

Why the Onsite Sewage and Treatment Disposal Systems (OSTDS) professionals are a critical part of Florida's essential infrastructure.

The Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA) is the state's largest organization for the onsite wastewater industry. Its mission is to promote the science and art of manufacturing and installing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS). Furthermore, FOWA seeks to advance the standards of manufacturing, installing, repairing, and maintaining onsite treatment receptacles by working toward a uniformly enforced state code containing stringent standards for the design, installation, and service of OSTDS. It does so with a commitment to protecting public health, water resources, and the environment, including the reduction in nutrient loading to Florida's waters.

Many communities consider essential Infrastructure to include airport operations; building management and maintenance; certain types of construction; cybersecurity operations; distribution centers; flood control; food production, distribution, and sale; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; internet, video, and telecommunications systems; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, gas and electric; solid waste and recycling collection and removal.

The OSTDS professionals fit within the operation and maintenance of utilities. Those professionals provide public and environmental health services that are required during critical periods.

The following are just a few of the services provided by OSTDS professionals:

- Pumping of OSTDS
- Pumping of lift stations
- Emergency response to Wastewater Treatment Plants for various types of failures
- Repair of existing OSTDS that are deemed as sanitary nuisances
- Portable toilet services such as toilets, trailers, hand-washing stations, and waste treatment services for construction sites and various temporary locations
- Manufacturing of OSTDS supplies, components and technologies
- Repair and pumping of grease traps for food industry

FOWA provides education of Industry professionals that address proper practices to protect clients, Department of Health (DOH) employees, and contractors. One such class, *Potential Pathogen Health Hazards When Working with Onsite* has been previously taught at various locations around the state. FOWA has also developed a new flyer to remind OSTDS professionals of the importance of practicing the protocols taught during the class.

For additional information please contact:



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