

June 2025

April Technical Session

Volume 14, Issue 2

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What's the Big Deal with Small Plastic?



DID YOU KNOW...?

- The seven highest ocean heat content levels have occurred between 2015 and 2021, with 2021 seeing record-high heat in the North Atlantic, North Pacific, and Mediterranean Sea, primarily driven by green house gases
- Despite being a less visible environment, soil is incredibly diverse, harboring nearly 60% of all life on Earth
- While over 70% of the Earth's surface is water, less than 1% is freshwater available for human consumption, and even simple actions like brushing teeth can waste up to 5 gallons of water if not done mindfully

On April 4, 2025, Dani Belhatche from Braun Intertec presented to the Lonestar Chapter on Microplastics and Microfibers – The latest in emerging contaminants. The presentation provided definitions for microplastics and microfibers as being those microparticles consisting of man-made materials that are between 1 nanometer (nm) and 5 millimeters (mm) in size. It also described their sources and potential fate in the environment.

Microplastics have been found in every location on the planet – including in the Arctic Ocean, on the deep-sea floor, on every continent, and in every freshwater or ocean environment. Microplastic and microfibers come in all sizes and shapes and bear a lot of similarity to PFAS in that they are ubiquitous and persistent in the environment, and have been shown to bioaccumulate in fish, animal, and human tissues. PFAS compounds can absorb to microparticles, making them even more toxic and creating a secondary source of chronic exposure.

Emerging health science is identifying serious human exposure impacts as microplastics and microfibers have now been detected in human liver, kidneys, intestines, blood, placentas, and the brain. Microplastics are released to the environment through the air, wastewater, stormwater, and land application of biomass. Laundering of synthetic clothing is a major source of microfibers to water bodies, as a single garment can release thousands of particles in a single wash and dry cycle.

At present, they are still considered only solid wastes, and not designated as hazardous, but many states are considering promulgating regulatory criteria for their presence in drinking water, wastewater, surface water bodies, and waste. Currently, the EPA is addressing microplastics through a voluntary national strategy focused on using existing regulations and on reducing plastic pollution through encouraging innovations in product substitutions, improved waste management, and increased capture and removal technologies.

For more information about this opportunity or to host a technical session, email the [Chapter](#).

Compliance Corner

- TCEQ is hosting FREE [webinars](#) for underground storage tank (UST)
- For more TCEQ information, click [here](#)

TCEQ Trade Fair and Conference



The TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference was held on June 3-4 of this year at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX.

The Environmental Trade Fair and Conference offers more than 100 classroom presentations in 13 different educational tracks including air and water permitting, oil and gas, industrial and solid waste management, compliance and enforcement, and remediation programs. The TCEQ has proudly offered professional development and training for over 30 years as attendees from across the environmental sector joined TCEQ staff for learning and development opportunities.

Previously it had always been held in Austin but this year was held in San Antonio and it was just as heavily attended as always!

For more information, email the [Chapter](#).



Events and Meetings...

Join us:

- **Meetings:** normally held the first Friday of each month from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm
- **July 18:** Anniversary Celebration @ Bouldin Acres from 11:30am-1:00pm
- **September 5th:** Business Meeting
- **EHS Hazmat Summit:** September 9-11, Louisville, KY

May Meeting

On Friday, May 2nd, we had a virtual meeting with Gene Guilford. He came to IHMM in September of 2018 after a more than 30-year career as a professional association leader in the energy and environment space, including successful leadership roles in state and federal government relations programs.

IHMM's credentials are the cornerstone of career advancement and growth. Earning an IHMM professional credential, such as the CHMM, validates your knowledge and skills.

About us...



Contact us if:

- You know anyone who would like to present or if you have a topic for a technical presentation
- You would like to post a job announcement, community event, or item of interest to

The Lone Star Chapter of Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals is an organization that enhances professional development through networking with other local EHS professionals from a variety of industries, state agencies, and other private entities. The Lone Star Chapter promotes the CHMM/CHMP credential on a national and international level. National AHMP provides regulatory updates and professional conferences. By participating in our local training and being trained in new areas of the profession, members are able to earn CMPs for re-certification. The Lone Star Chapter is committed to opening the doors for many members and welcoming new ones.

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