

# National Drinking Water Week

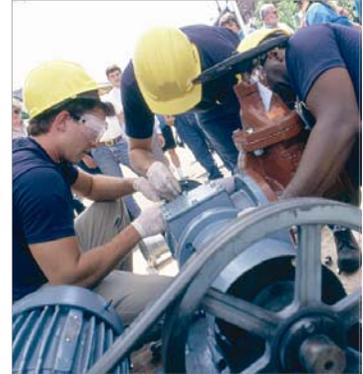
## May 2 – 8, 2010

### Celebrating Water and Wastewater Operators

*“Protecting Ohio’s Health and Environment”*

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Do you know who the professionals are protecting your health and community by providing safe drinking water and ensuring wastewater is discharged in an environmentally safe manner? Did you know many operators have special training and certifications in order to participate in this line of work? In fact, almost 10,000 water and wastewater operators have been certified by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).



The vast majority of us take our water quality for granted and don't think twice about turning on the tap or flushing the toilet.

Water and wastewater operators are some of the unsung heroes of our communities. The water and wastewater industry just might be one of the most important in the world, since no one can live without water. On a day-to-day basis, it could be argued the work done by water and wastewater operators may be even more critical to the personal well-being of the people living in your community than police or fire protection services. Obviously police and fire protection are vitally important, but you don't rely on them every day as you do water and wastewater operators. If something happens at a water or wastewater treatment plant, there is potential for a very large portion of the population to be affected, significant environmental damage to occur, and people to get sick and even die.

It takes knowledgeable, conscientious people to deliver safe drinking water and to ensure wastewater is discharged in an environmentally safe manner. Water and wastewater operators perform a wide variety of tasks. They may be repairing a leak in a water line, running a backhoe, welding pipe and fixing a pump one day and the next day working in the laboratory testing samples for disease-causing organisms or presenting information to the town board or the public.

#### **For more information on the water and wastewater industry:**

- Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters [Operator Certification Program](#)
- Ohio's Water Professionals: [Operator Training Committee of Ohio, American Water Works Association, and Ohio Rural Water Association](#)
- [Ohio Water Environment Association](#)
- Water Environment Federation's [Water Heroes](#)
- U.S. EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water [Operator Certification Program](#)
- American Water Works Association (AWWA) [People Behind the Water](#)