State News for NSPE Members

GWA Post-Storm Recovery Dashboard

Access the Guam Waterworks Authority's Mawar Post-Storm Recovery Dashboard for updates on emergency declarations and water quality alerts.

Task Force "Rise Up" Helps the Community Rebuild in the Aftermath of Typhoon Mawar

US Service Members are helping the government and residents of Guam return to normal after the impacts of Typhoon Mawar. The storm struck the island with winds up to 140 miles-per-hour on May 24, America's Engineers reports.

Task Force West Deputy and Deputy Duel-Status Commander to Joint Task Force 671, Col. Chris Nagelvoort said that Guam has not been affected by a natural disaster of this severity and magnitude in a long time, thereby requiring a combination of new and old approaches and methods to accelerate recovery.

"The strength and slow pace of Typhoon Mawar affected the island in a way that left the citizens enduring over 36 hours of heavy winds and rain. This level of damage has't been seen on the island in decades," said Nagelvoort. "It damaged houses, particularly roofs, throughout the island creating the need for a program to repair roofs and help people return to their homes."

On June 9, US Department of Defense, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in coordination with the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Mayor's Council of Guam, launched the Roofing Installation Support Emergency Utilization Program (RISEUP) to help temporarily repair metal roofs damaged by Typhoon Mawar. Read more.

GWA Confident That Tap Water is Drinkable

Guam Waterworks Authority General Manager Miguel Bordallo recently told *The*

Guam Daily Post the utility is "confident that the water is safe to drink." But the Guam Environmental Protection Agency isn't quite ready to give a concurring green light for the island's water system as a whole.

"GWA has collected and analyzed over eight rounds of samples from Guam EPAdesignated sample points within the GWA distribution system in all areas where we have restored water service, and all have come back clean," Bordallo said.

GWA asked the Guam EPA for the green light to lift the precautionary boil-water notice for all areas that have stable water service restored, sufficient pressure and adequate chlorine residual levels, but the agency has yet to concur fully.

"Concurrence to lift the precautionary boil-water notice has not been issued by GEPA because of a demand by US EPA officials for information on repairs to minor damage to a few of GWA's water reservoirs resulting from the typhoon," Bordallo said on June 13. Read more.

Microsoft: Chinese Hackers Target Guam Infrastructure

On the same day Typhoon Mawar made landfall on Guam and shut down water, power and telecom services, information about a digital storm potentially poised to strike the island came to light, according to *The Guam Daily Post*.

Microsoft on May 24 said it had uncovered "stealthy and targeted malicious" digital activity carried out by a state-sponsored hacking group in China called Volt Typhoon. Since 2021, Volt Typhoon has targeted critical infrastructure in Guam and in the US, Microsoft stated in a report.

"In this campaign, the affected organizations span the communications, manufacturing, utility, transportation, construction, maritime, government, information technology and education sectors," the company stated.

Volt Typhoon has been clandestinely infiltrating computer systems and looking to maintain access and gather data for as long as possible. In rare cases, hackers create "command and control" channels, capable of sending directions to compromised computer networks, Microsoft said in the report.

"Microsoft assesses with moderate confidence that this Volt Typhoon campaign is pursuing development of capabilities that could disrupt critical communications infrastructure between the United States and Asia region during future crises."

Read more.

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Keynote Speakers

Bill Samuels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Maker's Mark Distillery, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, "Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer."



Megan Bendtzen, the CEO and founder of TheDoctorofFun.com, will give a keynote presentation on - Beyond the Blueprint: Mastering the Most Important Project of Your Life. In this clever and entertaining presentation, Bendtzen will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myth of work-life balance and revealing the single biggest lie surrounding the pursuit of happiness.



Conference Session Highlights

- Ethical Obligations and Engineering Through a DEI Lens
- The Engineer's Blueprint: Success Principles for Winning at Work and at Home

- Lithium: The Race for North American EV Dominance But at What Cost to the Industry?
- Finding the Funds for Your Infrastructure Project
- Leaders Leading Leaders
- We Need YOU to Protect the License!
- Meeting the Challenges and Needs of The Engineering Workforce
- Speculative Technology and Exploratory Engineering for Designing the Future

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New Webinar: Racing Towards Excellence

A new webinar will get you ready for NSPECon23 — Racing Towards Excellence: Enhancing Customer Experience and Improving Safety at Churchill Downs.

Neil Crawford, P.E., an accomplished engineer and project manager at Qk4 Inc., offers insight into the history of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby and its economic impacts on Kentucky. Learn about recent improvement projects to enhance the customer experience and also projects to improve equine/horseman safety and expand the racing operations.

The webinar is FREE for members and offers 1 PDH. Register and watch now.



ARPL Offers New Advocacy Resources

ARPL has released two new advocacy resources. A video, Universal Licensing: A Closer Look, (featuring Rebecca Bowman, Senior Director of Ethics and Professional Practice) and an advocacy document, *The Critical Role of Licensing in Business Success*, based on recent research. As a sponsoring member of ARPL, NSPE has access to these resources and others on the ARPL website.

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