



## MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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### Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-02-28

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. Grant Opportunity – Nonpoint Source Pollution
2. Source Protection – Don't Go It Alone!
3. Training Calendar

## Grant Opportunity – Nonpoint Source Pollution

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act of 1987 established a national program to control nonpoint sources (NPS) of pollution. Each year the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issues a Request for Responses (RFR) for competitive projects to be funded through Section 319 grants. This year's RFR is anticipated to be issued on or about April 2, 2020. Proposals will be due on or about June 4, 2020. The RFR will be announced via COMMBUYS, the Commonwealth's procurement site. The RFR will be posted at the MassDEP website, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#section-319-nonpoint-source-competitive-grants-program>

Pre-RFR meeting at MassDEP- Worcester on March 5, 2020. Please navigate to: <https://mailchi.mp/1103a5c24c2a/hqwux40d8y-1162224?e=5a1f4c65a1> for more information.

## Source Protection – Don't Go It Alone!

Source protection is a pro-active approach to protecting public drinking water supplies. Source protection focuses on preventing contaminants from reaching a water supply by managing the land uses and activities in the water supply areas. Public water suppliers can develop ideas and strategies

that both educate consumers and encourage participation in protecting public drinking water supplies. Residents, businesses, schools, and civic organizations can lend a hand and be a part of a community's source protection efforts.

Storm Drain Stenciling - A great project for schools, scouts, and civic organizations. This can include new stencils and re-painting previous ones that have faded. Stenciling projects for public water supplies should focus on locations in the Zone A, Zone II, and IWPA . Stenciling kits are inexpensive and can be located easily via the internet. This activity can be combined with removing leaves and debris that may be covering a storm water drain. Proper storm water drainage prevents contaminated storm water from entering the water supply.

Hazardous Waste Collection Events - While many people know they should dispose of hazardous materials and waste properly, they don't always know WHEN or WHERE they can do this. Most communities have a hazardous waste day event a few times a year. Consider providing the dates and the location of these events on the water system's webpage, with the water bill, or in newsletters. Common household wastes include: motor oil - batteries - pesticides - paints and solvents - cleaning products - medicines.

Drinking Water Festival - Hold a day or week of drinking water activities! National Drinking Water Week is the first full week in May. Massachusetts Drinking Water Day is May 5<sup>th</sup> this year. A local Drinking Water Day or Week event could coincide with the state event and highlight local accomplishments, such as storm drain stenciling and school water protection awareness projects.

Don't forget to include your source protection activities into your source protection plan!

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## Training Calendar

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

[mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html](https://mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html) for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

[youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF\\_o\\_249m](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

Or click here:  YouTube

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MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program Updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to [mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html](https://mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html).

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