



SPRING BREAK

By Kevin Miller & Morris Coolidge | Technical Assistance Provider

We extend our best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to all our members! Unfortunately, for most of our exceptional Water Operations Specialists, the term SPRING BREAK doesn't mean a tropical vacation spent on a sandy beach with an umbrella drink. But rather to the multitude of water main and service line issues encountered during the late winter and early spring, while others are packing their bags for vacation. So how does one that is responsible in this industry ever get the much deserved time to get away? This is a difficult task but a necessary component for a well balanced life!

Everyone depends on and needs good clean water, however more often the demands of the job can interfere with the decision making for a vacation. One really needs time away to enjoy life and its refreshing feeling.



One item that Operations Specialists and systems can develop to alleviate this issue is a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This provides a written sense of security that is onsite for anyone responsible for operation of the water system. It is a simple template developed by the NYRWA and approved for use by the NYSDOH. A Standard Operating Procedure is very helpful and can be a key component to ensuring the operational capacity of a water system by listing the systems assets, and then providing in detail how to properly operate and maintain each component. For instance, your SOP will address your disinfection system and identify the solution strength, feed pump size, normal setpoints, and required free chlorine residual at various points in the system. It will also document the system's operating pressure with sized water lines and its inline valves. Further, the SOP will list annual monitoring requirements, key emergency contacts,

routine intervals for maintenance items such as hydrant flushing, and provide an easy to read document for all personnel to follow, especially when the lead or senior operations specialist is away on spring break!

If your system does not currently have a Standard Operating Procedure, do not be alarmed. Your New York Rural Water Association staff are here to help you get started. We understand if this sounds like a daunting task, we've been there ourselves. In honesty, we have found that most Operations Specialists can complete the SOP in a very limited amount of time and refer to it as merely gathering information from various places and compiling it into one document. Keep in mind with safety first, the SOP will give a voice of protection and direction your system can use all the time. If you are interested in developing a Standard Operating Procedure, or if you require any other type of water system technical assistance, please reach out to either of our NYS Technical Assistance Providers.

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