

Water Op Fluoridation Quick Responses

1. When someone questions fluoride, how do you respond?
 - a. Discuss what you do at the water plant.
 - b. Educate that fluoride is naturally occurring in all water sources.
 - c. Because of fluoride that is naturally there, you only add a little bit more to bring it to the optimal level, which provides the greatest benefit to people for their oral and overall health.
 - d. Direct them to AFS and CDC websites.
2. Engineers are encouraged to take the CDC Fluoridation Online Training (FLO). Missouri has received approval from DNR to count this as 8 hours of CE towards your drinking water certification. Contact Gwen Sullentrup (gwen.sullentrup@health.mo.gov or 573-619-8849) for more information.
3. Meet and greet with the water regulatory people and the fluoridation people (DHSS).
 - a. Encourage them to offer and have trainings about CWF.
4. Fluoride is dangerous.
 - a. It is as safe as adding Chlorine or any other additive to the water supply. Additionally, fluoride provides an extra benefit in that every dollar invested saves an average of \$32 per person in avoided dental treatment per year.
5. Fluoridation equipment is expensive and too costly to maintain.
 - a. It is no more costly than having to replace chlorination equipment.
 - b. If you install new equipment, make sure the storage tanks, supply lines, and pumps are approved to run fluoride.
 - c. Follow maintenance guidelines from the equipment and make sure you change your lines and do the maintenance at the appropriate time. This will extend the life of the equipment.
6. Fluoride is an additive, not a chemical.
7. Fluoride is a naturally occurring substance and we just supplement the natural level and bring it to the optimal level of 0.7 ppm, which is the best level to help avoid tooth decay.
8. Other countries provide a version of CWF by adding fluoride to the optimal level to salt and milk.
9. CWF reaches everyone equally. If you have running water in your home and your water system fluoridates, then you are drinking and cooking with the optimally fluoridated water. Since it is system wide, it does not discriminate based on age, sex, education, or income level. It is an equal opportunity provider.