



Armageddon Winter

By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

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In a blink of an eye, it seems, we are back to another winter season. Can it top last year's harsh and seemingly never-ending blast from the Arctic; or will we be spared from such another terrible ordeal? Time will tell.

But, it's a situation, to one level or another, which many water and wastewater system personnel endure each year. And, in many instances, those same people are also burdened with other utility duties which widely range from plowing and removal of snow, to picking dead animals up off the streets or rural roads.

We ALL are guilty, too many times of forgetting the scope of responsibilities that many of these dedicated individuals have to their utility systems, customers, residents, and governing boards. The stress endured by all of these men and women, can be sometimes overwhelming... to say the least. But, so many people do not "see" that, or moreover, understand it. They truly do not know the amount of hours put in by these operators and/or utility personnel, in seeing for example that the roads are cleaned for safe passage, and that the water and wastewater systems are maintained, in many times grueling natural weather extremes.

Board members, customers, and residents need to realize just how huge a task it is, to be responsible for repairing water main breaks, frozen service lines and meters, and countless wastewater treatment system problems in such dire weather. And not only that, in many cases, for those same employees to be out for endless hours plowing and removing snow; or dealing

with ice on the roadways, buildings, facilities, trees, etc. Winters like the horrible one we had this past season, are the types which cause many employees dealing with all those responsibilities and more, to end up leaving the utility they serve... Many times because of the lack of decent salaries, overtime, help, stress, and quite frankly, a simple 'thanks'. I have spoke to many operators and maintenance personnel over the last year, and all have said that having two such bad winters back to back, may be more than many could possibly stand.

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When it comes to dealing with Armageddon Winters, all community or system members, need to take the time to honestly think about what these personnel go through, in dealing with such horrendous conditions... and give them a break when wanting to pass judgment on or castigate the job that is being done. While we are snug as a bug in our warm homes or beds, those utility field staff are continually out there suffering through the blowing cold, heavy snow, and dangerous ice as they are cleaning the streets/roads or fixing broken water mains, and on and on.

Sometimes it's easy to criticize when true understanding is not allowed as part of the consideration...

Appreciate in every form, those hard-working and dedicated individuals for all they do, to continually strive to improve your system or community, in such atrocious conditions. Believe me, as one who has endured such situations many years ago...they deserve it!

IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

“Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance”



Water
Wastewater
Sewer
Sanitation
Infrastructure
Protection
Preservation



By: Roger Noe, Circuit Rider #2

My name is Roger Noe and I joined IRWA as a Circuit Rider #2 covering the southern region in early November. My family and I reside in Wayne City. I am originally from Bellflower, Illinois, which is in southeastern McLean County. I was raised on a family farm and received my A.S. from Parkland College in Agricultural Business. I worked in the agriculture industry for seven years as Crop Production Specialist.

After moving to southern Illinois, I joined the Village of Wayne City as a Utility Worker and eventually moved into the Water Superintendent position. I have a Class A water license and Class 4 wastewater license. Working as a utility worker for the city you did a little bit of everything working with water distribution, sewer system, gas system, mowing park, and even hanging Christmas lights. I had the privilege to work with a couple of guys who had worked for the city for several years, Kris Shreve and Ray Belmont. They helped me on what to do and how to do it for the city. Four years ago I started to operate the treatment plant. The plant is a surface water treatment plant that pumps on average around 200,000 gal per day. The original part of the plant was built in 1954 and it was added on in 1983 with the same technology. It would be an understatement to say there weren't challenges on a daily basis with the plant. Some of the first things I did at the plant were to purchase scales that worked for chemicals and better quality testing equipment for the lab. We were using chlorine gas and ammonia so it is very im-

portant to have your ratio correct. A few years ago we started the process to look for funding to build a new water treatment plant. A new plant is needed for the city to keep up with the regulations in the future.

A few years ago I was asked to be a part of the Southern Illinois Water Operators Association. This group facilitates meetings and trainings for water operators in the southern Illinois region. I am currently the treasurer for the association. This has given me the opportunity to meet other operators in Southern Illinois. I believe some of the best knowledge that you can learn is from your peers.

My family includes my wife and two children. We are active in our church and our children both play sports. I volunteer as the assistant baseball coach for the junior high baseball team and coach the 5th grade basketball team. My summer consists of many nights on the baseball field. My son will play around 40 games on his traveling baseball team. As a family we enjoy camping and spending time outdoors.

In the past few weeks with IRWA, I have had the opportunity to conduct certification training, perform leak locates, and assisted with other water loss issues. I also have been meeting many operators in my region. I look forward to meeting many more, and encourage anyone who has an issue to call me at 217-820-1564.



This year's Northern Conference was held once again at Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Lodge in Utica, IL. 113 attendees were in attendance to meet with their peers, learn some new information via the sessions offered and visit with 40 exhibitors displaying their current products and services. \$775 in cash prizes was given away from the generous donations of our exhibitors.

Thank you to the following exhibitors for their sponsorships:

Breaks: Bliss Leak Detection & PDC Laboratories

Breakfast: CoBank, Ferguson Waterworks, Municipal Well & Pump & Sensus

Hospitality Night: Trotter & Associates (mugs), Giant Maintenance & Restoration (entertainment)

We are currently looking for a new home for this conference. As soon as we get a location and date for next year, it will be posted on our website.

WATER AUDIT TRAINING

The IEPA is sponsoring Water Loss Audit training to provide free training on a useful tool for utilities to use to better understand their water systems. The training will be based on the AWWA M36 Water Audits and Loss Control manual. Each training session will be a full-day and consist of a morning lecture and afternoon hands-on using the AWWA Water Loss Audit software. The morning session will be a powerpoint presentation to familiarize the participants with the history of water loss auditing, the benefits of doing an audit and an introduction to the audit software. The afternoon session will be a hands on demo of the software.

To get the most out of this training, participants are asked to bring a laptop with the software downloaded and data from their water systems, however this is not required. Discussion will also include information on how to address sources of water loss. The training will be held throughout the state and will be provided by Illinois Rural Water Association and Illinois Section AWWA.

Download the [AWWA Water Loss Software \(Version 5\)](http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/water-knowledge/water-loss-control.aspx) at <http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/water-knowledge/water-loss-control.aspx>. You do not have to be a member of AWWA to download the software, however you do need to sign in.

You will be asked to input data from your water system into the Water Loss Software. This list of items can be found at http://www.ilrwa.org/Training/Water_System_Data.pdf

Water Loss Audit Seminar Schedule

The IEPA sponsored Water Loss Audit training is designed for the benefit of utility personnel to help them gain a bet-

ter understanding of how to conduct a water loss audit and the tools available for performing an audit. As such, priority will be given to utility personnel and those representing utilities as the Responsible Operator in Charge or Village/City Engineer with a maximum of 2 employees per system. Others wishing to attend a training session may be placed on our waiting list. Proof of association with a utility may be required.

Each of these sessions are worth 6 credit hours.

Agendas were mailed out last week. To register, you may complete the brochure that you have received by mail and send it back into our office, print out the brochure from our website and send it to our office, fax it or register on-line.

UPCOMING 2015 CLASSES

January 13	-	Arcola
January 14	-	Kaskaskia College
January 15	-	Caseyville
January 20	-	Forsyth
January 21	-	Danville
February 10	-	Peoria
February 11	-	Champaign
February 24	-	Mt. Zion
February 25	-	Sparta
March 3	-	Olney
March 4	-	Vandalia
March 10	-	Hudson
March 11	-	Jacksonville
April 7	-	Maryville
April 8	-	Cartersville
April 9	-	Taylorville
April 21	-	Springfield
April 22	-	Macomb



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF OF
ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION!!!**

**THE IRWA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
DECEMBER 24 & 25 FOR CHRISTMAS.**

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2015



33rd Annual Technical Conference
Keller Convention Center—
Effingham, IL

Registration materials coming soon!