ICGA Completes First Grout Boot Camp

The International Chemical Grout Association (ICGA) of NASSCO completed the first grout operator training school. Dubbed “Grout Boot Camp” the two and a half day training session held June 6, 7 and 8, 2006 at Aries service center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL was a sellout success.

One of ICGA’s business objectives is teaching sewer line chemical grouting system operators in the correct methods of chemical grouting sewer and manhole structures. ICGA members believe grouting must be taught as a process, therefore it is important that all the suppliers present an integrated training session, not just talk about equipment and chemicals as unrelated entities. Secondly, the school helped operators become more productive and confident in their equipment performance by teaching the principles of equipment operation, maintenance, trouble shooting and repair. The training sessions were led by Dick Schantz from Aries Industries along with assistance from three Aries field service techs. Marc Ancil, General Manager of Logiball, provided extensive training on all aspects of Logiball test and seal packers including mainline, lateral and push packer products. Avanti Chemicals provided safety and mixing information along with grout samples for operators to test mix. Pouring the mixed grout into various soil samples they gain an understanding of how various soil and grout mixtures performed. Norm Sirna, formerly owner of Specialty Sewer Services and a founding member of ICGA, provided continuous practical guidance and commentary. His vast experience with chemical grouting was extremely helpful to operators and supervisors who had real world questions about grout performance and methods.

A number of very experienced grout truck operators and supervisors attended and their input and discussion provided excellent balance to the academic and equipment portion.

The basic grouting standard practices issued by NASSCO and ASTM were reviewed and equipment features and demonstration tests required by those standards was explained and carried out.

There was minimal class time with a lot of hours spent working on two grout trucks. A third component demonstration stand was used to familiarize the operators with the operating aspects of the major grout truck components. All attendees had time and opportunity to talk about the business, run the equipment, learn the use of test equipment and procedures by asking questions, getting their hands-on the gear or talk with others.

The school course content was well received and many attendees wanted to know when the next “Grout Boot Camp” was schedule so that they could send additional operators. Dates for the next two “Grout Boot Camps” are now being firmed up with one in September ’06 at Aries in Wisconsin and a second in November ‘06 at Avanti in Houston. There will be a winter ‘07 session in Florida probably followed by mid Atlantic and North West Pacific locations also in ‘07. If you want to attend or have employees you want to send just e-mail your contact information to Dick.Schantz@AriesIndustries.com and we will get you onto our “Grout Boot Camp” information list.