

## The importance of the water industry.

By David O'Kelley

I grew up with my father in the water industry and learned quite a bit from him over the years. If there is one thing, we all can agree on it is, water is a necessity for all forms of life to function. Water is a non-renewable resource, and this is where the water industry comes in. Having wastewater treatment and water treatment facilities gives us the ability to clean and reuse this non-renewable resource. It is important to note that 70 percent of the earth is covered in water, However, not all of it is safe to drink or use in our day-to-day life. This is because of the different pollutants, contaminations and disease-causing organisms in it, many of which you would need a microscope to see. Whether it is surface water or ground water, all water must be treated to be considered clean and safe to drink or use in our daily activities. Almost 40 percent of American's get their water from a ground water source. A ground water or aquifer source can get polluted by chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides even septic systems if it reaches the aquifer. If we think about our personal lives, our bodies need water to survive, statistics show a person can go without food for a period of 8 to 21 days if they have water but can only go 3 days without water. As important as water is for our bodies and all other living things, water plays a huge role in other industries such as Agriculture. It also plays a huge role in the stability of the population and its growth. Polluted water has always been an issue and has caused a lot of health issues but is becoming more of an issue as the population grows and the demand for more clean water grows. Over 1 million deaths across the globe are attributed to not having access to clean water. I live in a very agriculture base community. So, let's think about how the water industry benefits agriculture. In the agriculture industry they use water for various reasons such as irrigation, spraying chemicals and watering livestock. Without clean water they run the risk of lower yielding crops and poor livestock production which in turn would cause economic issues. This industry is also very fuel and gas driven which also uses water in the process of making. Without the water industry we have dirty and unsafe water for our agriculture industry to use which would affect our food supply and the health and wellbeing of our population. Through the filtering and treatment process it is disinfecting, removing micro-organisms, eliminating chemical contaminates and treating heavy metals in the untreated water. By doing this it makes the water clean and safe to use. The water industry is a big part of the public's health and wellbeing and is beneficial to everyone.