



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

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Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at:

mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers or at the Statehouse Archives at:
<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119> which has a searchable database.



Lake Quinsigamond, “The Heart of the Commonwealth,” Worcester, MA Photo by: [John Phelan](#)

This *In The Main* newsletter has these topics of interest

2024-02-09

1. 2023 Annual Statistical Report (ASR) is now available.
2. Reminder – Massachusetts Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program - FY24 Round Open
3. Landscape Partnership Grant Program
4. DCR Watershed System Salt Reduction
5. Fluoridation Jobs
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10. Supply Chain Reminders



Are you looking for past issues or topics in our *In the Main* newsletter?

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives at:

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>

2023 Annual Statistical Report (ASR) is now available.

All systems active during the 2023 calendar year are required to submit an ASR.

- No need to create a new eDEP account. Login using your existing username and password at <https://edep.dep.mass.gov>.

- After logging in to your account verify your email by going to My Profile → Update My Information. Without a current and accurate email address you will not receive an official receipt after submitting your ASR.
- Please note that you must open a new ASR each year. From your eDEP homepage go to Forms → Drinking Water → 2023 Public Water System Annual Statistical Report.
- Hardships may be granted on a yearly basis for those with no computer access. You must apply for a hardship every year to receive a paper version. Contact information is below.
- **The Due Date for the 2023 ASR is Monday April 8th, 2024.**
- Instructions for filling out the ASR are located at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates> (click Statistical Reporting Forms).

For assistance with eDEP (logging in, resetting passwords, etc.):

- eDEP Support Desk – edep-support@mass.gov

For assistance with filling out the Annual Statistical Report:

- Tio Yano (tio.yano@mass.gov)
- Sage Grace (sage.grace@mass.gov)
- Ben Joaquin (ben.joaquin@mass.gov)

For assistance with filling out the Water Management Act Forms of the Annual Statistical Report:

- Jen D'Urso (jen.durso@mass.gov)

Reminder – Massachusetts Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program - FY24 Round Open

The Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs *Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program* awards funds to public water systems for the purchase of land and conservation restrictions for water supply protection. The Drinking Water Program encourages public water suppliers to work with land trusts and watershed organizations in Massachusetts to assist with, and demonstrate support for, grant applications. The deadline for submittals is March 8, 2024.

More information about this grant program is posted at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drinking-water-supply-protection-grant-program>.

Landscape Partnership Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm

The Landscape Partnership Grant program provides financial assistance for the protection of large blocks of conservation lands (must achieve protection for 100-500 acres depending upon the County in which the project is located) that promote ecological integrity and connectivity as well as contribute to local forest and agricultural economies. Applications must be submitted jointly by partners representing a minimum of two eligible categories of applicant such as municipalities, 501c3 conservation non-profits (e.g., Land Trusts), State and Federal Land protection agencies.

An in-person information session will be held at 2:00 pm, Monday, February 26, 2024 at MassWildlife Field Headquarters in Westborough, MA and a virtually meeting will be held via MS Teams at 1:00 pm, Wednesday,

February 28. Advanced registration is required for either information session: email vanessa.farny@mass.gov with the date you will attend.

More information, including the application is available at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-landscape-partnership-grant>.

DCR Watershed System Salt Reduction

As we continue into the cold, winter months, increases in salt usage for winter snow and ice management can cause increases in salt levels in our water supply reservoirs. It can be very difficult and costly to remove salt from waterbodies after it enters the environment, and high levels of salt can impact drinking water quality, treatment, and distribution.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP) is committed to finding ways to reduce salt use nearby water supply reservoirs and watersheds. In partnership with other state and municipal departments such as Departments of Public Works, Highway Departments, and MassDOT, the DWSP is creating education and outreach tools to make the public aware of the importance of reducing salt usage and the impact of salt usage on water resources. You can learn more about DCR's Watershed System Salt Reduction information at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-watershed-system-salt-reduction>

Fluoridation Jobs

CDC's [Division of Oral Health \(DOH\)](#) is seeking an experienced water treatment Environmental Engineer. The senior Environmental Engineer is the principal advisor and planner in support of engineering activities as they relate to the fluoridation of public water supplies. The Engineer will provide engineering assistance and technical oversight to international, federal, regional, state, and local communities for public water fluoridation operations.

The applicant must possess knowledge related to the following:

- environmental engineering and the ability to apply this knowledge to community water fluoridation and to general fluoridation activities of the division,
- regulatory requirements for public water systems and guidance and recommendations on water fluoridation,
- the ability to develop, implement, evaluate, report, and disseminate findings for studies and research projects which are related to fluoridation engineering and community water fluoridation, and
- the ability to train and educate state and regional engineers, water plant operators, and national and state dental public health personnel in fluoridation engineering.

To meet the basic position requirements, applicants must have at least one year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the GS-12 grade level, which must include experience related to the development and implementation of public health programs with emphasis on water, or sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion.

Interested parties should apply for this position through USAJOBS (www.usajobs.gov). **A complete application package must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST on February 16, 2024, to receive consideration.**

Current and former Federal employees, apply here: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/774795100>

General public, apply here: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/774799100>



Getting Ready for the LCRR

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Requirements Training

Join us on February 26, 2024, at 9:55 a.m. for a webinar that will help PWS prepare for the upcoming service line inventory submission deadline of October 16th, 2024, lead service line replacement plans, and sampling requirements.

Register here:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUdeGhqTMpG9oH5ehSaRISmMQ6OgNhOjPJ>

We encourage all PWS and operators to send their questions ahead of time; sending your questions ahead of time allows us time to prepare, such as presenting example scenarios for the SLI based on your questions and concerns. Send all questions ahead of time to program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: LCRR February Training.

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

Expanded Assistance Program Update

The Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities (EECF) Drinking Water provides free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to schools and EECFs by assisting with sampling, results interpretation, and guidance on remediation actions. The program is funded by a grant from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. MassDEP also worked with the Clean Water Trust to secure additional funding to expand assistance to private schools.

Currently, 837 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 536 (64%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 626 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 420 (67%) had one or more lead detections.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Expanded Assistance Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program.

Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbyr_U8wEMrA-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrItvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec

PFAS Update

Statistics on PFAS levels and responses by PWS

- Currently there are 1,608 active PWS in the state of which 1,418 were required to test for PFAS (have their own water source).
- 1,171 PWS (80%) took advantage of the free sampling program which ended June 30, 2022.

- 95% of Community PWS are providing water that meets the PFAS6 MCL (representing 96.6% of the population served by COM PWS).
- 173 PWS detected one or more finished water sources above the PFAS6 MCL of 20 ppt (see table below). See Tab 3 of the storymap on our PFAS webpage for details.
- 51 new water treatment facilities or additions to existing WTFs have been constructed and activated by PWS to remove PFAS (temporary and permanent systems). See Tab 6 on the PFAS storymap for details.
- The new water treatment facilities use two common technologies to remove PFAS from drinking water: granulated activated carbon and ion exchange resin; but two PWS are piloting new technologies: one clay absorption media and one corn-based media.
- 6 small PWS were connected to a municipal water system and declassified as PWS.
- PWS PFAS testing results are available to the public on the web in the EEA data portal. Search under the chemical name: “PFAS6” or to see all the PFAS chemicals, search under the contaminant group “PFAS”.

○ **PWS PFAS6 MCL Exceedances:**

Type of Public Water Supplier	# PWS (non-consecutive)	# PWS with one or more results over 20 ppt	% of PWS	# PWS currently over 20 ppt	% of PWS currently over 20
Community	449	86	19%	22	5%
Non-Transient Non-Community	234	39	17%	25	11%
Transient Non-Community	735	48	7%	39	5%
Total	1418	173	12%	86	6%

Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html>.

Board of Certification Training Page and List of Approved Courses

You may also want to go to the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities Operators training page and view the approved education courses to sit for examination. Go to:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-board-approved-education-courses-updated-september-2020/download>.

Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

Looking Ahead to Compliance with Round 2 of AWIA: Updating Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans

Wednesday, February 21, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET; webinar

Are you prepared for the 2025/2026 round of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA's) Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan submissions? Attend this webinar to learn more about requirements, best practices, and available resources/training to comply with federal regulations and become more resilient. The next 5-year cycle is beginning. The deadline for updating Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) for large water systems (serving more than 100,000 people) is quickly approaching. This March 2025 deadline will be followed by the submission of updates for medium and small water systems. In this webinar, panelists will discuss the latest industry standards for RRAs, ERPs, and Cyber Security; best practices for revising the documents; EPA requirements; lessons learned to apply to this round; and additional resources to help

your utility not only comply with the federal regulation but also truly become more resilient. \$75 member, \$120 nonmember [Register here](#)

Join the PFAS Conversation: Interactive Dialogue on Emerging Contaminants (Regions 1-2)

Thursday, February 22, 2024; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm ET; webinar

Join the PFAS conversation! Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals considered an emerging contaminant of concern in surface water, groundwater, soil, and air. In order to assist communities in their efforts to prepare for addressing possible regulations, the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland invites you to join us for an interactive peer-to-peer session on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024. [Register here](#)

AWWA New England Section: Safeguarding the Environment – Climate Adaptation Management Strategies

Thursday, February 22, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

The global changes in climate and their inherent variability are exerting influences on the hydrologic cycle, source water, and water demands that deviate from statistical trends based on historical records. Consequently, this is impacting the expected quantity, quality, and reliability of water supplies. In this webinar, strategies will be presented for assessing risk and uncertainty associated with climate change, as well as guidance on developing and implementing actions to enhance resilience and sustainability in utility management, facilities, and water sources. The session will also provide a step-by-step approach to creating a Climate Action Plan (CAP), supplemented with case studies and adaptation measures, offering valuable insights for those grappling with the task of developing a CAP for their utility. [Register here](#)

Decarbonization, Achieving Net Zero: Time Is Running Out

Thursday, February 22, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET; webinar

Most of the energy used by water is carbon-based. The CDP found that global water use, storage, and distribution contributes 10% of all global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, making the water industry key to any successful net-zero transition. While knowing all of this, we are not doing enough. What is holding us back? The question we must resolve is how do we measurably move the needle to achieve net zero for the water industry? To answer those questions, we will bring together a panel of experts from different segments of the water industry representing utility management, sustainability leaders, and innovators. We will take a candid, deep dive looking into the challenges decarbonizing represents, and explore how utilities are bringing practical solutions online to decarbonize and the motivators behind these efforts. We will also explore how challenges were overcome including creative ways to finance innovation. [Register here](#)

MassDEP Drinking Water Program: Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Requirements Training

Monday, February 26, 2024; 9:55 – 11:30 AM ET; webinar

MassDEP Drinking Water Program is hosting a training regarding the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Requirements. This training will cover topics such as: LCR, LCRR, and LCRI updates; a Service Line Inventory (SLI) case study from Acton, MA; lessons learned with UMass Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs); SLI requirements; how to submit your SLI; and 2024 sampling requirements. There will be an open forum/Q&A session at the end of the training. Certified operators can earn 1.5 TCHs by participating in the training. [Register here](#)

EPA Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD) – Water and Wastewater Sector Threat Briefing

Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET; webinar


EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD) is partnering with the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), and Federal Bureau of Investigation to offer a virtual water threat briefing webinar on February 27, 2024 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm (Eastern Time). The briefing will be unclassified; no clearance is required. It will be general in nature and will provide an overview of potential threats to water critical

infrastructure (cyber and physical), what to do in the event of a cyber or physical intrusion, and water security and preparedness products and services. [Register here](#)

- **MassDEP**
[Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:](#)
 - Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities: <https://youtu.be/78v3eAyf1yE>
 - Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response: <https://youtu.be/eislsdQnXqE>
- **Environmental Finance Center Network**
For a complete list of trainings webinars and in-person trainings please go to:
<https://efcnetwork.org/upcoming-events/>
- **EPA**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>.
- **Mass Rural Water Association**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
<https://www.massrwa.org/p/14/Trainings—Events>.
- **MWWA**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
[MWWA Calendar](#)
- **NEWWA**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
https://communityhub.newwa.org/nc__upcomingevents.
- **Water ISAC**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
<https://www.waterisac.org/resources>.
- **RCAP Solutions**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
<http://www.rcapsolutions.org/community-resources-events/>.
- **AWWA**
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Events-Calendar?utm_term=AWWA+Connections+10-8-2021&utm_content=Connections+10-8-2021&utm_source=communications&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=connections.

Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

or click here:  **YouTube**

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee>.

Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2024-02-09

PLEASE SHARE THIS CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION WITH YOUR SCADA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF



Be Vigilant!



Incident Reporting:

- CISA's 24/7 Operations Center at Report@cisa.gov or (888) 282-0870.
- FBI via your local [FBI field office](#) or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or cywatch@ic.fbi.gov.
- Contact the EPA Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division at watercyberta@epa.gov to voluntarily provide situational awareness.
- Additionally, WaterISAC can be notified by emailing analyst@waterisac.org, calling 866-H2O-ISAC, or using the [online incident reporting form](#).



Regularly review CISA'S [Shields Up](#) page.



Tools and Resources to help detect and protect gaps that could lead to exploitation.

- [Water Sector Cybersecurity Toolkit](#)
- [Incident Response Guide: Water and Wastewater Sector](#)
- [CISA's Free Cyber Vulnerability Scanning for Water Utilities](#)
- [Cross-Sector Cybersecurity Performance Goals](#)



EPA FREE CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

All PWS should have a baseline cybersecurity assessment. Take advantage of this opportunity and join the group of proactive PWS that have done so. MassDEP/DWP will be inspecting your PWS's cybersecurity programs and plans including assessments during sanitary surveys, permitting and approval or as needed. Strengthen your PWS cybersecurity routine operations and register for the EPA Cybersecurity Assessment. Register with simple steps by using the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>. For additional resources visit [EPA Cybersecurity for the Water Sector | US EPA](#).



CISA Free In-Person Cybersecurity Assessments for Selected PWS in Massachusetts

Do you want a cybersecurity assessment from the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)? MassDEP/ DWP is working collaboratively with CISA to provide in-person cyber assessment to 20 pre-selected Public Water Systems (PWS) in Massachusetts. These PWS will be chosen based on criteria such as PWS type, size, and particularly the timing of their sanitary surveys. If you are interested, please let us know at your earliest convenience at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessments



Important Reminder: Sanitary Surveys and Cybersecurity

- **Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2024?** If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2024 **MassDEP/DWP will inspect your cybersecurity assessment findings and plans during the upcoming sanitary survey cycle.** Any findings will be incorporated in a separate action plan and your PWS will receive technical assistance to assist you to address the findings. Please remember all cybersecurity information is considered as sensitive information and must be kept confidential.
 - For details, please refer to the important notice, which was sent on December 28, 2023, to PWS, reminding them of their 2024 sanitary surveys and cybersecurity program assessment report/review:
-

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/important-notice-your-pws-2024-sanitary-surveys-and-cybersecurity-programassessment-report-inspection-reminder/download>

- If you have any questions on this information, you may also contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:



CISA, EPA Jointly Release Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity Toolkit

- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly released a [Water Sector Cybersecurity Toolkit](#) to aid Water and Wastewater Sector (Water Sector) stakeholders in bolstering their cybersecurity preparedness across the nation.



Incident Response Guide for the WWS Sector

- CISA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Environmental Protection Agency released a joint [Incident Response Guide for the Water and Wastewater Systems \(WWS\) Sector](#).
- The guide includes contributions from over 25 WWS Sector organizations spanning private industry, nonprofit, and government entities.
- This coordination enabled CISA, FBI, and EPA to develop a guide with meaningful value to WWS Sector organizations. Specifically, the guide provides information about the federal support available at each stage of the [cyber incident response \(IR\) lifecycle](#).



Threat Advisory – Phishing Campaign Impersonates State CDC Drinking Water Program

- **WaterISAC has been made aware of a phishing campaign that occurred last month impersonating the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP).**
- The fake emails were reportedly sent to all Maine water operators and requested that operators click on a link to “verify or update” their information in order to avoid having their license revoked.
- The attackers used the Maine.gov logo and the Division title in the email subject lines to make the message appear legitimate. T
- The Maine Department of Health & Human Services sent a cybersecurity alert via email, but it can also be viewed at [Maine DWP Cybersecurity Alert: Phishing Attempt on Maine Water Operators](#).
- This recent campaign is similar to prior incident reports WaterISAC has received that impersonated state agencies in recent years. WaterISAC shared these reports with members:

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHISHING SCAMS

MassDEP/DWP encourages all PWS to be vigilant and use the following mitigation techniques to protect themselves against phishing attacks.

- **Verify Links:** Think before you click. Hover over links to see the actual URL (destination).
- **Confirm Requests:** The best way to avoid phishing attacks is to verify sensitive information requests in person. Call the person who sent the request to verify that it’s legitimate.
- **Sensitive Information:** Never share sensitive or personal information requested via email.
- **Report:** Report all suspected phishing attacks right away to your supervisor and IT department. See MassDEP/DWP poster for more details [Reporting Cyber attacks \(mass.gov\)](#).



Advisory – PRC-sponsored Volt Typhoon Activity and Supplemental Living Off the Land Guidance (Source: WaterISAC)

CISA, the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released a joint Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA), [PRC State-Sponsored Actors Compromise and Maintain Persistent Access to U.S. Critical Infrastructure](#) alongside supplemental [Joint Guidance: Identifying and Mitigating Living off the Land Techniques](#).

Executive Overview

These reports confirm these state-sponsored affiliated actors have an interest in and have compromised water and

wastewater systems sector assets. Compromise was enabled due to reused credentials and the actors remained in the system over nine-months.

PWS are encouraged to review following reports for more information and mitigation steps to protect against and detect this activity. In some cases, **utilities may need to forward these reports on to systems integrators or other technology or cybersecurity support to help:**

- Recognize Volt Typhoon techniques,
- Assess whether Volt Typhoon techniques have compromised your organization,
- Secure your networks from these adversarial techniques by implementing recommended mitigations.

[CISA and Partners Release Advisory on PRC-sponsored Volt Typhoon Activity and Supplemental Living Off the Land Guidance](#)

[Joint CSA: PRC State-Sponsored Actors Compromise and Maintain Persistent Access to U.S. Critical Infrastructure JOINT GUIDANCE: Identifying and Mitigating Living Off the Land Techniques](#)

Why this is important – the technical details

The U.S. authoring agencies have confirmed that Volt Typhoon has compromised the IT environments of multiple critical infrastructure organizations—primarily in [Communications](#), [Energy](#), [Transportation Systems](#), and [Water and Wastewater Systems Sectors](#)—in the continental and non-continental United States and its territories, including Guam.

Volt Typhoon's behaviors are concerning, notably the capability to lurk in networks for an extended period due to significant use of living off the land techniques where actors leverage existing tools within an environment to remain undetected. Some of the techniques and behaviors have been observed include (but are not limited to):

- The reports specifically state that in one **confirmed compromise of a water and wastewater systems sector entity, after obtaining initial access, Volt Typhoon actors connected to the network via a VPN with administrator credentials they obtained and opened an RDP session with the same credentials to move laterally**. Over a nine-month period, they moved laterally to a file server, a domain controller, an Oracle Management Server (OMS), and a VMware vCenter server. The actors obtained domain credentials from the domain controller and performed discovery, collection, and exfiltration on the file server (see the Discovery and Collection and Exfiltration sections).
- Volt Typhoon **potentially had access to a range of critical PuTTY profiles, including those for water treatment plants, water wells, an electrical substation, OT systems, and network security devices**.
- Their **choice of targets and pattern of behavior is not consistent with traditional cyber espionage or intelligence gathering operations**, and the U.S. authoring agencies assess with high confidence that Volt Typhoon actors are pre-positioning themselves on IT networks to enable the disruption of OT functions across multiple critical infrastructure sectors.

Volt Typhoon uses elevated credentials for strategic network infiltration and additional discovery, often focusing on gaining capabilities to access OT assets. Volt Typhoon actors have been observed testing access to domain-joined OT assets using default OT vendor credentials, and in certain instances, they have possessed the capability to access OT systems whose credentials were compromised via NTDS.dit theft. This access enables potential disruptions, such as manipulating heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in server rooms or disrupting critical energy and water controls, leading to significant infrastructure failures.

Upcoming Trainings



EPA Webinar: Water and Wastewater Sector Threat Briefing

Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar

EPA, along with partners from WaterISAC and the FBI, are offering a virtual threat briefing webinar that will be held on February 27, 2024. The briefing will be unclassified; no clearance is required. It will provide an overview of information on the following topics related to water and wastewater sector security threats and preparedness:

Potential threats to critical infrastructure (cyber and physical). What to do in the event of a cyber or physical intrusion. And water security and preparedness products and services. [Register now](#)

Reminder: EPA Exercise: National Water Sector Cybersecurity Drill - A Day Without SCADA

Thursday, February 29, 2024; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

EPA will be hosting a free cybersecurity drill for drinking water and wastewater systems. You will gain vital training and experience on two of the most common cyber-attacks; phishing and ransomware. This drill will help your utility to test your ability to identify, report, and respond to these incidents. Join us in this free event that will support the Governance and Training section of your cybersecurity programs. [Register now](#)

MassDEP Cybersecurity Additional/ Resources Reminders:

- **Cybersecurity Continues to Be an Important Component of Providing Safe Drinking Water in Massachusetts**
 - MassDEP posters with cybersecurity tips to help keep your systems secure <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations#cybersecurity->
 - Public Water Systems may include cybersecurity planning in DWSRF Asset Management Grant applications <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/asset-management-planning-grant-program>
 - Other Grants <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/cybersecurity-funding>
 - Supply Chain: **PWSs are reminded to implement the steps identified by DWP at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/steps-to-prepare-your-public-water-system-for-supply-chain-disruptions/download> and keep MassDEP/DWP informed of all Supply Chain issues.**
-