Recommended Reading List
Drinking Water Operators Training Manuals

In partnership with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Wisconsin Water Library is making available these technical manuals in support of the educational needs of current and potential drinking water operators around the state.

Water, while being one of the most essential natural resources, is given very little thought in our day-to-day lives. Most of us are fortunate enough to simply turn on the tap and fill a glass with pure safe drinking water. However not all of our water begins as a substance that is safe to our health.

The Safe Drinking Water Act was passed by Congress in 1974 to ensure the quality and safety of our nation’s public drinking water supply. Public drinking water goes through a regulated treatment process to ensure that it is safe to drink and free of disease-causing organisms and toxic substances. Water is also treated to remove undesirable tastes, odors, or appearances. Drinking water is obtained from a variety of sources.

In Wisconsin, most water is obtained from groundwater wells. However, some cities along large lakes, such as Lake Michigan and Lake Winnebago, obtain and treat water directly from the lake. The people that work at water treatment plants, operators, play an important role in maintaining our nation’s public health.

Anyone can borrow these materials - please fill in the book request form.
Water treatment plant operation: a field study training program. Volume I, Sixth edition
Sacramento: California State University, Sacramento: 2008. WWL call no. 172944

Designed to train operators in the safe and effective operation and maintenance of water treatment plants, Volume I emphasizes the knowledge and skills needed by an operator working in a conventional water treatment plant used for treating surface waters. Prepared by Office of Water Programs, College of Engineering and Computer Science, California State University, Sacramento; Kenneth D. Kerri, Project Director.

Water treatment plant operation: a field study training program, Vol. II, fifth edition Sacramento: California State University, Sacramento: 2006. WWL call. no. 172945

The purpose of this water treatment field study training program is to: (1) develop new qualified water treatment plant operators; (2) expand the abilities of existing operators, permitting better service both to employers and public; and (3) prepare operators for civil service and certification examinations (examinations administered by state/professional associations which operators take to indicate a level of professional competence). Volume 2 is a continuation of volume 1, in which the emphasis was on the knowledge and skills needed by operators of conventional surface water treatment plants. Prepared by Office of Water Programs, College of Engineering and Computer Science, California State University, Sacramento

Small water system operation and maintenance: a field study training program - fifth edition
Sacramento: California State University, Sacramento Foundation: 2009. WWL call no. 172946

The objective of this manual is to provide small water system operators with the knowledge and skills required to operate and maintain their systems effectively. Prepared by Office of Water Programs College of Engineering and Computer Science California State University, Sacramento.
Water distribution system operation and maintenance: a field study training program - Sixth edition  
Sacramento: Office of Water Programs, CSU: 2012. WWL call no. 172947

Written to train operators in the practical aspects of operating and maintaining water distribution systems, emphasizing safe practices and procedures. Prepared by Office of Water Programs, College of Engineering and Computer Science, California State University, Sacramento; Kenneth D. Kerri, project director.


Water distribution operator training handbook  
Denver, CO: American Water Works Association: 2013. WWL call no. 172953

This updated edition covers water resources and production, storage, distribution, chlorine handling, utility safety, system hydraulics, pipe types, installation, maintenance, meters, pumps, motors, public relations, and overall system operations. Edited by William C. Lauer. Fourth edition.