



Online Water Security

Be informed. Be prepared.

From the Editor

Welcome to the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) free e-newsletter. WaterISAC is funded partially by the U.S. Congress through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

THIS MONTH: We introduce a new guide to help drinking water systems plan for business continuity in the event of an influenza pandemic. In addition, we report on the quarterly meeting of security analysts who track water incidents. Finally, you'll want to check out a valuable disaster communication tool that addresses a number of water-related events.

-Editor: Diane VanDe Hei, editor@waterisac.org

WaterISAC Issues Flu Pandemic Guide For Water Utilities

The public health community and the federal government are taking very seriously the possibility of an influenza pandemic caused by the avian strain H5N1. To help drinking water and wastewater system managers address this newest threat, WaterISAC and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies developed *Business Continuity Planning in the Event of an Influenza Pandemic: A Reference Guide for Water Utilities*.

Using resources from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Business Roundtable and the North American Electric Reliability Council, WaterISAC created a checklist of specific activities utilities can use



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National Disaster Education Coalition's
Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages

to prepare and plan to keep their systems running in the event of major absenteeism within their own organizations and in sectors interdependent with water operations. This checklist covers key actions, including: developing plans and policies; conducting training, drills and exercises; providing for protective equipment and preparing facilities; preparing response actions; and maintaining awareness and communication channels. The *Guide* is available to all water systems on the Water Security Channel website: <http://watersc.org/postings.html>.

Disaster Communication Guide Available

The National Disaster Education Coalition (NDEC) offers a guide to assist those who provide disaster safety information to the public. *Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages* contains awareness and action messages intended to help people reduce their risk of injury or loss in the event of natural and human-caused disasters. The messages and information that supports them are presented by type of disaster, including terrorism chemical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and many others.

NDEC is an organization of federal government agencies and national not-for-profit organizations that develops and disseminates educational public information about disaster preparedness. NDEC member agencies ensure that disaster safety messages are accurate, research-based and crafted appropriately for the audience by using understandable language. The online source for the *Guide* is available by clicking the button above.

Did You Know...

... As part of its routine procedures, the WaterISAC convenes a quarterly face-to-face working session of analysts representing federal departments (including DHS, EPA, CIA and FBI), regional law enforcement, and the private sector at the WaterISAC operations center. Participants have the opportunity to share threat information gathered by their home agencies and together participants discuss feasible attack scenarios.

... At the gathering of intelligence analysts in February, the outcome was a threat estimate specific to the drinking water and wastewater sector. A threat estimate is a written document detailing current analysis of threats, including likely targets, perpetrators and damage. The threat estimate includes sensitive security information and is made available to intelligence partners and WaterISAC subscribers via the secure online portal.

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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