

Well Connected®



A Publication of the Water Systems Council

Hurricane Report

Widespread Response to Hurricanes Katrina & Rita

WSC and UL Donate Water Test Kits

Water Systems Council (WSC) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) are providing free well water test kits to Gulf Coast homeowners coping with flooded wells. UL's DrinkWell™ test kits, valued at \$165, test for 53 contaminants, including bacteria, metals, inorganic substances and volatile organic compounds.

WSC is working with local and state agencies and non-profit groups to identify well owners who need the test kits. Many of those affected by the hurricanes are still without electricity. The kits will be distributed when power is restored and wells are brought back into service.

If you know anyone in the affected areas who needs a well water test kit, contact WSC Executive Director Kathleen Stanley: kathleen.stanley@watersystemscouncil.org

WSC Members Provide Aid to Gulf Coast Residents

WSC members have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct contributions, as well as manufactured well parts, to help Louisiana and Mississippi residents reeling from the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita this fall. Member companies are making significant donations and matching contributions by their employees to groups providing relief to hurricane victims.

As leaders in the water well industry, WSC's members from around the country are providing direct technical assistance in the Gulf states. These well professionals are working in Louisiana and Mississippi with relief agencies to bring wells back into service after the severe flooding of both major storms.

To volunteer your services, see box on page 2.

wellcare® Hotline Develops Special Post-Hurricane Service

In the wake of the two massive storms, the WSC wellcare® Hotline fielded calls from contractors, health agency staff, emergency workers and well owners and a host of questions about the safety of wells and drinking water. In response, Hotline staff prepared special materials and other resources on the important safety issues raised by well flooding.

On the WSC website, the Hotline immediately posted a health alert, warning that well water should not be consumed until the water is tested and treated to ensure its purity, and providing water safety tips. WSC offered existing information sheets of value in the emergency, and in September created a new sheet, *Chlorinating Your Well*.

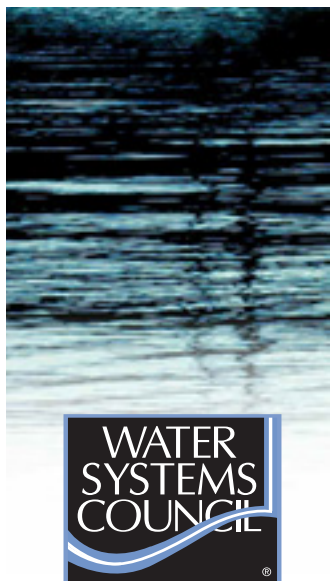
Staff also sent email notices about the Hotline to Gulf state health departments, encouraging state officials to refer homeowners to the WSC website and Hotline toll-free telephone number. Hotline staff also prepared a list of state resources available to well owners in the Gulf states. These were included in information packages sent to callers in the affected areas.

By September, the WSC wellcare® Hotline had responded to 2,586 calls for the year to date. We expect the calls to intensify as power is restored in the coastal communities and homeowners return to cope with the aftermath of the storms.

If you are a well owner or are working in a community with wells affected by the hurricanes, let us know how we can help. Call the hotline at 888-395-1033.

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Note to WSC Members: How to Volunteer

To volunteer professional services to federal hurricane relief efforts, register with the Southwest Emergency Response Network on the website:

www.SWERN.gov. The site allows individuals or companies to select "water/waste water" as a service category and specify the type of assistance being offered. The network is part of the U.S. Homeland Security Operations Center, which serves as the nation's nerve center for information sharing and domestic incident management.

Managing Your Well After a Flood: A Guide for Gulf Coast Well Owners

Water Systems Council and its members offer our hearts and prayers to all those affected in the Gulf states by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We also want you to be safe as you rebuild your homes and repair your private well systems.

Flooding can seriously damage your well and contaminate your drinking water. There is also a serious risk of shock from water-logged well equipment.

Please read the recommendations below and the fact sheets listed before you attempt to operate or repair your well.

Please don't drink or wash with the water until the system is repaired and the well is properly disinfected.

Protect Yourself and Your Well

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers the following guidelines for coping with flood conditions and your well:

- Don't drink or wash with your well water. You can get sick from contaminants washed into the well by the flood.
- Don't turn on the well pump. There is a danger of electrical shock and damage to the well or pump, if they were flooded.
- Contact a well professional for help in dealing with the impacts of the flood on water quality and your well system.

Get the Right Information

The WSC wellcare® Hotline offers extensive information to well owners coping with flooding and water contamination. Request information sheets from the Hotline at 888-395-1033 or download from our website: www.watersystemscouncil.org/wellcare/infosheets.cfm. The EPA's website is another good source of information: www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells/whatdo.html

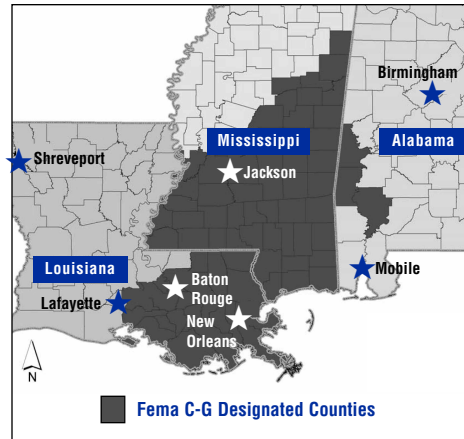
We offer the following wellcare® information sheets to guide you:

- *Managing a Flooded Well*
- *Wells: What to Do When the Power Fails*
- *Drinking Water Testing*
- *Understanding Drinking Water Test Results* and sheets on individual contaminants
- *Drinking Water Treatments* and *Home Drinking Water Treatment Devices*
- *Chlorinating Your Well*

wellcare® Hotline
888-395-1033 or
click here

Katrina Water System Costs Top \$2.25 Billion

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) estimates the cost to repair and replace public drinking water infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Katrina will exceed \$2.25 billion. An AWWA report released in September estimated the cost to repair or replace treatment plants, storage pumping and related control facilities harmed or destroyed by the storm. AWWA distributed the report to members of Congress and the White House to aid those planning relief efforts in the Gulf states. The report is available at www.awwa.org



Senate Bill Seeks \$38 Billion for Water Infrastructure

U.S. funding for water infrastructure would be boosted to \$38 billion over the next five years under bipartisan legislation introduced in the Senate in July, and co-sponsored by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK) and three other committee leaders. The Water Infrastructure Financing Act would revise the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and increase authorized funding levels for both funds to \$20 billion and \$15 billion, respectively.

MTBE Shield Omitted in Energy Bill, Added to Hurricane Relief Measures

Just one month after President George W. Bush signed a federal energy bill that offered no "safe harbor" from lawsuits for makers of a gasoline additive, lobbyists were trying to insert the measure into hurricane relief bills for the Gulf Coast, *The Washington Post* reported.

The makers of MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), a chemical added to gasoline to reduce air emissions, want protection from lawsuits over contamination of drinking water. In the 1990s, many states required the addition of MTBE to gasoline in order to meet federal clean air rules. But the substance eventually was found in the groundwater in 24 states and the cost of its clean up is unknown.

A House version of the comprehensive energy bill included a shield from liability for MTBE producers, while the Senate version, passed in June, did not. The final measure passed both chambers without the safe harbor provision and was signed by the President on August 8. *The Washington Post* reported in mid-September that the safe harbor provision had been raised again and added to legislative options to ease the clean up of Gulf Coast states from the devastation of the fall hurricanes.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

EPA Launches Lead Reduction Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new plan to require utilities, states, schools and childcare facilities to conduct stricter monitoring and reporting of problems with lead in drinking water. In turn, the National Academy of Science (NAS) has recommended that EPA consider regulating residential plumbing to control lead in drinking water. Current law already bans the use of lead pipes, solder or flux in public water systems and residential plumbing.

EPA Studies Perchlorate Impact on Drinking Water

The EPA will launch a \$42 million study to gauge the extent of damage done to drinking water supplies by perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel, according to the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Over the next five years, the proposed study will track the occurrence of perchlorate and 25 other contaminants in water systems and potential human exposure. Regulators have found perchlorate in water and soil in at least 400 sites, more than half of which are in California and Texas, according to the NRDC report.

Bottled Water: A Waste of Money?

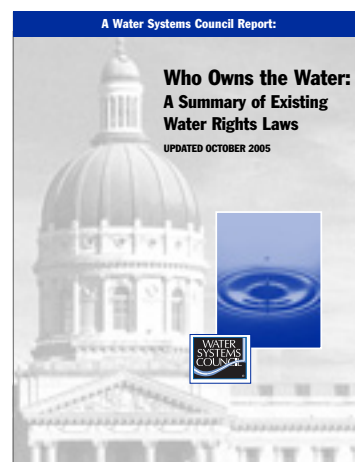
A special report in *Newsweek* states that Americans buying bottled water may be wasting their money. The article, "Water Down the Drain," challenges the popular perception that bottled water is the safest source of drinking water. The article suggests that well owners and those served by public water systems test their water if they are worried about water quality. Only if tests reveal a problem or in case of emergency, such as flooding, might bottled water be the best option. The safest, most affordable drinking water might be right at the tap. To read the report, go to: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/9043788/site/newsweek>

AROUND THE STATES

Who Owns the Water Updated

WSC's two-year-old report on water rights laws across the nation, *Who Owns the Water*, was updated in response to a variety of developments in the field. The new version contains a more detailed discussion of state groundwater permitting statutes and rules, and includes a review of the relationships and impacts of state water laws and court cases dealing with water rights.

All WSC members will receive a free copy of the updated report. Additional copies can be purchased for \$25. Call 202-625-4387 or go to www.watersystemscouncil.org/bookstore/index.cfm



New York May Amend Well Construction Regs

The WSC Rapid Response Team is working with the Empire State Water Well Drillers Association in commenting on proposed amendments to New York State well construction regulations. The New York Department of Health received comments on the proposed amendments from 67 certified drilling companies and letters from 18 employees of well companies this summer.

On September 9, the Empire State Water Well Drillers met with state health officials to review the proposed regulations and specific areas of concern. As a result, both sides agreed to change the regulations to allow spliced plastic pipe, with limitations, and to add flexibility to provisions governing separation distances. The Department of Health is making some changes to yield test standards to allow drillers to use various standardized tests to document gallons per minute. Finally, it was agreed that well disinfection should be recommended to well owners whenever a well casing is opened or any above-grade pump repairs and replacements are completed.

Dutchess County, NY Requires Private Well Tests

Dutchess County, a suburb of New York City, now requires periodic testing of drinking water from private wells in the county. Well permits are mandated for all private wells, with testing of residential rental properties required every six years and wells for non-rental properties tested each time the property is sold.

To obtain a permit, water must be tested and meet water quality parameters, which have not yet been set.

California Water Company Could Owe Customers Millions

The San Gabriel Valley Water Company owes ratepayers in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties more than \$27 million, a division of the California Public Utilities Commission determined in August. The conclusion is listed as a recommendation to PUC commissioners in an audit released by the commission's water division audit and compliance branch. It is not binding.

Nevertheless, the city of Fontana is counting the audit's findings as the latest in a string of victories in its ongoing struggle against the water company. The city is battling a second major rate increase that it says is not needed. The water company has about 48,000 customers in the Los Angeles area.

WSC NEWS.....

NEED HELP?

For help logging on to the members-only section of the WSC website or to make additions or changes to your membership listing, contact **Kathie Auth**, director of Member Services: Kathie.Auth@watersystemscouncil.org / 202-625-4387.

Workshops Held in Virginia & Connecticut

August and September were busy months for WSC, with wellcare® Workshops held in Virginia and Connecticut, a Pump Installation Workshop in Connecticut and a Teachers' Workshop in Maryland. The workshops allow a variety of stakeholders to meet, share ideas and information, and build new or strengthen existing relationships in the water well and water quality fields. WSC will offer 17 workshops and training sessions in 2005.

In **Virginia**, a wellcare® Workshop held August 11 near Richmond drew more than 60 water well contractors, local and state agency staff and EPA staff. It was sponsored by WSC, the Virginia Water Well Association and the Virginia Department of Health.

In **Connecticut**, a wellcare® Workshop held September 21 was attended by more than 80 sanitarians and cooperative extension agents, while a WSC Pump Installation Workshop on September 22 drew about 60 water well contractors. Both workshops were sponsored by WSC, the Connecticut Water Well Association and the Connecticut Department of Health. Contractors received six hours of credit towards a J license and system operator license by attending the pump installation workshop, as well as continuing education credits from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

In **Mississippi**, the wellcare® Workshop scheduled October 27-28 in Chocktaw was postponed after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ripped through the area. The workshop will be rescheduled in 2006.

2005 WSC® Workshop & Training Summary

March 7-8	Georgia	Expedition & Children's Festival, Dalton Co-sponsor: Groundwater Foundation (GWF) Attendees = 15 at Expedition • Attendees = 1,500 at Festival
April 2	Massachusetts	Submersible Pump Installation & Maintenance, Marlborough Co-sponsor: New England Water Well Assn • Attendees = 50 • Education Credits = NGWA & state
April 14	Nebraska	wellcare® Workshop, Lincoln Co-sponsors: GWF, NE Water Well Assn • Attendees = 47
May 24	Georgia	wellcare® Workshop, Savannah Co-sponsors: GA Dept of Community Affairs, Assn County Commissioners of GA, GA Drillers Assn Attendees = 65 • Education Credits = 5.5 hours
June	New York	6 to 8 wellcare® Workshops throughout Ontario County Co-sponsor: Cornell Cooperative Extension Service • Attendees = 100
June 24	Indiana	wellcare® Workshop, South Bend Co-sponsors: Underwriters Laboratories, St. Joseph County Health Dept, IN Ground Water Assn Attendees = 60 • Education Credits = NGWA
July 31	South Carolina	Submersible Pump Installation & Maintenance, Myrtle Beach Co-sponsor: South Atlantic Jubilee • Attendees = 60 • Education Credits = NGWA and state
August 11	Virginia	wellcare® Workshop, Glen Allen Co-sponsors: VA Water Well Assn, VA Dept of Health Attendees = 60 • Education Credits = NGWA and state
Sept 21	Connecticut	wellcare® Workshop, Meriden Co-sponsors: CT Water Well Assn, CT Dept of Health, CT Environmental Health Assn Attendees = 80 • Education Credits = 5 hours

2005 WSC® Workshop & Training Summary continued

Sept 22	Connecticut	Submersible Pump Installation & Maintenance, Meriden Co-sponsors: CT Water Well Assn, CT Dept of Health Attendees = 60 • Education Credits = NGWA and 6 hours state license
Sept 24	Maryland	wellcare® Teachers Workshop – Part One, Wye Mills Co-sponsors: MD/DE Water Well Assn, Chesapeake College, Project WET, Environmental Concern, Inc., MD Dept of Education, DE Dept of Education • Attendees = 16
Sept 29	New York	wellcare® Workshop, Geneva Co-sponsors: ESWWDA, Cornell Cooperative Extension Service • Attendees = 50
October 15	Maryland	wellcare® Teachers Workshop – Part Two, Wye Mills Co-sponsors: MD/DE Water Well Assn, Chesapeake College, Project WET, Environmental Concern, Inc., MD Dept of Education, DE Dept of Education
Nov 14	New Hampshire	New England Water Well Symposium, Portsmouth Co-sponsors: NH Health Dept, Cooperative Extension Service, EPA Region I, state water well associations
Dec 14	Georgia	Submersible Pump Installation & Maintenance NGWA EXPO, Cobb County

Schools Registering for Children's Water Festival Planning

Seventeen schools have registered a total of 839 students to date for the Maryland/Delaware Children's Water Festival to be held at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD, March 23, 2006, from 8 am to 4 pm. Planning also continues for the North Carolina Children's Water Festival to be held at Catawba College in Salisbury in the fall of 2006.

The organizing committee is in need of volunteers, donations and in-kind support. Please contact WSC specialist Dawn Greene, 800-598-6164 or dawn.greene@watersystemscouncil.org



WSC Issues New wellcare® Information Sheets

Sharing a Well, *Emerging Water Contaminants* and *Chlorinating Your Well* are the three new wellcare® information sheets available to well owners by calling the wellcare® hotline, 888-395-1033, or online at www.watersystemscouncil.org/wellcare/infosheets.cfm

This brings our total of information sheets to 58, on topics such as well components, well management and water quality issues.

WSC Handbook Revisions in Progress

The WSC *Water Systems Handbook*, the definitive guide to well construction, is under revision. The new version will include updated information and graphics, with self-study questions at the end of each section and a glossary of terms. More than 30 reviewers from the WSC membership and others in the industry are assisting with the update. The revised handbook is due to be released in early 2006.

WSC Calendar

DECEMBER 2005

13-16 NGWA Expo,
Cobb County, GA

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2006

28-3 WSC Spring Members Meeting,
St. Regis Hotel,
Washington, DC

28-1 Congressional Meetings

2 Committee Meetings,
Member Meetings

3 WSC Board of Directors Meeting



WSC NATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
1101 30th Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20007

WSC Pressurized Water Storage Tank Standard Approved by ANSI

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved the ANSI/WSC PST 2000-2005 Pressurized Water Storage Tank standard in June. The standard prescribes minimum performance and construction requirements for pressurized water storage tanks for well systems. The pressurized water storage tank standard is used by regulatory agencies when developing codes for pressurized water storage tanks.

WSC also has developed standards and installation procedures for water well pitless adapters, pitless units and well caps, PST-97(04).

Both standards and a list of products certified as meeting the standards by independent testing laboratories are available at www.watersystemscouncil.org/standards/index.cfm or by calling WSC Member Services, 202-625-4387.

