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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

June 3, 2011



Expensive Fish Comparison

Fugu is a Japanese blowfish that is considered a delicacy in that country. However, it is extremely poisonous and only the most highly skilled chefs can prepare the fish - thus the cost: roughly \$100-\$200 per meal. That's expensive fish.

The DEQ is investigating an incident in Montana, where it appears a contractor released sediment into a creek during a rain event, which resulted in a kill of more than 75 fish. The fish were spawning, so in essence, 75 fish PLUS all their potential offspring. If the contractor is found to be at fault, guess how much those fish are going to cost? It'll be more than fugu...



Do the right thing. Protect our fish and the waters in Montana. Register now for the next Advanced Storm Water and Erosion Control class, which will be held in Kalispell, June 21-22. Download the [registration form](#), or call the MCA for more information.



Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

Calendar

June 6

FHWA Safety Edge Webinar
[Registration](#)

June 6-7

NCCER Instructor Certification
Helena
Call the MCA 442-4162

June 9

Bid-Letting
MDT - Helena
9:00 am

June 9

Opencut Permit Training
Helena
[Registration/Information](#)

June 9

Opencut Stakeholders Meeting

Emergency Flood Repairs Can be Awarded Without Bidding: MACo

We are all aware of the rain clouds that led to devastating floods that have damaged roads, bridges, properties and farms throughout Montana. Emergency repairs and construction will be needed throughout the state.

The Montana Association of Counties (MACo) provided the following information:

Projects to repair flooded areas are exempt from competitive bidding (MCA 7-5-2304(2)). Local governments can award emergency projects without advertising them.

Communities must exhaust their financial resources prior to the State providing assistance (MCA 10-3-311).

FEMA can assist, but only after the local government has spent more than \$1 million.

Member Breakfast Slated for June 15 in Billings

The "Breakfast With the Board" in Missoula was a very successful outing, and the Board of Directors extends an invitation for members to attend a breakfast meeting in Billings.

Dan Carter, Director of University and Government Relations for MSU-Billings, will provide insight on the bonding bill and the university construction vision for the future. Jim Roscoe, Roscoe Steel, will discuss the outlook for construction throughout the region, and offer insights on how to improve investments in infrastructure.

The date is June 15, and it will be held at Hilands Golf Club, 714 Poly Drive in Billings. Please RSVP to [Maryann](#) so we can have an accurate count. Members are encouraged to invite a non-member or guest.

Helena
1:00 pm

June 15
Breakfast With The Board
Billings

June 15
Highway Technical Committee
9:00 MCA Office
10:00 MDT

June 21-22
Advanced Storm Water Class
Kalispell
[Registration](#)

June 23
Bid-Letting
MDT - Helena
9:00 am

Quote of the Week

"The key to success is dedication to life-long learning."
- Stephen Covey

Header Info

Members of the Advanced Storm Water & Erosion Control class look over the stadium renovation project at MSU. Thanks to Martel Construction, for volunteering to open their sites to the class!

Summer Outing Registration Open!

The MCA Summer Outing will be held in Great Falls, August 10-12. A new [online registration form](#) is available on the MCA website. The online format is very intuitive and easy to use - we'd love to get your feedback on it! In addition, a brochure and registration form will be included in the June newsletter. Looking forward to golf, shooting and socializing in Great Falls!

FHWA To Host Safety Edge Construction Webinar

The Federal Highway Administration is offering a webinar to share lessons learned construction of more than 10 demonstration projects. Highlights include construction techniques, hardware improvements, testing results and answers to the most frequently asked questions. Dates and links are in the Calendar sidebar to the right.

Baucus Instrumental to 3% Withholding Repeal

Beginning January 1, 2012, federal, state and local governments will **withhold 3% from each and every payment to contractors** for goods and services - and this is for the entire project cost, not just the profit or net income!

Senator Max Baucus, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, will be instrumental in the implementation or repeal of this issue. The AGC is encouraging all members to write to him on this issue - but he is *our* senator, and we need to present a united front within Montana.

The AGC and the MCA strongly urge our members to contact their Senator Baucus to repeal this onerous tax burden. Feel free to use the [format](#) provided here as the basis for a letter or [e-mail](#) to Senator Baucus.

Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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