

## SHOW YOUR IAMU PRIDE WITH A GIFT DONATION

A new era for IAMU began recently when we moved into our new office and training complex. We want to stress that it is not just "our" facility, but yours. It is designed to serve all IAMU members and associates, and is one you can truly be proud to claim a connection to.



*IAMU Executive Director Bob Haug accepts a check for training field equipment and materials from INGUSTA (Iowa Natural Gas Utility Safety Training Association). Pictured are (left to right): Al Ickes, Harlan; Dave Bush, VECTOR; Rick Maddux, Cedar Falls; Haug; Rudy Parcel, IAMU Gas Safety Specialist.*

Some members and associates have asked if we are seeking donations of money or materials for the new complex. As you can imagine, the new facilities will stretch our finances in the next few years. Donations could go a long way in moving us toward our ultimate goals. To date, we have received a \$10,000 commitment from Missouri River Energy Services for equipment that will be used on our training fields, and the Southern Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (SIMECA) has offered to supply us with an electric grill for use in the outside area adjacent to the board room.

Besides materials for our training field and shop building, we are also equipping our conference rooms and auditorium, and decorating public areas in and around the building. Some of our needs for these facilities could best be met through cash gifts or in-kind contributions.

IAMU will make every reasonable effort to recognize donations through gift labels, signs, publications and other means. Gifts to IAMU would not be tax deductible, although associate members may be able to treat some contributions as advertising expenses.

Examples of some of the items we have placed on our wish list are:

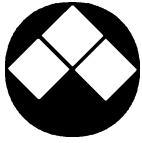
### **Utility-related parts and accessories for our training fields:**

- > Utility poles
- > Line tools
- > Insulated cable (various sizes) for underground distribution
- > Gas, water and sewer pipes of various sizes and materials
- > Gas leak locating equipment
- > Combustible gas indicators
- > Valve wrenches
- > Casing and other materials
- > Fiber optic cable for both overhead and underground construction
- > Trenching and shoring equipment

### **Materials for the shop building and the water/wastewater laboratory**

- > Tools (such as socket sets, wrenches, screw drivers, clamps)

*Continued on Page 6*



## IAMU CCR WORKSHOPS SLATED FOR APRIL

It's time to start thinking about Consumer Confidence Reports. This year's report must be delivered to water customers by July 1.

Once again, IAMU will be holding six workshops around the state to assist water supplies in completing the report. This year's workshops are as follows:

**April 10 - Ankeny**

IAMU office – 1735 NE 70<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**April 11 - Atlantic**

Elks Lodge, 501 Poplar Street

**April 13 – Storm Lake**

Arrowhead Education Building, 824 Flindt Drive (Hwy 71 Business)

**April 19 – Mason City**

North IA Area Comm. College, Muse – Norris Center, Rm 180 D

**April 25 – Coralville**

Coral Ridge Mall, Community Room (located off food court next to mall office). Parking: Follow signs to Children's Museum on southeast corner of mall

**April 26 – Manchester**

Delaware County Fairgrounds, Community Center Bldg., 200 East Acres

There will be a revised Microsoft Word 95, Microsoft Word 97, and a new Microsoft Works 4.5 template available at the workshops. There are minor changes to the template that was distributed last year, so if you can't attend the workshop, last year's template can be used for this year's report.

The workshop format will be similar to last year. The morning will be an overview of the consumer confidence report rule and template instructions. In the afternoon participants may spend time working on a draft of the report and instructors will be available to answer questions. Be sure to bring your March data letter from DNR to work on your report. There will also be a computer and printer available at each workshop for participants who do not have access to a computer or the right software package to use the template.

The workshop is free, however, there is a \$5 fee for CEUs. The workshop is worth 0.3 CEUs for water. Space is limited to 50 participants at each workshop and pre-registration is required. For registration information contact IAMU at 800/810-4268.

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## NOW'S THE TIME FOR ROUTINE WATER SYSTEM CHECKS

It's officially spring now, and that means water system operators should start thinking about routine distribution system maintenance and inspections before the construction season begins. Winter can be hard on distribution system extremities and damage may occur but go unnoticed because of snow and ice buildup.

Some other maintenance items that can be accomplished during flushing are:

- > Fire hydrant flow tests
- > Fire hydrant lubrication
- > Valve box inspections
- > Fire hydrant inspection
- > Chlorine residual testing

Keep your record books up to date by listing any problems you notice while performing maintenance. Remember to inform your customers of the date(s) you will be flushing hydrants to avoid calls about water quality.

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## UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT IAMU

The IAMU Electric Safety and Training Committee is pleased to announce the first electric school of the year 2000 will be held at IAMU's new office and training complex in Ankeny. Up until now schools have been held in Webster City, and more recently at Iowa State University's Soesbe Field in Ames. IAMU staff members recently moved into the office complex located adjacent to the training field. Now it's time for students to help prepare the field for workshops and schools of the future.

The 2000 Underground Electric Distribution Workshop will be held May 16-19. Not only is the location new, but the design is as well. Students will begin classes on Tuesday morning and adjourn at noon on Friday. Topics to be offered are: Terminations, elbows, splices, directional boring, trenching, legal considerations and Iowa One Call.

Be one of the first to train on the new IAMU field. Be sure to look for your brochure.

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## FLUORESCENT LAMPS NEED PROPER DISPOSAL

Discarded fluorescent tubes and other lighting products that may contain mercury are considered hazardous waste and must be recycled at an approved recycling facility or disposed of at an approved hazardous waste facility. Besides fluorescent lights, the other lighting products include HID, high-pressure sodium, mercury vapor, and metal halide lamps. These lights are covered under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Universal Waste Rule within the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

According to the EPA, used fluorescent light tube disposal in landfills is considered the second largest source of mercury pollution entering the environment.

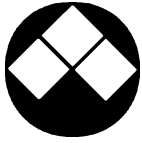
Some manufacturers have recently developed a fluorescent tube that is not a hazardous waste. These tubes are identified by the green end caps and may be disposed of in a landfill.

However, generators of non-hazardous lamps are still encouraged to recycle them instead of using landfill disposal, and landfills are not required to accept the non-hazardous materials.

The recycling of fluorescent lights and other types of lamps is a proven technology capable of reliably recovering more than 99% of the mercury in spent lights. Recycling represents only one percent of a fluorescent lamp's life-cycle cost. Recycling provides a productive re-use for glass, aluminum, phosphor powder, and elemental mercury.

There are a number of companies that handle or recycle fluorescent tubes. The Department of Natural Resources provides a list of companies in Iowa and around the Midwest. For more information about lighting disposal, contact Jim Thayer at the DNR at 515/281-4326.

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## IAMU SALUTES OLDEST ELECTRIC, WATER UTILITIES

IAMU recently obtained information from a number of municipal electric and water utilities in Iowa regarding their founding dates.

Of those utilities which responded, Winterset Municipal Utilities takes the honor as the oldest municipal electric utility that is still in operation, with an 1889 starting date; and the oldest water utility that responded is the City of Humboldt's, which goes all the way back to 1869.

The following is the list of all responding utilities, with their founding dates:

### *Electric Utilities*

Winterset Municipal Utilities .....	1889
Atlantic Municipal Utilities .....	1890
Greenfield Municipal Utilities .....	1890
Indianola Municipal Utilities .....	1890
City of Harlan .....	1891
Independence Light & Power .....	1893
Wilton Municipal Light & Power .....	1893
City of Onawa .....	1894
Alta Municipal Utilities .....	1895
Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities .....	1896
Algona Municipal Utilities .....	1898
State Center Municipal Utilities .....	1899

### *Water Utilities*

City of Humboldt .....	1869
Des Moines Water Works .....	1871
Arion Water Supply .....	1874
Atlantic Municipal Utilities .....	1876
Keokuk Municipal Water Works .....	1877
State Center Municipal Utilities .....	1877
City of Webster City .....	1883
City of Cumberland .....	1884
Denison Municipal Utilities .....	1884
City of Odebolt .....	1885
Spencer Municipal Utilities .....	1886
Cedar Falls Utilities .....	1888
Algona Municipal Utilities .....	1889
Indianola Municipal Utilities .....	1890
City of Merville .....	1890
City of Avoca .....	1891
Montezuma Municipal Water Works....	1893
City of Salix .....	1893
Alton Municipal Water Dept. ....	1894
Traer Municipal Utilities .....	1894
City of Dayton .....	1895
Farmington Water Dept. ....	1896
Graettinger Municipal Gas/Water .....	1896
City of Arnolds Park .....	1897
Hartley Municipal Utilities .....	1898
Ogden Municipal Utilities .....	1898
City of Wyoming .....	1899
Guthrie Center Municipal Utilities .....	1900
City of Oxford Junction .....	1900



### **NEW UTILITY MEMBERS**

These utilities/municipalities have joined IAMU. Please update your IAMU Membership Directory, and join us in welcoming them!

#### **City of Sigourney (Member Utility)**

Larry J. (Jim) Dickinson, Public Works Dir.  
Don Northup, Water Department

120 N. Jefferson  
Sigourney, IA 52591  
515/622-3080

#### **City of Central City, NE (Affiliate Member)**

Jim Litchfield, Public Works Director  
Jack Helin, City Administrator

PO Box 418  
Central City, NE 68826



## *IAMU Office Tour*

*A quick look at your association's  
new office complex*



**Purposeful design** -- The new energy efficient IAMU offices utilize natural light to a large extent, and offer various open and enclosed work areas.



**"Spring Planting"**-- Seeding, sodding and landscaping work is now underway, to prepare the outside of IAMU's new home.





## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Watching the news, you see and hear the stories of destructive brush and forest fires. It can be a serious problem for all of us when the weather is so dry.

I got to thinking about the loss of valuable timberland, homes and lives. Naturally, being in the line of work I am, my mind wandered to other types of fires. The fires I'm referring to are ones you've also heard about far too many times on the news – those in the home and workplace that sometimes end in fatalities – and could have been prevented with a proper fire extinguisher.

I am sure you have all heard once or twice, and maybe even three or four times, the ABC's of fire extinguishers. Let's take a few minutes to review them again. Why? Because we tend to forget about such things if we don't employ the knowledge often.

Here's a short quiz:

1. What is a Class A fire extinguisher used for? *(Answer: Class A means that it can be used on ordinary combustibles, such as wood, paper, and cloth).*
2. How about a Class B fire extinguisher? *(Answer: It can be used on a flammable liquid fire).*
3. How about a Class C fire extinguisher? *(Answer: It can be used on an electrical fire).*
4. A Class D fire extinguisher? *(Answer: It can be used on combustible metals).*
5. Do you know the color code and shape of

the corresponding identification signs on the different types of extinguishers? Would you know what to look for to combat a:

Class A fire? *(Answer: a green triangle)*

Class B fire? *(Answer: a red square)*

Class C fire? *(Answer: a blue circle)*

Class D fire? *(Answer: a yellow star)*

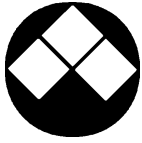
Not knowing this information can lead to trouble. For example, if you grab a fire extinguisher that is rated "A" and use it on an electrical fire, you could suffer an electrical shock, with tragic results. Also, you can't put out a fire using the wrong type of extinguisher. That could also be catastrophic.

There are a couple of other items you need to be aware of:

- 1) Know where the nearest fire extinguisher to your work station is. If you are on a field crew, know where in the truck the fire extinguisher is kept.
- 2) Learn to use the fire extinguisher. Knowing what type of extinguisher to use on what kind of fire isn't enough – you also need to know how to use it. A fire extinguisher is like any tool. Used properly, it will do its job and do it well; used improperly, it could cause disaster.



**News from  
around the state  
by Larry Milroy,  
IAMU Job  
Training  
and Safety  
Director**



— HELP WANTED —

**JOURNEY LINEWORKER:** Winterset Municipal Utilities has an opening in its electric department for an experienced lineman. Duties include the construction and maintenance of both overhead and underground distribution systems. Must be able to obtain an Iowa drivers license with CDL endorsements. WMU offers a competitive wage package with excellent benefits. Position open until filled. Line school graduates or apprentices will be considered. Send cover letter and resume to:

Electric Superintendent  
Winterset Municipal Utilities  
321 N. John Wayne Drive  
Winterset, IA 50273 4/00

**UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT:** Alta Municipal Utilities is seeking a qualified person for the position of Superintendent of electric, water and telecommunication utilities. Located six miles from 3,300-acre lake and 50 miles from the Iowa Great Lakes region. The successful candidate will have experience in business administration. All candidates must demonstrate ability in the operational, financial, personnel and other aspects of managing a utility. Salary dependent on qualifications. Send resume to:

Board of Trustees  
Alta Municipal Utilities  
223 Main  
Alta, IA 51002 4/00

**LINEPERSON:** Villisca Municipal Power Plant. Experience preferred. Position involves construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution system, as well as operating diesel generation when needed. Iowa CDL required. Successful applicant will be subject of pre-employment physical and drug testing. Salary DOQ. Benefit package. EOE. Send resume to:

Villisca Municipal Power Plant  
318 South 3rd Ave.  
Villisca, IA 50864 4/00

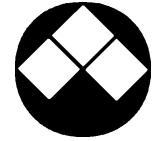
— HELP WANTED —

**ELECTRIC LINEPERSON:** City of Pella is seeking a **skilled** individual to be responsible for the maintenance of electric lines and equipment within the city's electric distribution network. Apprenticeship program available. Salary range: \$11.53 – \$17.73/hr. (DOQ under apprenticeship program, journeyman rate is \$17.73/hr.). Essential functions include: Ability to communicate effectively; read and interpret colors; climb, bend, lift; manual dexterity; ability to work with heights and in inclement weather. Good safety practices a must. High School diploma or GED required and completion of a recognized apprenticeship training program in high voltage electric distribution system repair is preferred. Two years experience required. Applicant required to take post-offer physical with back assessment. Valid Class A CDL required or ability to obtain one within six months. Pre-employment drug screening required per federal DOT regulations. Residency requirement per union contract. Position open until filled. EOE.

Request application from:  
City Hall  
717 Main  
Pella, IA 50219  
515/628-4173 2/00

**ELECTRIC TECHNICIAN:** City of Pella. Salary range \$19.32 – \$20.32. Position is responsible for maintaining 12/5 switch gear and lower voltage electrical equipment; repairing and installing electrical equipment; installing, operating and maintaining equipment for generation of electricity; and programming computers and related equipment. Associate Degree in Industrial Electricity and/or electronic-related field required; or completion of an approved apprenticeship program and four years of industrial electrical or related power generation experience required; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of electrical systems, monitoring equipment and power plant operations preferred. City of Pella application form required. Position open until filled. EOE. Contact:

Lisa Powell  
City of Pella  
717 Main St.  
Pella, IA 50219 515/628-4173 4/00



## — HELP WANTED —

**UTILITIES SUPERVISOR:** The City of Oakland is seeking a utility supervisor to assist the Director of Public Works in supervising and performing the administrative and operational aspects of city utilities. The supervisor will perform functions required to operate the city's lime softening water plant, distribution system, solid waste management, sewer collection system and two-cell lagoon. Position requires leadership and supervisory experience. Requirements include: Completion of standard high school degree; valid motor vehicle operators' license, and chauffeur's permit issued by the State of Iowa; valid Grade II water treatment and Grade I wastewater operator's license issued by the State of Iowa or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provide the required knowledge, skills and ability to obtain a Grade III water treatment plant operator's license within four to eight years from the date of hire. Salary dependent upon employee's background, education and experience. Job open until filled. EEO. For an application, contact the Oakland City Clerk at 712/482-6811, or write:

City Clerk  
101 North Main St.  
Oakland, IA 51560

4/00

Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

## — FOR SALE —

**DIGGER TRUCK:** 1965 Ford chassis Tel-Econ. Contact:

John  
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities  
712/999-2912

2/00

**STREET SWEEPER:** 1985 model FMC Vanguard 3000. Approximately 2,100 hours. Selling price \$5,000, OBO. For more information, contact:

City of Albert City  
PO Box 297  
Albert City, IA 50510  
Attn: Jay Erlandson  
Ph: 712/843-5613

2/00

## — FOR SALE —

### GENERATING EQUIPMENT:

1 (one) - Caterpillar Standby Generator. 527 hours, Caterpillar electric set, 75kW, 3-phase, H260, 93.75 kVa, .8 PF, 1,800 RPM, 240 Volts, 226 amps, standby electric set service rating, std-by kW 85 std-by kVa 106.25, PF .8

2 (two) - Caterpillar Diesel Engine. Model 3160, bore 4.5 stroke, 5 full-load RPM 1800, high idle RPM 1900.

3 (three) - Double Throw Automatic 3-phase transformer switch

*Submit bids no later than April 3, 2000.* Items may be seen at Bellevue Public Works Building, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, contact:

Loras Herrig  
Bellevue City Hall  
319/872-4456

2/00

**DUMP TRUCK:** 1982 F700-370-4V, 4 sp. 2sp. Dump Truck w/12-ft. dump box. Equipped with western 10-ft. two-way snow blade, hydraulic controls for sander. *Submit sealed bid by April 10, 2000 to:*

City of Dallas Center  
1502 Walnut  
Dallas Center, IA 50063  
Ph: 515/992-3725

The City of Dallas Center reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 2/00

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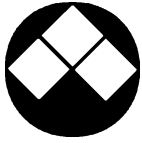
*IAMU Classified Ads are provided on a space-available basis at no charge to IAMU utility members and supporters.*

*Ads will be run for a minimum of one month. Ads may be repeated, at advertiser's request, if space allows.*

*If an ad carries a specific deadline, please call ahead to check the Newsletter publication schedule.*

*Mail, fax (515/289-2499) or e-mail (jburnett@iamu.org) ad copy to John Burnett at IAMU.*

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**CALENDAR**

**April 6:** AWWA Region 2 Meeting. Contact: John Horrell, 515/576-6101.

**April 10:** CCR Workshop, IAMU Offices, Ankeny. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 11:** CCR Workshop, Elks Lodge, Atlantic Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 13:** CCR Workshop, Arrowhead Education Building, Storm Lake. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 17:** Pre-Exam Math Review for Water Operators, Ft. Dodge. Contact: Tim Robbins, Kirkwood Community College, 877/522-9283 or trobbin@kirkwood.cc.ia.us

**April 18:** PCB Mega Rule Workshop, IAMU Offices. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268.

**April 19:** CCR Workshop, North Iowa Comm. College, Mason City. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 25:** CCR Workshop, Coral Ridge Mall, Coralville. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 25 - 26:** Plastic Pipe Joining/Fusion & Mechanical Workshop, IAMU Offices. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 26:** CCR Workshop, Delaware County Fairgrounds, Manchester. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

**April 27:** Commercial Drivers License Examination Workshop, IAMU Offices. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268.

**May 1 -3:** Spring 2000 Short Course & UHL Symposium, West Des Moines. Contact: AWWA -- Iowa Section, 515/283-2169

**May 3-4, 10-11:** Basic Wastewater Operators Course, Kirkwood Community College. Contact: Tim Robbins, 877/522-9283 or trobbin@kirkwood.cc.ia.us

**May 16-19:** Underground Electric Workshop, IAMU Offices. Contact: IAMU, 800/810-4268

*IAMU Office/Training Complex*  
**Grand Opening**  
Coming this spring  
**-- Watch for details --**

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