Cybersecurity Tips for Public Water Systems

Developing a Cyber Incident Plan

MassDEP Drinking Water Program(DWP)

Develop a plan that includes actions to take in case of a cyber breach:

1. 

Make a list of staff and emergency services to contact in case of incident - supervisor, senior management, emergency personnel, lawyer, MassDEP, etc.

2. 

Determine exactly when to alert key staff and emergency services.

3. 

Perform a risk assessment and identify sensitive and vulnerable areas. Based on the analysis, describe immediate actions to take for the most likely types of cyber incidents.

4. 

Train staff to understand the incident plan and their roles and responsibilities in case of an event. Ensure employees are aware of the cyber incident plan and have access to it.

5. 

Test your cyber incident plan and check how effectively your plan is working to restore and return the affected systems back into normal environment. Identify weaknesses and update plan to improve future response.

Incident Response Steps

More Resources

- For more details and step by step guidance on list of activities PWS can take to prepare for, respond to and recover from a cyber incident visit EPA Cyber Incident Action Checklist
- For Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency(CISA) incident response training visit here
- For more resources on cybersecurity visit MassDEP cybersecurity webpage here