

Drinking Water Security and Emergency Preparedness

Security and emergency response planning have always been an important part of managing a drinking water system. Recent events have made homeland security a national priority.

EPA and State Drinking Water Programs urge water suppliers to make time NOW to examine their own operations and identify needed improvements in security and emergency preparedness.

Here are the “top 10” things that you can do to protect your water system from contamination and other harm.

TOP TEN LIST for Small Ground Water Suppliers

- 10 **Prepare** (or update) an emergency response plan. Make sure all employees help to create it and receive training on the plan;
- 9 **Post** updated emergency 24-hour numbers at your facilities in highly visible areas (pumphouse door, vehicles, office) and give them to key personnel and local response officials;
- 8 **Get to know** your local police and ask them to add your facilities to their routine rounds. Practice emergency response procedures with local police, emergency response and public health officials;
- 7 **Fence and lock** your drinking water facilities and vulnerable areas (e.g. wellhead, hydrants, manholes, pumphouse, and storage tanks);
- 6 **Lock all** entry gates and doors and set alarms to indicate illegal entry. Do not leave keys in equipment or vehicles at any time;
- 5 **Install good lighting** around your pumphouse, treatment facility and parking lot;
- 4 **Identify** existing and alternate water supplies and maximize use of backflow prevention devices and interconnections;
- 3 **Use** your Source Water Assessment information to work with any businesses and homeowners that are listed as potential sources of contamination and lessen their threat to your source;
- 2 **Lock** monitoring wells to prevent vandals or terrorists from pouring contaminants directly into ground water near your source. Prevent pouring or siphoning contaminants through vent pipes by moving them inside the pumphouse or treatment plant. If that isn't possible, fence or screen them; and
- 1 **In case of an emergency**, first call “911” then follow your emergency response plan.

For Further Information about Security and Emergency Preparedness (non-emergency):

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