

**Gas
Detector
Repair &
Calibration**
NEW for 2009!

Don't want to deal with calibrating your gas detector yourself?

Want to save money by repairing the detector you already have?

USABlueBook is now offering Gas Detector Calibration and Repair services.

Call 800-548-1234 for more details.

USABlueBook Bingo!



We heard that many of our customers play Bingo with the pictures of our Customer Service Representatives. So, we decided to make it official!

See page 1689 of our new #120 Master Catalog for a proper USABluebook Bingo card. Cross off the CSRs as you talk to them, and you will be yelling, "BINGO!" in no time!



News from the Field

Got Gas? Make Sure your Gas Detector is Calibrated

By Allison Kenney, Technical Support Representative

Gas detectors protect personnel from various gases they can encounter in a confined space or other work environment. Since most of the gases in a confined space are odorless or can desensitize the sense of smell, people need to rely on gas detectors to make sure the environment they are about to enter is safe.

If your gas detector is not working properly, exposure to an oxygen-deficient atmosphere or to levels of toxic gas can cause serious injuries or death in a matter of minutes. To make sure your gas detector is working properly, it needs to be calibrated.

Bump test or full calibration?

You can calibrate your gas detector with a bump test or a full calibration. A bump test exposes the detector to a known concentration of test gas (i.e. gas in a labeled cylinder). You then compare the detector reading to the quantity of gas shown on the cylinder. If the detector's response is within range, then it is functioning properly.



If the detector fails the bump test, you need to perform a full calibration. In a full calibration, you adjust the detector's reading to match a known concentration of test gas. You usually only need a full calibration when the detector fails a bump test or after it has been serviced. Whether you are performing a bump test or a full calibration, calibration gas should always be NIST-certified.

Most manufacturers recommend gas detector full calibration every 6 months. The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA),

the U.S. trade association for companies that manufacture safety and personal protective equipment, recommends that at minimum, verification of sensor accuracy is completed prior to each use of the detector.

“Exposure to an oxygen-deficient atmosphere or to levels of toxic gas can cause serious injuries or death in just minutes.”

In the past it was very time consuming and difficult to fully calibrate a meter, so many people opted to only ever bump test their meter. Today's technology is making it easier and faster to fully calibrate a meter. Many newer meters have a “one-button calibration” function. There are even manufacturers that offer “calibration stations” that will automatically calibrate your detector if the bump test failed.

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Don't rest easy once you are calibrated!

Remember that not only do you need to check your air quality prior to entering a confined space; you should be continuously monitoring the air while you are inside. Some gases may not be detected during your initial check, but your activity in a confined space may make these gases appear.

For example, just stepping in a puddle in a manhole can release a cloud of hydrogen sulfide gas! Even though hydrogen sulfide has the smell of rotten eggs at low concentrations, the gas can desensitize your sense of smell and lead to a false sense of security. In levels of 1000 ppm or more, unconsciousness or death can happen in a matter of minutes.

USABlueBook offers a wide variety of replacement sensors, calibration gas and other accessories for many brands of gas detectors. If you have questions on your gas detector, feel free to give us a call at 1-800-548-1234.

For more detector calibration information, see <http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib050404.html>



USABlueBook Technical Training Manager

Hydrants: Water Theft Prevention

The old myth that “what falls from the sky is available to all for free” does not apply to the water that flows through the distribution system. When water is taken from a hydrant, it exposes the public to increased expenses and potential health risks.

Theft prevention planning should be a part of every system. The extent of protecting your system depends on your particular needs. Water theft from hydrants is perhaps the easiest to address. The plan to reduce theft can take several forms.

Public awareness and participation is a great place to start. The people of your community are a helpful resource to identify those unauthorized people taking water. Placing locks on the hydrants can be an easy solution for many systems, but first communicate and work with the fire departments to ensure fire protection is not compromised.

Some communities don't mind giving away water to contractors and to other specified businesses, but want to control the water taken to prevent system contamination. For these systems, contractors need to be directed to specified locations which have backflow protection equipment in place.

Doing nothing should never be an option. Consider the possible risks and potential consequences when developing your strategy. In so doing, you can develop a plan specific to your community.

We at USABlueBook will be glad to assist you in any way possible. For further information, please contact Don Van Veldhuizen at (503) 544-0456 or dvanveldhuizen@usabluebook.com, or LoAnn Mayer at 847-377-5162.



Our HydrantLok (stock # 22529) denies access to would-be water thieves.



This hydrant meter (stock # 14070) has a built-in backflow preventer, so you avoid contaminating the water supply when testing your hydrant's water flow and gallons used.



Break Time!

120 Catalog Trivia Contest

It's that time of year again! Find the answers to our trivia questions in the #120 Master Catalog and be entered in our drawing for a **\$50 Best Buy Gift Card** (1st Prize) or **\$25 Best Buy Gift Card** (2nd Prize)!



To enter, answer the questions below. **Either e-mail your answers to stories@usabluebook.com or fax this page to 847-775-6908 no later than May 22, 2009.** Winners will be randomly selected and announced in the next newsletter.

Don't have a #120 Master Catalog? No worries—call 1-800-548-1234 and we'll get one out to you right away.

1. What is our website address?

2. How many products are available for same-day shipping?

3. On what pages can you find our selection of generators?

4. Name a new item in the Workwear section, and the page it is located on.

5. Name three types of flowmeters that we offer.

6. In which section can you find surveillance cameras?

7. What pages are UV disinfection systems located on?

Name:

Phone #:



Great People



Justin Snell (right) and Ray Langworthy work on a sewer line break in northwest Pennsylvania.

A day on the job with Justin Snell

Justin Snell is a water/wastewater operator for the Sheffield Municipal Authority, a facility in NW Pennsylvania that services around 1,000 people. He recently sent us a note saying he appreciated our services, so we called to find out a little more about him:

How long have you been in the business? Four years. I used to work in the oil fields, until my wife and I had a baby and we couldn't travel so much.

What kind of work do you do? A little bit of everything. I fix water and sewer breaks, and maintain the blowers and other equipment around the plant.

What's going on in this picture? That was a 12" sewer line break. It took a couple of days to finish that job. We had to build a road with a backhoe to get to the break.

What kind of supplies do you get from USABlueBook? Just about everything. We get gloves, DPD, oil to maintain our equipment, safety stuff, masks, you name it.

How does USABlueBook help you do your job? It's hard to have something go down in a water/wastewater plant, because the whole town wants to be able to turn their faucet and have water, and to flush the toilet without it backing up. So when we have problems it is nice to know that we can depend on USABlueBook to have what we need, and that we will have it within a couple days. So your staff's involvement is more than most of them probably know. Once again, thanks for the great services.

We appreciate the feedback, Justin. We love hearing from our customers. Feel free to let us know how we are doing (good or bad), or if there is a product you think we should be offering, so we can improve things for you.

BlueBits

News and Bits from **USA**BlueBook

Look inside for:

- News from the Field
- Tech Talk
- Ask Don
- Break Time!

Times are tough—would an extra \$50 help?

Here's an easy way to make \$50! Just send your funny or interesting work story (or photo) to stories@usabluebook.com. If we print it, you'll receive a \$50 gift card from giftcertificates.com or a \$50 USABlueBook credit.

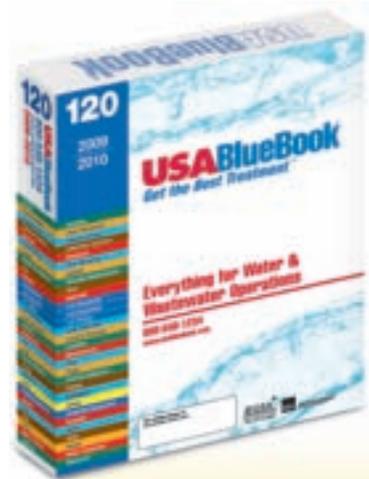


Catalog #120 is here!

The #1 catalog for water and wastewater professionals—now at 1700 pages!

Our latest book features over 32,000 items, plus detailed tech tips, selection guides and application notes to help you get the job done. As always, this book is backed by our expert technical support and unsurpassed personal customer service.

Don't have your free copy yet? Call **1-800-548-1234** to request one.



Over 160 pages of NEW products!
Over 27,000 products for same-day shipping!
100% money-back guarantee!

Upcoming Trade Shows—stop by and say hi!

- Florida Water Resources, Palm Beach, FL, April 4-6
- NMRWA, Albuquerque, NM, April 6-9
- Cal-Nev AWWA, Santa Clara, CA, April 6-9
- Oklahoma RWA, Tulsa, OK, April 14-16
- New York's Water Event AWWA, Saratoga Springs, NY, April 21-23
- California RWA, South Lake Tahoe, CA, April 28-30
- Ohio RWA, Newark, OH, May 5-6
- Vermont RWA, Fairlee, VT, May 6-7
- PNWS AWWA, Salem, WA, May 6-9
- New York Rural Water Assn, Saratoga Springs, NY, May 11-14

- Tennessee Assn of Utility District, Lebanon, TN, May 14th
- Georgia Rural Water Assn, Jekyll Island, GA, May 16-19
- APWA Chicago-Metro, Schaumburg, IL, May 20-21
- NY WEA Spring Tech Conference, West Point, NY, June 1-3
- GSA Expo, San Antonio, TX, June 9-11
- AWWA Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, June 14-18
- Louisiana Rural Water Assn, Alexandria, LA, July 12-17