

Connecticut H₂O Operator

A Newsletter for Certified Operators

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section

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Pandemic Influenza- A Real Threat

By: Sandra Downie, Health Program Associate, Capacity Development Unit

A "pandemic" is a global disease outbreak. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity, and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily from person-to-person, and can sweep across the country and around the world in a very short time.

Public water systems (PWSs) must plan and prepare in advance for a potential influenza pandemic. During a natural disaster or pandemic emergency, it should be assumed that PWSs will experience severe staffing shortages. There could be a 30-40% absentee rate due to those who are ill, those caring for ill persons and those who will be fearful of exposure. There is potential for disruption to communications, transportation, services, utilities and to public safety.

Experts agree that the question isn't "*if*" a pandemic influenza outbreak will occur, but rather "*when*" it will occur. Health professionals are concerned that spread of the H5N1 virus across eastern Asia and other countries represents a significant threat to human health. This virus raises concerns about a potential human pandemic because 1) It's especially virulent, 2) It's being spread by migratory birds, 3) It can be transmitted from birds to mammals and in some circumstances to humans, and 3) Influenza viruses continually evolve.

The Water Sector has been designated as a Critical Infrastructure and is an essential function of our society and economy. It's extremely important to develop plans to protect employees and continue operations in any emergency. Please call the DWS at 860.509.7333 or visit our webpage for more information.

Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS)

By: Linda Li, Capacity Development Unit

The U.S. EPA released free management software called Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS). It is specifically designed for smaller drinking water and wastewater utilities. It allows utilities to inventory capital assets with their age, condition and other information to prioritize capital improvements. The program also allows utilities to schedule and track tasks, plan long-term financing and generate reports.

More information about CUPSS is available through these websites:

http://www.watertrust.org/feature_article.asp?nID=108

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/cupss/software.html#get>

The Capacity Development Unit of the Drinking Water Section is available to provide on-site software installation, training, and on-going technical assistance for CUPSS, or asset management in general. In addition, hands-on computer training will be offered in Connecticut at a later date. Please contact Linda Li at 860.509.7333 or Linda.S.Li@ct.gov for more information.

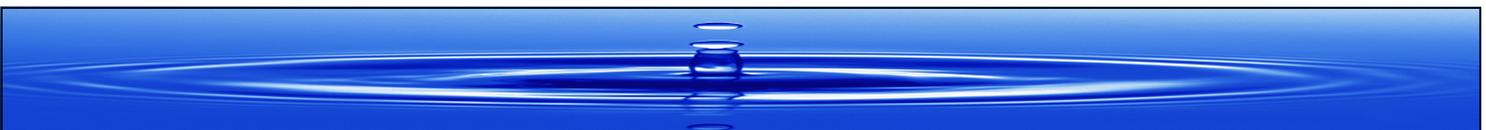
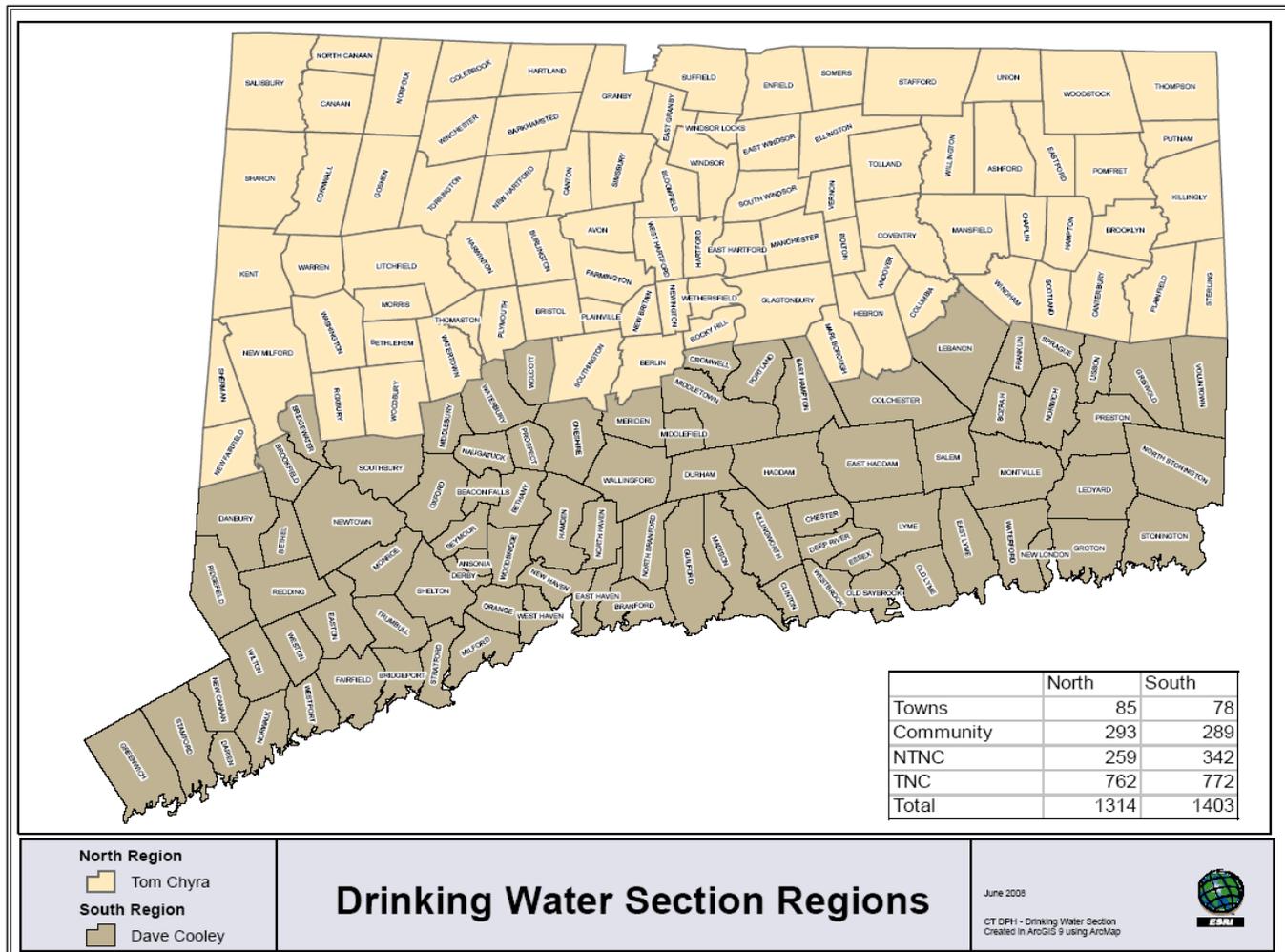


New Regional Structure in the Drinking Water Section

By: David Cooley, P.E., Supervising Engineer, South Region

Earlier this summer Section Chief, Darrell B. Smith announced plans for restructuring certain elements of the Drinking Water Section. The major shift was the consolidation of sanitary surveys and project review activities under two regional units. The two regions, North and South, are comprised of engineers of all different specialties and concentrations, ranging from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to emergency response and water system security. The North and South Regions are led by two new Supervising Sanitary Engineers, Tom Chyra in the North and David Cooley in the South. Please refer to the adjoining map for specific town assignments between the two regions. A complete list of activities the two regions are responsible for is provided below:

- ◆ Sanitary Surveys
- ◆ Sanitary Survey Response Compliance
- ◆ Project Reviews – DWSRF/STEAP/STAG Technical Reviews
- ◆ Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Phase 1B and 2
- ◆ General Technical Assistance to Public Water Systems/Consumers
- ◆ Consumer Complaints



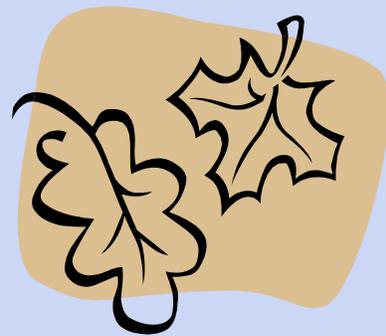
Submission of Treatment Logs



By: Thomas Reed, Environmental Analyst 3, Information Systems Unit

The Drinking Water Section accepts monthly treatment logs via email. This process is more time and cost efficient. In addition, when you email us your treatment logs provides you with a verification notice of receipt. We file these documents electronically so looking something up is very easy and fast. We also archive all emails. Just attach your Excel spreadsheets or pdf documents to an email and send them to drinking.water@ct.gov. Please name your electronic documents with your public water system id first. As an example: CT0020087_June08_Treatment_Log.xls, CT0020087_Treatment_Log_Apr08.pdf, etc. If you have any questions, you can contact Tom Reed at 860.509.7333.

Picture Quiz



HAPPY WINTER!

Prepare for cold weather by making sure heaters in treatment plants and pump houses are operable and in safe working condition.

What's wrong with this tank?

By: Vicky Carrier, Sanitary Engineer 3, Capacity Development Unit

The grouting on the bottom of this tank is mostly gone and several vegetation roots intrude through the bottom into the tank. This tank was found to not adequately protect the water from contamination.

In relevant part, RCSA Section 19-13-B102(f)(5)(A) states:

“All finished water storage tanks, basins and clearwells connected to a public water distribution system shall be constructed and located so as to adequately protect the water from contamination.”

As a reminder, RCSA Section 19-13-B102(f)(5)(C) states that water storages tanks must be inspected at a minimum of once every ten years for sanitary conditions and structural integrity. Concerns could also arise in regards to the structural integrity of the foundation of this tank. If you have not yet had your tank inspected, you should do so by 2011 since the code requirement in regards to tank inspections became effective in 2001.

Mark your calendars for ATCAVE 2009 and Career Forum 2009!

By: Vicky Carrier, P.E., R.S., M.B.A., Sanitary Engineer 3, Capacity Development Unit

February 24, 2009- The Annual Technical Conference and Vendor Exposition (ATCAVE). Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hartford-Cromwell. The DWS staff is presenting various training programs of interest to you. We hope you can attend!

You'll learn:

- ◆ All About Asset Management
- ◆ The DWS Organizational Structure
- ◆ Compliance Tips and Reminders
- ◆ Notifying the Public in a Crisis while Maintaining Public Confidence
- ◆ New Requirements for Siting Public Water Supply Wells and Update on Water Certificate Process
- ◆ Minimum Elements of an Acceptable Water Supply Plan Update

You'll also get the opportunity to network with local health department officials who you will likely deal with in the event of violations or other emergency events. We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date- April 22, 2009! "Drinking Water and Environmental Careers"

Do you know any high school students (maybe they are your kids) that are starting to think about future careers? You should tell them about our Third Annual Careers Forum at the Farmington Club where they can learn about exciting and recession-proof careers. Check the "What's New" section of our webpage for more information.

Training Registration Information



All training registrations must be completed on the Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRIN). TRIN is a training resource for professionals who protect the public's health. Visit the TRIN web site, <https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx> to create a free user account and view upcoming certified operator events.

Be sure to check the DWS's web site, www.ct.gov/dph for the latest information on trainings, events, and more!

To Report a Water-Related Emergency...

CALL **860.509.7333**

(M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

OR...

CALL **860.509.8000**

(After Hours)



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