

Operations

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PIPES & VALVES



**OPERATIONS
CHALLENGE '89
THE ULTIMATE
FLOW CONTROL**

OPERATIONS CHALLENGE SUCCESSFUL DESPITE EARTHQUAKE

East Bay MUD captures second trophy

Move over Oakland Athletics, you're not the only dynasty in the Bay Area. The East Bay Municipal Utilities District fielded its second winning team in as many years when its team, East Bay MUD "Bashers," captured this year's Operations Challenge trophy in San Francisco in October. Last year's winner, the "Defenders," also an EBMUD representative, finished sixth among the 28 teams that competed. The twenty-ninth team from Puerto Rico could not attend the competition because it was needed at home to help repair the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Hugo.

Perhaps it's too early to test these guys for steroids, but East Bay MUD's operators have something potent going for them which the other teams in the competition have yet to discover. But not to be dispirited, these runners up are redoubling their determination to unseat East Bay teams at next year's Challenge in Washington, D.C.

The day the earth shook

Despite some minor problems such as missing equipment in the laboratory event and an odd "kit" in the safety event, the Challenge ran smoothly—until 5:04. At that time most of the Conference attendees were leaving the convention center, pump event competitors were still hard at work, and prelimi-

nary trophies were being presented. Then the earth shook. When it was over, just 15 seconds later, the Challenge was blanketed in darkness, their were still seven teams to compete in the pump event, and some of the teams' scores were zapped from the computer.

Winning details

The East Bay MUD "Bashers", were the overall winners in this year's Operations Challenge. The winning team consisted of Jack Foley, Thomas McConnell, Mark Shearer, and David Allen, all employees of East Bay MUD. The team received a trophy and \$500. The team from the city of Tampa, Fla., took second place overall, and the "Sewer Rats" from Arkansas place third.

The winning East Bay MUD team captured first place trophies in both the laboratory and safety events. The Iowa "Sludge Puppies" had the best time in the collection systems event, and the New York "Cleaning House" team from Long Island won the process control event.

For 2 years, the Operations Challenge has given participants a chance to demonstrate their expertise, agility, and excellence in the area of wastewater treatment operations and maintenance. This year, mother nature gave them an added chance to show their patience, composure, and sense of humor.



Clockwise, starting at top:

■ Attendance was good throughout the day. Everyone, from exhibitors, speakers, and even Moscone Center staff, gained a new appreciation by watching the operators at work. ■ The overall winners of this year's Operations Challenge are, from L to R, Thomas McConnell, Mark Shearer, David Allen, and Jack Foley, members of the East Bay MUD "Bashers." ■ The safety event gave participants a chance to demonstrate their cooperation. California's East Bay MUD "Bashers" took first place in this event with a time of 1:17. ■ Despite missing equipment and questionable scores, the laboratory event ran smoothly. The East Bay MUD "Bashers" had the winning time of 8:72. ■ The collection system event called for tremendous teamwork, agility, and clear thinking. Iowa's "Sludge Puppies" and the East Bay MUD "Defenders" tied in this event with a time of 1:40. ■ The pump maintenance event had a shaky start when one of the three pumps broke, and was eventually eliminated because seven teams were unable to compete as a result of the earthquake.





Overall Team Standings

Rank	Team	Total time
1	EBMUD Bashers, Calif.	58:85
2	City of Tampa, Fla.	62:92
3	The Sewer Rats, Ark.	65:08
4	The Cleaning House, N.Y. WPCA	65:12
5	G'Ville Reg. Util, Fla.	65:98
6	EBMUD Defenders, Calif.	66:69
7	Top Scum, Calif.	66:94
8	Sludge Puppies, Iowa WPCA	67:17
9	Central, N.Y. WPCA	68:55
10	New Jersey	70:51

Safety Event Team Standings

Rank	Team	Time
1	EBMUD Bashers, Calif.	1:17
2	EBMUD Defenders, Calif.	1:23
3	G'Ville Reg. Util., Fla.	1:60
4	Central, N.Y. WPCA	1:63
5	Pumpers, Central States WPCA	2:18

Collection System Event Team Standings

Rank	Team	Time
1	Sludge Puppies, Iowa WPCA	1:40
1	EBMUD Defenders, Calif.	1:40
2	Scarabs, Mich.	1:47
2	K'Ville WW Watchdogs, Tex.	1:47
3	Top Scum, Calif.	1:67

Process Control Event Team Standings

Rank	Team	Time
1	The Cleaning House, N.Y. WPCA	47:75
2	The Sewer Rats, Ark.	48:40
3	EBMUD Bashers, Calif.	49:25
4	City of Tampa, Fla.	50:33
5	Top Scum, Calif.	51:75

Laboratory Event Team Standings

Rank	Team	Time
1	EBMUD Bashers, Calif.	6:72
2	City of Tampa, Fla.	6:83
3	EBMUD Defenders, Calif.	7:47
4	G'Ville Reg. Util., Fla.	7:50
5	Sludge Puppies, Iowa	9:20

