



CONFINED SPACE TRAINING WITH NORTH COUNTY FIRE

Rainbow Municipal Water District provides wastewater services to 4,000 customers out of just over 8,000 customers. This includes 87 miles of wastewater lines, 1,643 manholes, and 8 lift stations. Efforts have been taken over the past 6 months to reduce infiltration and intrusion (I & I) of rainwater by installing 400 rain pans and over 400 plugs in manhole lids.

These rain pans and plugs reduce the amount of rain that enters the wastewater system through manhole lids thus reducing our overall wastewater treatment costs. Additionally, staff has re-lined 7 manholes this year with an additional 9 scheduled to be completed by July 2019. Lastly, nearly 600 feet of wastewater lines will be re-lined to prevent further I & I.

Our wastewater staff is also responsible for reporting to the San Diego County Regional Water Board, County of San Diego Health Department, Cal-OES spills reporting, Air Pollution Control Board and the California Integrated Water Quality Control System.



Wastewater staff cross trains with North County Fire Department for confined space rescue services as well as the sharing of assets of neighboring districts under mutual aid requests when the needs arise. All of the maintenance and repair of these facilities is undertaken by 4 staff members who provide this service 24/7 365 days per week. "Confined space" is considered any space having a limited means of egress, which is subject to the accumulation of toxic or flammable contaminants or has an oxygen deficient atmosphere.

Engineering Spotlight

Sarah Johnson, one of the newest members of the team here at Rainbow MWD, is Project Manager. She is responsible for several aspects on the construction process that include, design, pre-construction, construction and closeout. In order to successfully manage a project, you must define all aspects of the project, therefore, she ensures coordination is done with all user groups, with the past, present and future issues and functional purposes in mind. Daily job tasks include, managing costs, schedules, coordination, follow up, clarification and documentation to ensure the project is seen to fruition.

She is a third generation construction industry professional who loves to build, manage and lead projects to successful completion. She began working for her father's construction company when she was in high school and has been involved in building ever since.

She is also a hard working wife and mother to three little ones, Certified Construction Manager, LEED Green Associate, Qualified SWPPP Practitioner and a Certified Erosion Sediment Storm Water Inspector with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from California State University, Fullerton who loves being outdoors.

Sarah says she was inspired to join the water industry because water is life, and in order to properly supply and maintain water we need to ensure that our existing and upcoming pipeline infrastructures are in excellent working condition for ourselves and our future generations.

Therefore when she saw an opportunity to join a municipal water district that was amidst the amazing backdrop of the hills she saw an opportunity to manage projects she knew would be able to see sustained for several years to come with a lasting impact.

