

FINALLY SPRING, REMEMBER?

By, Steve Freeman

After a winter of heavy snowfall and frigid temperatures, I'm sure many of you are more than willing to get out of the snowplow and into the ditch. With it being a few months since the construction season, we must *remind* ourselves of the concerns associated with trench and excavation safety. We know what they are; let's not forget them!

With a busy cold season battling old man winter, water and sewer main breaks, equipment repairs, budgets and so on, did you *remember* everything on your winter to do list? How about your Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response plans? Referring back to Steve Winkley's Winter 2002/2003 article, all systems serving a population of 3,301 or more, were required by NYSDOH to have these plans in their office by January 1st, 2003. Systems serving a population of 3,300 or less, are at the discretion of their local Health Department. Have you implemented more stringent security measures around your facility? Do you have the sufficient amount of contact hours required for your operator's license renewal? Don't forget the minimum five credit hours of laboratory training now required for some licenses. What about the new guy at your plant, have you been through the procedures to get him certified yet? Most importantly, don't forget that New York Rural Water is your one call center to assist you with all of the above mentioned and much more.

Spring is also a busy time for the NYRWA Board of Directors. Just to *remind* you, among other duties, in April the NYRWA Board travels to Washington D.C. for the Annual Rural Water Rally. I won't get into much detail, as I have written about this before, but to *remind* you, this is one of our most important trips of the year. Our Senators and Congress people need to be *reminded* of how well the Rural Water programs work, and how well the appropriated dollars are spent. Again to *remind* you, **the thank you letters you send to our office are greatly appreciated**, and are a great tool to take with us on our Washington visits with your US Representatives. . PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING!!

Before you get too tired of me *reminding* you, be sure not to forget that spring is the time of year for water and wastewater professionals from around the state, to once again, come together. Please *remember* May 18th through the 21st is the NYRWA 24th Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition. This year's conference will be held in Buffalo, N.Y. Be sure to look through this issue of Aquafacts for the agenda.

I hope to see you in Buffalo, which will be your chance, to ask me what I have forgotten.