



WATERSC

Water Security Channel

A Service of WATERISAC

From the Editor

The Water Security Channel (WaterSC) is a free information and alert service designed to benefit drinking water and wastewater utilities. Any water utility member can register for free at www.WaterSC.org to become a WaterSC affiliate. All affiliates receive important alerts as well as our monthly e-newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition.

- Diane VanDe Hei, editor@waterisac.org
Executive Director/WaterISAC

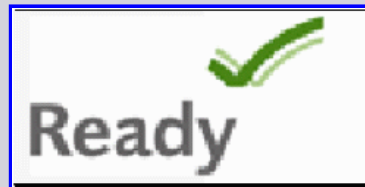
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NIAC Gets New Assignment On Insider Threats

On the heels of its report recommending that national plans for a pandemic flu outbreak focus on inoculating key water system personnel and other vital critical infrastructure workers, the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), was asked at its January meeting to research and provide policy recommendations on the vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure sites from internal sabotage. U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff made the request, noting that no significant body of research currently exists on this threat.

"We have to be concerned not only about external threats to our critical infrastructure but the possibility of sleepers within the infrastructure who might turn out to be the source of threats," Chertoff told the NIAC. He asked the Council to help clarify potential conflicts between privacy laws and counterterrorism policy for employees in the critical infrastructure sectors to better screen employees in those sectors.

Edmund G. Archuleta, General Manager, El Paso Water Utilities, who is the water sector representative on the NIAC, has agreed to co-chair the internal threat initiative.



DHS Ready Program Makes Progress On National Preparedness

The *Ready* program is a national campaign designed to educate and encourage Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks, ultimately increasing the level of basic preparedness across the nation. The effort is part of a broader national effort by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Directorate for Preparedness.

Produced for DHS by The Advertising Council, *Ready* (click on the button above) and its Spanish language version *Listo* ask individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses. In addition, *Ready Business*, an extension of the *Ready* Campaign, helps owners and managers of small- to medium-sized businesses prepare their employees, operations and assets in the event of an emergency. As of last September, the *Ready* website had received more than 1.9 billion hits and more than 9.7 million *Ready* materials had been requested or downloaded from the site.

Did You Know...

... WaterISAC works cooperatively with all critical infrastructures across the nation? In order to focus on security needs of drinking water and wastewater utilities, WaterISAC maintains an awareness of activities in other sectors that affect water and those that are affected by water. Pertinent information from other sectors is shared with WaterISAC subscribers. For example, recent documents posted in the WaterISAC secure portal library include DHS Homeland Infrastructure Threat and Risk Analysis Center's Quarterly Suspicious Activity Analyses for the Chemical Sector, Electric Sector, Oil and Gas Sector and Dam Sector.

For more information on WaterISAC, click the button above.

The Water Security Channel ([WaterSC](#)), a service of the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), electronically disseminates bulletins and advisories issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

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