

# Preparing For You Sanitary Survey

By

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If you currently operate a community water system or a non-transient, non-community water system you can expect to get a sanitary survey inspection every three years. Those who operate a non-community water system will get one every five years. Some operators may dread these visits, but most welcome the opportunity to sit down and get some questions answered or tips on improving their day-to-day operations.

There are several things you can do to make your system inspection go smoother. Take some time to walk around and inspect your system prior to the field representative's arrival. Basic cleanliness goes a long way. That pile of greasy rags that has been laying in the corner of your well house for two and half years has got to go. Also, make sure if something is broken to get it fixed. If you have a pressure gauge that's older than you are and hasn't worked since you've been there, buy a new one and get it installed. It only takes a short time to install and every field rep will write you up for improper maintenance.

The next item that almost every operator gets written up on is not having a proper screen on the blow off on the well, the overflow pipe on your tower, or standpipe. If your piping in the well house is very rusty, get a good quality metal paint and spruce up the piping and valves. Check through your records and find out the last time your tower/storage facility was inspected. The state requires this to be done every five years. If you are close or it's been longer than five years since your last inspection, start making some phone calls to schedule an inspection.

They are also going to check to see if you have been doing your draw down readings. These reading are required once per month from May 1 through September 30 and once every three month from October 1 through April 30. If

you have not been doing these or do not know how to perform these, call one of us at NeRWA and we will be happy to assist you.

One item that is easily overlooked is the yearly cross connection/backflow public education flyer. These are required to be distributed to each consumer, or smaller systems can post in a prominent place. Make sure you keep a dated copy and put it in your file for inspection. Along these lines you are also required to do a cross connection control survey every five years. There are several different forms that are approved by the state. This is a rather lengthy process especially for larger systems as the state requires a 100% response on these.

To help your survey go smoothly try to get all your paperwork and records in one place. This eliminates having to run all over town i.e. city hall, water plant, well house, tower etc.

If you do get a Section A violation, you have 45 days to respond in writing how you plan to correct your deficiencies. **Starting December 1, 2009 you will have 30 days to respond.** My primary job is providing assistance with sanitary surveys. If you need assistance call me or Scott Sprague at 402-471-0088 to be put on the state's 2% priority list. This will make you eligible for assistance free of charge.