

No. 10, Winter 2008

**To: State Water Fluoridation Programs, State Dental Directors,
State Drinking Water Programs**

Subject: Program Update—CDC Community Water Fluoridation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Water Fluoridation Program periodically issues this update on program activities and resources for water fluoridation specialists, engineers with state drinking water programs, and state oral health officials. Please feel free to forward this communication to anyone who might benefit from it.

Water Fluoridation Training

The CDC-sponsored course on basic community water fluoridation, **Water Fluoridation: Principles and Practices**, scheduled for February 26-29, 2008, is full. Waiting list applicants will be considered on an availability basis. The course will be conducted next in Murfreesboro, TN, during the week of September 22–26, 2008. The course is intended to build the skills needed to manage and operate a state water fluoridation program and to train engineers in fluoridation engineering principles. If you have a staff member who would benefit from this training, please have them contact us for registration information. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/engineering/training.htm>.

Water Fluoridation Quality Awards

The CDC annually announces the Water Fluoridation Quality Awards to recognize water systems that consistently adjust water fluoride to optimum levels. For an adjusted water system to be eligible for this award, the water system must have the adjusted fluoride level in the optimal range during all 12 months in a calendar year and must have the operations documented by the state in the CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). To be eligible for an award, state programs must complete documentation of all 2007 system operation data by March 1, 2008. Additional information on WFRS is available at http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/engineering/wfrs_factsheet.htm

Fluoride Additives Supply Update

Over the past several years, the fluoride additive supply has been disrupted several times. The shortage is related to the producer of fluorosilicic acid who has the largest market share. Other producers are not experiencing the same shortages, but they only have sufficient product for previously negotiated supply contracts.

There are indications that the producers are investigating short-term ways to expand production to address the shortfall. This process involves equipment modifications, better ore quality, and inventory management. From discussions with producers, CDC believes that the shortages this coming summer will not be as extreme as those

experienced last summer. CDC has a fact sheet on Fluoride Additive Shortages that can be accessed at

http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/engineering/shortages_faq.htm, and the American Water Works Association has issued a statement on shortages that can be accessed at

<http://www.awwa.org/publications/breakingnewsdetail.cfm?itemnumber=31872>

Southern California Fluoridation News

Over the past several years, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has been working towards implementing water fluoridation at their five water treatment facilities. The district provides wholesale water to other regional utility purveyors serving over 18 million people. These facilities were placed into operation during November, bringing water fluoridation to fruition in the region.

Past CDC Fluoridation Program Updates Posted on CDC Web site

CDC has issued these fluoridation newsletters (program updates) to state dental directors and drinking water administrators. On some occasions, a state official has requested access to a previously issued update. In response to this request, CDC is now posting previous program updates on our Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/engineering.htm>.

Please Contact Us with Questions or Comments

The Community Water Fluoridation Program is administered by CDC's Division of Oral Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. If you have any questions or require assistance related to community water fluoridation, please visit our Web site at www.cdc.gov/Fluoridation or call us at 770-488-6056.