



ITCA National Tribal Water Systems Training & Certification Program

*ITCA is a USEPA-approved provider
of Tribal operator certification services*



WATER DISTRIBUTION – LEVEL 1 **Operator Certification Training Course (#24004-blended)**

Entire Course (Parts 1 & 2), April 15 - 26, 2024
In-person Part 2 in Parker, Arizona

Sponsored by USEPA Region 9
Hosted by the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Includes:

- ✓ Comprehensive operator certification training for Tribal utilities personnel
- ✓ Opportunity for FREE Professional Certification
- ✓ Includes in-person operator certification exam sessions
- ✓ Travel Expense Reimbursement Stipends Available



Student comments from past offerings of similar training by this instructor.

“This is an excellent class and I will be encouraging my director and other utility managers to enroll when it is available again.”

“Michael provided hands on experience stories with every topic.”



NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
TRAINING EVENT BROCHURE

WATER DISTRIBUTION - LEVEL 1
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING COURSE (Event ID #24004-blended)
Parts 1 & 2

Sponsored by USEPA Region 9

****DRAFT****

PART 1, live On-Line
April 15-18, 2024
Mon./Tue./Wed./Thu.

AND

PART 2, In-Person
April 22-26, 2024
Hosted by the
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Parker, Arizona

THE TRAINING COURSE:

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) is pleased to offer the **Water Distribution - Level 1** training course. The course offers over 48 hours of training and is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of Tribal drinking water distribution system operators. Subjects covered in this training course will include: drinking water distribution and system design, piping, meters and valves, fire hydrants, pumps, water storage, water disinfection, the Safe Drinking Water Act, water sampling and testing, math relating to water system operation, and worker safety. Training reference materials will be mailed to registrants that are accepted into this course.

ITCA does NOT “teach to the certification exams.” Students intending to take operator certification exams during this training course are encouraged to study the need-to-know criteria and recommended study guide references associated with the certification exams. Optional certification exams will be offered for free during the second part of this training course. Attendees that are only interested in the training may choose not to take the certification exams.

COST:

Personnel of Tribal water utilities may attend this training course for **free**.

INSTRUCTOR:

ITCA has contracted with subject-matter expert Mr. Michael Alvidrez, of Alvidrez Water Operations, Inc., to instruct this training course. Mr. Alvidrez has extensive experience in the operation and maintenance of drinking water systems in Indian Country.

LOCATION:

Part 2 of the training course will be hosted by the Colorado River Indian Tribes and will be located at the Bluewater Resort and Casino, which is located at 11300 Resort Dr., Parker, Arizona 85344. The contact phone number for the Resort is (888) 243-3360.

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Ak-Chin Indian Community
Cocopah Tribe
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Fort Mojave Tribe
Gila River Indian Community
Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Pueblo of Zuni
Quechan Tribe
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
San Carlos Apache Tribe
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
Tohono O'odham Nation
Tonto Apache Tribe
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Yavapai-Apache Nation
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

BLENDED LEARNING FORMAT:

This training course covers a comprehensive curriculum that is provided in two sequential parts.

(Part 1 uses a live on-line virtual format) and (Part 2 uses an in-person classroom format).

The in-person Part 2 picks up where the virtual Part 1 ends. The in-person Part 2 will not review curriculum content covered during the virtual Part 1.

DATES & TIMES:

The training and certification event will follow the tentative schedule shown in the below table. A course syllabus with full agenda will be provided to individuals that are accepted into the course.

<u>PART 1: Live On-Line Class Sessions</u>			
Class Session 1	Class Session 2	Class Session 3	Class Session 4
Monday, April 15, 2024	Tuesday, April 16, 2024	Wednesday, April 17, 2024	Thursday, April 18, 2024
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time			

Computer Microphone & Camera. Part 1 of this course requires that students use a computer **microphone** (headset is preferred) and a **web camera** to enable interaction and participation in group activities. It is important to have these items for the start of class. ITCA offers both a headset and web camera for free to registrants that are accepted into this course. During registration, please specify if any of these items are needed.

<u>PART 2: In-Person Class Sessions at the Bluewater Resort & Casino, Parker, Arizona</u>			
Date	Activities	Local Time	
		Start	End
Monday, April 22, 2024	Class Session 5	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
	Lunch Break (on your own)	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
	Class Session 6	1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. or earlier
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	Operator Certification Exam Session A	7:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m. or earlier
	Class Session 7	10:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
	Lunch Break (on your own)	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	Class Session 8	1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. or earlier
	Class Session 9	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
	Lunch Break (on your own)	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 25, 2024	Class Session 10	1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. or earlier
	Class Session 11	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
	Lunch Break (on your own)	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Friday, April 26, 2024	Class Session 12	1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. or earlier
	Class Session 13	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
	Lunch Break (on your own)	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
	Operator Certification Exam Session B	1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. or earlier

The following two (2) certification exam sessions will take place during the in-person Part 2 of the training event for those interested in earning the Water Distribution-Level 1 Operator Certification through the ITCA National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program. *Please be*

advised that prior approval from ITCA is required for admission into the exam session. There will be no late admission into the exam session.

- Exam Session A—On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, starting promptly at 7:30 a.m. and concluding at or before 10:00 a.m., the Federal Regulations Exam Module for Drinking Water Distribution Operator Certification will be administered to interested and eligible Tribal water utilities personnel. This will be an open-book exam using only content approved by ITCA.
- Exam Session B—On Friday, April 26, 2024, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. and concluding at or before 5:00 p.m., the Standardized ABC/WPI Exam (current edition) for Water Distribution – Level 1 operator certification will be administered to interested and eligible Tribal water utilities personnel. This will be a closed-book exam.

ATTENDANCE & CONTACT HOURS:

Attendees that complete the course requirements will receive written recognition of earned training contact hours based on class participation, homework assignments, and attendance. Training contact hours may be accepted towards the training requirements for new certification or as Professional Development Hour (PDH) / continuing education credit towards the renewal of existing certification. Confirmed registrants that are interested in only earning training contact hours may attend as many of the class sessions as needed.

REGISTRATION: Course Registration Deadline is April 10, 2024

Training course size is limited and offers Priority Registration for Tribal utilities located in the USEPA Region 9 geographic area (including the states of AZ, CA, and NV). A General Admission Waiting List Registration is available for Tribal utilities located outside of the Region 9 geographic area. To register, click on this event's active link on the ITCA National Tribal Water Systems (TWS) Program webpage (<http://www.itcaonline.com/tws>) to visit the online registration platform or manually complete and return the attached registration form. Registration for this event is scheduled to close at the end of the day on **April 10, 2024**. Registration is subject to close before this deadline if all class seats are reserved. Registrants that are accepted into the training course will receive written confirmation of a reserved seat. Please Note: a reserved seat does not apply to the exam sessions. Separate written approval is required to be admitted into the certification exam sessions (see Exam & Certification section below).

ITCA PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

The National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program at ITCA serves to meet the needs of system operators working on Tribal lands and to provide a jurisdictionally correct alternative to state certification programs. The ITCA is a U.S. EPA-approved provider of certification services under the U.S. EPA Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program Guidelines and makes its services available to all Tribal water and wastewater utilities personnel working in Indian Country. ITCA-issued certification in drinking water or wastewater is deemed equivalent and accepted through reciprocity (exam waiver) by numerous states. Tribal operator certification is an additional way by which Tribal governments can exercise their sovereignty and promote their self-determination goals.

EXAMINATION & CERTIFICATION: Exam Application Deadline is April 19, 2024

Water utilities personnel operating systems located on federal trust Tribal lands (Indian reservations) may apply for ITCA operator certification and take the operator certification exams for free. ITCA staff will be available during the in-person Part 2 of the training event to the proctor paper-booklet certification exams (both the Federal Regulations Exam Module and the ABC/WPI Standardized Exam) to eligible Tribal utilities personnel seeking Water Distribution - Level 1 Operator Certification.

Participants must have prior written approval from ITCA to be admitted into the examination sessions. Approval is based upon submittal of a completed ITCA *Application for New (Drinking Water) Certification* by close of business on **Friday, April 19, 2024**. Please refer to the ITCA Application Booklet for complete certification eligibility criteria and the application, which is available on the ITCA website or by directly contacting the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Department. You are highly encouraged to submit a complete application as soon as possible.

Important Notice: ITCA drinking water operator certification requires two exams—the FedReg Exam Module AND the Standardized Exam. The FedReg exam has been uniquely developed to utilize an “open book” format. ITCA will make available to each student an electronic tablet containing the federal regulations reference documents pre-loaded for examinees to look up as they are taking the Federal Regulations exam. This course provides students with practice in using these tablets.

Students intending to take the certification exams are encouraged to study the following need-to-know criteria, which include lists of recommended study references.

- The Need-to-Know Criteria for the Federal Regulations Exam Module for Drinking Water Distribution Operator Certification can be found on the ITCA website at: <http://www.itcaonline.com/tws>.
- The ABC/WPI Need-to-Know Criteria for Water Distribution Operator Class 1 can be found on the WPI website at: <http://www.gowpi.org>.

LODGING:

You are responsible for making your own travel and lodging arrangements. For your convenience, a few hotels within the area are listed below. This is a non-inclusive, non-endorsement listing.

- Bluewater Resort and Casino, 11300 Resort Dr., Parker, AZ 85344, Phone: (888) 243-3360
- Best Western Parker Inn, 1012 S. Geronimo Ave., Parker, AZ 85344, Phone: (928) 669-6060
- Quality Inn Parker, 604 S. California Ave., Parker, AZ 85344, Phone: (928) 669-2133

TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT STIPENDS:

Limited travel expense reimbursement stipends (partial reimbursement) may be available for individuals who are working on Tribal lands and who attend the entire training event. Travel expense cost will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to funding restrictions. Travel expenses are reimbursed at the federal government GSA rates. The maximum per diem rate for zip codes 85344 and in the area of Parker, Arizona for the period of this event is \$107 for lodging and \$59 for meals and incidentals. According to federal guidelines, local residents traveling less than fifty miles one-way are eligible only for mileage reimbursement costs for use of privately-owned automobiles at the rate of \$0.67 per mile.

To request a travel expense reimbursement, please submit an ***ITCA Travel Expense Reimbursement Claim Form*** within fifteen (15) days following the training event. This form is available upon request. The travel expense claim form must include the signature of the attendee’s supervisor. ITCA will verify an applicant’s eligibility based on event attendance records maintained by ITCA.

A registrant that has received seat confirmation from ITCA may request written verification of ITCA reimbursement funds prior to travel. To do so, please submit a completed *Preliminary Application for Travel Reimbursement Stipend Form* to ITCA before your travel to the event. This form is available upon request. The form must include the signature of the confirmed registrant’s supervisor. Preliminary applications received five business days prior to the start of the in-person Part 2 of the course will be

considered on a first-come first-served basis and will be subject to funding availability. Preliminary applications that are approved by ITCA will receive written notice stating the level of funding available for their travel reimbursement.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:

Protection of public health is a top priority and ITCA intends for the in-person Part 2 of this event to align with federal and local guidelines and recommendations. As of the date of the ITCA event announcement, February 28, 2024, the COVID-19 County Check website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), indicated the following.

“In La Paz County, Arizona, the COVID-19 hospital admission level is **Low**”

“People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality mask or respirator when in doors in public.”

Please note, this training event is available for personnel working on Tribal lands located throughout the country. Some of the attendees, the instructor / speakers, and facilitators will travel from various other locations to attend at this event. This in-person event will take place indoors within meeting rooms. Attendees will be encouraged to sit in an every-other seat pattern for social distancing and for exam proctoring best practices. Individuals are free to choose whether to wear a facemask, including during the exam sessions.

Please Note: Photographs taken by ITCA staff at training/meeting events may be used in ITCA publications including, but not limited to, ITCA’s website, publications and social media. If you do not consent to have your photograph published, please notify ITCA staff at the training/meeting event.

For additional information, please contact the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Department at (602) 258-4822.



**WATER DISTRIBUTION– LEVEL 1
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING COURSE (Event ID #24004-blended)**

PART 1, live on-line, April 15-18, 2024
PART 2, in-person, April 22-26, 2024, Parker, Arizona

(Please Print Clearly)

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

Title/Position: _____

Tribe/Organization: _____

Tribal Utility/Department: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Office Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Business Address: _____
(for mailing of letters) (Street/P.O. Box)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Shipping of Course Materials

Those who are accepted into this training event will be shipped the training book(s) / materials. Please note the shipping service only delivers to street addresses (no PO Box addresses). If different than above, please provide a shipping address to where we can ship course materials to you.

Shipping Address: _____
(Street Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Will attendee be requesting **travel expense reimbursement stipend**? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Will attendee be testing for **Water Distribution operator certification at the event**? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Two exam sessions are offered for free during Part 2 of this training course. **NOTICE:** To be considered for approval to take a certification exam, you must submit an Application for New (Drinking Water) Certification, by the application deadline: **April 19, 2024**.

Complete all three (3) pages of the registration form and return by **April 10, 2024**

Send completed form by e-mail, fax, or mail, to the following:

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

2214 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, Telephone: (602) 258-4822, Fax: (602) 258-4825

shelby.davin@itcaonline.com or amara.kamara@itcaonline.com



**WATER DISTRIBUTION– LEVEL 1
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING COURSE (Event ID #24004-blended)**

PART 1, live on-line, April 15-18, 2024
PART 2, in-person, April 22-26, 2024, Parker, Arizona

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

- ☐ Yes, I do plan on attending the blended format, two-part Water Distribution – Level 1 training course, (ID #24004) with Part 1 being held on-line, and Part 2 being held in-person at the Bluewater Resort & Casino located at 11300 Resort Dr., Parker, Arizona 85344.
- ☐ Yes, I understand that if accepted into this training course, ITCA will send me written confirmation of a reserved class seat and will ship to me materials for this course.
- ☐ Yes, I agree that if my plans change and I am unable to attend this course, I will inform ITCA as soon as possible and will work with ITCA on returning the course materials so that they can be used by others.
- ☐ **Yes, I understand that if I plan to take the exam(s) for Water Distribution-Level 1 operator certification, I must submit a complete ITCA Application for New Certification. I understand that prior approval from ITCA is required to be admitted into the certification exam sessions.**
- ☐ Yes, I understand that I am responsible for making my own travel and lodging arrangements.
- ☐ Yes, I understand the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any training event due to lack of enrollment or funds.
- ☐ Yes, I understand that photographs taken by ITCA staff at training/meeting events may be used in ITCA publications including, but not limited to, ITCA's website, publications and social media. I understand that if I do not consent to have my photograph taken or used in this way, I must notify ITCA staff prior to or at the event.

To enhance your ability to participate in the on-line virtual Part 1 of the training course, do you need to be sent a free webcam and / or microphone headset? (Please note that if your registration is received after April 5, 2024, you might not receive such items in time for the course.)

☐ NO ☐ YES

ITCA is an equal opportunity provider. Do you need any special accommodations during the event? If so, please describe.

Complete all three (3) pages of the registration form and return by **April 10, 2024**

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shelby.davin@itcaonline.com or amara.kamara@itcaonline.com



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PART 1, live on-line, April 15-18, 2024
PART 2, in-person, April 22-26, 2024, Parker, Arizona

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

What do you hope to get out of this training course? (Select all that applies)

☐ Training hours ☐ Certification prep ☐ Networking ☐ Other

HEALTH & SAFETY STATEMENT

Read and checkmark to agree to the health and safety statement.

To be considered for acceptance into this professional certification training and/or examination event, you must agree to the following health and safety statement (checkmark and signature required):

- ☐ **I agree that I am personally responsible for my safety and actions associated with in-person attendance of an ITCA professional certification training and/or examination event. I understand the hazards of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and I am familiar with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding COVID-19. I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances regarding COVID-19 are changing from day to day and that, accordingly, the CDC guidelines, as well as Tribal, Federal, State, and local restrictions associated with COVID-19, are regularly updated. For in-person attendance of the ITCA professional certification training and/or examination event, I accept full responsibility to comply with the most current CDC guidelines and any other applicable COVID-19 restrictions imposed under Tribal, Federal, State, and local law. As a condition of in-person attendance, I agree to comply with all COVID-19 policies, rules, guidelines, signage, and instructions provided by the venue services provider for this event.**

Registrant's Original Signature

Date

Complete all three (3) pages of the registration form and return by **April 10, 2024**

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