FREIGHT IS ESSENTIAL FOR WATER TREATMENT

A ready supply of clean and safe water is an essential element of our quality of life and something Utahns take for granted. Freight transportation by truck, as well as rail, plays an essential role in the purification of our drinking water and the proper treatment of wastewater here in Utah. As the second driest state in the nation (Nevada is the driest), Utah receives an average of only 13 inches of life-sustaining water through precipitation annually. Therefore, the proper handling and protection of our limited water resources is vital.

More than one billion gallons of water are treated every day in Utah.

DELIVERING ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS TO TREATMENT PLANTS

More than one billion gallons of water are treated every day in Utah. To supply safe drinking water there are 53 large, full-scale water purification plants and 838 small chlorination facilities statewide. Additionally, there are 34 larger mechanical wastewater treatment plants and 32 smaller lagoon/pond facilities in Utah. Chemicals such as chlorine, sulfur dioxide and sodium hydroxide are transported by truck or rail from where they are manufactured to local and regional suppliers. From these supply companies, the chemicals are then delivered by truck to treatment facilities on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on the plant's rate of consumption. Despite the large number of water treatment facilities in Utah, chemical hauling trucks make up a very small percentage of the total trucks on Utah's highways. Trucks are also used to remove solid waste material from wastewater treatment plants, often on a daily basis.

Drinking water storage tank

READ MORE

Drinking water storage tanks

FREIGHT'S ROLE IN MAINTAINING OPERATIONS

Depending on their size and operations level, water purification and wastewater treatment facilities maintain stockpiles of the chemicals they use. However, most water plants could not maintain operations for more than about a month, and in some cases only a week or two, if their supply of chemicals were interrupted. Without reliable trucking and rail transportation, Utah's water treatment operations cannot be maintained.

Solid waste transport truck

Wastewater treatment plant

INTERESTING WATER FACTS FOR UTAH

1. **99.9% of Utahns consume water from an approved public water system.**
2. **96% of Utah's public water systems have an approved rating.**
3. **There are more than 2,066 certified water operators in Utah.**
4. **Water systems in Utah are monitored for more than 90 contaminants.**
5. **Utah has not had a drinking water borne disease outbreak since 1984.**

Data provided by the Utah Department of Natural Resources and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information on this topic, contact the UDOT Planning Division.
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