

Water Security Division Products and Services List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Water Security Division (WSD) has developed a robust suite of products and services to improve the resilience of the water sector to all types of hazards. WSD resources can be found at epa.gov/waterresilience. Direct links to specific tools and resources are provided below.

Products are organized by topic: Assess Risks, Emergency Preparedness, Risk Communication, Laboratory Support, Mutual Aid and Assistance, Climate Change, Training and Exercises, Emergency Response, and Recovery.

Assess Risks

Risk assessment tools can assist water and wastewater utilities in identifying potential threats and vulnerabilities.



- [Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool \(VSAT\)](#) – VSAT assists utilities in assessing the potential impacts from both man-made and natural disasters and provides actions to enhance security and resilience.
- [Water Health and Economic Analysis Tool \(WHEAT\)](#) – WHEAT helps utility owners and operators to better understand the human health and economic consequences of potential disasters.
- [Water Quality Surveillance and Response System \(SRS\)](#) – SRS helps drinking water utilities identify, prepare for, and respond to water quality problems – including contamination – in their distribution system.

Emergency Preparedness

Water and wastewater utilities can build resilience by planning for emergencies before they occur. WSD has developed both hazard-specific and generalized products to help utilities prepare for disasters.



- [Emergency Response Plan Guidance for Small and Medium Community Water Systems](#) – Small and medium utilities can use this guidance to assist in developing or revising their Emergency Response Plans (ERPs).
- [Flood Resilience Guide](#) – This easy-to-navigate guide helps drinking water and wastewater utilities understand local flooding threats and identify practical solutions to protect critical assets.
- [Drought Resilience Guide](#) – This user-friendly guide and accompanying case studies help drinking water and wastewater utilities identify key drought preparedness and response actions to address both short-term drought impacts and long-term drought resilience.
- [Power Resilience Guide](#) – This interactive guide assists water and wastewater utilities in identifying and implementing key actions to improve resilience to power outages.
- [Community-Based Water Resiliency \(CBWR\) Tool](#) – This downloadable tool allows utilities and community members to assess the community's resilience to water service disruptions and describes tools and resources that can be used to enhance resilience.



Risk Communication

Communicating with the public prior to and during an emergency can help to mitigate public health and economic impacts.



Laboratory Support

Laboratories provide vital emergency response services during a contamination incident.



Mutual Aid and Assistance

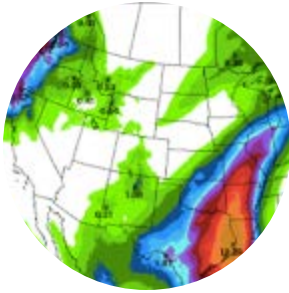
During an emergency, “utilities helping utilities” can be an efficient way to access needed resources.

- [Water Utility Public Awareness Kit](#) – This kit includes customizable print, web, and video materials that drinking water and wastewater utilities can use to inform customers about the value of water services, threats to water systems, and actions that households can take to prepare for service disruptions.
- [Developing Risk Communication Plans for Drinking Water Contamination Incidents](#) – This document helps utilities develop and implement an effective Risk Communication Plan (RCP) to respond to drinking water contamination incidents.
- [Water Laboratory Alliance \(WLA\)](#) – WLA is a nationwide network of laboratories that serves the water sector. WSD has developed resources that help laboratories and utilities respond to water contamination events involving chemical, biological, and radiochemical contaminants. Specific WSD products for laboratory support include:
 - [WLA Toolkit](#) – This document serves as an introduction to EPA resources – such as fact sheets, guidance documents, and other tools – that may be beneficial to your laboratory or organization.
 - [WLA Response Plan](#) – This document outlines processes and procedures that can help individuals lead a coordinated laboratory response during water contamination incidents.
 - [Water Laboratory Continuity of Operations Plan \(COOP\)](#) – Laboratories can prepare for continued service during an emergency by developing a Continuity of Operations Plan, using available templates and instructions.
- [Guidance for Building Laboratory Capabilities to Respond to Drinking Water Contamination](#) – This document provides guidance for water utilities wishing to build laboratory capabilities for response to water contamination events. It identifies contaminant classes of concern, lists analytical methods, and provides information on the role of laboratory networks in responding to drinking water contamination incidents.
- [Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network \(WARN\) Resources](#) – WARNs provide water and wastewater utilities with the means to quickly obtain help – such as personnel, equipment, materials, and associated services – from other utilities during an emergency. WSD has developed videos, guidance documents, and model agreements to help water and wastewater utilities build or strengthen their mutual aid and assistance networks.



Climate Change

Severe weather events due to climate change may have significant impacts on water utilities.



- [Climate Ready Water Utilities \(CRWU\)](#) – The CRWU initiative provides water sector utilities with tools, training, and technical assistance needed to adapt to climate change. CRWU products include:
 - [Climate Resilience Evaluation & Awareness Tool \(CREAT\)](#) – CREAT is a software package that helps utilities understand their potential climate change threats and identify adaptation strategies.
 - [Adaptation Strategies Guide for Water Utilities](#) – This document helps utilities understand climate change impacts on utility operations, and provides actions utilities can take to prepare for these impacts.
 - [Adaptation Case Study and Information Exchange](#) – This online resource allows drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities to learn about climate change adaptation planning efforts from their peers across the United States.

Training and Exercises

Training and exercises provide utilities with opportunities to learn more about resilience and practice response actions.



- [Water/Wastewater All Hazards Boot Camp Training: Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery](#) – This interactive, computer-based training course provides users with the fundamentals of water sector resilience and resources for a comprehensive all-hazards program. The training is approved for operator continuing education credit in some states.
- [Tabletop Exercise \(TTX\) Tool for Water Systems](#) – This downloadable tool helps utilities plan and facilitate tabletop exercises using an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness and response.
- [SRS Exercise Development Toolbox \(EDT\)](#) – This downloadable tool guides users through the steps of developing exercises with realistic contamination scenarios. Users enter information into the program, and the tool will generate documents for use in a discussion- or operation-based exercise.
- [WARN Tabletop Exercise Facilitator Guide](#) – This document provides instructions for planning, organizing, and conducting a tabletop exercise to create or update a WARN operational plan or agreement.
- [Incident Command System \(ICS\) Refresher Trainings](#) – Designed specifically for water and wastewater utility personnel, these recorded training webinars provide viewers with an overview of the ICS.



Emergency Response

Water and wastewater utilities can use these tools to improve response to an emergency.



- [Water Utility Response On-The-Go \(OTG\) Mobile Website](#) – Utility personnel can access this mobile site from their smart phones. Response OTG enhances disaster response by providing easy access to severe weather information, key emergency contacts, emergency checklists, damage assessment forms, and ICS resources.
- [Water Sector Incident Action Checklists](#) – These simple, concise checklists provide key actions to take before, during, and after a natural disaster, including drought, extreme heat and cold, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, tsunamis, hurricanes and volcanic activity.
- [Water Contaminant Information Tool \(WCIT\)](#) – WCIT is a secure (registration required) database with information on over 800 drinking water and wastewater contaminants including pathogens, pesticides, and toxic industrial chemicals. During a contamination incident, WCIT can aid in decision-making by providing vital contaminant information.

Recovery

Following an emergency, drinking water and wastewater utilities can use these resources to assist in recovery.



- [Federal Funding for Utilities in National Disasters \(Fed FUNDS\)](#) – Fed FUNDS is a collection of resources and information for federal disaster funding programs intended for water and wastewater utilities.
- [Public Assistance for Water and Wastewater Utilities in Emergencies and Disasters](#) This short document provides information about water and wastewater utilities' eligibility for disaster funds under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Public Assistance Grant Program.
- [Reimbursement Tips for Water Sector Emergency Response and Recovery](#) – This short document provides simple tips that drinking water and wastewater utilities can use to maximize reimbursement through local, state, or federal level mechanisms.