



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 25, 2019  
Media Contact: Travis Loop, 703.684.2465, [tloop@wef.org](mailto:tloop@wef.org)

## **Colorado and Texas Teams Take Top Honors at 2019 Operations Challenge Competition**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Teams from Colorado and Texas bested the rest during the 32nd annual Operations Challenge competition. The Rocky Mountain Water Environment Federation's Elevated Ops from Denver won Division 1 and the Water Environment Association of Texas' South Mesquite Rangers from Mesquite placed first in Division 2. The exciting, high-energy event happened at WEFTEC 2019—the Water Environment Federation's 92nd annual technical exhibition and conference—in Chicago.

Elevated Ops team members are Matthew Duncan, Kelsey Gedge, Joshua Mallore, Travis Sargent, Lance Wenholz, and coach Orren West. North Texas Rangers team members are Caeleb Butler, Joshua Deaver, Zachary Jackson, Jeremy Thompson, and coach Rey Davila.

One of the most anticipated events during WEFTEC, Operations Challenge is a unique and fast-paced test of the essential skills needed to operate and maintain wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems, and laboratories—all vital to the protection of public health and the environment.

Over the past 32 years, Operations Challenge has steadily grown from the original 22-team event to this year's record-breaking 46-team, two-division format that showcased competitors from as far away as Denmark. Teams are judged on the best combination of precision, speed, and safety. The winners are determined by a weighted point system for five events over two days including laboratory and process control and collections, safety, and KSB maintenance.

Winners in both divisions include:

### **Division 1**

#### **First Place: Elevated Ops**

*Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association  
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Denver, Colo.*

#### **Second Place: TRA CReWSers**

*Water Environment Association of Texas  
Trinity River Authority, Dallas, Texas*

#### **Third Place: L.A. Wrecking Crew**

*California Water Environment Association  
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Carson, Calif.*

### **Division 2**

**First Place: South Mesquite Rangers**

*Water Environment Association of Texas  
North Texas Municipal Water District, Mesquite, Texas*

**Second Place: Double Duty**

*Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association  
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Denver, Colo.*

**Third Place: Lethal Concentration**

*Water Environment Association of South Carolina  
Greenwood Metropolitan District, Greenwood, S.C.*

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**About WEF**

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 35,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org).