

# MWQA News



## MWQA Offers Prep Class for Those Taking State License Exam

Anyone planning to take the Minnesota Journeyman or Master Water Conditioning License exam this year is encouraged to attend MWQA's prep class on Friday, June 19.

The class will be taught by Gary Ford of Metro Testing & Mechanical. Gary has been a licensed plumber since 1978, a plumbing inspector for the City of Fridley and City of Maple Grove, and has been involved in various code change committees at the state level.

He has a building inspection technology degree and has taught State of Minnesota Building Code Division plumbing code classes in the BIT program. He is the head plumbing instructor at Century College, and a licensed plumber for the City of Minneapolis and City of St. Paul.

Gary teaches ongoing classes for plumbing, backflow prevention, codes and regulations.

The class will be held at the Maple Grove Community Center, located at 12951 Weaver Lake Road in Maple Grove. The class begins at 9 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m. Lunch is included in the registration price of \$149 for members and \$199 for non-members.

### License Requirements & Exam Dates

A license is required for a water conditioning journeyman or master in Minnesota. Licensed water conditioning persons can only install and service water conditioning equipment in single-family dwellings. A water conditioning Master or Journeyman's license must be renewed and should be carried at all times on a work site.

The link below will take you to the Minnesota DOLI site, which includes all paperwork needed to get your license, renew your license, and take the exam:

<http://www.doli.state.mn.us/CCLD/PlumbingWater.asp>

Exams are scheduled across the state, including St. Paul, Detroit Lakes, Owatonna, Granite Falls, Duluth, St. Cloud and Shakopee. Outstate exams are given on specific dates only. See the DOLI website for dates. Exams administered by DOLI occur weekly in St. Paul. Exclusions may be made for weeks with a state holiday.

You must complete the application, register for the exam and receive approval of your application before taking an exam. Follow this link to complete the application and register for your exam:

[http://www.doli.state.mn.us/CCLD/PDF/wc\\_exam.pdf](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/CCLD/PDF/wc_exam.pdf)

Direct your questions regarding license eligibility and examinations to [dli.exam@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.exam@state.mn.us). Please identify the license exam you are inquiring about and include your contact information, application number if known, and other pertinent information in the email message.

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## *MWQA President Mike Herman Named to State Plumbing Board*

MWQA President Mike Herman has been appointed by Governor Dayton to serve on the State Plumbing Board. Mike will fill the position previously held by Mike McGowan, past president of MWQA. Herman's position on the Plumbing Board expires in December 2017.

The Minnesota Plumbing Board oversees the Plumbing Code in Minnesota, including all rules that regulate the licensure or registration of plumbing contractors, journeymen, unlicensed individuals, master plumbers, restricted master plumbers, restricted journeymen, water conditioning contractors, and water conditioning installers, and other persons engaged in the design, installation, and alteration of plumbing systems or engaged in or working at the business of water conditioning installation or service (except for individuals licensed as architects or professional engineers). The board oversees rules that regulate continuing education for individuals licensed as master plumbers, journeyman plumbers, restricted master plumbers, restricted journeyman plumbers, water conditioning contractors, and water conditioning installers.

Mike Herman joined Driessen Water as Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer in 2006. He is a member of the Texas WQA and has his master water conditioning license in Minnesota.

# Industry Members Recognized For Support

Thanks to the following MWQA members, and non-members, who have contributed to the MWQA's legal fund. We are asking all members to consider a donation to the legal fund this year.

*aba Water Systems - Plainview*  
*Aquarius Water Cond. - St. Paul*  
*Arrowhead Water - Cloquet*  
*Ben Holzer Unlimited - Perham*  
*Better Water Industries - Tyler*  
*Commers Water - Minneapolis*  
*Culligan - Albert Lea*  
*Culligan - Anoka*  
*Culligan - Austin*  
*Culligan - Baxter*  
*Culligan - Bemidji*  
*Culligan - Benson*  
*Culligan - Buffalo*  
*Culligan - Cloquet*  
*Culligan - Elbow Lake*  
*Culligan - Fairmont*  
*Culligan - Faribault*  
*Culligan - Kasson*  
*Culligan - La Crosse, Wisconsin*  
*Culligan - Madelia*  
*Culligan - Minnetonka*  
*Culligan - Montevideo*  
*Culligan - Northfield*  
*Culligan - Owatonna*  
*Culligan - Pine City*  
*Culligan - Red Wing*  
*Culligan - Rochester*  
*Culligan - St. Cloud*  
*Culligan - Stillwater*  
*Culligan - Wadena*

*Culligan - Waseca*  
*Culligan - Winona*  
*Ecolab - St. Paul*  
*Ecowater of Marshall*  
*Erkens Water - Cold Spring*  
*Finken Water - St. Cloud*  
*Frakco - Luverne*  
*Haferman Water - Twin Cities*  
*Hellenbrand Water - Waunakee, WI*  
*Hidrocare - Forest Lake*  
*Hiivala, Inc - Virginia & Hibbing*  
*Jahnke Water - Olivia*  
*Kandi Water - Spicer*  
*Mayer Soft Water/Culligan - St. Peter*  
*Mike's Softener Service*  
*Milbert Culligan - St. Paul*  
*McGowan Water - Mankato*  
*Northland Water - Rosemount*  
*Pentair Water*  
*Range Water - Grand Rapids*  
*Robert B. Hill Company - Minneapolis*  
*Schultz Soft Water - Sauk Rapids*  
*Sterling Water - Eau Claire, Wis.*  
*& Sauk Center, Minn.*  
*Ultrapure - Driessen Water*  
*United Salt Corporation*  
*Water Control - Ramsey*  
*Zachman's Watercare - Mahtomedi*

## WQA Rolls Out New Certification Program

The WQA's Modular Education Program, which provides a new pathway to WQA's professional certifications, was implemented in May. The program includes training that reflects everyday, on-the-job scenarios and customer questions. This program is for anyone involved in the POU/POE treatment market, from non-technical office staff to sales and marketing personnel, to installers and service technicians and system designers. Specific educational pathways address the learning needs of each job role, and provide the flexibility for building custom educational paths based on topics of interest to the learner. The educational materials in this program focus on a broad range of POU/POE treatment technologies - ion exchange, media filtration, reverse osmosis and other membrane filtration, UV disinfection, ozone disinfection, chlorine disinfection and aeration. The materials also address applications besides water softening - drinking water treatment for potability and aesthetics, stain prevention, pH adjustment, and corrosion prevention. For more information, visit the WQA's website at [www.wqa.org](http://www.wqa.org).

# MWQA Planning Fall Convention October 22-23 in Lakeville

The Holiday Inn in Lakeville will once again be the setting for MWQA's fall convention, scheduled for October 22-23, 2015. Located right off I-35W, the hotel is easy to access and reasonably priced. Mark your calendar for our fall event!

A vendor fair, several educational seminars and updates on the Plumbing Code in Minnesota are some of the events on the MWQA's fall convention schedule.

Tentative plans are to hold educational seminars both days for those with licenses in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Seminar attendees will earn credit toward their license renewals and WQA certification, pending approval.

Events also include a banquet and annual meeting. The current status of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, and MWQA's involvement in pending legislation, will be discussed.

Plan to attend our annual event to reconnect with others in the industry, earn credits required to retain your state license, or to continue your WQA certification. If there are specific topics you would like to see addressed at our educational seminars, let us know!

We look forward to seeing you in October!



**MWQA Annual  
Convention  
Thursday - Friday  
October 22-23, 2015  
Holiday Inn  
Lakeville, Minnesota**



## Board of Directors Meeting Dates

MWQA Board meetings are open to any member, and are held at Unco Data Systems in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, June 26 (rescheduled  
from June 19)**

**Friday, July 24**

**Friday, August 14**

**Friday, September 18**

**Friday, October 23**

**Friday, November 20**

**Friday, December 18**

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**Minnesota Water Quality  
Association  
PO Box 48452  
Minneapolis, MN 55448  
www.mwqa.com  
Email: [info@mwqa.com](mailto:info@mwqa.com)  
763-754-2123**

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## MWQA Gains New Members

Two new members joined MWQA recently. They are:

Jon Hantge

**Tri County Water Conditioning, Inc.**

PO Box 65

Hutchinson, MN 55350

[www.treatmywater.com](http://www.treatmywater.com)

**Cargill Salt**

9380 Excelsior Boulevard

Hopkins, MN 55343

Mike Fogle

[www.cargillsalt.com](http://www.cargillsalt.com)

## MWQA Website Under Construction

MWQA's website is currently undergoing reconstruction. The software used to create the database of MWQA members has become obsolete, prompting a redesign of the database. Member names, addresses and logos are in the process of being added to the database, and it may take a few weeks for everything to come together. Please take a moment to check your listing and let us know if your listing is incorrect, keeping in mind that the new information may not be online yet. Thanks for your patience!



# Minnesota's Residential Fire Sprinkler Rules Affect Water Filtration Systems

Homes over 4500 square feet in size that are constructed in Minnesota now need to have automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in the home. This requirement has led to some questions about water conditioning systems as they relate to home sprinkler systems. Listed below are some of the questions posed to the Department of Labor and Industry regarding this issue:

**Question: Can a licensed or certified residential fire sprinkler system contractor, journeyman, or installer connect a multipurpose potable water piping sprinkler system to the potable water piping system of the dwelling?**

Answer: No. Unless that person is properly licensed as a multipurpose potable water piping system contractor. The sprinkler contractor can install the fire sprinkler system after the water connection is made by a plumbing contractor.

[MS § 299M.01Subd. 7, MS § 326B.46 Subd. 1(a)]

**Question: Can a plumbing contractor install a multipurpose potable water piping system?**

Answer: The plumbing contractor must also be licensed as a multipurpose potable water piping system contractor in accordance with section 326B.46 and is certified pursuant to section 299M.03. Contact the State Fire Marshal for additional information.

**Question: Who can install piping material proposed for a combination system that supplies both potable water and fire suppression?**

Answer: If the piping is supplying both fire protection systems and domestic plumbing fixtures (from the same piping/tubing), this is called a multipurpose potable water piping system and can only be installed by a licensed plumbing contractor who is also certified by the system manufacturer.

**Question: Is the fire sprinkler design affected by the installation of a water softener or water filtration system?**

Answer: Yes. NFPA 13D [2010 edition] Section 6.5.4 and the 2012 IRC Section P2904.6.2.2 require one of the following when water treatment/filtration systems are installed:

- 1) Flow restriction/pressure loss through the equipment shall be included in the hydraulic calculations
- 2) An automatic bypass shall be installed that directs all water to the sprinkler system.

For more information, see the DOLI website document:

<http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/sprinklerfaq.pdf>

**Question: In a well system water supply, is it required to have a pump listed for fire protection to serve the fire sprinkler system?**

Answer: No. NFPA 13D does not require pumps supplying the sprinkler system to be listed as fire pumps - it only requires that the pump be automatic. Wiring is required to conform to NFPA 70 National Electrical Code. See additional information from the State Fire Marshal's Policy FP-10 the Use of Wells as a Water Supply for Fire Protection Systems.

## *Bret Tangley Named WQA President*

The Water Quality Association (WQA), a national non-profit based in Lisle, Ill. that serves as a resource and advocate for improved water quality, named Bret Tangley of Eau Claire-based Sterling Water Inc. president of the Water Quality Association. Tangley is a certified master water specialist and has held numerous positions on the WQA executive committee of the board of governors. He also has served on the Board of Directors of both the Wisconsin WQA and Minnesota WQA. Tangley recently received an award for his 25 years of service at the 2015 Culligan Dealers Association of North America Convention in New Orleans.

Mike McGowan, past president of MWQA, was named to the national WQA's Board of Directors. Mike is a master water specialist and operates McGowan Water Conditioning in Mankato.

## *Nitrate Concerns In State Water Report*

The Minnesota Department of Health's annual drinking water report shows that while the vast majority of Minnesota's public water supply systems provide clean, safe drinking water, their ability to do so is increasingly challenged by nitrate contamination and other threats to their source water.

The report highlighted several areas of concern. Detectable levels of coliform bacteria were found in 11 community water systems, including 8 municipal systems. Systems with coliform problems are routinely disinfected,

flushed, and re-tested to ensure that the contamination is gone before being returned to the drinking water supply.

Fourteen communities in Minnesota have nitrate levels that exceed health standards before treatment, in the groundwater used as source water. As much as 10 percent of all small, "non-community" systems that supply drinking water for schools, lodging, and businesses in the state, have elevated levels of nitrate. For information, go to <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/index.html>

