

# GRANITE STATE OPERATOR

Spring 2007

## GRANITE STATE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### System Spotlight - Warner Village WWTP

The Warner Village Wastewater Treatment Plant was selected by the US EPA for their 2006 National First Place Award in the Most Improved Plant category. The staff is being recognized by EPA for outstanding work at this facility and its overall commitment to improving water quality. It was a dramatic turnaround for this facility primarily due to the efforts of Superintendent Jeremiah Menard, who was hired in 2004 by the District. One dedicated and hard working individual can truly make a difference.



Warner Village excelled in several areas to be selected, these include:

- Implementation of numerous process control improvements in recent years to result in no NPDES permit violations since 2004, compared to having as many as 39 NPDES permit violations between 2000 and 2003
- Development of a proactive and comprehensive collection system maintenance program
- Complete renovation and overhaul of the laboratory
- Reducing chemical usage at a significant cost savings to the town
- Improvements to the sludge handling and removal process for additional cost savings, and
- Implementation of an outstanding plant maintenance and equipment improvement program.

Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England office said, "The professionals operating this wastewater treatment plant play a crucial role ensuring that our lakes and rivers are protected from unnecessary pollution, thereby keeping our environment healthy. We are proud to give them the credit they deserve."

Superintendent Menard, along with operators Thomas Chandler and Daniel Burnham, were acknowledged for their professional commitment and resourcefulness in the operation and maintenance of the Warner Village WWTP. In addition, James McLaughlin, Clerk for the District, and Peg McLaughlin, Administrative Assistance, have been instrumental in providing support and assistance to the WWTP staff. Furthermore, the District Commissioners, Philip Lord, Peter Newman, and Lynn Perkins, have been supportive of the improvements that the plant has made in recent years.



The staff and facility received their award during the annual Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC).

The US EPA Clean Water Act Recognition Awards have been established to recognize and honor the employees of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants for their commitment to improving water quality, not only with outstanding operation and maintenance, but also through a combination of continued permit compliance, effective financial management and on-going operator training.

### Meet The Operator - Thomas Chandler

Thomas has been at Warner Village since the beginning. He originally working on the construction of the treatment plant thirty years ago, doing concrete and steel installation. He was then asked to stay on as an operator and in the laboratory. The Warner Village Commissioners dedicated their wastewater laboratory to Thomas in 2006. Now, at 65, he continues to work for them four days per week doing lab work.



*Along with monitoring the treatment plant, he also takes care of the resident rooster*



## Who We Are

Since 1982, the staff of Granite State Rural Water Association has supported water and wastewater systems across the state. We provide many services including training, source water protection planning and onsite technical assistance.

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## TRAINING EVENTS

### Line Locating & Leak Detection

Date & Location:  
5/1/07 at Berlin WTP  
Credits: 6 TCH  
Cost: \$60 non-members  
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### Trenching, Traffic Control & Confined Space Training By EJ Prescott

Date & Location:  
6/19/07 at Plymouth Village District  
Credits: 6 TCH  
Cost: \$60 non-members  
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### Process Instrument Verification By HACH

Date & Location:  
10/24/07 at Pennichuck Water Works  
Credits: 7 TCH  
Cost: \$100 non-members  
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### Water & Wastewater Analysis By HACH

Date & Location:  
10/25/07 at Pennichuck Water Works  
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## NOTICE TO READERS

Granite State Rural Water Association would like to invite you to prepare a short article about your water or wastewater system, or other topics, which would be of interest to our readers. We also welcome articles from our Associate Members.

Send your articles with photographs, if available, to:  
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Water Supply Engineering Bureau

## 2007 NH Drinking Water Week Festival

Sponsored by the NH Drinking Water Week Coalition for 4 and 5 grade students

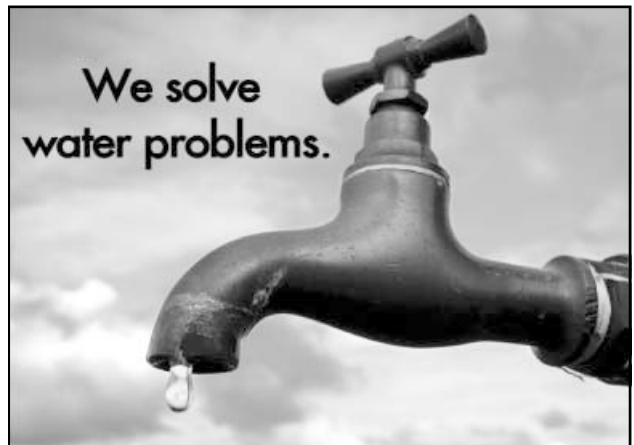
**Where?** Deerfield Fairgrounds, 34 Stage Rd, Deerfield NH 03037

**When?** Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 9:00AM - 2:00PM

**Who?** Fourth and Fifth graders, teachers, and the interested public

**Why?** To educate students and the public about clean drinking water, focusing on: water cycle, groundwater, drinking water, water pollution, wetlands, and water conservation

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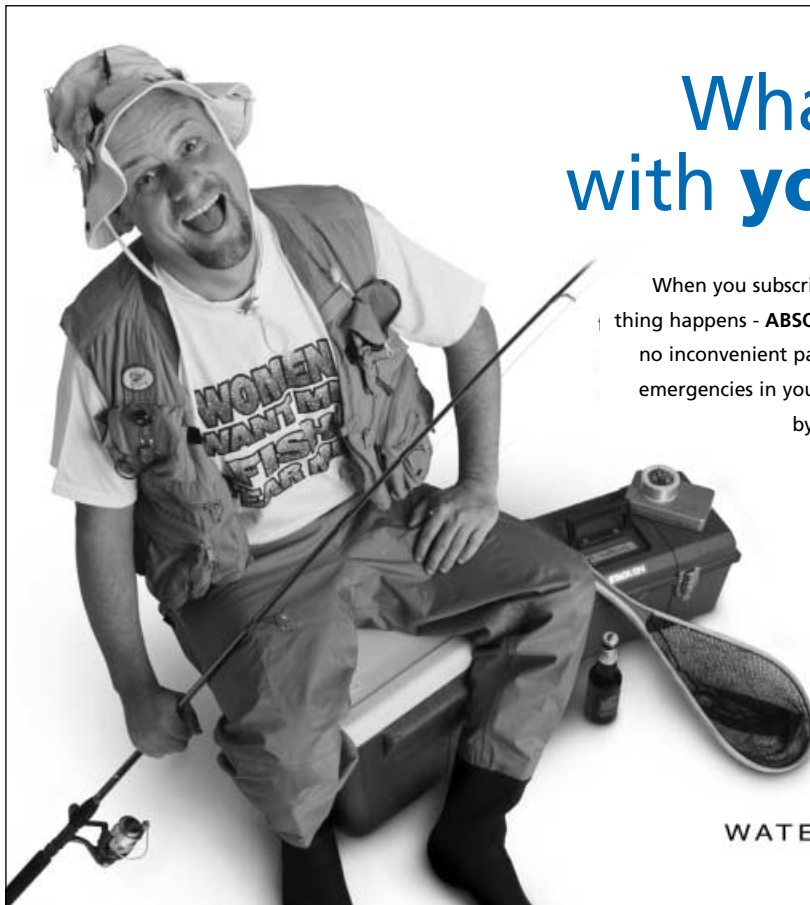
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## Mountain Lakes District Completes Watershed Management Plan

By Jennifer Palmiotto

Concerned about the rate of lot conversion, the amount of timbering, and housing development in the Mountain Lakes District, the District's Planning Board and Water Commissioners approached GSRWA for assistance in protecting water resources, and in particular, their drinking water supply. The District has a bedrock well and a shallow gravel-packed well which together serve approximately 650 people living in the District. The gravel-packed well is located adjacent to the Lower Lake making watershed protection as opposed to wellhead protection more appropriate.

In October 2006 the Planning Board conducted a survey which found that a majority of property owners placed a top priority on protecting water resources. In November 2006, with GSRWA's assistance, the District held a workshop on Water Quality. Speakers addressed topics including an introduction to the Mountain Lakes Watershed, water resources threats, the District's water supply, and how to develop a management plan to protect water resources. Following the workshop, District Commissioners appointed a twelve-member task force, the Mountain Lakes Watershed Advisory Committee, to examine how the District could better protect these resources. The Watershed Advisory Committee represents a variety of District Boards and community interests.

Overall the water quality in the watershed appears to be in relatively good condition, however, rising conductivity values in the Upper and Lower Lakes suggest that land uses are having a negative impact. Likely causes are road salt and/or septic systems.

Since the Committee began meeting in November 2006 it has identified seven priority areas of concern and developed specific recommendations to address these water quality threats. These concerns include:

- Septic Systems
- Stormwater Runoff
- Lot Clearance and Site Development
- Inappropriate use of Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles
- Roadways
- Inadequate Zoning
- Enforcement Issues

The Committee developed a number of recommendations to address water quality threats. Sample recommendations include:

- Improve the District's zoning ordinance to better protect water resources.
- Inventory and map all stormwater structures.
- Install barriers to prevent unauthorized vehicular access in the sanitary protection radius of the District wells.
- Educate residents about septic system management and use.

For more information about the Mountain Lakes Watershed Plan, or if you would like source protection assistance contact Jennifer Palmiotto, GSRWA (603) 753-4055.



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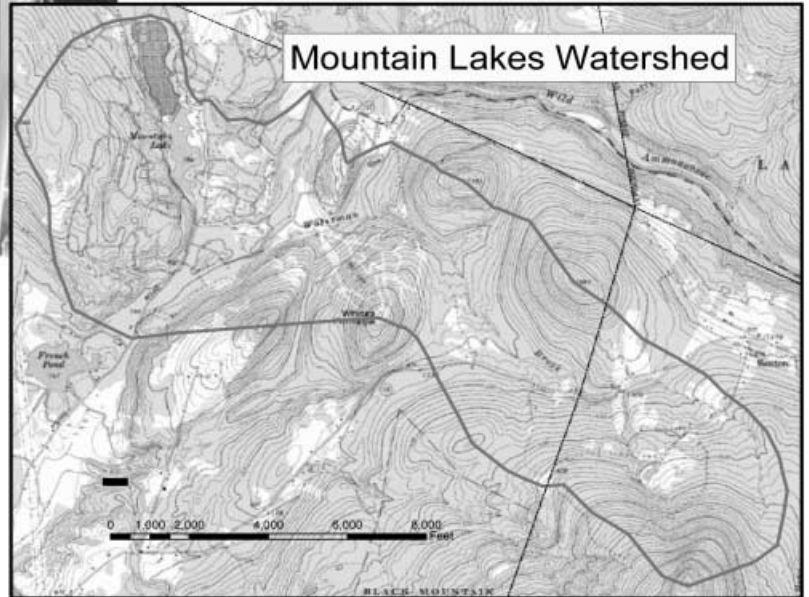
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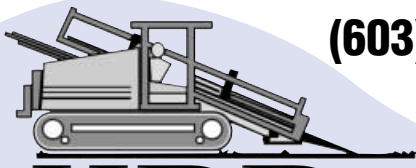
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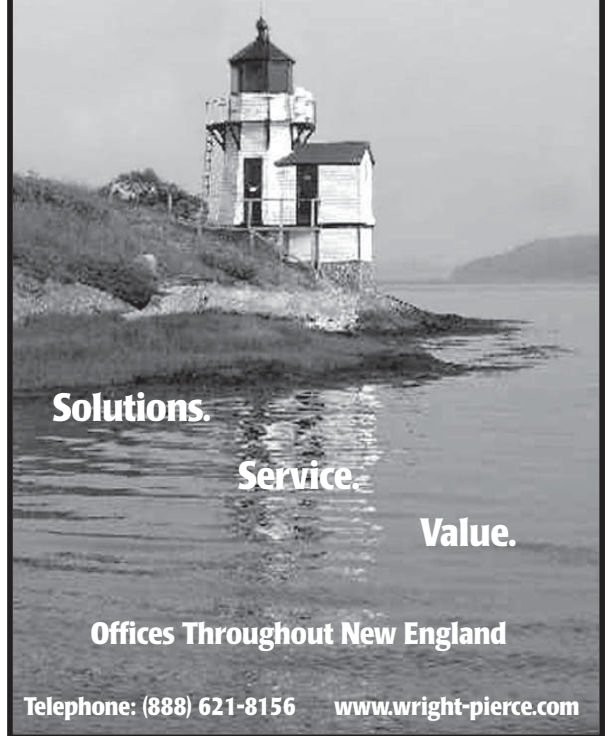
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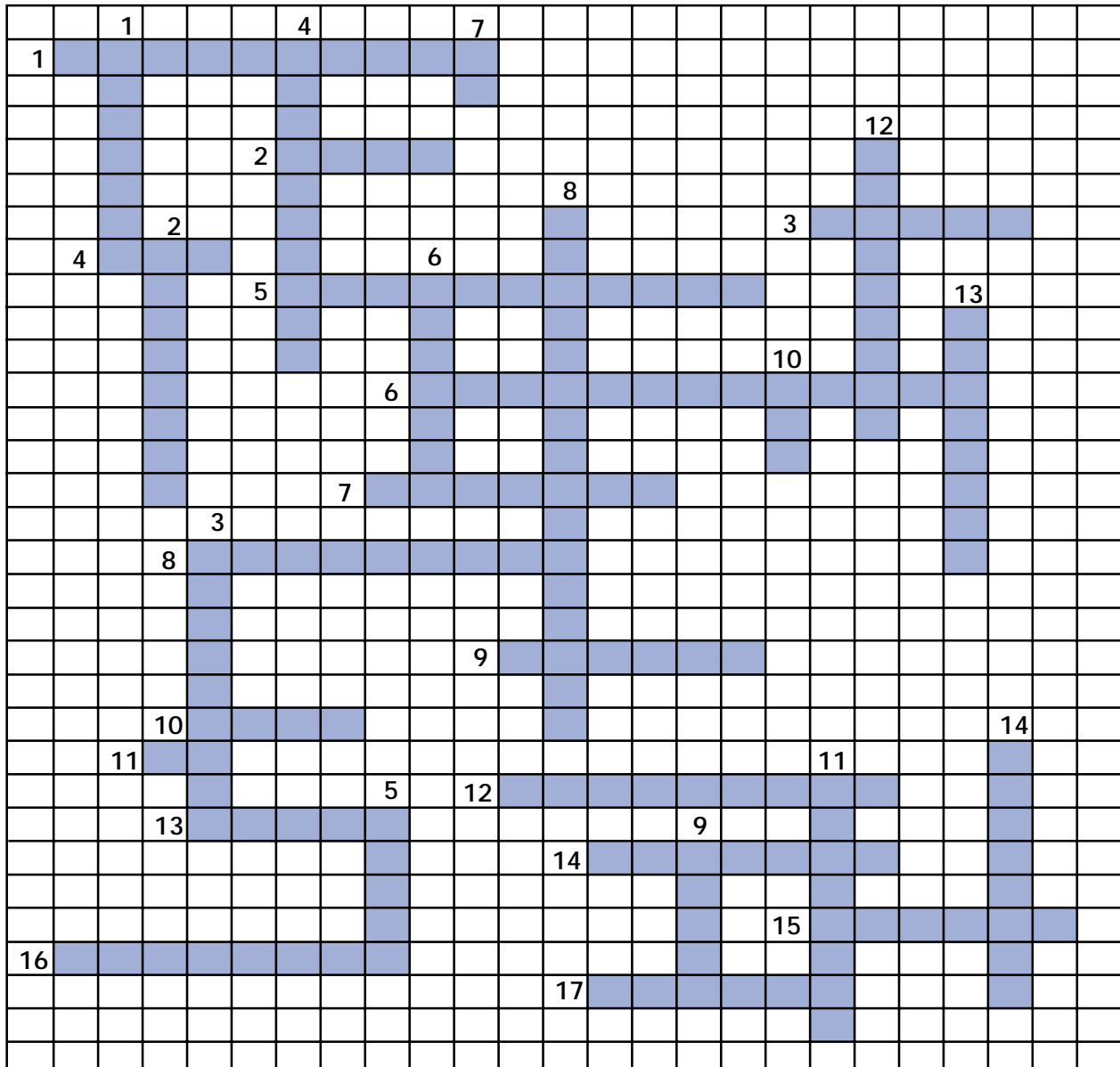
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## Quiz Corner

By Vinnie Melendez



### Across

- Centrifugal pump noises will most likely be due to this.
- A chemical commonly used for coagulation in water treatment is.
- To remove a gas or vapor from a vessel, reactor or confined space, usually by displacement or dilution.
- Temporary cloudiness in a freshly drawn sample of tap water may be caused by this.
- Water treatment chemical copperas is this.
- The return of part of the effluent from a treatment process to incoming flow is.
- A pH value of 7.0 is considered to be this.
- A toxic substance is always considered this.
- A solution or liquid whose chemical make-up neutralizes acids or bases without great change in pH.
- A movable watertight barrier for the control of liquid in a waterway.
- Chemical symbol for iron.

- Calcium oxide is also called.
- Intermittent releases or discharges of industrial trial wastes are referred to as these.
- Of intestinal origin, especially applied to wastes or bacteria
- Having a cloudy or muddy appearance.
- This is used in water to disinfect.
- An insect or other organism capable of transmitting germs or other agents of disease.

### Down

- Chloramines are formed by the addition of chlorine and this.
- Liquid, raw or partially treated flowing into a basin, reservoir, treatment process, or treatment plant is referred to as this.
- Disease producing organisms are commonly called.
- The indicator methyl orange is used to test for this.

- To mix with water so that a true chemical combination (hydrolysis) takes place.
- Methemoglobinemia is thought to be caused mainly by high concentrations of this.
- Chemical symbol for sodium.
- The amperometric titration method is used to measure this.
- A substance which is poisonous to a living organism to a living organism is referred to as this.
- Aeration is defined as bringing water into intimate contact with this.
- Chlorine is very corrosive when combined with this.
- Fluoride in excessive amounts causes this.
- The water leaving a centrifuge after most of the solids have been removed is referred to as this.
- Adsorption operates on the principle of this.

Answers on Page 8

## Benefits of Smoke Testing a Collection System - Part 1

By Vinnie Melendez

Smoke testing is one of the most efficient and cost effective way to locate and identify the source of an inflow or infiltration problem. It is important to find and identify these sources because they may seriously affect the efficiency of the wastewater treatment facility and increase operating expenses.

Some examples of the impact that Inflow and Infiltration may cause are as follows:

- Pump stations handling large volumes of unnecessary water
- Hydraulic overloads that will greatly reduce system efficiency
- Increased operating expenses due to the processing of ground and storm water that do not require treatment
- Unnecessary equipment wear
- Increased collection system maintenance and cleaning

There are a few factors to consider when deciding if implementing a smoke testing program will be beneficial to your Facility. What is the age and type of materials used in the collection system? Many sanitary systems are 50 to 100 years old and are constructed of out-dated materials. Over time, decay and roots cause breaks in the lines that will permit excessive infiltration during wet periods. The presence of undesired connections such as basement and yard drains, catch basins, cross connections from storm sewers, foundation drains and roof down spouts will cause elevated flows every time it rains. The easiest way to tell if this exists in your collection system is to have a look at the plant's influent flow meter.

Smoke testing is a very quick and easy way to determine if buildings are properly connected to your system. Smoke should exit the vent stacks of the surrounding properties within the testing area. If traces of the smoke or its odor enter the building, it is an indication that gases from the sewer system may also be entering. Smoke that enters a building can cause panic and stress to an unsuspecting individual. This will require some good public relations skills and allow for an opportunity to stress the importance of correcting the problem. Remind them that the smoke entering their building is their friend. If smoke is entering their home or business, DANGEROUS gases could be entering as well. The smoke that is manufactured specifically for testing is not dangerous or toxic, leaves no residuals or stains, and has no effects on plants or animals. It has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor. The visible smoke and odor will only last for a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation. Sewer gases are dangerous! A few of these gases have no odor and present the most serious problem because they can enter a building undetected. These gases can cause anything from minor illness to death. Identifying and correction of the source of any smoke entering a building is urgently advised.

Possible causes for this smoke entering the building are:

- The vents connected to the building's sewer lateral are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- The traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers, floor drains, etc. are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing.
- The pipes, connections, and seals of the building's sewer system are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

*Continued on Page 8*

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### Smoke testing continued

In the end, if the situation is handled properly, the property owner is usually grateful for the assistance and information that you provide. Smoke testing can also be very useful in locating "lost" manholes. Although collection systems can cost millions of dollars they are often the first thing to be neglected when there is a decrease in funding and staffing levels because they are out of sight and out of mind until a problem occurs. In my opinion the biggest benefit of conducting a smoke testing program is the high visibility and learning opportunities of the staff by being out in the collection system for a few days.

The public, in general, has a preconceived notion that the wastewater treatment plant operators don't do much. Make sure to cease the opportunities that will arise while conducting this testing to explain what you are doing. You will be surprised how grateful they are! Staff will also be provided a great chance to familiarize themselves with the design, function, location and condition of the collection system that they seldom have a chance to get out and work in.

#### How does smoke testing work?

Smoke testing is conducted by placing a blower over a centrally located manhole and forcing non-toxic smoke-filled air through a sewer line. Depending on the equipment being used the smoke will be generated by lighting a smoke bomb or utilizing liquid smoke. Using liquid smoke will generally cut your labor costs. The smoke under pressure will fill the main line plus any connections; then follows the path of the leak to the ground surface quickly revealing the source of inflow and infiltration. Only enough force to overcome atmospheric pressure is required.

After placing the blower and filling the lines with smoke, staff will have to perform a visual inspection of the area being tested. When using liquid smoke, you control the time you want it to run. Typically, you will leave the smoke run until the crew has had ample time to do a thorough inspection. A field crew should consist of a minimum of two people.

You should check all connected lines, including abandoned and supposedly disconnected service lines, don't rush because minor leaks can easily be overlooked. It is important to carefully check around houses with close attention given to cleanouts and roof leaders. It is not uncommon to see smoke coming out of the grass, wooded areas, or cracks in the pavement. If smoke is found during the inspection it must be carefully recorded so that it can be corrected after the testing. Cameras make the job easier because a picture will help you relocate the problem after testing so that you can take corrective measures. It is also proof of the leak found. Blocking off a sewer line should not be necessary except when isolation is important. As long as openings exist for the smoke to follow, smoke tests are effective, regardless of surface type, soil type and depth of the lines.

Best results are obtained when the water tables are low and on dry days because water is an excellent vapor barrier. Smoke testing should also be avoided on windy days because even a very light breeze can disperse a wisp of smoke before it is visible at the source of a leak.

Part 2 will be in our Summer newsletter

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

### ACROSS

- |                  |               |              |                      |               |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. CAVITATION    | 8. POISONOUS  | 15. TURBID   | 3. PATHOGENS         | 10. AIR       |
| 2. ALUM          | 9. BUFFER     | 16. CHLORINE | 4. ALKALINITY        | 11. MOISTURE  |
| 3. PURGE         | 10. GATE      | 17. VECTOR   | 5. SLAKE             | 12. FLUOROSIS |
| 4. AIR           | 11. FE        |              | 6. NITRITE           | 13. CENTRATE  |
| 5. IRON SULFATE  | 12. QUICKLIME | DOWN         | 7. NA                | 14. ADHESION  |
| 6. RECIRCULATION | 13. SLUGS     | 1. AMMONIA   | 8. CHLORINE RESIDUAL |               |
| 7. NEUTRAL       | 14. ENTERIC   | 2. INFLUENT  | 9. TOXIC             |               |

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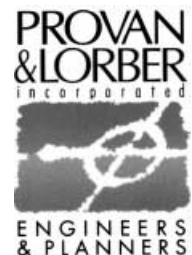
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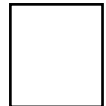
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