

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



January 2026 | Winter News



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About Us:

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Welcome to this edition of the Small Systems Bulletin. The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed on issues concerning your water system. We issue this bulletin quarterly. Topics covered in the bulletin include operation and maintenance, treatment, backflow/cross-connections, regulations, operator training, management, and many others. Dates and locations of future workshops are included.

If you have suggestions about topics that you would find helpful, give us a call at 800-367-6792 or send us an e-mail at [kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com](mailto:kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com) or [jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com](mailto:jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com).

***Watch for this quarterly newsletter and we'll see you at a future small system training workshop!***

## Feature Article: Household Hazardous Waste

By: Jolene Leither, MRWA Source Water Specialist

When I sat down to write my article for the Magazine, I thought about what everyone has in common besides drinking water. Many of our readers work in offices, wastewater, water, or other industries, so I wanted a topic that everyone can relate to. Last year I wrote about the Adopt a Drain Program and I am still an advocate for it; this year I want to talk about Household Hazardous waste programs.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) assigns each public drinking water well a vulnerability either high, moderate, or low and from there MRWA/MDH planners can look at what potential contaminants could be threatening your drinking water. Private well owners may never think about the possible contaminants surrounding their well. If the well is working, there isn't a problem, right? Not necessarily!

Most people probably don't look at a bottle of window cleaner or a can of old paint and think about how it could affect aquatic wildlife, rivers, streams, or aquifers, but those of us whose goal it is to protect your drinking water every day do think about that. We are thinking about everything that can contaminate your drinking water. Household hazardous wastes are something that each of us can keep out of our water.

[Click here to read the full story](#)

## Training & Technical Assistance Update:

The dates and locations for our upcoming in-person training sessions are listed below. We also have these dates posted on our *Training Calendar* page [www.mrwa.com/training/trainingcalendar/](http://www.mrwa.com/training/trainingcalendar/).

At the top of that page, please click on the box "Go To Small Systems Training" for our Class E & D training dates and locations. For our in-person training sessions, we will mail notices to operations specialists in those areas approximately one month prior to the class.

***In-Person Training:***

**Class E Training Workshops (8 am – Noon)**

**January 8, 2026**

Big Lake City Hall  
Council Chambers  
160 Lake St N  
Big Lake, MN

**March 4, 2026**

Best Western/Kelly Inn  
University A Room  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S  
St. Cloud, MN

**April 21, 2026**

Ramsey City Hall  
Alexander Ramsey Room  
7550 Sunwood Drive NW  
Ramsey, MN

**May 7, 2026**

Morrison County Government Center  
Board Room  
213 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE  
Little Falls, MN

## Class D Training Workshops (8 am – 5 pm)

### April 8, 2026

Detroit Lakes City Hall

Training Room (West Door, Door B)

1025 Roosevelt Avenue

Detroit Lakes, MN

### May 12, 2026

Forest Lake Community Center

Community Center

1408 Lake Street South

Forest Lake, MN

[Click Here to Register!](#)

### Online Training:

We will continue to offer online remote training sessions using Zoom during the winter months. If you have not received these email invites for the Zoom online training sessions, please email [mrwa@mrwa.com](mailto:mrwa@mrwa.com) and provide your name, public water system name, and preferred email address to us so that we can add you to our email list. If you have received emails from us in the past but not these Zoom notices, please check your Junk/Spam folder. If you use a Gmail account, you may need to check the “Promotions” folder for the email invites.



Once the online training sessions are scheduled we will post these online training session links on our website [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) on our *Training Calendar* page. At the top of that page, please click on the box “Go To Small Systems Training” for our online training links. You will be notified via email of the date and time of each online remote training session. An email address will be needed to register for these online remote training sessions.

**Each operations specialist must register and sign-in separately on their own device to receive credit for attending the online remote training session.**

Online Training Dates:

January 27, 2026 - [“Cybersecurity: Does Your Public Water System Have Operational Technology - SCADA?”](#)



### **Additional Training Opportunities**

#### **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions/Lead Copper Rule Improvements Training**

(5 direct water CEUs available)

More information on these training sessions can be found on our website [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com), on our Training Calendar page. At the top of that page, please click on the box “Go To WATER Training” for training dates and locations.

**January 22, 2026  
Windom Community Center  
1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive  
Windom, MN**

**February 12, 2026  
Cold Spring Fire Hall  
109 Main Street  
Cold Spring, MN**

***Asset Management Training (9am – 2pm) 5 CEUs available***

More information on these training sessions can be found on our website [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) on our *Training Calendar* page. At the top of that page, please click on the box “Go To WATER Training” for more information.

**February 3, 2026**

**Cologne City Hall**

**1211 Village Parkway**

**Cologne, MN**

**March 17, 2026**

**Central Brainerd Public Utilities**

**7933 Highland Scenic Road**

**Baxter, MN**

[Register Here](#)

**Technical Assistance**

We also wanted to let you know that if you have any questions about training or are in need of on-site technical assistance, please feel free to contact us to set up an appointment.

Thank you so much for all that you do to provide safe drinking water to your consumers!

***Jennifer Koenig***

[jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com](mailto:jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com)

320-815-4990

***Kyle Kedrowski***

[kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com](mailto:kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com)

320-760-1475