Aqua Talk

A newsletter from the Safe Drinking Water Program

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Is Your Water System Ready to Notify the Public?

Volume 7, Issue 4
Fall 2013

by Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

You do an excellent job running your water system and it never has any violations. You do not need to be prepared to rapidly notify your customers of an acute health risk or other health-based violations. Right? Wrong! We believe that all systems need to be prepared for the possibility of issuing a system-wide public notice for a variety of situations.

Through no fault of your own, due to flooding and the associated damage or if routine and repeat samples in the distribution system come back positive for *E. coli*, your system may face a situation that represents an acute public health risk. According to the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, you would need to issue a tier 1 public notice as soon as practical, but no later than 24 hours after becoming aware of the situation. Remember, that by the time the results come back positive on the repeat samples, a couple of days have gone by since the initial samples were collected. Will your customers be satisfied with waiting another 24 hours before being told not to drink their water without boiling it?

Are you ready to do this? On a weekend? On a major holiday? How will you do this, Reverse 911 or other methods? This kind of public notice has a huge impact in the community. Operations at restaurants, businesses, grocery stores, hotels, schools, daycares and more are all significantly impacted. Are you ready to be in touch with all of these entities? There could be media interest. They will ask what did you know? When did you know it? When is the situation going to be fixed? There could be an explosion of social media interest via Facebook and Twitter. Are you ready to engage in these communication methods?

What if the event overwhelms your available resources? Are you a member of CoWARN? If so, you may be able to get help from other water systems.

If there is uncertainty about how you will accomplish a rapid notice or about the answers to any of these questions, then we

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Message from the Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

Communication and Working Together

by Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

The Safe Drinking Water Program routinely works with public drinking water systems to help them protect public health by complying with the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*. Sometimes these efforts require a great deal of communication. But there can be significant barriers to effective communication like distance and limited resources. Our closest office to your location could be far from a particular water system making face-to-face meetings difficult. Travel budget restrictions also can limit in-person contact opportunities. Additionally, sometimes we all get too busy to communicate in a timely fashion. I have also heard that some water systems are afraid to talk to us about certain issues. But an issue that sits for a long time usually does not age well, and it becomes more difficult to work through when the time comes. Therefore, I want to emphasize that we should strive not to let these barriers substantially degrade communication.

If you are experiencing a situation at your water system that may be a violation or represent a public health risk, please try to contact us as soon as possible. Many situations can also trigger repeat sampling or public notice requirements. Understanding these additional issues can help you make informed decisions about next steps, and possibly avoid additional violations, such as failing to take repeat samples or providing public notice in a timely fashion.

Written letters represent a key mechanism for division communications. Often these communications will inform a water system about a particular issue and require a response. One example is sanitary survey letters. These letters, and others, may be a little long, and at the end will spell out whether or not a response from the water system is needed, and if so, the deadline for response. I strongly encourage your rapid response to the issue in a letter, even if just to acknowledge receipt or if you disagree with the letter. Responding by the deadline is important. Frequently, failing to respond to such a letter represents another violation incurred by the water system. This violation could be avoided simply by responding. In some situations, even a response that asks for more time or sets out a proposed schedule to comply will be sufficient to avoid the additional violation.

All communications need to be professional. Sometimes issues arise that may upset us. In that instance perhaps it is best to wait a day, if possible, before communicating to allow for cooling down.

We strive to provide great service to our performance partners and to be responsive to communications from water systems. I encourage you to let us know if you believe that we are coming up short in this area. I can assure that there would be no recriminations or retaliation for doing that. We need to work together to protect public health, and we want to be sure that we are successfully communicating with you. Helping us become aware of problems on our end can help us do our job better. ♦

Thank you.

Drinking Water Coliform Sample Guidance Development Project

by Jennifer Miller, Compliance Assurance Section Manager

In January 2013, the Water Quality Control Division commenced work on a project to develop a coliform sample guidance document. The primary driver for the project was to address/ clarify the following three items:

1. Sample invalidation requests
2. Special purpose sampling
3. Sampling per the monitoring plan: General adequacy and ensuring flexibility in the event that a planned location cannot be accessed.

The project has been a collaborative effort that included the solicitation of stakeholder issues and concerns, the development of the draft document, and issuance of the draft document for stakeholder review and comment. Stakeholder meetings were held in February, June and August 2013. At the August meeting, issues and comments were discussed and agreed upon by the division and stakeholders. There are no further meetings planned. The final draft, which incorporates the agreed-upon revisions, was released for final stakeholder review on Oct. 2 and comments are due back to the division by Oct. 16. Upon final review of any additional comments, the division will finalize the guidance and will make it available on the division's website. More details regarding the project available by selecting the "What's New" button at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd. ♦

Is Your Water System Ready to Notify the Public?

(Continued from page 1)

suggest that planning for this kind of event would be a very beneficial activity. While we do not offer specific trainings at this point in time about tier 1 public notice, we would happy to assist your water system with planning for such an event. Please contact David Dani at david.dani@state.co.us or 303-692-3605.

Now, let's switch gears to a lesser crisis. Suppose that due to an equipment malfunction followed by an alarm breakdown that does not alert you, your filtration system does not meet turbidity limits for a short time period. The drinking water acute team will evaluate the situation, and if there is not an acute risk, then tier 1 public notice would not be needed. However, this situation likely still represents a health-based violation of the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations* and triggers a tier 2 public notice. Tier 2 public notice must be issued as soon as practical, but no later than 30 days after the event. Again, will your customer be satisfied with finding out about a violation a month later? Will this generate media interest along the lines of "Why did you wait so long to tell people?" Again, planning for these situations in advance can help you meet not only regulatory requirements but also customer expectations. ♦

Increased Readability Rulemaking Project

by Jennifer Miller, Compliance Assurance Section Manager

In August 2012, the Water Quality Control Division commenced work on an increased readability rulemaking (IRR) project to revise the current *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, (CPDWR) to reorganize, simplify and clarify the language of the existing CPDWR. The primary approach for this work included the following:

- Using shorter sentences
- Writing in active voice
- Consistent use of terms and definitions
- Using logic tables
- Correcting typographical errors
- Removal of outdated requirements
- Correcting reference errors

The IRR project has included a tremendous amount of coordination and collaboration within the Safe Drinking Water Program and with stakeholders. The outcome of this work is a draft, rewritten CPDWR that will be of significant benefit to the division, to the regulated community and to the citizens and visitors of Colorado. Details regarding the IRR project are available on the division's website at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd. The Water Quality Control Commission hearing regarding adoption of the rewritten CPDWR is scheduled for Nov 4. The final draft of the rewritten CPDWR is available on the Commission's website at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcc.

Drinking Water Funding Success

by Mike Beck, Grants and Loans

Over the past few years the Water Quality Control Division has worked with one of Colorado's water and sanitation districts to address its high priority drinking water system deficiencies that lead to enforcement orders. The district has struggled to resolve its drinking water system deficiencies due to technical, managerial and financial capacity. In addition, the district had been operating without an official board due to the lack of required elections. Without an elected board in place, the district was ineligible for state and federal funding assistance to repair and sustain the treatment issues.

This year, the district collaborated with the county, the division and the Department of Local Affairs to establish an official district board. The establishment of a board gives the district the ability to apply and accept state grants and state revolving funds by having the ability to sign applications and binding agreements. In the past year, the division has worked closely with the district to determine the best funding options to address the facility's needs for both drinking water and wastewater.

The district has been awarded a $20,000 small system training and technical assistance grant along with a $100,000 water quality improvement fund grant. To address the capital construction needs for the drinking water system, the district has applied for a principal forgiveness loan from the drinking water state revolving fund loan program in the amount of $750,000. This was a multiagency effort that provided technical and financial opportunities for the constituents to receive safe drinking water. If you are interested in learning how the division and DOLA can help your system, please contact Michael Beck at michael.s.beck@state.co.us. Or visit us on the web www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd/grantsandloans.

Log Inactivation and Baffle Factors for Small System Designs

by Doug Camrud, Engineering Section

Part 1 of 2

The Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment evaluates disinfection log inactivation as part of design reviews, sanitary surveys, source water classification changes and substantial treatment modifications. The new *Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems*, which went into effect on Sept. 1, along with the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, are used by the division for reviewing waterworks at public drinking water systems.

In the past, the division generally determined disinfection log inactivation using the protocol described in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003, *Long Term 1 Enhanced surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR) Disinfection Profiling and Benchmarking Technical Guidance Manual*. This EPA document includes a baffle factor description table that assigns baffling factors for several generalized contact basin configurations. However, this table has limited applicability for contact tank and contact basin configurations used by many small public water systems in Colorado. For example, the EPA table does not address multiple small tanks connected in series, the impact of inlet/outlet piping configurations and short pipeline segments. To assist in addressing this issue, the division contracted with Colorado State University to construct tank configurations commonly used for small systems, perform empirical tests to determine baffling factors over a specific range of flow rates and assist in the development of a small system baffling factor guidance document. The first phase of the baffle factor study that included computer modeling and tracer testing on a pipe loop system, various pressurized contact tank configurations connected in series, and open surface vertical and horizontal baffled tanks, has been completed and the second phase is currently underway. Several of the conclusions reached from the first phase of the study include:

- Pressurized tanks plumbed in series exhibited significant turbulent mixing in the interior of each tank and exhibited increasing treatment efficiency with more tanks in series, similar to the addition of interior baffles within a fixed volume rectangular tank (see series tank results summary table below).
- The open surface tanks were the least efficient systems with significant short-circuiting and regions of recirculation. The inlet configuration greatly influenced the flow dynamics, and by evenly distributing the inflow, the hydraulic efficiency is likely to increase.
- The pipe loop system did not exhibit the predicted plug flow behavior. However, the pipe loop system is an ideal disinfection system that requires a significant footprint area to obtain an adequate capacity.

Series Tank Results Summary		
No of Tanks in Series	Flow Rate (gpm)	General Baffle Factor
1	5-20	0.1
2	5-20	0.2
3	5-20	0.3
4	15-30	0.4
5	15-30	0.5
6	15-30	0.55

Operators: Renew Certificates Early

by Jackie Whelan, Facility Operator Program

Did you know . . .

- A certificate becomes invalid on its expiration date. This is particularly important to an operator in responsible charge (ORC) because a valid certificate is a condition of employment as an ORC.
- The operator cannot represent that he or she holds a certificate once it expires.
- An operator must not operate a facility under an expired certificate.
- There is no grace period.
- An operator may apply for renewal for two years after it expires – this is a restoration period, not a grace period!
- Even after renewal, the operator is not certified during the period between the expiration date and the issue date of the renewed certificate.
- After renewal, the new certificate is valid for the three year period from the original expiration date, not the issue date of the renewed certificate.
- There is a $50 late fee charged for renewals received in the Operator Certification Program Office after the expiration date.

Annually operators receive from OCPO a list of the certificates they hold and the expiration date of each. Make sure OCPO has your correct mailing address so you don't miss this important annual notification.

Applications for renewal should be submitted to OCPO six to eight weeks before expiration. Submit your completed renewal application early! ♦

History of Disinfection Waivers and Where We Go From Here

In 1955 the State Board of Health recognized the tremendous risk reduction from waterborne disease that results from disinfecting drinking water, and adopted a resolution recommending that all drinking water supplied to the public contain at least 0.1 parts per million of free available chlorine.

In 1967 the State Board of Health required disinfection of all drinking water unless that requirement was specifically waived by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment based on evidence that the drinking water was free of contamination.

Over the years from 1967 to about 2000 approximately 126 disinfection waivers were granted. The department lacked a systematic process for reviewing the status of these waivers on a periodic basis. The department began to review the status of disinfection waivers in about 2007, which was before the 2008 Alamosa waterborne disease outbreak. We found that many of these systems had already begun to disinfect their drinking water.

In 2010, the Water Quality Control Commission banned new disinfection waivers and imposed more appropriate requirements on systems with disinfection waivers if they wished to retain them. Presently, about 13 of the 2,030 public drinking water systems in Colorado have disinfection waivers. Without further regulatory changes, those systems will retain their waivers as long as they continue to meet the regulatory requirements. We periodically review the status of disinfection waivers whenever there is a total coliform rule violation and during sanitary surveys. ♦

Drinking Water Quiz

By Gordon Whittaker, Local Assistance Unit

Think you know everything about drinking water! Prove your drinking water knowledge with our interactive quiz. Please go online to record your answers. Answers will appear in the next issue. The summer 2013 quiz answers are on page 8 . Enjoy!

1. Which of the following can cause taste and odor problems?
   A. Iron
   B. Manganese
   C. Nitrate
   D. Hydrogen Sulfide

2. Chlorine will kill bacteria most rapidly at what pH?
   A. 6.5
   B. 7.0
   C. 7.5
   D. 8.0

3. The greatest source of error when determining water quality is improper
   A. Sampling
   B. Preservation
   C. Analysis
   D. Reporting

4. When should a water sample be analyzed for chlorine residual?
   A. Within 24 hours
   B. Within 8 hours
   C. Within 1 hour
   D. Immediately

5. What two parameters are the primary causes of water hardness?
   A. Lead and copper
   B. Iron and manganese
   C. Calcium and manganese
   D. Calcium and magnesium

6. Which parameter is not a disinfection-by-product?
   A. Bromoform
   B. Bromodichloromethane
   C. Coliform
   D. Chloroform

7. Chlorine will kill bacteria most rapidly at what temperature?
   A. 45 degrees F
   B. 50 degrees F
   C. 55 degrees F
   D. 60 degrees F

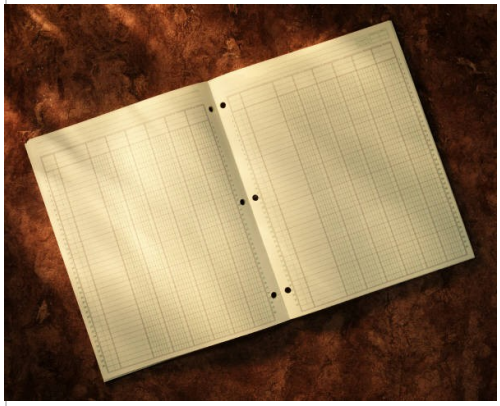
8. How many pounds of chlorine are needed to dose 50 mg/L into a new 12-inch water line that is 1703 feet long?
   A. 0.417
   B. 4.17
   C. 41.7
   D. 417

Simple Fixes

by Chris Etcheson, Field Services Section

Groundwater systems in Colorado must implement several amendments to article 13 of the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, commonly referred to as the groundwater rule, which became effective in 2011. Unless continuous entry point residual disinfectant concentration monitoring and recording is conducted, all groundwater systems are required to measure and record entry point residual disinfectant concentrations at least once in every week that water from the groundwater source is served to the public in order to ensure the disinfectant levels do not fall below 0.2 mg/L for longer than a 72 hour period. Weekly entry point disinfectant residual records will be reviewed by division staff during your water system's next sanitary survey.

The amended groundwater rule requires that entry point residual disinfectant measurement records must be retained for a period of not less than five years. If an entry point residual measurement of less than 0.2 mg/L is observed, the system must take follow-up samples every 24 hours until the entry point residual concentration is at or above 0.2 mg/L. In cases where 72 hours has passed without a measurement at or above 0.2 mg/L, the system must notify the division no later than the next business day. In this instance, a treatment technique violation has occurred and tier 2 public notice must be made.



So, keep an eye on those disinfectant residual levels because adequate and continuous disinfection of groundwater supplies is an important step toward our goal of serving safe drinking water to the public each and every day. ♦

Answers to summer Drinking Water Quiz

The focus of the summer issue of *Aqua Talk* drinking water quiz was general monitoring and testing. Did you answer all four questions correctly?

1. *All of a water system's monitoring locations for each applicable rule must be recorded where?* B is the correct response. Monitoring plans are developed by water systems and must detail the monitoring location(s) where they sample according to each rule.
2. *You are on annual lead and copper monitoring. When do you required to collect your samples?* A is the correct answer. Regulations require water systems on annual lead and copper monitoring to sample between June 1 and Sept. 30.
3. *Campgrounds and other transient water systems are not required to monitor for radionuclides because:* C is the answer. Radionuclides are a chronic contaminant, meaning it may take a many years of exposure to elevated levels in drinking water to have a potential health risk. Since no one at transient systems is consuming the water for extended periods of time, the rule does not apply.
4. *How often shall a containment device on a potential cross connection be tested and maintained?* A is the correct response. Regulations require annual testing and maintenance of containment device on a potential cross connection.

Portrait of Waterborne Disease Outbreak

Outlaws Beware!

by David Dani, Local Assistance Unit

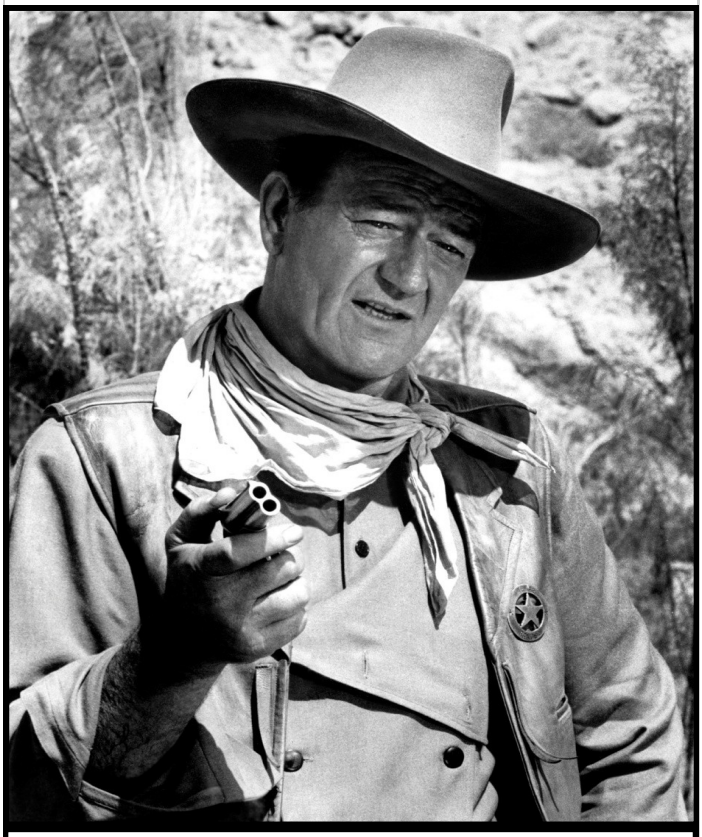
Part III of IV part series

Lately you have been having this recurring dream where you're a gunslinger in the Old West standing on a dirt road in the middle of a deserted town. And as the tumbleweeds blow by, you wait with your finger on the trigger for an outlaw to appear. Only in this remake of a John Wayne film, the outlaws appear in the shapes of giant bacteria, protozoa and viruses.

The surprising thing is that this dream isn't that far off from what you do every day as a drinking water operator. You work diligently to protect the people in your community from the very small but deadly outlaws you can't see or taste that cause waterborne disease outbreaks. Instead of a six-shooter, you keep these outlaws out of your water by using the following arsenal of barriers:

- You keep them at bay by protecting the area around your source water.
- You capture them and remove them with filtration.
- You kill them with chemical disinfection.
- You make sure they can't penetrate your distribution system.

Are these efforts enough? One thing we have learned from past outbreaks is that meeting regulatory requirements alone doesn't always ensure safe drinking water. Achieving this requires you to understand and vigilantly watch each barrier throughout your system for early signs of change indicating these small outlaws might be trying to sneak through. Early detection allows you to make proactive adjustments before these outlaws reach the people in your community. You provide critical equipment maintenance and calibration to ensure each barrier is reliable. You see, it is you and your team that continuously provide safe drinking water and keep your community protected from these outlaws.



John Wayne as Capt. Jake Cutter in the 1961 film *The Commancheros.*

For more waterborne disease outbreak information please visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website and search for "public health threats."

Tune in next issue for part four of this series on waterborne disease outbreaks.

Receive Awards for Improving Performance

by David Dani, Local Assistance Unit

This fall the Safe Drinking Water Program will be launching an Excellence Program to provide resources and awards for all public water systems and operators to continually improve performance from source to tap.

How it will work…

1. Set measurable performance goals
2. Improve performance with best practices
3. Receive awards and recognition

The Excellence Program will recognize and award systems taking steps to improve performance beyond meeting regulatory requirements in the areas of source water protection, treatment and distribution.

The Excellence Program will recognize and award operators taking an active role in their professional development by pursuing opportunities to increase their knowledge and share it with other operators.

The Excellence Program will line you and your system up for success by offering a one-stop -shop resource library to improve performance. This library will include:

- Best management practices and tools shared by other systems and operators
- Operator coaching and mentoring opportunities
- Advanced operator trainings
- Operator discussion forum to share ideas and ask questions
- Access to self assessment tools, templates and current research.

Potential awards and recognition includes an award ceremony with certificate, scholarships for trainings and conferences, public recognition through articles, letters to system administrators and language to share with your customers.

Coach's Corner

Standard Operating Procedures - Why?

by Mike Bacon, Local Assistance Unit

Through training sessions this year, standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been discussed as a way to provide consistency in treatment and distribution. Having procedures performed in certain ways can reduce violations, improve effectiveness and could reduce health risks. When there is more than one person involved in testing chlorine, collecting monitoring data, flushing a hydrant, repairing a water break, making daily or weekly routine checks on the system, dealing with confined space, and so on, SOPs should be in place to make sure that procedures are accomplished consistently.

Based on a root cause analysis in 2008 (see *Failure and Root Cause Analysis Project Report 2009*), it was found that some common water system failures were: inadequate chlorine residual, presence of cross connections, and failure to monitor and report. A critical and frequently observed failure was total coliform positive samples. So, does this mean the water was bad? Not necessarily.

If proper steps are not followed in collecting total coliform, the likelihood of a positive result is greater. For example, **prior** to removing the plastic seal from the sterile bottle:

- Flush the water for four to five minutes, and verify the chlorine residual to be representative (adequate) of what is normally in the line
- Fill out the chain of custody and label prior to sampling
- Remove the aerator
- Sample from an appropriate water faucet (not a swivel, gooseneck or outside faucet)
- Spray the outside of the faucet with rubbing alcohol, or 10 percent bleach solution
- Wash your hands

Once the plastic seal is removed, the likelihood of contamination is greater. Remember to hold the cap downward, and to fill the bottle slowly to the 100 milliliter mark. If you have a positive sample, the system must collect additional samples, which adds expense to the system. In addition, the positive total colifom adds to the common failures of the system.

What SOPs are needed? SOPs are written to get the job done consistently. This improves the effectiveness and efficiency of the system. So, start with procedures associated with the common failures of water systems, protecting the safety of the operator and providing safe drinking water to the public. ♦

Drawn by Tiffany Jackson

Coming Down the Pipe...

New *State of Colorado Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems* is in Effect

by Doug Camrud, Engineering Section

The new *State of Colorado Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems* went into effect on Sept. 1. The design criteria, along with the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, are used by the Water Quality Control Division for reviewing waterworks at public drinking water systems. The previous version of the design criteria was dated to March 1997. The new design criteria were developed in a collaborative effort between the division and the stakeholder community (water systems, design engineers, state and county personnel). The process began in August 2012 with public stakeholder meetings in Denver, Glenwood Springs and Pueblo to introduce the need to update the design criteria and to solicit volunteers for the 10 workgroups that would review and update various chapters of the 1997 design criteria. The process recently concluded with two public comment periods, May 13 to June 7 and July 1 to July 15, and a Water Quality Control Commission informational hearing on August 12.

There is currently a three month transition period, from Sept. 1 to Dec. 1, where a water system may elect to be evaluated based on the new 2013 design criteria or the 1997 design criteria. After the transition period all designs will be evaluated based on the 2013 design criteria. In the future, minor modifications to keep the design criteria current may be made by the division as necessary. These minor revisions will be made by the division. Notification will be provided to interested parties via the quarterly *Aqua Talk* publication, email notifications, water utility council announcements and other means. In general, the division's goal will be to routinely perform a major technical review and update of the design criteria through a formal stakeholder process. These future stakeholder processes are expected to be more streamlined than the 2012-13 effort due to more frequent occurrences of the updates.

Along with the new design criteria, the division has created new application documents for submittals. These documents are for drinking water design submittals, pilot or demonstration scale projects and for alternative technology acceptance. Please visit the web page at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/drinkingwaterdesign under the drinking water design submittal forms tab for the latest application documents and forms.

Ask Aqua Man

Dear Aqua Man,

I was cited during my sanitary survey for not having a written emergency response plan. I deal with emergencies everyday so why do I need a written plan?

Neville Prepared

Dear Neville,

A written emergency response plan or ERP provides valuable information at a moment's notice to personnel who might not be as familiar with the system as you are. An ERP will help you organize your response to emergencies before they happen. Important elements of an ERP are:

- To provide basic system information to personnel who will provide emergency assistance;
- To specify roles and responsibilities for yourself and partners with contact information;
- To identify alternate water sources;
- To identify where to find equipment, repair parts and chemicals; and
- To specify action plans to respond to different types of emergencies.

It is important to practice critical elements of the ERP and to keep it up to date. Be sure to keep a copy of your ERP easily accessible within your treatment plant. The CoWARN website (www.cowarn.org) has a great deal of information on emergency response for both large and small systems, including templates to assist you in developing an ERP. The O&M Manual template on the CDPHE/WQCD website also has a section with templates for developing an ERP.

Aqua Man

Safety Tip:

Drive defensively!!! Watch for those shaving, putting on makeup, talking or texting on the phone, speeding past you like you are sitting still and those that want to switch lanes without any notice. Don't be a victim of road rage!! And don't practice road rage. Take this self test. Do you need to modify your driving habits?

- I regularly exceed the speed limit in order to get to where I am going on time.
- I tailgate other drivers, especially those who sit in the left lane.
- I flash my lights and honk my horn to let drivers know when they annoy me.
- I verbally abuse other drivers whether they can hear me or not.
- I frequently weave in and out of traffic to get ahead.
- I feel the need to set bad drivers straight

Have some time saving helpful hints or tips to share with fellow operators? Can Aqua Man answer your question? Is there a topic you would like discussed? Contact Jacki Main by

- email: jacklyn.main@state.co.us
- phone: 303-692-3665
- fax: 303-782-0390
- mail: WQCD, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80247

Facility Operator Certification

By Jackie Whelan, Facility Operator Program

Exam Information: Certification examinations for all levels and categories are offered during three test cycles per year. Deadlines for application submittal are March 1, July 1 and Nov. 1. Dates, locations, and applications are on the Operator Certification Program Office (OCPO) website, www.ocpoweb.com. You'll also find applications for renewal and listings for training opportunities approved for fulfilling the training unit requirements for renewal. Please be aware of weekends and holidays because late applications cannot be accepted! If you have any questions about examinations or electronic testing options contact OCPO staff at 303-394-8994.

Water and Wastewater Facility-Operator Certification Board (WWFOCB): The Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board meets six times per year, usually in February, April, June, August, October and November. The board encourages public involvement and input during itsregularly scheduled meetings. Five meetings are held at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Cherry Creek campus in Denver. The February meeting is held in conjunction with the Colorado Rural Water Association annual conference in Colorado Springs.

The board is a governor-appointed board that represents a variety of water and wastewater professionals. The board establishes the operator requirements for water and wastewater facilities and the requirements for certification of operators. The facility operator certification program is made up of four distinct groups; the board, the board administrator, the division and OCPO.

Renewals: Please check the renewal date on your certification! Renewal applications must be submitted, along with proof of training units, fees and other documents before the expiration date. There is an additional $50 late fee for submissions after the expiration date. For questions contact OCPO at 303-394-8994 or visit www.ocpoweb.com.

ORC Changes: Owners of public water systems and permitted facilities must submit the ORC update form, within 30 days of a change in ORC, to the division. There are separate report forms for public water systems and permitted facilities. ORC report forms are available at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd. ♦

Visit Us on the Web

Follow safe drinking water program on Twitter!
twitter.com/CO_SafeWater

The Water Quality Control Division's home page web address is
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd

For training opportunities, please visit the division's website at
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/dwtraining.com

To access Aqua Talk online, go to
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/aquatalk.com

To access inspection services go to:
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqinspectionservices

To access the contact list for drinking water regulations go to
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd

Colorado Safe Drinking Water Program
Aqua Talk

Aqua Talk Newsletter Information

Editorial team: Ron Falco, Jacki Main, Mike Bacon, Doug Camrud, Armando Herald, Kelly Jacques, Corrina Quintana, Jennifer Miller and Jackie Whelan. Contributing authors: David Dani, Chris Etcheson and Gordon Whittaker

We welcome comments, questions, story ideas, articles and photographs submitted for publication. Please address correspondence to Jacki Main, Aqua Talk Newsletter, Water Quality Control Division, 4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S., B2, Denver, CO 80246,1530 or email comments.wqcd@state.co.us. Enter "Safe Drinking Water Newsletter" as the subject. Past issues are available by contacting the editor or visiting the website at: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/aquatalk.com

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Colorado Safe Drinking Water Program Aqua Talk

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Division Internet address at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd

Date of Issue Fall 2013

Editor: Jacki Main

Purpose: to communicate division drinking water-related issues to stakeholders in a fun and informative format.