



### Upcoming Events

December 16 & 17, 2009

**RESCHEDULED**

**Water Operator Lab Workshop.**

*Note: Registration is full*

January 21 — 22, 2010

January 28 — 29, 2010

**Gas Operator Qualification Workshops, 3-yr. overall evaluation.**

**(Two workshops, same agenda)**

**Register/more information: [Here](#)**

### EPA water loss program document now available

◆ A draft document produced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Control and Mitigation of Drinking Water Losses in Distribution Systems," is now available for viewing.



The document looks at the significant challenges faced by the operators of public water systems in dealing with water loss (due to infrastructure failure, metering inaccuracies, theft and more) and the accompanying loss of revenue to the utility; and discusses the importance of a water loss program in addressing the problem. The EPA is asking for comment by February 1, 2010. The 128-page document is available [here](#).

## CO detectors, CO safety: Keep customers informed



◆ Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors save lives – especially during Midwestern winters. But many consumers are unaware of important facts regarding CO detectors. Chief among them: CO detectors should be replaced about every five years. The operating mechanics of CO detectors are different from smoke detectors, and their reliability has a much shorter lifespan.

Consumers should also understand that while having CO detectors in their homes is important, they should not be considered a replacement for an annual inspection of their heating systems for potential CO dangers. CO detectors should comply with updated standards implemented by Underwriters Laboratories (UL 2034) which state that CO detectors should sound an alarm at low levels of carbon monoxide contamination in addition to higher levels.



Hundreds of unintentional deaths from non-fire related CO poisoning occur in the United States each year, with thousands of non-fatal CO exposures. CO is the leading cause of unintentional poisonings in the U.S. and January is the peak month for occurrences.

Fuel-burning appliances such as stoves, furnaces and water heaters are among the leading culprits of CO poisoning, in addition to fuel-burning emergency generators incorrectly used indoors. With the recent onset of severe winter weather in Iowa, the current potential for CO poisoning is high. Help spread the word about the dangers of CO – and information about CO detectors – to your utility customers this winter.



Two sections of the Environmental Protection Agency web site feature detailed information about CO detectors (click [here](#) and [here](#)) The Centers for Disease Control web site has information [here](#).

## Smart grid discussion goes cyber with APPA list server

◆ To aid in discussion about the timely and important topic of smart grid technology, the American Public Power Association (APPA) has launched a new smart grid list server.



The list server will address such topics as community communication, automated metering infrastructure (AMI), data management, security, protocols and standards development and more.

The list server is open to all employees of APPA member utilities, state and regional associations and joint action agencies. There is no cost to join and no limit to how many representatives from an organization may participate. To sign up for this and other APPA list servers, click [here](#).

## IAMU Gas Operator Qualification Workshops coming



◆ IAMU's Gas Safety & Training department will host two editions of the 2010 Operator Qualification Workshops (three-year overall evaluation) in January. The workshop will take place January 21 & 22 and January 28 & 29, 2010 (choose the one that fits your schedule – both will follow the same agenda). Both rounds will be held at

IAMU's Training & Office Complex in Ankeny.

The workshop will cover the Operator Qualification tasks that have a three-year requalification requirement. They are designed for operators currently certified (not new operators). A workshop brochure, with a detailed listing of modules and tasks covered, has been distributed, and is also available, along with electronic registration, on the IAMU web site — click [here](#).



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