

FEBRUARY 2020

# ServiceLine

The Official Publication of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

## 2020 ATC RECAP

SOURCE WATER  
PROTECTION A  
PRIORITY FOR  
NRCS

LADDER SAFETY

TREASURES  
AMONG US

RURAL WATER EXPO - APRIL 22-23 | FISHING TOURNEY APRIL 24-25





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 AE<sub>2</sub>S

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# FROM THE SDARWS PRESIDENT

RON GILLEN, SDARWS PRESIDENT

## ATC RECAP

The 45th Annual ATC was a resounding success. We would like to thank all of those who attended and participated in all the various aspects of our conference. Without all of your support, this conference would not be possible. We would especially like to thank all of our conference sponsors: Premiere Sponsor – AE<sub>2</sub>S; Educational Session Sponsor – Bartlett & West; Awards Brunch Sponsor – DGR Engineering; Break Table Sponsors: CoBank and Butler Machinery; Keg Sponsors – AE<sub>2</sub>S, DN Tanks, Great Northern Environmental, and Metering & Technology Solutions; Wine Sponsor: Direct Automation; Bag Sponsor Risty Benefits. Check out page 16 for the recap. I would also like to thank all of our exhibitors (full list on page 19) – without you, our event would not be possible.

## FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Rural Water Warriors are hosting the 5th annual Rural Water Fishing Tournament April 24-25th at the Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay in Pierre. This tournament is limited to the first 40 teams of 2-3 fishermen, and is open to current water/wastewater, associate, or corporate members of SDARWS. The cost is \$150/team and includes lunch. The deadline to register is April 20th. More information can be found online at [www.sdarws.com/fishing-tournament.html](http://www.sdarws.com/fishing-tournament.html), or on the inside back cover of this issue of *ServiceLine*.

## WEST RIVER EXPO

South Dakota Rural Water is pleased to host the 2020 Rural Water EXPO. The EXPO will be held in Rapid City at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center (605-343-8550) on April 22-23, 2020.

The EXPO is open to all water and wastewater utility staff, board/council members, engineers, State and Federal employees. The training will consist of twenty presentations, 30 minutes each, thus allocating ten contact hours for those individuals who are licensed operations specialists. Along with the training sessions, the EXPO will showcase many of our industry's manufacturer and supplier leaders. These professional companies will be set up in the main EXPO training center for attendee easy access and to provide answers to those pressing questions. Many will be displaying the recent advances in technology our industry has witnessed over the past several years.

The EXPO will kick off at 8:00 am Wednesday April 22nd and conclude at noon on Thursday, April 23rd with lunch provided on the first day. Registration is \$60, and SDARWS is able to bill for this fee after the conference. Please pre-register by visiting our website at <http://sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html>.



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# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

## CONTACT HOUR REQUIREMENTS

<b>Number and Type of Certificates</b> .....	<b>Contact Hours Required</b>
Operator has one certificate (Class I or II) .....	10 contact hours every three years
Operator has one certificate (Class III or IV) .....	20 contact hours every three years
Operator has more than one certificate and all are Class I and II .....	15 contact hours every three years
Operator has more than one certificate and at least one certificate is a Class III or IV .....	30 contact hours every three years

Water Distribution	February 25-27	Rapid City-Ramkota
OpCert Exam	February 27-1:00 pm	Rapid City-Ramkota
Wastewater Collection	March 10-12	Spearfish-Holiday Inn
OpCert Exam	March 12-1:00 pm	Spearfish-Holiday Inn
Basic Wastewater Treatment	March 24-26	Huron-Crossroads/Events Center
Basic Water Treatment	April 7-9	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn
OpCert Exam	April 9-1:00 pm	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn
Small Water Treatment System Workshop	April 28	Rapid City-Ramkota
Small Water Treatment System Workshop	April 30	Aberdeen-Ramkota
Stabilization Pond Workshop*	May 6	Huron-Crossroads/Events Center
Advanced Wastewater Treatment	May 19-21	Brookings-Days Inn
OpCert Exam	May 21-1:00 pm	Brookings-Days Inn
Intermediate Water Treatment	June 2-4	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn
OpCert Exam	June 4-1:00 pm	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn

\*The Stabilization Pond class deals strictly w/ ponds and is the best class for preparing to take the Small Wastewater System exam. The Basic Wastewater Treatment class deals w/ all types of wastewater treatment other than ponds and is the best class for preparing to take the Class I Wastewater Treatment exam. Small systems that use ponds for treatment can come into compliance w/ the OpCert Law by passing either the Class I Wastewater exam or the Small Wastewater System exam.

\*\*Water systems serving less than 500 people that use wells can come into compliance by passing the Small Water Treatment exam. Larger systems must pass the Class I Water Treatment exam.

All dates are tentative based on number of applicants. Certification exam applications must be submitted for ALL exams including retakes. Applications MUST be received by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at least two weeks before the exam date, as required by the Operator Certification Rules (ARSD 74:21:02:40). Applicants will receive a confirmation of their exam receipt by the Department. Applications will be accepted via fax at 773-5286. Check or money orders made out to "DENR-Operator Certification" are required. Applications must be filled out completely as they are the sole source of information used to determine operator eligibility to take an exam.

For Study materials, visit: [www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/ExamReferences.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/ExamReferences.asp)

For more information contact SDARWS Trainer Jim Zeck: 605-201-9568 or [jzeck@sdarws.com](mailto:jzeck@sdarws.com)

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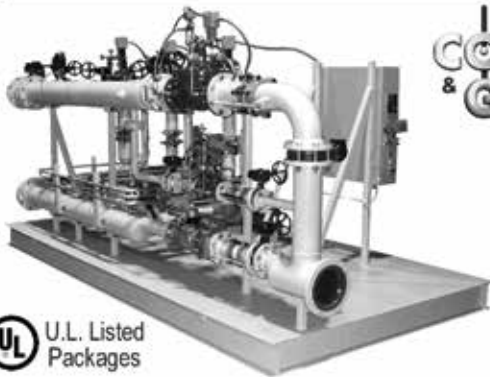
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Please submit letters via email to: [info@sdarws.com](mailto:info@sdarws.com) or by mail to: South Dakota Rural Water, PO Box 287, Madison, SD 57042

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# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION IS A PRIORITY FOR NRCS



**By Jeremiah Corbin,  
SDARWS Source Water  
Protection Specialist**

One of the enhancements to the 2018 Farm Bill provides additional resources to water systems looking for measures to reduce the potential risks to source water from agriculture practices. The NRCS will dedicate 10% of their non-CRP funds to source water protection.

The NRCS will encourage the protection of drinking water sources through the following methods:

- Identify local areas for drinking water protection in each State. This is done in collaboration with the State technical committee and community

water systems. Entities may address quality and/or quantity issues of source water.

- Provide increased incentives for practices that relate to water quality and quantity and protect drinking water sources while also benefitting producers.
- Dedicating at least 10 percent of the total funds available for conservation programs (except for CRP), each year beginning in FY 2019 through FY 2023, to be used for source water protection.

South Dakota Rural Water is actively participating in the Technical Committee and working with community water systems to identify issues. If you have issues that can be addressed with an NRCS program, contact your local office or SDARWS to develop a plan.

NRCS' State Conservationists are actively working with the state technical committee, public water systems, and DENR to identify priority areas. The following methods will identify the systems:

- Existing delineated source water protection areas (SWPAs) that were developed for source water protection assessments to meet the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements where agriculture is identified as a potential source of degradation of source water quality or availability.
- The entire SWPA or a portion of that area, based on partner input.
- In some cases, drinking water partners may prefer to use an expanded area in working with NRCS.
- Areas where there is local support for the implementation of voluntary adoption of conservation to protect source water. This includes stakeholders, partners, and producers.

The delineated SWPA's should have a protection plan in addition to the assessment. If your system needs a plan or would like to update your plan, contact SDARWS.

The four main programs that NRCS will utilize include:

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality,

*...continued on page 15*

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**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION:**  
continued from page 13...

conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps producers build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation. Whether they are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, or develop wildlife habitat, NRCS can custom design a CSP plan to help them meet those goals. NRCS can help producers identify natural resource problems in their operation and provide technical and financial assistance to solve those problems or attain higher stewardship levels in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner.

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM**

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands.

**CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (CIS)**

The Conservation Implementation Strategy program's goal is to solve high priority natural resource concerns in a focused and targeted manner. By clearly identifying locally-led goals and priorities, partnerships can be more

# SDARWS HIRES NEW WASTEWATER TECH



## Billy Benningfield

Billy Benningfield has recently joined the SDARWS team as a Wastewater Technician working out of our Madison office. Benningfield is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He has 43 years in wastewater from operations to management, and one year in water distribution. He holds a Class 4 Certification from the state of Nebraska. Benningfield has one daughter, two sons, a granddaughter, and a grandson.

Benningfield is looking forward to meeting new people and learning about South Dakota.

effectively leveraged, conservation can be strategically delivered, and investments for treating resource cancers can be focused.

It is an excellent time for your system to look at identifying measures to protect your source water. NRCS is looking for partners and projects to dedicate 10% of their non-CRP money. If you are interested in implementing some protection measures, contact your local NRCS office or SDARWS. ♦

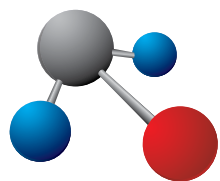


# 2020 RECAP

South Dakota's 45th Annual Technical Conference held in Pierre was a smashing success. Attendees enjoyed the many opportunities to visit with colleagues, learn about the new advances in the water and wastewater field, and attended several of the many classes offered. Our keynote speaker, business ethics expert Chuck Gallagher, captured the audience's attention with his compelling talk on ethics in the workplace. We were also pleased to host special guests Edna Primrose, Rural Development's Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs, and National Rural Water President Kent Watson. Total attendance for this year's ATC totaled over 475 people and 78 exhibitors.

Additionally, our attendees made generous contributions to our WaterPac with donations totaling \$4,680. We are thankful for all of the support, and many thanks go out to our members and sponsors for another successful ATC. We hope to see you all again January 12-14, 2021 at the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center in Pierre. ♦

## Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors

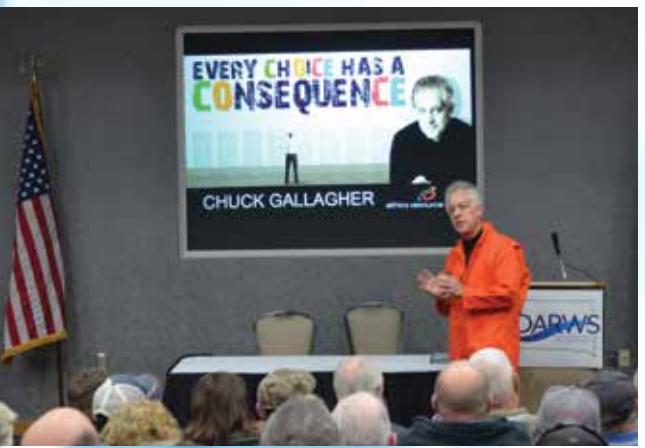


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# 2019 ATC AWARD WINNERS

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- Randall Community Water District  
Scott Pick, Manager

## WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

- City of Alexandria

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

- Debra Houseman, City of Lake Andes

## RURAL WATER OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

- Donna Henriksen, Clay Rural Water System

## MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

- Dave Duba, City of Ethan

## RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

- Kraig Sinclair, Aurora-Brule Rural Water System

## MUNICIPAL UTILITIES MANAGER OF THE YEAR

- Robert (Bob) Morrison, City of Custer

## RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

- Jeff Carruthers, Big Sioux Community Water System

## RURAL WATER MANAGER OF THE YEAR

- Risty Schmidt, Rapid Valley SD/WS

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

- Maguire Iron

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- Dan Ayers, City of Winner

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- Senator John Thune
- Edna Primrose, USDA Rural Development

## CARROLL ANDERSON AWARD

- Merlyn Smeenk, Lincoln County Rural Water System

## SPIRIT OF RURAL WATER

- Russ Phillips, Tripp County Water User District
- Martin Jarrett, Big Sioux Community Water System

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- City of Harrisburg



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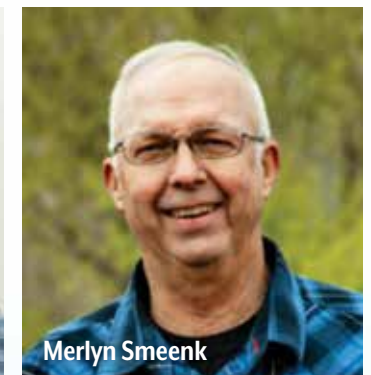
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# TREASURES AMONG US



**By Nick Jackson,  
SDARWS Circuit Rider**

Over the years, I have taken many photographs of different findings within various water systems. While looking amongst my pictures for a topic interesting enough for an article to write about, I came across these, Ludlow hydrants.

The fire hydrant, they're everywhere, so common that we seldom even notice them around us. Beautiful? Maybe not, but the basic design has been around for a century and a half.

## SOME HYDRANT HISTORY

Around the time of the American Revolution, several communities within the United States built water distribution systems. These early designed water systems were made-up of bored-out logs, fitted together "wooden pipelines." In time, water systems installed tees with wooden plugs at convenient locations. The wooden plug was a means to access water in the event of a fire; this technique continued for several more years. Fact or Fiction; because of the origin, as they say, the "fire plug" (hydrant) evolution evolved.

Through time, cast iron came to replace the wooden water mains within a distribution system due to the increase of more water pressure. In 1803, Frederick Graff Sr. introduced an improved version of the fire hydrant. The valve assembly

was in the lower portion of the pillar to prevent freeze-ups. So became the Dry Barrel type of hydrant introduction.

During the American Civil War era (1861-1865), the industry emerged. Many manufacturing companies were improving on the cast iron hydrants. The Patented designs came about, and many fire hydrants were developed. This brings me back to my pictures:

In 1866, Ludlow Valve Company was founded by Henry G. Ludlow in Waterford, New York, and started producing fire hydrants and valves. In 1874 Ludlow Valve Company relocated to Troy, New York, and remained in Troy until the company went out of business in 1969. During the hydrant era, each manufacturer of dry-barrel hydrants has its method of operation, but the basics are similar. Ludlow had two different main valve types, the Sliding Gate design, and the Balanced Valve design. Ludlow's Slide Gate was their most commonly used main valve design.

Ludlow manufactured seven basic hydrant models. What is believed to be the first Ludlow introduced model is pictured in this article. The "Rocket" looks like a bowling bowl mounted to the top of a post! The barrel is a one-piece 4" vertical fluted design. "Pat Sept. 1874" is cast on top of the bonnet, as seen in the picture. The "Rocket" consisted of four nozzle designs, 1x2½", 2x2½", 2x2½" opposed and a 2x2½" with 1x4" nozzle.

"The soundly engineered Wedge Lock principle and its simply sturdy construction form the basis of the Ludlow superior fire hydrant design. The mechanism is a simple sliding gate which travels on a central stem."

Despite efforts by the Ludlow Board of Directors, a series of ineffective Presidents plagued the business for

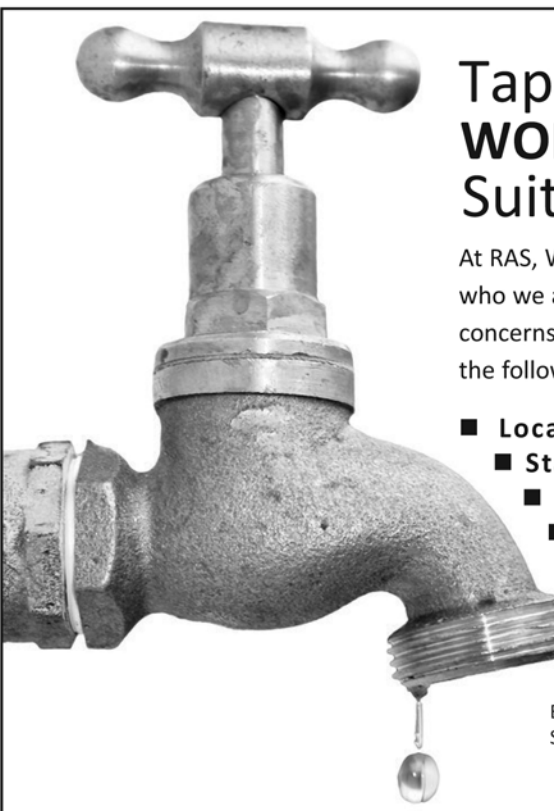
*...continued on page 32*





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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT



**By Greg Gross,  
SDARWS Circuit Rider**

As I ponder my travels around this great state, I think about all the places I've been and the people I've met. When I work with the local people, I always find the best local hangouts. New to my list is Mikey's Bar and Grill in New Effington. Most people will not be driving to New Effington to find a new place to eat. I met the finance officer there for a work lunch while I updated their town's Emergency Response Plan and Vulnerability Assessment. Nestled in an old building on main street, the character comes to life the minute you enter the door. I spoke to one of the owners and was treated like a life long friend right away. The food was amazing, and like a lot of these small-town establishments, there is always a noon special for a quick bite.

Another day and another time, I found myself in Lake Preston at the Lake Preston Cafe. This quiet little café is the local hang out and coffee stop on Main street. I found the daily special to not only be tasty and filling, but reasonably priced as well. Remember to bring cash or check... no cards accepted here.

The last stop on this intestinal state-wide tour is my personal (and prejudicial) favorite. Living in Alexandria for eight years, I was a huge fan of Joe's Café. Although Mitchell was only 12 miles away, our entire family would continually vote to "Eat at Joe's." On my travels around South Dakota, I keep coming back to Alexandria



for the food and the friends. Joe's is not off the main path but is often overshadowed by Mitchell and even Sioux Falls. Next time you are traveling down I90 near Alexandria, don't miss this local eatery and all it has to offer. Till we eat again. Thanks for listening to the rumbling from my stomach. ♣



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# RURAL WATER EXPO 2020

## CALL FOR PAPERS

South Dakota Rural Water, in cooperation with the many small and rural systems located in western South Dakota, would like to invite manufacturers, suppliers, and engineering firms to participate in our Rural Water EXPO April 22-23, 2020 at the Rapid City Ramkota.

Presentations for the 1½ day event will focus on water technology, distribution and regulatory advances in the water & wastewater field. Tabletop displays will be arranged around the perimeter of the room to provide easy access to exhibit displays.

In order to provide REDUCED REGISTRATION for attendees, we have set the tabletop display cost at \$150/exhibitor (non-electric), \$200 (electric). We will also offer exhibitors 30 minutes on the program on a first come first serve basis. We have pre-arranged our program to provide 20 presentations at 30 minutes each. Lunch will be provided.

### TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

- Drinking water security strategies and tools
- How Water Storage Can Impact Water Quality
- Fair Labor Standards Act
- Hands-on sessions:
  - ◆ Control valve repair kits
  - ◆ Hydrant maintenance and repair
  - ◆ Solution pump repairs (diaphragm and peristaltic)
  - ◆ Repair couplers, saddles, wet tapping
- The importance of Cross Connection Control
- Water Rights for public systems
- Ice Pigging to clean water and sewer pipelines
- Source water protection and sustainability of water supplies
- Climate change, water and energy efficiency, and conservation
- Clean Water Act/SDWA connections, nutrient pollution, and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Emerging drinking water treatment technologies and optimization of current technology
- State revolving loan fund tools and techniques/ green infrastructure strategies
- Small systems: TMF, sustainability strategies, technologies, and compliance
- Trench Safety
- Data management (e.g., SCADA, GIS, IT)
- Workforce, operator certification, and/or technical assistance initiatives
- Distribution system issues
- Emerging contaminants in drinking water, both chemical and microbial
- Drinking water research
- Sanitation and wastewater management
- Risk assessment, risk communication and consumer outreach
- Implementation of regulations – challenges and successes

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# CERTIFICATION PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**1. WHAT IS THE CORRECT ORDER OF FEEDING POLYPHOSPHATE AND CHLORINE?**

- a. It doesn't matter
- b. Polyphosphate first Chlorine 2nd
- c. Chlorine first polyphosphate second
- d. Chlorine and polyphosphate should never be fed together

**2. ODORS ASSOCIATED WITH GEOSMIN AND 2-METHYLISOBORNEOL (MIB) ARE BEST REMOVED WITH THE USE OF WHICH CHEMICAL?**

- a. Chloramine
- b. Free Chlorine
- c. Ozone
- d. Aeration

**3. WHICH OXIDIZER MIGHT BE BEST AT REMOVAL OF SYNTHETIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (SOC)?**

- a. Chlorine Dioxide
- b. Chloramine
- c. Oxygen
- d. Sodium Hypochlorite

**4. WHAT IS A NEGATIVE PROPERTY OF OZONE?**

- a. Fewer disinfection by-products
- b. TOC removal
- c. Cost
- d. Strong Oxidizer

**5. WHICH COMPOUND IS FED THROUGH A SATURATOR?**

- a. Calcium hypochlorite
- b. Sodium Fluoride
- c. Sodium Silicofluoride
- d. Sodium Hypochlorite

**6. WHAT WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE RATION OF CHLORINE TO AMMONIA FOR CHLORAMINATING SYSTEMS?**

- a. 1:1
- b. 9:1
- c. 4:1
- d. 6:3

**7. WHAT IS THE FOOD SOURCE FOR NITRIFYING BACTERIA?**

- a. Chlorine
- b. Chloramine
- c. Nitrogen
- d. Ammonia

**8. WHAT PH SELECTS FOR HIGHER LEVELS OF HYPOCHLOROUS ACID VS. HYPOCHLORITE ION?**

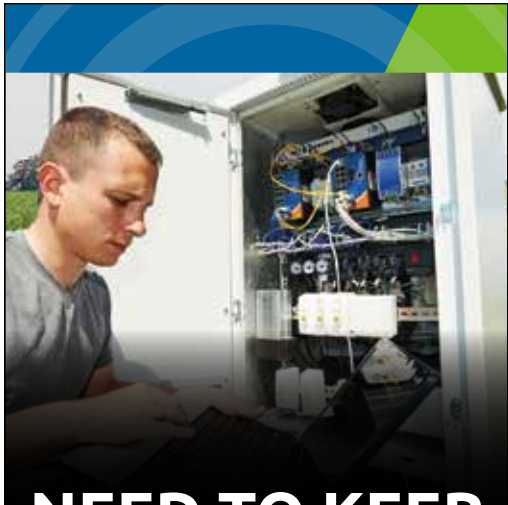
- a. Lower pH
- b. Higher pH
- c. pH has no effect
- d. the ration of ammonia to chlorine

**9. IF DPB'S ARE A CONCERN CHLORINE SHOULD BE FED WHERE?**

- a. Raw water
- b. After coagulation but before filtration
- c. In the clear well
- d. During filter backwash


**10. WHICH CHEMICAL IN CONTACT WITH IRON WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ANODOE?**

- a. Gold
- b. Silver
- c. Platinum
- d. Zinc



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1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. C; 5. B; 6. C; 7. D; 8. A; 9. C; 10. D

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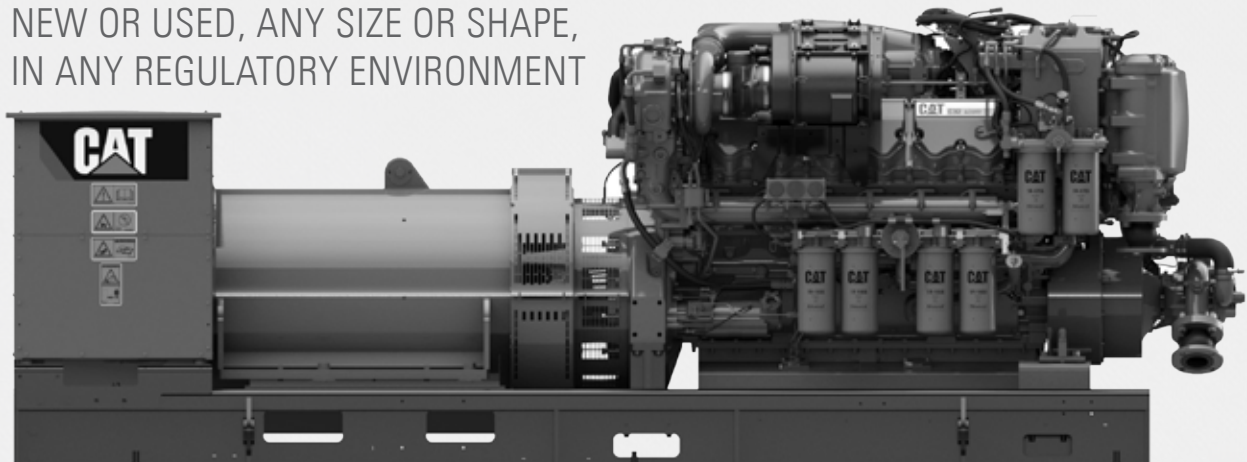
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# LADDER SAFETY



**By Steve Attema,  
SDARWS Training Specialist**

**W**hen it comes to the most cited OSHA violations, fall protection usually tops the list. This is for good reason as falls are the third leading cause of workplace fatalities. These also account for thousands of injuries and lost workdays every year. Fall protection is also one of the leading causes of injuries and deaths at home, so make sure to follow these tips when you get home from work as well.

Later on, in this article, we will try to sort out the new fixed ladder safety regulations that went into effect in 2018, but first, let's look at some things that can prevent these accidents:

- Keep areas free from clutter, cords, and any other trip hazards.
- Make sure to have sufficient lighting in walkways and work areas.
- Do not stand on chairs or tables, especially any item with wheels.
- Use handrails on stairways and install hand rails on any stairways that do not have them.
- Wear footwear with a good grip and consider traction cleats on icy surfaces.

Those are just a few tips to help eliminate the same level falls at work and home.



When we start talking about falls at from height, portable ladders are a significant cause of these. Injuries from these range from a couple of bruises to paralyzing injuries and even fatal injuries. Short ladders and step stools are not immune to deadly injuries either. Fatal injuries have come from falls on level ground and from falling off a ladder at even a foot or two off the ground. To ensure the safe use of a ladder, make sure you take these precautions.

- Make sure the ladder is not damaged (broken rungs, side rails, safety/anti-slip feet)
- Use level, solid ground as a base for the ladder.
- When climbing a ladder, always make sure to use three points of contact (two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand).
- Face the ladder when climbing.
- Use the belt buckle rule: always keep your belt buckle (or imaginary belt buckle between the side rails.
- Lock the spreader bars or locking device in place on stepladders.

*...continued on page 32*

## LADDER SAFETY: continued from page 31...

- Do not use stepladders as extension/straight ladders (example: leaning a stepladder against a building).
- Do not step on the top 2 steps of a stepladder.
- Extension / straight ladders should be 1 foot away from the wall for every four foot of ladder height. Also, it needs to extend three feet above the top edge.
- Tie off or secure the top of the ladder to keep it from moving.

These are just a few things to keep in mind when using a ladder. When you get to a higher level, other safeguards need to be in place. If you are four feet higher than a lower level for general industry (or six feet for construction), fall protection devices need to be used. These safeguards could be permanent or temporary guardrails, safety nets, or a harness with a lanyard and anchor

point. Depending on the situation, some devices may be more feasible than others.

Finally, a quick note about fixed ladder requirements: all fixed ladders that are 24 feet or more in length and installed on or after December 19th, 2018 need to have a ladder safety system or personal fall arrest system to be compliant with OSHA standards. If the ladder was installed before this date, a well/cage is enough to meet the standard. However, by 2036 the cage/well will no longer meet the standard, and a ladder safety system or personal fall arrest will need to be added. The fixed ladder standard was updated by OSHA because cages/wells were not shown to be sufficient fall protection for fixed ladders.

Follow these requirements, use these tips given today (along with many others) to make sure you stay upright and injury-free. ♦

## TREASURES AMONG US: continued from page 23...

many years. A merger with Rensselaer Valve Company was one more effort to revive Ludlow Valve Manufacturing Company. Future attempts at reorganization were insignificant, and in 1969 final dismantling was initiated. The Ludlow Valves are still manufactured today under the Patterson Pump Company name in Georgia.

The main challenges of Fire Hydrant designs were all known and dealt with, to varying degrees of success, early on before the 1900s. Although materials have improved and some of the

hydrant designs have been refined, the basic Dry Barrel Hydrants have pretty much unchanged since the mid-1800s.

Unique are some of the “treasures” of history amongst us, not only did this system have one of these “rocket” fire hydrants still in service, but they have two serving their system. Check out your system for some “history treasures,” send some pictures, and maybe one day your “treasure” will be published for all to see in a future article. ♦

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SDARWS Circuit Rider Greg Gross doing leak detection in Faulkton.



DENR Secretary Hunter Roberts addresses the crowd at the President's Reception during the 2019 Board Leadership Seminar in Pierre



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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KURT PFEIFLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I love the following quote from Thomas Jefferson, “We do not have a government of the majority. We have a government of the majority who participate.” It clearly and strongly states what should be obvious to us all... complacency and non-participation in our governmental processes will result in being unheard and left behind.

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) will be hosting the Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC, February 3-5, 2020. When asking our member utilities if they plan to attend the Rally, I often hear the excuse, “no, it takes up too much time and/or it’s too expensive.” Let’s consider for a moment the cost of not going to the Rally, the cost of not having your voices heard. It can be tough to quantify, I know, but the costs are real, and they are significant.

The two most significant agencies that we as a water community work within Washington, DC, are USDA – Rural Development (RD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Rural Development provides loan and grant funds to many projects in South Dakota. The interest rates for RD loans for the first quarter in 2020 are 1.625% - poverty, 2.250% - Intermediate and 2.750% Market, and repayment terms can go up to 40 years. Without the advocacy of NRWA and SDARWS coupled with the support of your water system, we may not have access to such affordable rates and terms. This could potentially be devastating. The savings experienced for \$5,000,000 loan over 40 years at 2.250% vs say 3.250% (just a percent higher) is over \$1,370,000. A change in the interest rate can be significant, as can access to the funding. A few short years ago, the RD Water and Environment Program was targeted for elimination in the Administration’s budget... fortunately, through the advocacy of many, that targeting was short-lived. However, it highlights the fact that no Program is guaranteed, and if people want the Program to continue, they need to let their voices be heard and communicate that to the right people. There are a host of other Programs important to rural water that comes through Rural Development that also require the dedicated advocacy of those who depend upon them. We should never lose sight of this fact.

The Environmental Protection Agency also funds Projects and Programs important to rural water; however, we tend to focus mostly on the regulatory side of EPA. Sensible regulation of water supplies is a good thing, and our system’s and your State



**“We do not have a government of the majority. We have a government of the majority who participate.”**

– Thomas Jefferson

Association take their role in providing safe, clean water and wastewater services to the citizens of our state very seriously. Adoption of regulations can have a profound impact on our rural water utilities; we need to make certain that regulations, when developed and promulgated, are grounded in factual science and are affordable and achievable by our rural water utilities. If we’re not effectively communicating with the regulators and decision-makers, then we need to be prepared to accept whatever is passed down to us in the way of rules and regulations.

We all know that traveling and staying in Washington, DC can be costly (probably around \$3,000 for a director to attend the Rally ±), but the cost of complacency can be far greater if we lose our voice and our influence among the decision makers in our nation’s capitol. NRWA and your State Association need your active participation to carry the message to DC, ensuring that we are and continue to be the loudest voices in the room when it comes to water and wastewater issues. Let’s be part of the “participating majority” that shape the decisions and laws coming out of our Nation’s Capital. Please plan to attend the NRWA Rally in Washington, DC... if not this year, then next year and the following years. ♦

## **FUTURE RALLY DATES:**

February 3-5, 2020 | Washington, DC

February 8-10, 2021 | Washington, DC

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April 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM  
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## **RULES**

- Teams to consist of 2-3 people with at least one person who is a current water/wastewater, associate or corporate member of South Dakota Rural Water.
- Tournament begins at the Cow Creek Boat Ramp on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.
- This is a boat-only tournament.

- Boat inspection prior to start.
- South Dakota fishing regulations must be followed.
- Weigh-ins start @ 3:30 PM
- Walleye tournament; largest seven walleye weighed per team.
- All judges rules are final.
- In case of a tie, the team with the biggest fish by weight wins.
- Tournament winners announced shortly after weigh-in results are compiled.
- Meal to follow at the event center @ 5:00 PM.

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