

Operator Quiz Fall 2020 – Operator Safety in the Workplace

The following questions are designed for individuals/trainees pursuing certification as they prepare to take the ABC wastewater operator test. It is also designed for existing operators to test their knowledge. Each issue of *Clear Waters* will have more questions from a different process of wastewater treatment. Good luck!

1. What is the proper slope of a ladder?
 - a. Every 4 feet up the ladder is 1 foot out from the wall.
 - b. Every 5 feet up the ladder is 1 foot out from the wall.
 - c. Every 6 feet up the ladder is 1 foot out from the wall.
 - d. Every 7 feet up the ladder is 1 foot out from the wall.
2. Hydrogen sulfide at 130 ppm smells most like:
 - a. Degreaser.
 - b. Rotten eggs.
 - c. Bleach.
 - d. Nothing.
3. What is the safe oxygen level for entering a confined space?
 - a. 14 to 16 ppm.
 - b. 17 to 19 ppm.
 - c. 20 to 22 ppm.
 - d. 23 to 25 ppm.
4. Cluttered work areas can cause accidents. Keep work areas clean. When you are finished with tools, put them:
 - a. On the table.
 - b. Under the table.
 - c. On your supervisor's desk.
 - d. In the tool cabinet.
5. What type of tools are recommended to perform maintenance on an anaerobic digester?
 - a. Brass.
 - b. Stainless steel.
 - c. Carbon steel.
 - d. None of the above.
6. Before entering a permit-required confined space, you must:
 - a. Check the atmosphere with a calibrated gas detector.
 - b. Make notification that personnel are entering the space.
 - c. Lock out and tag out all equipment.
 - d. All of the above.
7. When working on a chemical feed pump, what of the following is not required?
 - a. Nitrile gloves.
 - b. Safety glasses.
 - c. Leather work gloves.
 - d. Full face shield.
8. When making a sulfuric acid dilution, the appropriate method is:
 - a. Add the water to the acid.
 - b. Add the acid to the water.
 - c. Add both at the same time.
 - d. None of the above.
9. When aluminum sulfate mixes with water, a very _____ combination occurs.
 - a. Noxious.
 - b. Slippery.
 - c. Colorful.
 - d. Tacky.
10. Operators working with any form of lime are exposed to a number of hazards. Goggles, approved respiratory protection, emergency eyewash and deluge shower are necessary safety precautions. What else may be kept on hand to help flush eyes in case of severe exposure?
 - a. Inert absorbent materials.
 - b. A mild solution of acetic acid.
 - c. A mild solution of boric acid.
 - d. None of the above.

Answers:

1. (a) Every 4 feet up the ladder is 1 foot out from the wall.
2. (d) Nothing. At concentrations above 30 parts per million (ppm), hydrogen sulfide has a sickly, sweet smell that someone might get for a second before olfactory fatigue occurs. At the 100-ppm threshold, instantaneous damage to olfactory nerves occurs so someone would smell nothing.
3. (c) 20 to 22 ppm.
4. (d) In the tool cabinet.
5. (a) Brass.
6. (d) All of the above.
7. (c) Leather work gloves.
8. (b) Add the acid to the water.
9. (b) Slippery.
10. (c) A mild solution of boric acid.

For those who have questions concerning operator certification requirements and scheduling, please contact Tanya May Jennings at 315-422-7811 ext. 4, tmj@nywea.org, or visit www.nywea.org.