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PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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Serving the Mechanical | Plumbing | Heating | Air Conditioning | Electrical | Refrigeration | Sheet Metal Industry *of Virginia*

Are Your Customers Ready?

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Apprentices Show Off Their Skills

National Association Summary Report

Lower Worker's Compensation Premiums

ARE YOUR CUSTOMERS READY?

This time of the year we experience our most severe storms, and with these storms frequently come power outages. For customers using water wells, this poses a tremendous inconvenience and a potential health risk. Coming in time for the late summer storms and the following winter is the Constant Water system - an automatic backup water supply that activates upon the loss of power. The system provides 40 to 120 gallons of pressurized water throughout a home or building.

Judson Walls, president of Constant Water, LLC, developed Constant Water to solve the problem of losing well water with a power outage or well pump failure. Walls, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, and his family bought their current Virginia home on a well system in 2005. During their first loss of power, they discovered the shortfall of a well: no power means no water. No water in the sinks or showers and one flush per toilet can be frustrating at a minimum, and a health risk in the worst case. "We can get along without a number of life's luxuries, but water is a necessity," says Walls. "In an emergency we can survive longer without food than without water."

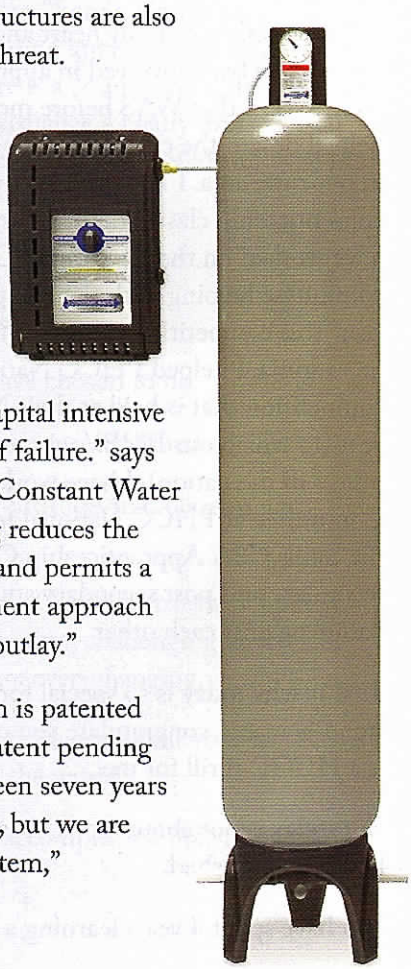
Constant Water automatically activates in response to a power outage and provides 40 gallons of pressurized water and up to 120 gallons with additional tanks. Using a rechargeable battery-powered control unit, the Constant Water system provides pressurized water to every sink, shower, and toilet in the home.

"Like so many, when expecting a rain or snow storm, we filled sinks and tubs with water, and bought bottled water for drinking and cooking. But, when the storm passed, we emptied the tubs and sinks," said Walls, "wasting a precious resource. With Constant Water, customers are always ready for the storm and they don't waste water when the storm passes."

With Constant Water's in-line plumbing approach, its 40-gallon tanks are always full and the water is always fresh, so there's no need to fight crowds at the store for bottled water. It's also a "closed" system, meaning airborne contaminants do not come in contact with the stored water.

A basic Constant Water system consists of a water storage tank and wall-mounted control unit, both designed to consume minimum space. The system activates automatically upon the loss of electrical power, and provides pressurized water throughout the structure, as it is plumbed in-line to a home or building's existing water line. When power is restored, Constant Water automatically resets, recharges, and refills – and is ready for the next outage.

Since 2005 Walls also experienced three well pump failures and designed the Constant Water system to handle that problem as well. Its "Manual Mode" activates the system to pressurize water during a well pump failure or, as he points out, loss of the community water supply - a growing problem with the aging public water infrastructure and the extremely dry conditions that stress water mains all over the country. Cyberattacks on our critical electrical and water infrastructures are also a recognized and growing threat.



Larger capacity Constant Water systems are being developed for commercial and healthcare facilities.

"Larger, more complex, and more expensive systems have been developed, but they were capital intensive and became single points of failure." says Walls. "Installing multiple Constant Water systems in a larger building reduces the risk of single-point failure and permits a prioritized phased deployment approach that reduces initial capital outlay."

The Constant Water system is patented in the United States and patent pending internationally. "This has been seven years of design and development, but we are now manufacturing the system," concludes Walls. ■