



The Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control Newsletter

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CISEC Training Modules are now Available On-Line

What is the CISEC On-Line Training Program?

CISEC, Inc. and IECA have teamed together to develop a CISEC Inspector On-Line Training Program that emulates the existing In-Person program.

Will the On-Line Program Cover the Same Material as the In-Person Program?

YES. Wherever and whenever you want, you can complete the four basic modules of the CISEC Program:

- Module 1: EPA's Rules and regulations
- Module 2: Inspector Background
- Module 3: Inspecting BMPs
- Module 4: Conducting Site Inspections

Now, it is feasible to take the CISEC training modules at home, office, trailer, or in your favorite coffee shop. You can skip sections, select specific topics, stop and return to the presentation at a later time, and so forth. In other words, you control the learning pace of the training modules.

Will the CISEC Certification Exam be offered On-Line?

NO. It is CISEC, Inc. mission to provide a professional inspector certification program that allows participants to demonstrate:

- Comprehensive knowledge
- Essential skills
- An ability to inspect
- An ability to communicate and report

The CISEC certification examination is a comprehensive assessment that requires monitoring of answers.

How can one take the CISEC Certification Examination after Completing the On-Line Training Program?

Soon after registering for the On-Line training modules, you should submit an application (see www.cisecinc.org) for CISEC, Inc. to evaluate your qualifications to sit for the exam. If approved, you will be able to sit for the test during an "exam day" held once every three months at selected nationwide locations. Approved applicants can also sit for the test wherever an In-Person CISEC Program is presented. **(See Page 4 for more information)**

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Hydraulic Mulch: Success in the Application

By J.B. Dixon, CISEC #0025

For the past ten years, the product and technique of choice in my area (Omaha-Lincoln, Nebraska) for permanent vegetative establishment on slopes has been the use of erosion control blankets. When everything is done correctly--proper seed bed preparation, soil quality assurance, proper blanket installation--it's a very effective Best Management Practice (BMP) for assuring erosion protection and keeping those precious seeds in place for germination. Of course, there are instances where things go awry and a step in the process goes overlooked or is poorly executed. But for the most part, contractors seem to like working with rolled erosion control products, and their clients seem satisfied with the end results. It's certainly not the only way to achieve erosion control and achieve a green site, however.

Hydraulic mulch (a catch-all term for this article, includes hydroseeding, bonded fiber matrix, and flexible growth medium) has its proponents and its detractors. Many of its detractors have had poor experiences with hydraulic mulch, mainly due to observed failures where it has been applied, leading to poor erosion control or ineffective seed germination. I've seen on many occasions where a poor hydraulic mulch application has been replaced with erosion control blanket. But does that have to be the case? With advances in technology, and with product options for almost any job, the case for hydraulic mulch is stronger than ever.

So why does it get a bad rap? The main failures I've seen with hydraulic mulch applications are due to improper applications of the recommended or specified application rates. It's one thing for a contractor/applicator to come up short on his applied amount, by simple mistake or otherwise. But, if a site superintendent or an erosion control inspector doesn't know what the proper application rate is, doesn't know what that rate should look like when applied, or doesn't know how to determine the actual amount applied, then who is going to catch the mistake? If left unchecked, the application will likely lead to failure, and a client who is left with a bad taste in his mouth about the perceived effectiveness of hydraulic mulch. Each hydraulic mulch product should be specified to the conditions of where it will be applied. With that selection comes a recommended application rate. This should be closely observed, documented, and confirmed through the application process. Otherwise, a simple stabilization job just got a lot more expensive for someone.

One common application technique that is often overlooked is the assurance of uniform hydraulic mulch coverage. Whenever possible, the contractor should be using the hose apparatus from his hydraulic mulch applicator and be shooting the soil to insure even coverage at the proper rate. For contractors with larger machines, it is easy to be tempted to finish a linear jobsite by driving down the street and shooting from the top of the rig, or from the turret, to areas that are immediately back of curb, or in areas otherwise easily accessible to a contractor to use the hose to apply. While this can save on time, and in some cases be the preferred application technique (steep slopes, lack of site access), it can lead to inadequate installation rates and lack of even coverage of the hydraulic mulch product. If proper seed bed preparation has also not been done, a "shadowing" effect can happen by only applying hydraulic mulch from one angle, as seen in these two pictures. If not applied from two directions, the mulch coverage may only be 50%, certainly not what the client expected or paid for, and definitely not providing the erosion control expected.

The technology of hydraulic mulch has advanced so much in recent years that I'm not sure I'm even calling it by its preferred industry name. Wood & paper mulches, bonded fiber matrix, and flexible growth medium are all under this hydraulically applied classification. But they certainly are not all alike. One thing is for sure, the hydraulic mulch industry has come light years in the past decade, and designers and contractors would be wise to become familiar with how to select, specify and install these effective, dynamic products. ***(Continued on page 3)***





S&E Control on Individual Lots

By R. Krzycki, CISEC #0433



"There's mud all over in on my street and I want to know what you're gonna do about it." This was a typical complaint that the City of Lincoln, Nebraska received from home owners in new construction areas in previous years.

In 2002, the City of Lincoln was issued a permit by the State of Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to regulate discharges to stormwater from construction site activity and other sources of stormwater pollutants. The City initially established a program to address construction site runoff that primarily focused on education. In 2007, the City worked with the local development and building community to draft and pass an ordinance to address construction site discharges. In addition to the erosion and sediment program for 'large' sites (sites one acre and over), the City of Lincoln was also responsible for regulating sites under one acre that are "part of a larger common plan of development or sale." With the goal of implementing an individual lot erosion and sediment control program that was straight forward, fair and equitable, it was felt that it should not be as burdensome as the requirements for 'large' sites. As a result, the City came up with a relative simple two page permit and streamlined process for erosion and sediment control on individual lots. In addition to the streamlined permit the City put together a erosion and sediment control Best Management Practice (BMP) guide for local home builders that was brief and had photos of each individual BMP (titled: Best Management Practices Handbook, available at the Building and Safety Department at 555 S. 10th Street or as a download:

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/watrshed/require/erosion/pdf/bmphb.pdf>).



In efforts to provide "a fair and equitable program," the City also looked at where and how BMPs need to be installed. Options such as grading the lot a couple inches lower than the back of curb or building a berm behind the curb to keep sediment on site, are examples of BMPs that have worked well and are of relative low cost to the builder. With regard to the individual lot program, after five years of implementation, the City and builders have accomplished quite a lot. The City with the builder's help have implemented a streamlined permit, collaborated on a straight forward BMP installation handbook, reduced the number of cases going to the Law department for enforcement and have seen a significant reduction in annual public complaint numbers. The City inspector that implements the individual lot construction program (Terry Ullsperger, CISEC #434) was recognized in 2011 by the local Home Builders Association as "Employee of the Year" for his efforts in being helpful and working with individuals to achieve compliance. The individual lot program has also been recognized nationally by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the City has received calls from other municipalities interested in the program. We still get an occasional "what are you going to do about that" call, but they are a lot less thanks to the implementation of the individual lot program and to the efforts of Lincoln's home builders. *(originally published in the August 2012: Lincoln Business Builder)*



Hydraulic Mulch: Success in the Application

By J.B. Dixon, CISEC #0025

(Continued from page 2) Rarely is it the product's fault when there is a failure. When selected installed correctly, hydraulic mulch can compete financially and perform in the field just as well as rolled erosion control products. It's another tool in a contractor's arsenal that can give them an edge, and can please a client when they are not only in compliance, but when they have a site that's clean and green. *(originally printed for IECA Great Rivers Chapter Newsletter)*



CISEC Training Modules On-line

(Continued from page 3)

Now, the nationwide CISEC Training Modules for inspectors of sediment and erosion control are available anytime and anywhere through IECA.

Enrollment into the CISEC On-Line training modules is a simple task by going to <http://ieca.crhosts.com> and following the easy instructions.

Some reasons why you might consider the CISEC On-Line training modules include:

- Learn at your pace,
- Learn at home or the office,
- Take time to prepare for the CISEC certification examination, and
- Avoid travel costs.

The cost for each module individually is:

- Module 1 (two parts): US\$100
- Module 2 (one part): US\$ 50
- Module 3 (three parts): US\$150
- Module 4 (two parts): US\$100

You can save money by enrolling in all four modules for US\$300. After enrollment, registrants will have one month to complete the CISEC training modules.

IECA does all the work by connecting you to the resources needed to stay up-to-date on the latest sediment and erosion control training and practices.

IECA
3401 Quebec Street, Suite 3500
Denver, CO 80207-2339
303-640-7554
www.ieca.org



International Erosion Control Association

Yearly Renewal Fees and CDHs...

CDH hours are accumulated over a three year period in six different categories. This year, CISEC registrants who are due for their first or second three year contract renewal have been contacted by email. If you are not certain if you are due to renew or just have questions regarding your status, please contact us at the email address listed below. Even if you are not due for a contract renewal, please remember to send in your renewal fee and any CDHs you may have accrued. The deadline is June 30, 2013. Contact us at: cisec_cdhreview@yahoo.com

New Search Feature on Website

Check out the website at www.cisecinc.org and go to the "Find a CISEC" page. There you will see a new Search ability, located to the upper right of the Map. This search feature will allow you to find a specific CISEC in our list, you can find out what city they are located in, their CISEC number, and any contact information they are allowing us to post. One more way we are trying to keep our CISEC's in touch with each other and the industry. If you notice anything that does not seem correct, please let us know, we value your input as this is your site.

CISEC, Inc.

United States:

P.O. Box 188
Parker, CO 80134

PHONE:
720-235-2783

FAX:
303-841-6383

E-MAIL:
cisec_inc@yahoo.com

Canada:

9520 Pine Valley Drive
Woodbridge, ON L4L 1A6

PHONE:
289-268-3903

E-MAIL:
can-cisec@trca.on.ca

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CISEC # 0007

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