



Online Water Security

Be informed. Be prepared.

From the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) free e-newsletter! When planning for water utility emergencies and responding to physical or environmental threats, WaterISAC believes information may be the best defense. So, as an expansion of our online, subscriber-based service, we will share useful information and ideas via our monthly e-newsletter.

THIS MONTH: We check out the involvement of the WaterISAC, along with drinking water and wastewater utilities, in TOPOFF3, the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever conducted in the United States. There's also a valuable reminder of the depth and breadth of security resources available on the secure portal of the WaterISAC. And, finally, find out how you can obtain a free copy of the WaterISAC's award-winning video.

-Editor, editor@waterisac.org

WATER UTILITIES, WATERISAC TEST RESPONSE IN TOPOFF3

The WaterISAC and nine drinking water and wastewater utilities were actively involved in the TOPOFF3 exercise earlier this month. TOPOFF is a Congressionally mandated series of drills designed to exercise existing procedures and teach hard lessons. The exercise joined hundreds of agencies in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada for a complex series of mock events culminating in a chemical attack in Connecticut and a simultaneous biological attack in New Jersey.

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COPY OF THE
WATERISAC'S
AWARD-WINNING
VIDEO.

Through participation in this simulated, dynamic exercise, the WaterISAC staff learned what procedures work well and what can be improved. The WaterISAC managed more than 1,000 communications including emergency phone calls to specifically affected participants, emails and requests for information between DHS and the WaterISAC, as well as TOPOFF3 WaterISAC alerts, advisories and bulletins. Many ISACs, including the Chemical ISAC and the Trucking ISAC, participated in the exercise, providing the opportunity for the WaterISAC to test inter-ISAC communication and collaboration procedures.

The five-day TOPOFF exercise included government participation at the highest levels, hence the acronym for "Top Official." This was the third TOPOFF exercise but the first to include non-governmental participation. TOPOFF4 is scheduled for May 2007. The WaterISAC plans to participate in TOPOFF4 and encourages all water and wastewater utilities to participate as well.

DID YOU KNOW

.....that the WaterISAC can tell you what *Burkholderia mallei* is, the clinical affects of the disease it causes, its persistence in water, the effects of conventional treatment on the organism, and what it takes to deactivate this potential bioterrorism agent? (Subscribers can easily and quickly access information on this and hundreds of other potential biological, chemical and radiological contaminants through the WaterISAC contaminant data bases.)

.....that the WaterISAC can help you understand why your distribution system is a major point of vulnerability and what you can do to reduce potential threats in this area? (Subscribers can enter "Distribution System Vulnerability" in the WaterISAC SEARCH box to receive numerous helpful references ranked by their relevance.)

.....that the WaterISAC can give you insight into the motives of terrorists through lessons learned from the Madrid bombings? (In addition, it can provide insight into Al-Qaida surveillance tactics, tactics of terrorist bombers, and terrorist use of official identification, uniforms and vehicles. Subscribers can go to the WaterISAC LIBRARY and look in the PHYSICAL folder.)

.....that the core elements of a wastewater ERP and tips for guarding against terrorists are at your fingertips? (Subscribers can look in the EMERGENCY RESPONSE folder in the WaterISAC LIBRARY, or just type "Wastewater ERP" in the SEARCH box.)

Visit the WaterISAC secure portal to make sure you're on track with what's online! (If you are not a WaterISAC subscriber, click on the red button above to apply. Subscription fees range from \$200 to \$1,000, depending on the size of the utility, but the security resources available are priceless.)

WATERISAC VIDEO WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

A video on the WaterISAC was recently honored by the AXIEM AWARDST (Absolute eXcellence In Electronic MediaT), an international program recognizing creative excellence in electronic media. Maguire Reader produced the video, which includes appearances by national security leaders, municipal government officials and water sector executives discussing the importance of information sharing and analysis. The video has been used to introduce the WaterISAC and promote participation. Order a copy of the award-winning video on CD-ROM, free of charge, by clicking the award button above and providing your shipping information.

The WaterISAC (www.waterisac.org) is the only centralized, secure, online resource of security threats that solely serves America's drinking water and wastewater utilities. The WaterISAC e-newsletter is a monthly electronic publication that highlights useful tips, case studies or analysis about water security.

P.S. Got questions, comments, or ideas for us?
Email editor@waterisac.org or call 1 866-H2OISAC (1 866-426-4722).



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