering fraud may exist but have not yet been identified.

Rodriguez and Gutierrez appear to have carried out their alleged criminal activities by providing fraudulent structural engineering plans for residential room additions, new structure single family residences, and two-story multi-unit duplexes. At this time it is not known how many construction projects involve structural engineering fraud in connection with this case. It is estimated to be several hundred, with projects occurring in an estimated 56 Southern California cities.

It is also believed that additional homeowners, land developers and architectural designers may have contracted with Rodriguez and Gutierrez, believing they were receiving licensed structural engineering services. Rodriguez and Gutierrez, neither of whom are licensed civil engineers, are alleged to have perpetrated fraud by preparing structural engineering plans using software stolen from the Palos Verdes Engineering Company which depicted the company's name and logo upon the fraudulent structural engineering plans. Palos Verdes Engineering Company's civil engineer seal and forged signature was also used on structural engineering records to make the plans appear authentic, and as if they had been reviewed and approved by a licensed professional civil engineer.

The photographs of Wilfrido Rodriguez and Ruben Gutierrez have been released in furtherance of the ongoing criminal investigation. Detectives are asking anyone who may have had business dealings with Rodriguez or Gutierrez, or who may have been provided with fraudulent or unlicensed services, contact Detective Rod Barton of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Fraud and Cyber Crimes Bureau at (562) 906-5405.

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## Industry Calendar

**WE•Stand Technical Committee Meeting**  
April 5-6, 2016  
Ontario, CA  
[www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

**UPC & UMC Technical Committee Meeting**  
May 2-6, 2016  
Denver, CO  
[www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

**Fifth International Emerging Technology Symposium**  
May 10-11, 2016  
Rosemont, IL  
[www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

**87th Annual Education and Business Conference**  
September 25-29, 2016  
Albuquerque, NM  
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## Upcoming Seminars

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<b>ARIZONA SEMINARS</b>		
March 11, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
April 11-15, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam
April 15, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
<b>CALIFORNIA SEMINARS</b>		
April 11-15, 2016	Ontario, CA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
April 16, 2016	Ontario, CA	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
April 18-20, 2016	Ontario, CA	Backflow Prevention Assembly Repairer Training and Certification Examination (ASSE 5130)
April 29, 2016	Ontario, CA	Advanced Tester Training
<b>COLORADO SEMINARS</b>		
April 11-15, 2016	Montrose, CO	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
April 14 -15 2016	Montrose, CO	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam
April 28-29, 2016	Lakewood, CO	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam
<b>LOUISIANA SEMINARS</b>		
April 25-29, 2016	Kinder, LA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
<b>MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS</b>		
<b>Session 8 Training now available - <a href="#">click here for the schedule!</a></b>		
<b>MINNESOTA SEMINARS</b>		
<b>2015 Minnesota Plumbing Code Essentials</b>		
March 14-18, 2016	Moorhead, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
April 18-22, 2016	Anoka, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
<b>NEVADA SEMINARS</b>		
March 21-25, 2016	Las Vegas, NV	Educode 2016
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