



NW Chapter Newsletter

July 1, 2026

Welcome to the quarterly edition of the Northwest NAHMMMA Chapter newsletter! We are thrilled to connect with all of you through this newsletter, where we will share updates, events, and valuable insights about hazardous materials management in our region.

Our current leadership team is:

Chair: Lauren Scher (PaintCare)

Vice-Chair: Tessa Nania (Washington Department of Ecology)

Treasurer: Chad Ficek (Lane County)

Secretary: Heidi Zarghami (King County)

At-Large: Dave Nightingale (Special Waste Associates, Washington), Ethan Bean (Washington Department of Ecology), Maitri Dirmeyer (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

Upcoming National NAHMMMA Conference October 11-15, 2026

Join us for the 41st Hazardous Materials Management Conference in Nashville, Tennessee! At the conference you and your colleagues will network, train, and learn from experts around the country on hazardous waste topics. Visit the 2026 NAHMMMA event webpage for updates:

https://nahmma.org/NAHMMMA_s_41st_Annual_Hazardous_Materials_Management_Conference

NAHMMMA Scholarships Available

With the [National NAHMMMA Conference](#) looming closer, the Northwest NAHMMMA Chapter is happy to announce that scholarships are available for the upcoming National Conference in Nashville, TN. If you are interested in a scholarship, please download a form [here](#). Scholarships will cover conference registration. A partial travel stipend may also be available. Scholarships will only be available to current Northwest NAHMMMA members. **Applications must be received by 8/7/2026.**

New Legislation

The Oregon State Legislature passed a new recycling law to help protect people and the environment from the impacts of batteries. House Bill 4144 joins several existing extended producer responsibility laws in Oregon, which require companies to implement recycling or safe disposal solutions for the products they make and sell. After the new law takes effect, battery manufacturers will be responsible for funding and managing a statewide battery recycling program that will launch in 2029. The program must include battery recycling drop-off locations that are accessible to people across Oregon.

The law will also prohibit batteries from being discarded in the trash. This is an important element of the law that aims to prevent fires from breaking out in garbage trucks and at waste facilities. Certain

types of batteries cause frequent fires, which puts garbage and recycling workers in danger and results in costly damage.

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/levye/PressReleases/Oregon%20Passes%20Producer-Funded%20Battery%20Recycling%20Program.pdf>

Upcoming Events & Trainings

The NW Chapter is also sponsoring a lab safety teacher training in partnership with the Laboratory Safety Institute. As part of the sponsorship, we have a limited number of complimentary spots available for NW NAHMMA members. The course begins on August 17, 2026.

Course Description: Transform your school's laboratories into models of compliance, safety, and engagement. Sponsored by NAHMMA, this comprehensive online professional development program is specifically designed for science educators and department leaders. The curriculum seamlessly bridges critical technical protocols with actionable leadership strategies for building department buy-in and fostering a strong student safety culture. Through practical, self-paced modules, teachers will gain the specific insights needed to elevate classroom safety standards while aligning with a broader, district-wide standard of excellence.

If you're interested in participating, please contact [Lauren Scher](#) for the registration link. Once you register, you will have 30 days to complete the course.

Jobs

[Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspector \(Environmental Specialist 3\) \(2 Positions\)](#)

Washington Department of Ecology

Bellevue, WA

Submit an application on or before July 8, 2019

The [Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction \(HWTR\) Program](#) within the Department of Ecology is looking for two **Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspectors** in our Northwest Regional Office in [Bellevue, WA](#). These positions conduct field investigations of businesses, industries and public agencies that generate, transport and manage hazardous waste, and help them improve their understanding of Hazardous Waste regulations in order to achieve voluntary compliance.

[Hazardous Waste Solutions Specialist – Inside Sales](#)

Patriot Environmental

Tacoma, WA

Patriot Environmental is seeking a Technical Services Representative based in Tacoma, Washington. The role involves profiling hazardous waste, managing customer needs for waste disposal, and ensuring adherence to health and safety regulations. Candidates must have a high school diploma, relevant experience and knowledge of waste disposal regulations.