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People BEHIND THE WATER

Kelli Burgess, Senior Microbiologist / Water Quality Specialist, Reno, Nevada

If you asked Kelli Burgess what kind of person it takes to be a Water Quality Specialist, she will tell you, “It takes someone who doesn’t take the seriousness of their work for granted and never forgets that the public is depending on you to keep their water safe.”

After working for nine years as a Water Quality Specialist in Nevada, Kelli knows of what she speaks. Her lab sends experts out to 15 different sites each day to take samples of water and bring them back for purity and quality certification.

Burgess also responds directly customers when they have specific concerns about their drinking water. “Reno’s water quality customer [phone] number is made public so that I can speak directly with concerned consumers about their drinking water,” she said. “One of the real joys of my job is that I am able to reassure the public about the safety of their water. And if there ever is cause for concern, we go directly to their homes to start working on the problem.”

In addition to these responsibilities, Burgess’s lab also tests new water mains before they are put into operation and conducts other environmental permitting and air quality tests.



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