

John Holtz

Corporate Trainer

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- **Boiler Operators Workshop — Steam**
- **Boiler Operators Workshop — Hydronics**
- **Custom, Onsite Boiler Training**



John Holtz is R.F. MacDonald Co.'s Boiler Division Corporate Trainer. Holtz has been in the boiler business for 30 years, getting his start in the Navy where he worked on steam generating systems and began his long career training boiler operators. Holtz currently teaches two back-to-back two-day boiler operator's workshops 10 times a year throughout California and Nevada. The workshop is lecture-based with an exhibit of boiler accessories for hands-on learning. Demonstrations on full-sized Cleaver-Brooks boilers are available for classes in Los Angeles, Fresno and Reno.

"While in the Navy, I received my Master Training Specialist certification and was involved with training at every station and every duty," Holtz said. "While still on active duty, I obtained my Chief Boiler Operator's license from the City of Tacoma, Washington and worked as a relief operator for many different facilities in the Tacoma area. As a relief operator, I had the opportunity to learn about many different types of boilers and how they operated."

Boiler maintenance lasts the life of a boiler and having a well-rounded understanding of your facility's boiler system should be a priority. Since 2017, R.F. MacDonald Co. has performed custom, onsite training, giving our customers a detailed presentation of their in-house boiler/burner design, controls, combustion basics and a breakdown of how to operate and maintain their specific equipment.

"Both the workload as well as the maintenance of the boiler can affect the life of a boiler," Holtz said. "If the workload of the system is cyclic with extreme changes in demand on the boiler, these changes put undue stress on the boiler and all of its components, which can shorten the life of a boiler. The most common example of workload stress is when a boiler needs to be started up and online in a short period of time. Improper heating of the boiler and its associated systems puts undue thermal stress on the boiler which will limit the life of the boiler."

Compared to boiler workload, Holtz gave this example on boiler maintenance determining the life of a boiler: "One of the most common operating practices is to perform a bottom blowdown daily on an operating boiler. By doing this simple maintenance procedure, you remove sludge and other materials that gather in the bottom of a firetube boiler – or in the mud drum of a watertube boiler. This sludge and other material can lead to increased corrosion as well as act as an insulator to the tubes or drum, resulting in higher temperatures required to transfer heat across surfaces. This can cause undue thermal stress and affect the integrity of the metal which will shorten the life of the boiler."

You may sign up for one of John Holtz AFE-certified classes at rfmacdonald.com/training or email info@rfmacdonald.com to discuss custom, onsite boiler training.