



Pipeline Express

Providing reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

Celebrating Drinking Water Week Honoring those who make it happen



By Jodi Wallin

Each year, during the first full week of May, water utilities across the country come together to recognize Drinking Water Week.

From May 4 – 10, we're joining utilities nationwide in spotlighting the critical role drinking water plays in our daily lives—and honoring the dedicated professionals who make it all possible.

Clean, safe drinking water is often taken for granted, but behind every turn of the tap is a complex system of infrastructure, innovation, and people working around the clock to ensure public health and safety. Drinking Water Week is a time to pause and reflect on that effort—and to celebrate the impact of high-quality water service on our communities.

At SPRWS, we proudly serve Saint Paul and 13 surrounding communities, delivering water to more than 450,000 residents every day. Our team treats and distributes over 40 million gallons of water daily through a system of 1,200

miles of water main, 10,000 hydrants, and about 95,000 service lines.

This year marks a major milestone for SPRWS: the launch of operations at our brand-new water treatment plant. This \$250 million facility is one of the largest infrastructure investments in our history—and a bold step forward in ensuring safe, reliable drinking water for generations to come.

More than just a new building, the plant represents the future of water treatment. It's designed to meet the evolving needs of our service area while enhancing our ability to protect public health, improve efficiency, and maintain the highest water quality standards.

This year's observance also comes on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), a cornerstone of public health in the United States. The SDWA set the foundation for water quality standards and regulations that continue to protect consumers to

this day. At SPRWS, we uphold and exceed those standards through rigorous testing, treatment processes, and a strong commitment to continuous improvement.

As we look ahead, SPRWS continues to innovate with projects like the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) rollout and the Lead Free SPRWS initiative, which aims to remove all remaining lead service lines at no cost to property owners over the next decade.

These investments aren't just about infrastructure—they're about ensuring that future generations have access to the same clean, reliable water that we enjoy today.

Drinking Water Week is also a chance to shine a spotlight on the people who make everything possible—from the engineers and water quality specialists to the field crews, meter techs, and customer service reps. Your dedication keeps our community healthy and thriving. Thanks for all you do!

The Pipeline Express is published every two weeks by Saint Paul Regional Water Services. © 2025

Story ideas? Contact Jodi Wallin, 651-266-6308 or Jodi.Wallin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Safety Revitalized

Spring is in the air

By Tom Miller

Much like the arrival of spring, safety at SPRWS is being revitalized—and leading the way are two new employees focused on enhancing our safety culture: Chuck Olson (training supervisor) and Kerry Barbetti (safety officer).

Chuck brings a wide range of responsibilities to his new role, including:

- Vehicle collision reviews and reporting
- Hands-on curriculum development
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) management
- Security coordination
- Job simulations and hazard analysis
- Workplace injury reporting and workers' compensation

Chuck is a valuable resource for any questions related to these topics and is always ready to assist. Many of you may have already met Chuck, but you might not know about his extensive background: 21 years of CDL driving experience, equipment operation and transportation, and a deep commitment to best practices in safety.

Kerry will focus on several critical aspects of our safety and compliance operations, including:

- Managing online safety training
- Submitting required reports to the EPA, OSHA, and Minnesota Department of Health
- Maintaining our Safety Data Sheet (eBinder) system
- Overseeing Risk Management Planning (RMP) and Process Safety Management (PSM)
- Managing hazardous material disposal and reporting
- Conducting Job Hazard Analysis for Production Operators and Chemical Feed Specialists

Kerry brings 26 years of experience supporting safety in heavy industry and manufacturing environments, including

time with Flint Hills Resources. His expertise strengthens our ability to proactively manage risks and maintain regulatory compliance.

2024 Safety Highlights

This past year, SPRWS employees logged an impressive 8,742 hours of training covering critical safety topics such as equipment operation, emergency drills, employee conferences, first aid/CPR, fall protection, confined space safety, and more.

As we transitioned into a post-COVID environment, we successfully conducted several emergency drills for weather events and chemical releases. Each exercise offered valuable lessons on how to respond effectively to protect ourselves, our co-workers, and the public.

Training and risk mitigation go hand-in-hand—every hour of preparation helps reduce the risks we face in the field.

In 2025, the safety team will focus on key topics, including:

Respirator use and protection:

Employees working on lead service line crews will continue using Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) to protect against hazardous materials like lead and silica. PAPRs, combined with PPE such as gloves and safety shoes, are critical to maintaining a safe work environment.

Safe driving practices:

Safe driving will be a major emphasis next year. While we take great pride in our professionalism and reputation, there has been a noticeable increase in reports of unsafe driving behaviors, including excessive speeding and distracted driving. Our marked utility vehicles make us highly visible in the community, and we all share responsibility for upholding the public's trust.

Recently, employees received the updated Vehicle Operating Policy. In 2025, you can expect to be assigned a LearnShare course

KERRY BARBETTI

Kerry Barbetti will be the new safety officer



Kerry Barbetti

Kerry Barbetti is joining our team as a safety officer working with Tom Miller and Chuck Olson.

Please note his job responsibilities in the article to the left.

Personally, Kerry is focused on training for powerlifting & strongman and working on his family homestead (gardening, working on future animals, etc.).

and test that explains this policy in greater detail. This is part of our ongoing effort to ensure everyone is equipped to drive safely and responsibly.

Thank You

Thank you for making 2024 a strong year for safety at SPRWS! Let's continue building on this momentum in 2025 by keeping safety top of mind—whether behind the wheel or on a job site.

Our goal remains the same: everyone goes home safe at the end of every day.



Vehicle Safety: Overview, Reporting Reminder, & Tips

By Chuck Olson

At SPRWS, safe driving is a part of how we deliver excellent service to our community. Every day, most of our team members show outstanding awareness and professionalism on the road—thank you for setting a high standard!

Over the past 15 months, we've tracked 13 incidents involving utility vehicles. Some were due to other drivers' actions, and some could have been avoided with stronger defensive driving. The good news? Small improvements in our habits will make a big difference in keeping everyone safer, saving resources, and strengthening the reputation we work hard to uphold.



What We're Seeing

Recognizing the patterns helps us target our improvements:

- Rear-end collisions and sideswipes
- Roll-backs into parked vehicles
- Intersection crashes
- Loss of control on icy roads
- Backing accidents and jack-knifed trailers
- Unsafe lane changes and close-following

Each incident costs valuable time, productivity, and dollars—and more importantly, increases risk to people. By staying alert and focused, we can prevent most of these incidents and keep our team strong and safe.

If You're Involved in a Crash

No matter how careful we are, sometimes incidents happen. When they do, a calm, professional response helps protect everyone involved:

- Call 911 if there are injuries, major damage, or traffic hazards. Request an officer to respond.
- Notify your supervisor immediately. (Required.)

- Your supervisor will contact Chuck Olson, training supervisor, who will help document the scene.
- Stay calm, professional, and brief in your communication with others involved. Exchange necessary information only. Avoid apologizing or admitting fault—stick to the facts.
- Remain on site until cleared by police or your supervisor.

Completing the Crash Report

Every city vehicle should carry a collision report envelope in the glove box with insurance and report forms. If you're missing one, please request a replacement from your supervisor right away.

Be sure to complete the crash report fully and turn it in directly to Chuck as soon as possible.

Staying Ahead: Defensive Driving Habits That Make a Difference

The best drivers stay proactive, not reactive. Keep leading the way by sharpening these skills:

- Always buckle up before moving the vehicle.
- Pause briefly at green lights—count to one and scan both directions.
- Keep your phone down—no calls, texts, or scrolling while driving.
- Use a spotter anytime you're unsure of what's behind you when backing up.
- Double-check before changing lanes or pulling out into traffic.
- Adjust for conditions—slow down when it's icy, wet, crowded, or visibility is low.

You Make the Difference

Every safe trip you take is a win for you, your coworkers, and our community. Driving safely isn't just about avoiding crashes—it's about protecting people, respecting our vehicles and equipment, and taking pride in doing things the right way.

Thank you for your commitment to safety and professionalism on the road.

Questions or need more crash report packets? Reach out to your supervisor or Chuck—we're here to support you.

Nalee Moua changes work roles

Nalee Moua is moving from the Lead Free SPRWS coordinator role in engineering to working with Ty Vidal and Kathy Travis in distribution starting May 5.



Nalee Moua

CELEBRATE DRINKING WATER WEEK WITH A COLD ONE AT LAKE MONSTER BREWING

Join your fellow water warriors for a special Happy Hour at Lake Monster Brewing Co. as we raise a glass to the unsung hero of every great beer: clean, safe drinking water!

In honor of Safe Drinking Water Week, we're celebrating the vital connection between water and the brew we all love. After all, NO Water = NO Beer—and thanks to Saint Paul's high-quality water, Lake Monster is serving up some of the best pints around.

Whether you're here for the craft brews, tasty bites, or just great company, this is your chance to kick back and enjoy the fruits of our

water system's hard work. No need to RSVP or reserve a spot—just come as you are and stay as long (or short) as you'd like. We're expecting anywhere from 5 to 50 people, and folks will be coming and going throughout the event.

So grab a friend, toast to the tap, and celebrate what keeps our community hydrated—and our hops happy.

Location: 550 Vandalia St. #160

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Date: Thursday, May 8



Community Engagement Update: Training Success and Upcoming Events

By Josh Cobb

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our Community Engagement Team training sessions! We're excited to announce that 39 employees have completed training so far. Your dedication is helping us make a meaningful impact in the community through our outreach efforts.

If you missed the earlier sessions, don't worry! Our next training opportunity will be held on July 2, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the lunchroom. We encourage anyone interested in representing SPRWS at upcoming events to attend!

We have a full lineup of exciting events where we will be representing Saint Paul Regional Water Services. Here's what we have on tap:

Touch-A-Truck

- Date: May 10, 2025

- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Location: 2171 Dodd Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Description: A sensory-friendly event featuring fire trucks, police cars, snowplows, and more. Family-friendly activities include hot wheels racing, a coloring contest, and face painting.

Community in Bloom

- Date: May 10, 2025
- Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Location: Lake McCarrons County Park, 1795 Rice St., Roseville, MN 55113

Description: Celebrate community with vendor booths, games, fishing, food from Big Bill's Belt Bustin BBQ, face painting, art activities, and a scavenger hunt.

WaterFest

- Date: May 31, 2025
- Time: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Location: Lake Phalen Park, 1600 Phalen Dr., St. Paul, MN 55106

Description: A free, family festival focused on outdoor learning about clean water, wildlife, and conservation hosted by local educators and vendors.

For a full list of events, please visit our internal SharePoint site or check the Outreach & Events tab under customer resources on our website at stpaul.gov/water.

If you've completed training and would like to sign up for open volunteer slots, please contact Josh Cobb at Joshua.cobb@ci.stpaul.mn.us or join us at our monthly Community Engagement Team meetings, held at 2 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month in the lunchroom.

Thank you again for your commitment to engaging with our community!