



Upcoming Events

November 6

**Advanced SWPPP &
Inspections Workshop**

More information:

kjibbons@iamu.org

November 18 — 20

**Water/Wastewater Operators
Training Workshop**

Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines

Register/more information:

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

(Click on "November")

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), recent gains in lowering workplace death rates have been undone by the rate of fatalities occurring off the job, which has risen steadily.

Off-the-job safety risks include:

Falls: Use ladders properly, clean up spills, maintain adequate lighting, use hand rails and clean up clutter from floors.

Motor Vehicle Accidents: Practice defensive driving. Do not speed. Exercise extreme caution in bad weather.

Poisoning: Be familiar with the poisons around your home. Know how to contact your local poison center.

Fire: Install smoke detectors. Purchase a fire extinguisher and know how to use it. Inspect your home for hazards. Have a fire escape plan and practice using it.

Electric Shock: Inspect appliances, lamps, cords, outlets, etc. Use the properly sized fuses.

Back Injuries: Practice safe lifting and carrying techniques.

RFP nets three services to assist with GASB 45 rules

◆ GASB 45 requires public entities to reflect the value of post employment benefits for retired employees in future audited financial statements.

To assist members in complying with this requirement, the sponsoring associations and service providers of the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust conducted an RFP process for actuarial services. IAMU, the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa State Association of Counties evaluated



the proposals and selected three respondents for our recommendation. They are:

- ◆ Alliance Benefit Group of Indiana
- ◆ Silverstone Group
- ◆ J. Robert Hopson, Inc.

A more complete announcement and a flyer with information about each of these firms are available on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (look for the links on the front page). By the end of this week or early next week, additional documents with contracts and pricing for each of the three actuarial firms will also be posted on the website. Check next week's IAMU *Informer* or your email for availability.

OFF-the-job safety for employees is new concern



◆ With the many improvements in on-the-job safety, today's employees in America are safer than ever in work environments – but what may happen to them away from work has now become a great concern in the world of safety and staffing.

"Off-the-job" accidents are accounting for an increasing number of lost work hours and reduced productivity for many employers. According to the National Safety Council (NSC), recent gains in lowering workplace death rates have been undone by the rate of fatalities occurring off the job, which has risen steadily. The NSC states in its 2008 "Injury Facts" report that nearly all of workers' unintentional fatalities and 70 percent of disabling injuries occur off the job. For every two workplace injuries there are five off-the-job injuries. According to the NSC, unintentional off-the-job injuries and deaths cost the nation at least \$223.7 billion in 2006, which translates to \$817 per U.S. worker; and employers lost a combined total of more than 225 million days of production time – about seven times the number of lost days due to workplace injuries. Most off-the-job injuries involve transportation (automobiles, bicycles, boats, pedestrian accidents, etc.) and accidents in the home (burns and falls lead the way, and things such as back injuries and other problems caused by overexertion are common in the home environment).

So, what should be done? Just as education has played a key role in reducing workplace injuries and deaths, many safety professionals agree that employers should develop plans to promote safety among their employees after they walk out of the workplace each day. The NSC provides its members with various resources. Access the NSC's Off-The-Job Safety website page with this link:

<http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/offthejob.aspx>

You can also access other off-the-job safety information with the following links:

<http://ehs.okstate.edu/manuals/PPSAFETY/Off-job.htm>

<http://www.jmu.edu/safetyplan/offjob/offjobsafety.shtml>

<http://www.dow.com/familyhealth/health/safety.htm>



Work continues on energy efficiency assessments



◆ IAMU is progressing with the Assessment of Potential for Energy

Efficiency on behalf of Iowa's Municipal Utilities. The assessment of potential, which is being conducted by the Energy Center of Wisconsin, will provide a list of cost effective energy efficiency measures to each utility. From this list a utility will be able to establish energy efficiency goals and cost-effective energy efficiency programs as required by Senate File 2386. As laid out in the legislation, each municipal utility must present its energy efficiency goal and its cost effective programs to the Iowa Utilities Board by January 1, 2010.

To help tailor the assessment study to the specific needs and goals of municipal utilities, IAMU is forming an advisory committee which will receive regular updates on the assessment and provide technical and policy advice on the assessment. The committee's business is expected to last until early spring 2009, and will be conducted largely by phone and email.

If you are interested in participating in the advisory committee or have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact IAMU's Energy Services Engineer, Joel Logan, at 800.810.4268 or jlogan@iamu.org. We greatly appreciate your input to this large undertaking.

Geothermal heat pump course targets utility officials

◆ Municipal utility employees are among those urged to attend an upcoming Geothermal Heat Pump Systems course at the Iowa Energy Center's Energy Resource Center December 2 – 4. The course is sponsored by the Iowa Energy Center, the Energy Resource Station and the Iowa Heat Pump Association.

This intensive and practical three-day course will prepare participants to design and install geothermal heat pump systems for residential and light commercial projects. Participants will also be able to apply for accreditation to become an International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) installer. Real geothermal heat pump equipment and piping loops will be used.

IAMU recommends that member utilities subsidize this training for local HVAC contractors to allow them to attend.

A detailed course brochure can be downloaded from the Iowa Energy Center website, www.energy.iastate.edu. Or contact the Iowa Energy Center's Energy Resource Station in Ankeny at 515-965-7055.

Fall Conference review and future meeting planning

◆ The staff of IAMU is very pleased that many of our Fall Conference attendees enjoyed the



Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny as the host hotel. We received many favorable comments regarding food, service, guest rooms and the overall facility.

Some attendees have expressed the desire to continue holding major conferences at the Courtyard by Marriott. It should be noted that our upcoming Winter Meeting, February 10 – 11, will be held at this hotel.

Our large-scale general conference will be held in October beginning in 2009. The next one is scheduled for October 7 – 9 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines – Airport/Conference Center. Many factors are taken into consideration for selecting hotels for the general conference. First, there must be enough space. We require a large room for general sessions; three or four smaller rooms for concurrent sessions; a room large enough for the vendor trade show; an adequate number of suites for vendor hospitality; and rooms capable of handling a large luncheon and banquet. There are few hotels in the Des Moines metro area large enough to provide this space. Those that are include the Airport Holiday Inn; Sheraton West Des Moines; and the West Des Moines Marriott. IAMU presently does not consider downtown Des Moines hotels due to member concerns about difficulty with driving and parking downtown.

While the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny is an excellent facility, it is not large enough to support the general conference. For the Fall Conference, it did not allow us to have a large vendor trade show or vendor hospitality suites. The small vendor reception was planned so there would be some associate member involvement, however limited.

Two other major factors in hotel selection are availability and cost. In the Des Moines area, booking a hotel early is very important. Some companies book facilities as much as five years in advance, which can pose problems with scheduling our events. We also look at room rates, meeting room costs and food costs, which can be substantial. Other things such as room set-up fees and fees for wireless internet (which can vary greatly by hotel) are also taken into account.

The staff of IAMU wants to thank you for your participation in our events. We will continue to seek out the best available facilities, at the most economical cost to the association. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

The IAMU *Informer* is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

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