

*Camp Courageous in Monticello, IA is a year-round respite care and recreational facility for individuals of all ages with disabilities. It has been certified by the Independent Charities of America to be one of the "Best In America" charities.*

*Camp Courageous is run on donations, without government assistance. USABlueBook recently donated to the camp. Here is an excerpt from their reply letter:*

*"On behalf of over 5,700 individuals with special needs who look forward to coming to camp each year, I would like to acknowledge with sincere appreciation your gift of assorted clothing, a lawn mower, maintenance supplies, tools, a portable generator and other much needed items. We are grateful for your ongoing support of the camp.*

*Thanks again for helping make this dream come true."*

*Charles Becker, Director*  
*If you are interested in making a donation to Camp Courageous, visit [www.campcourageous.org](http://www.campcourageous.org)*



## Surge Protection "Insurance"

One of the leading causes of electrical equipment failure is electrical "transients" or "surges". **An electrical transient is a short duration, high-energy impulse on the electrical power system.** A variety of sources cause them, both external or within the facility power system.

The most common cause of surges is lightning or unintentional grounding of electrical conductors, such as when a power line falls on the ground. Although the resulting voltage spike may only last for a fraction of a second, if not restricted it could seriously damage or even destroy electrical equipment.

Surges may also come from within a facility. Under some conditions, operating electrical equipment may suddenly expose the normal electric circuit to a large dose of energy.

### How can I protect my equipment from electrical surges?

A surge protection device (SPD) is designed to divert high-current surges to ground, thereby limiting the voltage delivered to electrical equipment. It's best to have surge protection devices installed at three levels in the facility:

**Category C:** The first level of defense is to have a SPD on the main power service entrance. This provides protection against surges coming from outside the facility.

**Category B:** Under extreme circumstances, the service entrance device may not dissipate all of an outside surge. So you should also install SPDs on all distribution panels that supply power to critical equipment.

**Category A:** install SPDs locally on all electronic equipment, such as computers, controllers, pumps, etc. In addition to eliminating voltage surges, they will also reduce "line noise" caused when a pump or motor on the same circuit begins running.

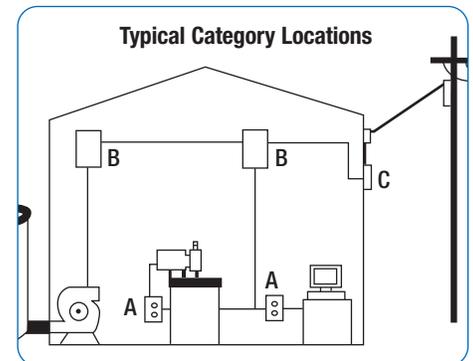
Be aware that a power strip is not necessarily a surge protector. A inexpensive power strip only provides you with a multiple power outlet. Be sure to protect electronic equipment with units that are listed as surge protectors.

***A power strip is not necessarily a surge protector. Inexpensive models only provide a multiple power outlet.***

should be installed by a licensed electrician. For additional information, refer to the following websites:

**National Lightning Safety Institute** at [www.lightningsafety.com](http://www.lightningsafety.com)

**Tripp Lite** at [www.tripplite.com](http://www.tripplite.com)



You might think of providing power surge protection as an "insurance policy". Without it, you might "luck out" and never have a problem. But, is it worth the chance? Also, be aware that equipment damaged due to a power surge are not covered under warranty in most instances.

All service entrance and distribution panel SPDs

# Stay Safe: Lock it Up!

By Allison Kenney, Technical Rep

Do you think OSHA is a small town in Wisconsin? If you do, you're in trouble!

**Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)** refers to specific practices and procedures to safeguard employees from the unexpected energization or startup of machinery and equipment, or the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities.

## Are YOU taking the right precautions?

Making sure you have everything you need at your facility to practice safe LOTO procedures is imperative to be OSHA compliant. According to OSHA, nearly 3 million workers service equipment and are at risk of an injury if lockout/tagout is not properly implemented.

Twenty-five states have their own standards and policies. Most of these state standards are identical to Federal OSHA regulations.

OSHA Regulation Standard #: 1910.147 covers the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment, regarding unexpected energization of machines or equipment, or release of stored energy that could cause injury to employees. This regulation defines minimum performance requirements for the control of such hazardous energies.



## LOTO is not just for electrical equipment

When you refer to lockout/tagout, many people assume it only refers to electricity. However, most equipment uses more than one type of energy. There are five different energy sources: electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical and thermal. The most common energy sources for the water/wastewater industry are:

**Electrical:** fuse panels, disconnect switches

**Mechanical:** conveyors, elevators

**Hydraulic:** fluid pressure, valves

**Pneumatic (Compressed):** air pressure

## Important things to remember regarding lockout/tagout:

- Locked/tagged devices must be easy to identify, even from a distance.
- Proper signage must be displayed.
- The person who locked out the system must be the one to put it back into service when the work is completed.
- Tags are easy to bypass, and can be lost or altered.
- Tags are only a visual deterrent, so they should be used in conjunction with locks.

USABlueBook offers a wide range of lockout/tagout items that will get your plant compliant. See pages 1304-1308 of our Master Catalog 122 for a wide selection.





USABlueBook Technical Training Manager



## Setting Rates to Promote Water Conservation?

There is a big push for water conservation. However, getting the public on board to conserve water is a challenge. Of course asking people for voluntary reductions is ideal, but this seldom leads to the desired result. If it does succeed, most utilities will be looking at a budget shortfall, causing the need to increase water rates.

It's a balancing act if you choose to raise rates to promote water conservation. Are rates raised enough to encourage water conservation, or will they just increase revenue? Rate increases typically increase revenue in the long run. This extra revenue is the key to water conservation, but not in the way most people think.

A common thought would be to use any extra revenue to finance infrastructure repairs and improvements.

However, going in this direction will not meet water conservation goals for most systems. For example, to target a 20% water use reduction, it would be difficult to do so by repairing leaks, which is one of the smaller areas of water consumption.

In most cases, the customer uses the majority of water. Therefore, to promote water conservation, any extra revenue generated should be primarily targeted toward the end user. Public education should get some of this revenue. Water-saving devices such as low-flow shower heads, toilets, washing machines, etc. should also see a portion of the extra revenue, either through gift or grant.

Remember the purpose of water conservation is not to create a slush fund. Your plans should meet the objective of saving water. Anything outside of this should not be considered. If you have any questions concerning setting rates for water conservation, please contact Don at [dvanveldhuizen@usabluebook.com](mailto:dvanveldhuizen@usabluebook.com) or 503-544-0456.



## Break Time!

### Word Jumble

Unscramble the word jumbles below. Then unscramble the letters in the circles to find the answer to the puzzle below!

OROCLTA



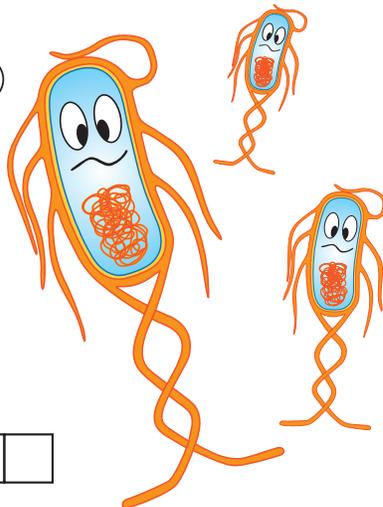
TLIEFR



KESOTC



ENRTAIOA



**Question:** Where do bacteria go when they are confused?

**Answer:** The

See page 4 for answers to the puzzle

## Enjoy your retirement, Harry



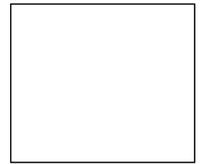
Harry Von Huben recently retired from USABlueBook. As one of our first employees, Harry has been instrumental in developing many products and product categories for us. He also created the *Operator's Companion*, a staple within the industry.

Harry was presented with the prestigious George Warren Fuller award. This is awarded annually by the AWWA and was done so in recognition of Harry's 50 years of distinguished service to the water supply field.

Harry has been a mentor to many USABlueBook associates over the years and a great role model to all. We will all miss his professionalism, leadership and wonderful personality. Good luck to you, Harry!



Congratulations to the winners of our **Master Catalog 122 Trivia Contest**. Alan Williams of Rushville, NY won a \$50 Best Buy gift card and Jeff Ashby of Thomson, IL won a \$25 Best Buy gift card. Enjoy!



# BlueBits

News and Bits from **USABlueBook**

**Our newest warehouse!**



## **New Boston DC = faster, lower-cost shipping**

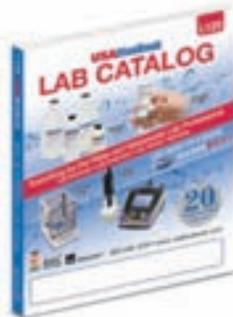
In order to ensure even faster shipping times and lower shipping costs, USABlueBook has expanded to the East Coast! Our newest distribution center is stocked with thousands of items for water and wastewater professionals, allowing us to continually improve our service to you.

Look inside for:

- Ask Don
- Lockout/tagout
- Rates for water conservation

## **\$50 for you!**

Want an easy \$50? Just send your funny or interesting work stories (or photos) to [stories@usabluebook.com](mailto:stories@usabluebook.com). If we print it, you'll receive a \$50 gift card from [giftcertificates.com](http://giftcertificates.com) or a \$50 USABlueBook credit!



## **Lab Catalog 122 coming in August!**

**Attention water & wastewater lab professionals:** our 336-page Lab Catalog #122 has everything you need for your busy lab. It includes lab instruments, chemicals and supplies from our Master Catalog, plus dozens of new items. **Look forward to it in August.** Call **800-548-1234** to reserve your copy today.

## **We will be at the following tradeshow: stop by & say hi!**

South Carolina RWA	Myrtle Beach, SC	Aug 8-11
Kentucky RWA	Lexington, KY	Aug 29-31
Evergreen Rural Water of WA Conf.	Vancouver, WA	Aug 30-Sept 1
Granite State RWA	Newbury, NH	Sept. 13
AWT Annual Convention	Atlanta, GA	Sept 14-17
New York RWA	Frankfort, NY	Sept 15
NYWEA Technical Conference	West Point, NY	Sept 15-16
RMSAWWA/RMWEA	Loveland, CO	Sept 18-21
Arkansas RWA	Hot Springs, AR	Sept 19-21
NY AWWA	Liverpool, NY	Sept 20-22
Tri-State Seminar	Primm, NV	Sept 27-29
H2O Expo	Louisville, KY	Oct 4-6
WVOA Annual Conference	La Crosse, WI	Oct 4-7
World Dairy Expo	Madison, WI	Oct 4-8
WEFTEC	Los Angeles, CA	Oct 15-19

