

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



April 2026 | Spring News



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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 218-685-5197 or send us an e-mail at jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com.

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

Feature Article: Water Operator Certification

By: Jennifer Koenig, MRWA Non-Transient/Non-Municipal Technical Advisor

I'd like to take this opportunity to review water operator certification requirements. Many of you reading this article have been certified for many years. Some of you may be new to the industry and aren't even certified yet. All community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems are required to have at least one certified water operations specialist. That water operations specialist must be available onsite or able to be contacted as needed. I will review how systems are classified, certification of systems, exam requirements, and continuing education.

Classification of Systems (Minnesota Rules 9400.0400)

Systems are classified based on the degree of hazard to the public health, in addition to the type and capacity of the system and the population affected. For drinking water systems, the classification of the system is based on the following components:

1. Water supply source
2. Treatment processes
3. Distribution storage capacity
4. Number of wells
5. Population affected

In Minnesota, the classification of the system is based on a point system. The most complex systems are Class A systems while smaller and simpler systems are Class E systems. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/9400.0400/>

[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/.

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)

May 7, 2026

Morrison County Government Center

Board Room

213 – 1st Avenue SE

Little Falls, MN

July 22, 2026

Beltrami Electric Co-op

4111 Technology Drive NW

Bemidji, MN

October 8, 2026

Peoples Energy Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South

Oronoco, MN

November 5, 2026

Redwood Area Community Center

901 E Cook Street

Redwood Falls, MN

December 9, 2026

Harbor Church

11125 Point Douglas Dr S

Hastings, MN

Class D Training Workshops (8 am – 5 pm)

May 12, 2026

Forest Lake Community Center

Community Center

1408 Lake Street South

Forest Lake, MN

July 9, 2026

City of Mountain Iron Community Center

8586 Enterprise Drive S

Mountain Iron, MN

July 16, 2026

AE2S

6901 E Fish Lake Road

Maple Grove, 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 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 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:

Dates and topics will be available late 2026.

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, 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.

May 14, 2026

Crookston City Hall

124 North Broadway

Crookston, MN

June 11, 2026

Redwood Area Community Center

901 East Cook Street

Redwood Falls, MN

[Click Here to Register!](#)

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!

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