

BASIC SMALL WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS COURSE OUTLINE

Chapter	Topic	Page
1	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPERATORS.....	1
2	SOURCES OF WATER	9
3	WELLS	19
4	SMALL WATER TREATMENT PLANTS.....	39
5	WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION.....	55
6	DRINKING WATER LAWS AND REGULATIONS.....	89
7	MATH FOR SMALL WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS	99
Appendix	PRACTICE TEST AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS	111
	WATER WORDS	117
	SUBJECT INDEX.....	125

SUBJECT INDEX

A

Abandoning wells, 28
 Air gap, 84, 87
 Air release valves, 32
 Algal blooms, 15, 17
 Altitude-control valves, 68
 Ammonia, 49
 Appropriative rights, 13
 Aquifers, 16, 25, 26
 Artesian wells, 15, 25
 "As-built" drawings, 53
 Average demand, 61

B

Back pressure, 84
 Backflow, 74, 84, 85
 Backflow prevention, 53, 84–88
 Backsiphonage, 53, 67, 74, 84, 86
 Bacteria, 46
 Blowoff, 32
 Blowoff valves, 83
 Budgets, operator responsibility, 8

C

CCR (Consumer Confidence Report), 94
 Calcium hypochlorite, 47
 Cancer, 18
 Capillary fringe, 16
 Cathodic protection, 74
 Centrifugal pumps
 cutaway view, 69
 priming, 68
 start-up, 70
 Chloramines, 49
 Chlorination, DPD test, 49
 Chlorine
 chloramines, 49
 disinfection, 47
 handling, 47
 hazards, 47
 residual, 49–51, 96
 safety, 47
 uses, 47
 Clarity of water, 49

Cleaning, tanks, 73
 Clear wells
 description, 5
 small plants, 45
 storage facilities, 61, 64
 Clogged well screen, 33
 Coagulation, 45
 Coatings, tanks, 72
 Coliform bacteria, 17, 70, 74, 96
 Collapsed well screen, 33
 Combined chlorine, 49
 Complaint handling, operator's duties, 8
 Concentration, chlorine, 47
 Concrete storage facilities, 73
 Conductor casing, wells, 30
 Cone of depression, 25
 Confined space entry, 72, 73, 74
 Conservation, 13
 Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR), 94
 Contact time, chlorine, 47
 Contaminated water supply, cross connections, 84
 Contamination
 water, 13, 15, 17
 wells, 25
 Control of corrosion, 72
 Corrective maintenance, 72, 81
 Corrosion
 control, 45, 72
 small plants, 45
 storage facilities, 72
 water treatment plants, 45
 wells, 33, 34
 Coupons, 83
 Cross-connection control
 air gap separation, 84, 87
 back pressure, 84
 backflow, 84, 85
 backsiphonage, 84, 86
 distribution systems, 84
 double check valves, 84, 87
 importance, 84
 program, 84
 program responsibilities, 84
 surveillance, 88
 Cryptosporidiosis, 13, 46
Cryptosporidium, 95
 Custom-designed plants, 46
 Customer service, surveillance, 84

126 Water Systems

D

Daily log or diary, 52
Dead ends, 79
Demand
 average, 61
 peak, 61, 67
 storage, 61, 63
Deterioration of distribution systems, 81
Direct runoff, 13
Discharge of groundwater, 16
Disease, 13, 17, 46
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products Rule, 95
Disinfection
 Also see Chlorination
 bacteria, 46
 calcium hypochlorite, 47
 chloramines, 49
 chlorine, 47
 chlorine residual, 49–51
 clarity of water, 49
 coliforms, 17
 combined chlorine, 49
 concentration, 47
 contact time, 47
 critical factors, 47
 diseases, 46
 free chlorine, 49
 haloacetic acids, 45
 hypochlorinator, 51
 hypochlorite, 47, 49, 51
 mixing, 49
 operation, 49
 ozone, 47
 pH, 47, 49
 points of application, 49
 processes, 47
 protozoa, 46
 purpose, 46
 resistance of organisms, 47
 small plants, 45
 sodium hypochlorite, 47, 49
 storage facilities, 74–75
 temperature, 49
 total chlorine, 49
 trihalomethanes, 45
 turbidity, 49
 ultraviolet radiation, 47
 virus, 46
 water treatment plants, 45
Disinfection by-products, 95
Distribution system facilities
 components, 76, 77
 dead ends, 79
 fire demand, 76, 80, 88

hydrants, 79
layout, 77
mains, 76
performance, 76
pressure-reducing valves, 76, 78
pressures, 76
purpose, 76
valves, 76, 78
Distribution system O & M
 corrective maintenance, 81
 cross-connection control, 84
 emergency procedures, 75, 81, 88
 fire demand, 76, 80, 88
 maintenance, 81
 monitoring, 95
 need, 81
 objective, 81
 operation, 81
 operations plan, 81
 pressure problems, 88
 pressures, 61, 62, 76, 88
 preventive maintenance, 81
 repairs, 81
 storage facilities, 82
 surveillance, 81
 system pressures, 88
 water quality monitoring, 95
Distribution systems
 cross connections, 84
 description, 7
 operators, 5
 pressures, 62
 sampling, 95, 96, 97
Divers, tank inspection, and cleaning, 73
Diversion works, 45
Double check valves, 84, 87
DPD test, 49
Draining tanks, 72
Drawdown, 26, 27, 30
Driller's log, 28
Dry cleaning solvents, 17
Duties of operators, 5, 7, 27, 51
Dysentery, 13

E

E. coli, 96
Elevated tanks, 61, 63, 64
Emergencies, maintenance, 75
Emergency planning, 67
Emergency procedures, 81
Emergency Response Plan, 47
Enforcement, regulations, 93
Equipment, maintenance, 53
Evaporation, 13

F

Farm drainage, 15
 Filtration, 45
 Fire demands, 63, 76, 80, 88
 Float on the system, 75
 Flocculation, 45
 Flow measurement, 45
 Foot valves, 32, 70
 Free chlorine, 49

G

Gasoline additives, 17
 Geologic data, 28
Giardia, 95
 Giardiasis, 13, 46
 Gravel tube, 30
 Gravel-envelope wells, 30
 Grounds (yard), maintenance, 54, 75
 Groundwater
 advantages, 27
 aquifers, 25, 26
 discharge, 16
 hydrologic cycle, 26
 importance, 25
 overdraft, 25
 pollution, 25, 27, 28
 recharge, 16, 25
 recordkeeping, 28
 source, 15
 treatment, 46
 wells, 25
 yield, 25

H

HAA5 (haloacetic acids), 45, 95
 Haloacetic acids (HAA5), 45, 95
 Hazards, safety, 54
 Head loss, pipes, 79
 Health Regulations, 93
 Health, water quality, 80
 Hepatitis, 13
 High-risk homes, Lead and Copper Rule, 95
 High-service pumps, 45
 History of drinking water laws, 93
 Humic substances, 17
 Hydrants, distribution systems, 79
 Hydrogeologist, 25
 Hydrologic cycle, 13, 14
 Hydrologic data, 28
 Hydropneumatic tanks, 32, 61, 66
 Hypochlorinators
 installation, 48
 maintenance, 51

troubleshooting, 51
 uses, 47
 Hypochlorite, 47, 49, 51
 Hypochlorous acid, 49

I

Impermeable, 15
 Importance of water, 13
 Incrustation, well screens, 33, 34
 Inspection
 maintenance, 54
 reservoirs, 75
 storage facilities, 72, 73, 75
 Instrumentation, storage facilities, 62–68
 Intake structures, 15
 Iron and manganese
 complaints, 17, 51
 control, 51

L

Laboratories, certified, 70
 Lakes, 13, 15
 Land subsidence, 16, 25
 Layout
 distribution systems, 77
 small treatment plants, 44
 water treatment plants, 44
 Lead and Copper Rule, 95, 98
 Leaks, water, 83
 Levels of water, tanks, 67, 68
 Location, sampling, 95, 96, 97

M

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level), 46, 94, 96
 MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal), 94
 MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet), 47
 Mains, water
 coupons, 83
 dead ends, 79
 leaks, 83
 surveillance, 83
 Maintenance
 aquifers, 27
 corrosion control, 72
 cross-connection control, 88
 distribution systems, 81
 emergency, 75
 equipment, 53
 grounds, 54
 hypochlorinators, 51
 inspections, 54
 painting, 72
 small plants, 53

128 Water Systems

Maintenance (continued)
storage facilities, 72
tools, 54
wells, 32–36, 37

Maintenance program, 53

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), 47

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), 94

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
coliform bacteria, 96
development process, 94
groundwater, 46

Membrane filter test, 83

Microbial contaminants, 94

Mixing, disinfection, 49

Monitoring, distribution systems, 95

Monitoring, water quality
bacteriological samples, 95, 96
changes, 36
chlorine residual, 95, 96
Lead and Copper Rule, 98
location of sampling, 95, 96, 97
program, 80, 95
public notification, 98
sampling, 95, 96, 97, 98
sanitary survey, 95
trihalomethanes (THMs), 95
turbidity, 95
wells, 35

N

NSF International, 47
National Sanitation Foundation
See NSF International
Need for operators, 5
Notification, 94

O

Operation and maintenance
disinfection, 49
distribution systems, 81
need for O & M, 43
operator's duties, 7
storage facilities, 61, 67, 73, 74

Operation, small plants
“as-built” drawings, 53
backflow prevention, 53
daily log, 52
daily tasks, 52
diary, 52
duties, operator, 51
laboratory tests, 53
maintenance, 53
periodic tasks, 52

plant operation, 51
plant performance, 53
procedures, 52
recordkeeping, 52
responsibilities, operator, 51
safety, 54
system records, 53
training operators, 52

Operations Plan, 52

Operators
complaint handling, 8
duties, 5, 7, 8, 27
need, 5
operation and maintenance, 7
public relations, 8
recordkeeping, 8
responsibility, 5, 26, 27, 37, 51
safety, 8, 54
supervision and administration, 8
training courses, 52

Organic chemicals, regulation, 93

Overdraft, wells, 25

Overflows, tanks, 73

Overpumping, wells, 33

Ozone, 47

P

Package plants, 45

Painting
safety, 72
tanks, 72

Palatable, 80

Partially buried tanks, 61, 65

Pathogenic organisms, 94

Pathogens, 5, 17, 46

Peak demand, 61, 67

Pedestal, pump, 30

Pesticides, 17

Pet cock, 32

pH, disinfection, 47, 49

Pollution
groundwater, 25, 27, 28
sources, 15, 28
wells, 25

Ponds, 13

Poppet valves, 51

Positive coliform results, 70, 74

Precipitation, 13

Prescriptive rights, 13

Pressure
distribution system, 61, 62, 76
reducing valves, 76, 78

Pressure problems, 88

Pressure tanks, 32, 61, 66

Preventive maintenance, 72, 81
 Primary Drinking Water Standards
 maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), 94
 regulations, 93
 treatment techniques, 94
 Priming, pumps, 68
 Processes, treatment
 coagulation, 45
 disinfection, 45, 46
 flocculation, 45
 Program
 maintenance, 33, 35, 53
 safety, 8
 Protozoa, 46
 Public relations, operator's duties, 8
 Pump pedestal, 30
 Pumps, storage facilities, 68
 Pumps, wells
 hydropneumatic tanks, 32
 pressure tanks, 32
 recordkeeping, 37–38
 service guidelines, 37
 small plants, 45
 water treatment plants, 45

R

Recharge of groundwater, 16
 Recordkeeping
 groundwater, 28
 operation, 52
 pumps, 37–38
 small plants, 52
 wells, 28, 35, 37–38
 Recreation, lakes, 15
 Regulations, drinking water
 establishment, 93
 health, 93, 94
 maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), 93, 94
 Primary Drinking Water Standards, 94
 Secondary Drinking Water Standards, 94
 setting standards, 93, 94
 Rehabilitation, wells, 32–36
 Repairs
 distribution systems, 81
 wells, 35
 Reservoirs
 distribution systems, 61, 82
 sources of water, 13, 15
 Resistance of organisms, 47
 Respirator, 54
 Respiratory protection program, 47, 54
 Responsibility of operators
 cross-connection control, 84
 operation, 51

safety, 8
 small plants, 43, 46, 51
 wells, 26, 27, 37
 Rights to use water
 appropriative, 13
 prescriptive, 13
 riparian, 13
 Riparian rights, 13
 Rivers, 15

S

SDWA (Safe Drinking Water Act), 8, 18, 93
 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), 8, 18, 93
 Safe yield, 16
 Safety
 chlorine, 47
 Emergency Response Plan, 47
 hazards, 54
 operator's duties, 8, 54
 painting, 72
 program, 8
 responsibilities, 8
 small plant hazards, 54
 storage facilities, 72, 74
 Safety program
 operator's duties, 8
 small plants, 54
 Salt water intrusion, 25, 27
 Sampling
 distribution system, 70
 Lead and Copper Rule, 95
 siting plans, 70
 storage facilities, 70, 74
 Total Coliform Rule (TCR), 70
 water quality, 70, 74, 95, 96, 97, 98
 Sampling tap, 32, 96
 San Joaquin Valley, California, 25
 San Jose, California, 25
 Sanitary hazards, 81
 Sanitary seal, 30
 Sanitary survey
 records, 95
 water quality, 95
 Scouring, 15
 Screens, wells, 33, 34
 Sea water intrusion, 16
 Sealing wells, 28
 Seals, wells, 30
 Secondary Drinking Water Standards, maximum
 contaminant levels (MCLs), 94
 Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs), 94
 Sedimentation (settling), 45
 Self-contained breathing apparatus, 54
 Service guidelines, well pumps, 37

130 Water Systems

- Sewage
 - See Wastewater
- Short-circuiting, 47
- Significant rise, bacteriological count, 96
- Silt, 15
- Small treatment plants
 - clear wells, 45
 - coagulation, 45
 - corrosion control, 45
 - custom-designed plants, 46
 - disinfection, 45
 - diversion works, 45
 - filtration, 45
 - flocculation, 45
 - flow measurement, 45
 - groundwater, 46
 - hazards, 54
 - high-service pumps, 45
 - importance, 43
 - layout, 44
 - maintenance, 53
 - O & M, 43
 - operator responsibility, 43, 46
 - package plants, 45
 - pumps, 45
 - raw water storage, 43
 - settling, 45
 - storage, 45
 - surface waters, 43
- Sodium hypochlorite, 47, 49
- Sodium thiosulfate, 74
- Sounding tube, wells, 30
- Source Water Assessments, 27
- Sources of water
 - description, 5
 - groundwater, 15
 - hydrologic cycle, 13, 14
 - lakes, 15
 - precipitation, 13
 - reservoirs, 15
 - rivers, 15
 - springs, 16
 - streams, 15
 - water cycle, 13, 14
 - wells, 16
- Specific capacity, 36
- Specific gravities, 26
- Springs, 16
- Stale water, 63
- Standby facilities, 67
- Standpipes, 61, 65
- Static head, 76
- Storage facilities (water)
 - advantages, 61
 - altitude-control valves, 68
 - clear wells, 61, 64
 - coatings, 72
 - concrete storage facilities, 73
 - corrosion control, 72
 - demand, 61, 63
 - description, 5
 - disinfection, 74–75
 - distribution system pressures, 62
 - draining, 72
 - elevated tanks, 61, 63, 64
 - emergency plans, 67
 - fire demands, 63
 - grounds (yard), 75
 - hydropneumatic tanks, 61, 66
 - inspection, 72, 73, 75
 - instrumentation, 62–68
 - levels of water, 67
 - maintenance, 72
 - operation, 61, 67, 73, 74
 - overflows, 73
 - painting, 72
 - partially buried tanks, 61, 65
 - positive coliform results, 70, 74
 - pressure tanks, 61, 66
 - pressures, 62
 - pumps, 67, 68
 - purpose, 61
 - requirements, 61, 62
 - safety, 72, 74
 - sampling, 70, 74
 - small plants, 45
 - stale water, 63
 - standby facilities, 67
 - standpipes, 61, 65
 - surge tanks, 61, 66
 - system pressures, 62, 88
 - troubleshooting, 70, 71
 - types, 61, 62
 - vandalism, 71
 - vents, 73
 - water quality problems, 70, 71
- Stratification, 15
- Streams, 15
- Subsidence, land, 16, 25
- Supervision and administration, operator's duties, 8
- Surface features, wells, 29–32
- Surface water, 13, 15
- Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), 18, 95
- Surge tanks, 61, 66
- Surges, 67
- Surveillance of distribution systems
 - blowoffs, 83
 - cross-connection control, 84
 - customer services, 84
 - deterioration, 81
 - leaks, 83
 - mains, 83
 - purpose, 81

Surveillance of distribution systems (continued)
sanitary hazards, 81
services, 84
storage facilities, 82
telemetry, 84
terrorist activity, 81
valves, 83
vandalism, 81, 82
System pressures, 62, 88
System records, 53

T

THMs (trihalomethanes), 17, 45, 95
Table well, 25
Tanks
cleaning, 73
painting, 72
Tastes and odors
causes, 63
stale water, 63
Telemetry, 67, 84
Temperature, disinfection, 49
Terrorist activity, surveillance, 81
THMs (trihalomethanes), 95
Tools, 54
Total chlorine, 49
Total Coliform Rule (TCR), 70, 95, 96
Toxic chemicals, 17
Training
new operators, 8
operators, 52
Transpiration, 15
Treatment facilities, purpose, 5
Trihalomethanes (THMs), 17, 45, 95
Troubleshooting
hypochlorinators, 51
storage facilities, 70, 71
water quality, 70, 71
wells, 35
Tuberculation, 83
Turbidity
disinfection, 49
sampling, 95
Turnover, lake, 15
Typhoid, 13

U

Ultraviolet radiation, 47
Uranium, 18

V

Vacuum breaker valves, 32
Valves
air release, 32
altitude control, 68

backflow prevention, 84, 87
blowoff, 83
distribution systems, 76, 78
pet cock, 32
pressure-reducing, 76, 78
surveillance, 83
vacuum breaker, 32
Vandalism, surveillance, 81, 82
Vents
storage facilities, 73
wells, 30
Video inspection, wells, 35
Virus, 46

W

Wastewater, 15
Wastewater facilities, 15
Water
conservation, 13
groundwater, 15
importance, 13
quality monitoring, 35
sea water intrusion, 16
sources, 13
water quality problems, 15, 36
Water cycle, 13, 14
Water hammer, 76
Water level measuring, 30
Water quality
biological, 16, 17, 36, 70
chemical, 16, 17, 36, 70
color, 17
health, 80
importance, 80
inorganics, 17
monitoring, 70, 80, 95
odor, 17
organics, 17
physical, 16, 36, 71
problems, 16, 70, 71
radiological, 16, 18
taste, 17
temperature, 17
troubleshooting, 70, 71
turbidity, 16, 17
Water rights
appropriative, 13
prescriptive, 13
riparian, 13
Water supply systems
description, 5–7
distribution systems, 7
layout, 6
operators, 5
sources, 5
storage facilities, 5
treatment facilities, 5

132 Water Systems

- Water table, 15, 25
- Water treatment plants
 - clear wells, 45
 - coagulation, 45
 - corrosion control, 45
 - custom-designed plants, 46
 - disinfection, 45
 - diversion works, 45
 - filtration, 45
 - flocculation, 45
 - flow measurement, 45
 - groundwater, 46
 - hazards, 54
 - high-service pumps, 45
 - importance, 43
 - layout, 44
 - maintenance, 53
 - O & M, 43
 - operator responsibility, 43, 46
 - package plants, 45
 - pumps, 45
 - raw water storage, 43
 - settling, 45
 - storage, 45
 - surface waters, 43
- Waterborne diseases, 46
- Well casing vent, 30
- Wellhead protection, 28–29
- Wells
 - abandoning, 28
 - adverse conditions, 33
 - air release valve, 32
 - artesian, 25
 - blowoff, 32
 - clogged screen, 33
 - collapsed screen, 33
 - conductor casing, 30
 - corrosion, 33, 34
 - drawdown, 30
 - driller's log, 28
 - foot valve, 32
 - gravel tube, 30
 - gravel-envelope, 30
- groundwater, 25
- hydropneumatic tanks, 32
- incrustation, 33, 34
- maintenance, 32–36, 37
- operator responsibility, 26, 27, 37
- overdraft, 25
- overpumping, 33
- pedestal, 30
- pollution, 25
- pump pedestal, 30
- quality monitoring, 36
- recordkeeping, 28, 35, 37–38
- rehabilitation, 32–36
- responsibility, operators, 26, 27, 37
- sampling tap, 32
- sanitary seal, 30
- screens, 33, 34
- seal, 30
- sealing, 28
- sounding tube, 30
- sources of water, 16
- surface features, 29–32
- table well, 25
- troubleshooting, 35
- vacuum breaker valve, 32
- valves, 32
- vent, 30
- video inspection, 35
- water level measuring, 30
- water quality monitoring, 35
- wellhead protection, 28–29
- yield, 33, 35, 36
- Wye strainer, 45

Y

- Yield
 - safe, 16, 25
 - wells, 33, 35, 36

Z

- Zone of saturation, 15