



Upcoming Events

Sept. 9 — 10

**IAMU/APGA Midwest Regional
Gas Workshop**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(go to "September")

Sept. 16 — 19

Underground Elec. Workshop

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(go to "September")

Sept. 22 — 26

"Red Flags" Workshops

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(go to "September")

Sept. 23

**Storm Water Post Construction
Workshop**

More information:

kqibbons@iamu.org

Sept. 30 — Oct. 2

IAMU Fall Conference

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/>

(Click on Fall Conference link)

October 7

**Basic SWPPP &
Inspections Workshop**

More information:

kqibbons@iamu.org

November 6

**Advanced SWPPP &
Inspections Workshop**

More information:

kqibbons@iamu.org

November 18 — 20

**Water/Wastewater Operators
Training Workshop**

Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines

"Red Flags" identity theft workshops, template ready

◆ **Plans are now in place to assist IAMU members in compliance with the new "red flags" identity theft rules.**



The new rules, mandated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), require that many entities – including municipal utilities – must have written identity theft protection plans for covered customer accounts in place by November 1, 2008. The requirement to establish a procedure applies regardless of the size of the utility or whether a utility accepts credit cards.

A plan template for IAMU members is now available – however, plans must be custom-tailored around the practices of individual utilities. Therefore, a series of meetings at locations around the state has been set, per the following schedule: September 22, Waverly; September 23, Mt. Pleasant; September 24, Atlantic (a.m.) and Denison (p.m.); September 25, Milford; and September 26, Ankeny (IAMU). More information is available on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org. Register via this link: <http://www.iamu.org/calendar/index.asp?>

IAMU Fall Conference agenda, registration are set



◆ **The agenda and registration forms for IAMU's Fall Conference are now available on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (click on the link from the front page). The three-day event (September 30 – October 2) will be held at the all-new Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny and IAMU's Training & Office Complex.**

Special events will be part of the conference, including an 18-hole golf tournament to benefit IAMU's MuniPAC, kicking off the conference September 30. The evening of September 30 will see an Oktoberfest held on the grounds of IAMU's Training & Office Complex. It will include a line workers' rodeo, Safe City dedication ceremony and food and refreshments, with music provided by the Barry Boyce Band of Omaha, an authentic German band. A MuniPAC dunk tank is also tentatively planned. Special IAMU glass mugs (for beer or root beer) will be available for sale, with proceeds benefitting MuniPAC.

Opening workshops will be held at IAMU the afternoon of September 30. October 1 sessions will be held at the host hotel, with general and concurrent sessions covering numerous topics throughout the day. Events on October 2 will be split between the host hotel in the morning, and IAMU's Training & Office Complex in the afternoon. This will include training demonstrations on IAMU's Safety & Training Field.

Register for the Fall Conference on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (click on the front page). Please note that all registrations must be paid prior to the conference (pre-conference rate, through September 22, is \$150 per person and \$175 per person after September 22. Payment may be made at the door). Those participating in the MuniPAC golf tournament must also pre-register with the separate golf registration form and pre-pay. Golf registration payment must be made by personal check. Company checks cannot be accepted.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Ankeny Courtyard by Marriott. Call 515-422-5555 and mention the IAMU conference to receive a special rate (deadline is September 10).

For more information contact IAMU at 800-810-4268.

With three-member boards, especially in smaller communities, it is hard to avoid meetings between two of three members – whether intended or not. On rare occasions such “meetings” may raise questions about compliance with the open meetings law. These situations and other concerns about quorums lead to the consideration of five-member boards.

Coon Rapids donates \$2,000 to IAMU’s Safe City facility

◆ **Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities (CRMU) has donated \$2,000 to IAMU’s Safe City, aiding in the continued development of the facility that will see its official dedication during IAMU’s Fall Conference September 30** (see the conference agenda and registration form on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org).

IAMU extends its thanks to CRMU for its support of Safe City, a cluster of miniature structures on the IAMU Safety & Training Field which will simulate real life utility construction activities, emergency response scenarios and more, featuring actual operating utility infrastructure. To learn more about Safe City, go to the IAMU website, www.iamu.org, and click on the Safe City tab on the front page. To donate funds or equipment, contact Dave Hraha at IAMU, dhraha@iamu.org or 800-810-4268.



Work on IAMU’s Safe City continues prior to its upcoming dedication. Here Eldon Snook of Montezuma (left) and Dick Eades of Cedar Falls put finishing touches on the exterior of one of the structures.

Utility boards of trustees: What’s best for your city?



◆ IAMU recently conducted a survey about the size of utility boards of trustees. Of 58 municipal electric utilities governed by boards of trustees, it turns out that 28 have three-member boards and 25 have five-member boards. It is no surprise that larger utilities are more likely to have five-member boards.

With three-member boards, especially in smaller communities, it is hard to avoid meetings between two of three members – whether intended or not. On rare occasions such “meetings” may raise questions about compliance with the open meetings law. These situations and other concerns about quorums lead to the consideration of five-member boards. Larger boards also may also ensure a greater level of continuity. As the industry gets more and more complex, expertise developed over time and institutional memory are greatly valued. On the other hand, the pool of individuals willing to serve on a utility board and to serve effectively is limited. The same individuals are often called on to lead other civic, school, charitable, and religious organizations. In smaller communities where this is the case, a good three-member board often provides the best governance.

Another question that arises about the size of a board is whether the number of trustees can be changed without an election. Unfortunately, the law is unclear. Some lawyers have opined that a city council – on its own motion – can change the size of a board. IAMU sides with those who believe an election is necessary. The legal reasoning behind the need for an election is that at the time citizens vote to establish a board, the ballot must specify whether it is a three-member board or a five-member board. A utility board of trustees is not at all like some other commissions established by act of city council. In the act of approving this form of governance, citizens transfer to the board all the powers of the city council, with respect to the operation of the utility. It follows that a change in the size of a board must also be approved by voters, as the original vote has removed the authority of the city council to affect the governance of the utility.

Back to school = bus safety rules; spread the word



◆ **For 23 million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. It is essential that adults and children know the appropriate school bus and bus stop safety rules.**

The new school year has started. School safety doesn’t only involve the kids going to and from school. It also involves motorists. Many of us encounter school buses on our hurried way to work in the mornings. Are you ready to come to a full and safe stop when the school bus stops and its lights are flashing? When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, do you watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely?

Slow down! Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street.

Children should also be aware of their responsibilities when boarding or exiting school busses and while waiting at bus stops. Children should also be made aware of the hazard of garments, backpacks, etc. becoming snagged on bus railings.

Learn more about school bus safety with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) at www.nhtsa.gov.

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