

# The Wellhead Word

February 2008

Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

## Public Awareness

Public Awareness is an important step for communities trying to achieve substantial implementation. It is vital in keeping citizens informed and getting them involved with Wellhead Protection. Without public buy-in, it can be difficult to keep potentially hazardous activities away from public water supplies. Individuals may not even be aware that their day to day activities could be contaminating the water.

Some communities may hit a road block when trying to determine the best approach to educating their citizens. In this issue of Wellhead Word we will highlight some avenues for achieving the public awareness component. When developing public awareness material there a few questions that should be asked. What will the message be? Who is the target audience? The answers to these questions will determine what informational avenue works best for your community.

One way to reach the citizens of your community is through informational bill inserts. Because they accompany the monthly utility bill, they are an easy way to reach all members of the community. However, you do not want to overwhelm individuals with information and you want the information to be accessible to all members of your audience. Keep topics broad and try not to exclude any members of the community.

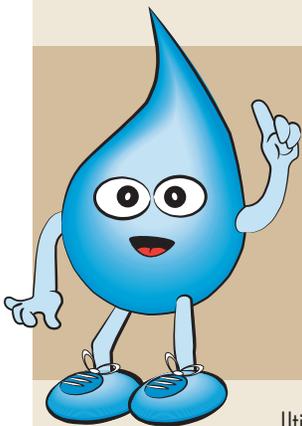
If you have a great deal of information you want to distribute, brochures may be the best choice. They allow you to utilize photos and diagrams to convey your message, and because of the available space, you are able to share more information.

Educational presentations for the classroom are another option. Developing a classroom presentation can help you get your message out to a larger audience. Children can be your best messengers. It can also be a way to become more active in your community. Re-

member to make all presentation materials appropriate to the age group.

Does your community have a local program on your cable network's public access channel? If so, this may be another way to reach members of the community. Because these programs have a regular air time it can allow you disperse current information.

Example bill inserts have already been developed and are available for communities to utilize. If you are interested in learning more about these materials contact your local environmental specialist or the Oklahoma City Groundwater Support Unit.



## Who Can I Contact for More Information about Contingency Plans?

- Your local DEQ office.
- Oklahoma City Groundwater Support.

Utilize your community's resources to get the word out on protecting source water. Mobilize the efforts of your local organizations such as, the Boy Scouts, School Organizations, and Social Clubs. Work to inform your friends and neighbors about the importance of wellhead protection and about what you can do as a community to identify potential contaminates.



## Next Issue: Best Management Practice's

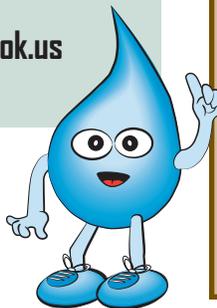
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# Environmental Complaints and Local Services Wellhead Protection Contacts

For more information about the Wellhead Protection Program contact your local DEQ office or Oklahoma City Groundwater Support Unit.

Groundwater Support  
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**(405) 702-6100**  
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## Local Offices

Ada.....(580) 332-3157	Miami.....(918) 540-0150
Alva.....(580) 327-2649	Oklahoma City.....(405) 702-6100
Ardmore.....(580) 226-2554	Ponca City.....(580) 762-1907
Bartlesville.....(918) 333-2734	Poteau.....(918) 647-5734
Burns Flat.....(580) 562-4394	Purcell.....(405) 527-8738
Chouteau.....(918) 476-8588	Tulsa.....(918) 293-1600
Claremore.....(918) 341-7179	Sallisaw.....(918) 790-2498
Duncan.....(580) 255-6068	Shawnee.....(405) 275-7967
Durant.....(580) 920-2037	Stillwater.....(405) 372-7387
Enid.....(580) 234-0997	Tahlequah.....(918) 456-5714
Guymon.....(580) 338-1357	Valliant.....(580) 933-5566
Henryetta.....(918) 652-0446	Wagoner.....(918) 485-8873
Jay.....(918) 253-4656	Wheatland.....(405) 745-7120
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