



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Water Supply News

## Environmental Services

- [Move Update for WSO and WSE Sections](#)
- [New Water Fluoridation Coordinator at IDPH: Sara Carmichael-Stanley](#)
- [Winter Weather Outlook](#)
- [Fire Weather Update](#)
- [U.S. Surveillance for Waterborne Disease Outbreaks Associated with Drinking Water, 2013–2014](#)
- [U.S. Waterborne Disease Outbreaks Associated With Environmental and Undetermined Exposures to Water, 2013–2014](#)

## Move Update for WSO and WSE Sections

By the end of this week, all of the staff in the DNR's Water Supply Operations and Water Supply Engineering Sections will be moved into their offices on the fifth floor of the Wallace Building. The operator certification examination area is being built, and people are settling into their offices. The Air Quality Bureau will be moving into the second floor of the Wallace Building in December.

## New Water Fluoridation Coordinator at IDPH: Sara Carmichael-Stanley

Sara Carmichael-Stanley is now the Water Fluoridation Coordinator with the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems at the Iowa Department of Public Health, replacing Kelsey Feller in that position.

Sara, a native of Florida, found her passion for water and public health while completing an AmeriCorps fellowship in Knoxville, Tennessee. After that inspiring year she decided to further her education at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University obtaining her Masters of Public Health. Her current position allows her to combine her two passions. She monitors fluoride levels for community water systems throughout the state while also providing education and community engagement tools for regional coordinators, water operators, and public health consultants.

If you have questions about whether your community water has the appropriate fluoride level (0.70 mg/L) visit [My Water's Fluoride](#) or contact Sara at (515)725-1112 or [sara.carmichael-stanley@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:sara.carmichael-stanley@idph.iowa.gov).

## Winter Weather Outlook

*From the NWS-Des Moines Fall Weather Whisper*

“It may be a different year, but it’s basically the same story as last winter. Much of the talk heading into this fall and winter was the possibility (if not probability) of La Niña emerging and settling in for winter and into the spring. Now we will get to what that means for Iowa and the region in general, but first let’s have a quick refresher on what El Niño and La Niña are.”

See the remainder of the [article](#) including several charts, starting on page 4.

## Fire Weather Update

*From the NWS-Des Moines Fall Weather Whisper*

“The fall fire weather season began September 1st and will run through mid- to late November, dependent of course, on fuel condition. During the fall fire weather season, fire weather planning forecasts will be issued twice daily, by 6 AM and 4 PM. While harvesting is occurring, we will be issuing a CuringAg map that will give farmers an idea of the threat of fire spread on a given day. This is in addition to a Grassland Fire Danger Index map that is issued daily from Spring through Fall. It has been an interesting fall. We started later summer into early fall with drought conditions across much of southern Iowa while northern Iowa had more than adequate rainfall. ... As we head into late fall, drought conditions still exist but warm season grass curing was slowed by the rainfall and as such we will see a later dry down of fuels. ...”

See the full [article](#) on page 8.

## U.S. Surveillance for Waterborne Disease Outbreaks Associated with Drinking Water, 2013–2014

*From CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, November 10, 2017*

“During 2013–2014, 42 drinking water–associated outbreaks were reported, accounting for at least 1,006 cases of illness, 124 hospitalizations, and 13 deaths. *Legionella* was associated with 57% of these outbreaks and all of the deaths. Sixty-nine percent of the reported illnesses occurred in four outbreaks in which the etiology was determined to be either a chemical or toxin or the parasite *Cryptosporidium*. Drinking water contamination events can cause disruptions in water service, large impacts on public health, and persistent community concern about drinking water quality. Effective water treatment and regulations can protect public drinking water supplies in the United States, and rapid detection, identification of the cause, and response to illness reports can reduce the transmission of infectious pathogens and harmful chemicals and toxins.”

See the [full report](#) for more information.

## **U.S. Waterborne Disease Outbreaks Associated With Environmental and Undetermined Exposures to Water, 2013–2014**

*From CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, November 10, 2017*

“Waterborne disease outbreaks in the United States are associated with a wide variety of water exposures and are reported annually to CDC on a voluntary basis by state and territorial health departments through the National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS). A majority of outbreaks arise from exposure to drinking water (1) or recreational water (2), whereas others are caused by an environmental exposure to water or an undetermined exposure to water. During 2013–2014, 15 outbreaks associated with an environmental exposure to water and 12 outbreaks with an undetermined exposure to water were reported, resulting in at least 289 cases of illness, 108 hospitalizations, and 17 deaths.

*Legionella* was responsible for 63% of the outbreaks, 94% of hospitalizations, and all deaths. Outbreaks were also caused by *Cryptosporidium*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Giardia*, including six outbreaks of giardiasis caused by ingestion of water from a river, stream, or spring. Water management programs can effectively prevent outbreaks caused by environmental exposure to water from human-made water systems, while proper point-of-use treatment of water can prevent outbreaks caused by ingestion of water from natural water systems.”

See the [full report](#) for more information.