

# Accurate News

"Accurate News" is a publication of Accurate Labs & Training Center  
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## Education and Training — A Sound Investment

April is here and that means TAX TIME. When April arrives, our attention usually turns to our taxes and our yearly income and expenses.

How many times do we look at the bottom line when we are figuring our taxes, income, and expenses? Don't we usually do that for everything we do that concerns money, especially "our" money?

Should we not have the same concerns with our education and training? When furthering your education and training, or having your employees further their education and training, are you looking at the bottom line, correctly?

Education and training is an investment and a life long commitment. Do you choose the education and training classes for you, or your employees, to reap the highest benefits from the class or training? Does the education and training provide quality results for the time and money you invest in them?

There are several questions you may ask yourself when choosing your educational and training classes.

1. What type of and quality of education or training do I need?
2. Who offers the type of quality education and training I need?
3. Where is the training held?
4. How much will I benefit from the education and training in relationship to what I am spending on time, tuition and expenses?

5. Most of all will I commit myself to learning everything I can while I am in class and training?

Each person will answer the above questions differently. There are as many reasons for taking a class as there are people.

At Accurate Training Center, our classes provide the students the best opportunity to learn and grow. We try our best to encourage and motivate each operator to be the best operator they can be.

Remember *Accurate Training Center* when you want quality education and training for you and/or your operators.

Your investment in today's education and training will be returned many folds to you tomorrow.

Clarke Hodson  
Training Administrator

## Announcement

Accurate Labs Field Services and Data Processing departments would like to take this opportunity to announce the arrival of Kasey Russell. Kasey was born February 10, 2000 at 7:46pm. She was 8 pounds 14 ounces and 22" long. Proud parents John (Field Services) and Shannon (Data Processing) want to thank everyone for their support.



## Accurate Expands Certification

Accurate recently achieved laboratory certification in several other states in EPA region 6. We were granted a wastewater certification by the State of Arkansas in February of this year. Also, we expect to be on the State of Texas list of certified drinking water labs by the time you read this. These new certifications join our ODEQ certifications for both drinking water and wastewater in Oklahoma and KDHE approval for wastewater in Kansas.

Although many people think the EPA certifies labs, this has not been the case. Certification is left to the states, with very little control by the federal government. Some states certify both water and wastewater, some one but not the other, and some offer no certification at all. In these cases, labs often depend on certification in nearby states or by a third party organization to prove their adequacy.

This has caused a lot of difficulty for labs that try to work in multiple states. Each state charges fees for both the certification application and annual renewal, which can be quite expensive. Also, each state has a unique form of certification. Some certify by parameter, some by method, and some by a combination of these two. Some states may offer certification for any test a lab wants, charging an added fee for each, while others will certify only for a specific and limited number of things! Often, a state will only allow a lab to be certified for things that they are certified for in their home state. This can cause real problems if a lab's home state does not offer certification for some of the tests a lab wants to perform in other states. For all of these reasons, it is always a good idea to know whether the tests you need require laboratory certification and whether the lab you intend to use is certified in the state where the project is being done.

Ken Crawford  
QA/QC Manager

## MTBE Causes Groundwater Contamination

MTBE, or Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether, is a chemical additive that is being used in reformulated gasoline to help gasoline burn cleaner. While it may be helping our air quality, it has the potential to be a major source of contamination in groundwater. When gasoline containing MTBE leaks from an underground storage tank the MTBE moves much faster in groundwater than the gasoline. This is because MTBE is very water soluble, allowing it to move at the same rate the groundwater moves.

In areas of the country where MTBE has been used since early in the 1990s, this contamination problem is already becoming serious. Once an aquifer is impacted by MTBE it is very difficult and expensive to remove it. This has resulted in many water suppliers having to shut down the wells they depend on for their source of drinking water. Although the toxicity of this chemical is not well defined yet, it has a distinct taste and odor which makes water very non-potable. Even washing and showering become difficult due to the odor.

Oklahoma has yet to experience major problems due to MTBE contamination of groundwater. This could be due to the lesser and more recent use in this state. It may also be that we just haven't looked for it yet! Kansas has seen some problems already so we know it is not isolated only to the coasts. I suspect this is more than just another media "scare tactic." This is a problem we will face in varying degrees over the coming years.

Accurate has the ability to test for MTBE. It is a component we look for in our BTEX analysis by GC. We also are calibrated for MTBE in our method 524 VOC panel (even though MTBE is not a regulated target compound.)

Normally a VOC scan for drinking water costs over \$200. However, we are offering to analyze for MTBE only in water samples for only \$100. This will allow those who think they might have a problem to analyze more samples at a reasonable price.

George Dye  
Lab Manager



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## Accurate Training Center Adds Additional Instructor

Accurate Training Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma, is proud to announce adding Sean Swafford to their staff of instructors. Sean will be assisting Dr. Fazel in teaching the water and wastewater operator and lab technician certification classes. He will also be assisting Clarke Hodson, Training Administrator, in marketing the Training Classes.

Sean holds an Associate Degree from Carl Albert State College in Poteau and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He holds the following certifications from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ): Class "C" Water Operator, Class "C" Wastewater Operator, Class "B" Water Laboratory, and Class "B" Wastewater Laboratory. He has been employed at Accurate Labs and Training Center since March 1999 as a Chemist.

*Congratulations and  
Welcome aboard Sean!*

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## Accurate Employees Continue Education

The following people attended training classes and conferences during the first quarter of 2000.

Mike Butler and George Drye — EPA Region 6 Pretreatment Conference

Ricky McIntyre, David Kidd, George Drye, Ali Fazel — Pittcon 2000

George Drye — Fred Pryor Seminars Management Course

Sean Swanson and Ali Fazel — Hach Laboratory Seminar

## Available Cyanide Method Approved

In our last newsletter of 1999 we detailed a new method for cyanide, Method OIA-1677. This method was approved and published in the Federal Register December 30, 1999 by EPA. It is an addition to, not a replacement for currently approved methods. It is intended to be used for compliance monitoring under NPDES, ambient water quality monitoring, and other environmental testing.

As outlined in our previous article, the new method, referred to as *Available Cyanide*, has many advantages over the current Total or Amenable Cyanide methods. The most important is that it eliminates most potential interferences. It also provides for a slightly lower detection limit, better accuracy and precision, and improved laboratory safety and reduction of hazardous materials.

The one downside of this method is that it requires the purchase of a new instrument and proprietary reagents from Alpkem, the company that developed the method. Unfortunately, this will add to the cost of doing the test. At this time it is not clear how much it will add. Accurate is considering the purchase of the instrument in the near future. However, the results of a survey of area pretreatment coordinators indicated there is not strong agreement on demand for this method. If you would like more information on this new method or want to discuss any aspect of it please feel free to call us.

*George Drye  
Laboratory Manager*

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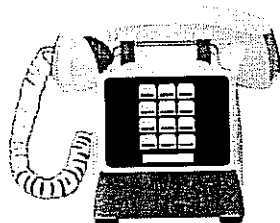
## New Contaminants to Be Monitored

There are twelve new chemical contaminants that will be added to the monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are referred to as the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation List 1 (UCMR List 1) or as the Assessment Monitoring List, and will be required beginning in 2001. This monitoring will occur at 2,800 large PWS (>10,000) and a representative sample of small PWS (<10,000). Surface water systems will monitor quarterly while groundwater systems will monitor semi-annually for the years 2001-2003.

The list of contaminants includes 2,4 Dinitrotoluene, 2,6 Dinitrotoluene, DCPA mono acid, DCPA di acid, 4,4' - DDE, EPTC, Molinate, MTBE, Nitrobenzene, Terbacil, Acetochlor, and Perchlorate. Accurate has some of these parameters in methods we are already running, and we should have the others in place by the time the monitoring requirement starts. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions about these new requirements.

*Information condensed from the Final Revisions to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation fact sheet*

Accurate Labs will pick up your samples along seven statewide routes. Please call.



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