



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

100 Cambridge Street – 9th Floor; Boston, MA 02114

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.



Ponkapoag Pond, Canton, MA Photo by: Grace Ronca

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

2024-03-07

1. Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Assistance: 1 Month to Submittal Deadline
2. PWS Site Visit Recap: Division of Occupational Licensure
3. Reminder to PWS: Chemical Feed System Controls
4. Planning Ahead for Round 2 of AWIA Compliance in 2025/2026
5. Getting Ready for the LCRR
6. Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update
7. PFAS Update
8. Training Calendar
9. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
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>

Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Assistance:

1 Month to Submittal Deadline

Please be aware that your 2023 Annual Statistical Report (ASR) is due by **Monday, April 8, 2024**. If you have not already started work on your ASR, we recommend you do so now. This will allow you time to solve any issues you might have with accessing or filling out your ASR.

To access your ASR:

Log in using your existing username and password at <https://edep.dep.mass.gov>

- Verify your email by going to *My Profile > Update My Information*. You need a current and accurate email address to receive an official eASR receipt.
- Open a new ASR each year. From your eDEP homepage go to *Forms > Drinking Water > 2023 Public Water System Annual Statistical Report*.
- **Your 2023 ASR is due Monday, April 8th, 2024.**

For instructions to fill out your ASR: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#statistical-reporting-forms->

Step-by-Step Tutorial- Watch the MassDEP and Massachusetts Water Works Association training session on how to complete and submit your ASR correctly at [Tips for Completing the Annual Statistical Report \(ASR\)](#).

Important: On the *Staffing and Contact Information* form make sure the start date of your current primary distribution operator's record is **correct and that the end date is blank**. An example of a current primary distribution operator record can be seen below. Note that the *End Date* is blank for the current primary distribution operator. **If you do not have a current primary distribution operator, please contact your MassDEP regional office at:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-regional-offices-by-community>.

The screenshot shows a web interface for managing distribution operators. At the top, there are links for 'Edit' and 'Delete'. Below this, a form displays the following information: Grade: 2T/3D, License #: 78210958, Phone: 508-817-4368, and Email: xio@chelseawater.com. A section titled 'Role Assignments' contains a table with columns for 'Function', 'Begin Date', and 'End Date'. The first row shows 'PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR' as the function, '06/01/1987' as the begin date, and a blank end date. There are 'Edit' and 'Delete' links for this role. At the bottom of the table is a button labeled 'Add New Function/Role'.

Function	Begin Date	End Date
PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR	06/01/1987	

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

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

For assistance with filling out the Annual Statistical Report, please contact:

- Tio Yano at Tio.yano@mass.gov OR
- Sage Grace at Sage.grace@mass.gov OR
- Andrew Durham at Andrew.Durham@mass.gov

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

- Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov

You may also contact the Drinking water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: ASR or 617-292-5770.

PWS Site Visit Recap: Division of Occupational Licensure

Last month, two members of the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities (the Board) provided tours of their public water systems to Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL) staff members who work closely with the Board on drinking water operator licensure. The purpose of these visits was to give DOL staff the opportunity to visit a water treatment facility and learn about the kind of work performed by operators. These site visits were solely learning opportunities to provide DOL staff with background about drinking water operations.

The first PWS site visit was to two of the treatment plants in the Dedham-Westwood Water System, hosted by Blake Lukis, the MWWA Representative of the Board.



The second PWS site visit was to the MWRA's John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, hosted by Dave Coppes, the Professional Engineer Representative of the Board.



The PWS site visits were a great success! DOL staff enjoyed the facility tours and now have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the kinds of work that operators perform daily. This understanding will aid DOL staff as they continue working on drinking water operator licensure topics.

Reminder to PWS: Chemical Feed System Controls

This past week, an educational facility PWS had a chemical overfeed of two critical chemicals that required a school closure and a full flushing of the plumbing system in the facility. Although no one consumed the water or was injured by this event, MassDEP/DWP is using this opportunity to remind PWS to have chemical feed system controls designed to prevent chemical overfeed and regularly test and maintain their chemical feed system components to prevent equipment failure.

Regulatory Requirements

Under 310 CMR 22.04(13)(a)(8), all PWS must develop an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that includes an action plan for the situation in which there is a “potential or imminent threat of an overfeed of an approved drinking water treatment chemical into the system”, including any procedures or equipment necessary to continue providing safe drinking water to residents of the PWS.

Additionally, 310 CMR 22.04(14) describes the requirements for chemical safety control for critical chemical feed systems. The regulations include information regarding minimum chemical analyzer and interlock requirements, instrumentation and controls calibration and maintenance, and written protocols and recordkeeping.

Guidelines and Additional Information

MassDEP’s *Guidelines for Public Water Systems* includes a chapter on Chemical Application design and requirements. See: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-chapter-6-chemical-application-o/download>

Additionally, MassDEP requires that chemical feed system control alarms are tested at least every quarter. The newly updated alarm testing log is available here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/water-treatment-chemical-feed-system-control-and-alarm-testing-log-o/download>

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

Planning Ahead for Round 2 of AWIA Compliance

It’s not too soon to begin preparing for the second round of compliance with the American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) 2025/2026!

AWIA was first passed in 2018 and requires community water systems to certify that they have prepared and updated their Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). Community water systems are required to recertify to EPA that their RRAs and ERPs are up to date every five years. The first year of compliance was in 2020, which means that Round 2 of compliance begins in just one year! With changes from the past five years including supply chain issues, cybersecurity, and increased funding opportunities, water systems may have a lot to update in their RRAs and ERPs.

Community Water Systems that serve over 3,300 people

The following table describes the due dates for community water systems to certify their RRAs and ERPs to EPA, based on the size of the community water system. Certifications for ERPs are due within six months of the RRA’s certification, but no later than the dates specified below.

Community Water System size (by population served as of March 31, 2024)	Certify Risk & Resiliency Assessment (RRA) by:	Certify Emergency Response Plan (ERP) within 6 months of RRA, but no later than:
≥ 100,000	March 31, 2025	September 30, 2025
50,000 – 99,999	December 31, 2025	June 30, 2026
3,300 – 49,999	June 30, 2026	December 30, 2026

What are RRAs and ERPs?

A **Risk and Resiliency Assessment (RRA)** is an assessment of a water system’s assets and the risks to and resilience of those assets to malevolent acts and natural hazards. RRAs include an evaluation of the capital and operational needs for a system’s risk and resilience management.

An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** is a document that incorporates the findings from the RRA to create action plans and gather critical information for water systems to respond to emergencies in their system. The ERP should include ways to improve resilience, plans for responding to emergencies, actions to lessen the impact of malevolent acts or natural hazards, and strategies to detect malevolent acts or natural hazards.

What if I'm not a Community Water System that serves over 3,300 people?

Community water systems serving less than 3,300 people, and non-community water systems are not required to certify to EPA the completion and update of their RRA or ERP. **However, per Massachusetts regulation 310 CMR 22.04(13), all public water systems are required to have an Emergency Response Plan.** PWS are encouraged to regularly review their ERPs and make changes as often as necessary to keep up with changes in their system and organization.

EPA hosts a Very Small Drinking Water and Wastewater System Resilience CEU program to assist very small drinking water systems and wastewater systems to develop RRAs and ERPs. Participants can earn up to 10 TCHs towards their operator license renewals for participating in this program. More information can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/resources-promote-ras-and-erps-cws-serve-less-3301-non-cws-and-wastewater-systems>

ERPs and Cybersecurity Assessments

PWS performed a cybersecurity assessment as part of their ERP preparation and certification back in 2020/2021. These cybersecurity assessments can be used to meet MassDEP's requirements regarding cybersecurity assessments, if a PWS does not have a more recent assessment. When updating the ERP for the next round of AWIA compliance, PWS may need to perform an updated cybersecurity assessment.

MassDEP/DWP's Emerging Contaminants for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program requires PWS to document their cybersecurity sufficiency as part of their grant contract conditions. To document cybersecurity sufficiency a PWS should have assessed its cybersecurity program and practices and developed a plan to address any identified gaps, if necessary. Additionally, MassDEP/DWP is launching a new Cybersecurity Grant Program this month. In order to qualify for this grant, PWS will also need to show that they have performed a cybersecurity assessment recently (no earlier than two years ago). Please note: All recipients of these grant funds will be required to provide documentation, including, at a minimum: Buy American/Build American [<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>] certification (for projects over \$250,000), all necessary permits, signage, and explanation of cybersecurity sufficiency.

Where can I find more information about this topic?

Use the following resources to learn more about RRAs, ERPs, AWIA, and more.

- [MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems Chapter 12 – Emergency Response Planning Requirements](#)
- [MassDEP Water Utility Resilience Program](#)
- [EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience](#)
- [EPA Water Resilience - AWIA Section 2013](#)
- [EPA How to Certify Your RRA or ERP](#)
- [CISA Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity](#)
- [AWWA Resources and Tools - Risk & Resilience](#)
- [AWWA Resources and Tools - Cybersecurity](#)

Getting Ready for the LCRR

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Requirements Training Results

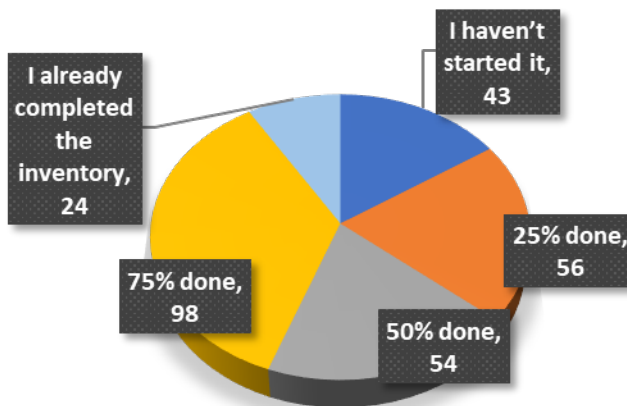
MassDEP would like to thank our partner, Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA), Public Water Suppliers, and all interested parties who registered for the LCRR Training on Monday, February 26th, 2024!

We had 500 participants register for the LCRR Training and 485 people attend; not including the multiple operators who joined as a group to learn more! 281 participants will be receiving TCHs and certificates in the coming week.

MassDEP encourages all operators to keep up the great work!

44.3% (122 attendees) of operators who attended the training and participated in polling are 75% done with their Service Line Inventory or have completed it!

Service Line Inventory Progress



LCRR Training Materials:

- During the LCRR Training and through the Evaluation provided at the end of the training, MassDEP received over 80 questions from participants! You may see the full LCRR Training Q&A at the MassDEP webpage here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions>
- The LCRR Training Presentation Slide Deck for this training are also available for all interested parties and have been posted to the MassDEP webpage, available here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions>
- All links shared during the presentation and in the chat have been compiled into one document, which has been posted to the MassDEP webpage here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions>
- Want to rewatch the LCRR Training, or were not able to register in time? The LCRR Training Recording has been posted to the MassDEP YouTube channel! Find the recording here: <https://youtu.be/L5FJ8PV9p1w>.

Thank you to all attendees for registering for the LCRR Training, participating, and submitting questions! All attendees who are receiving TCHs for their participation will receive a certificate for this training by **Friday, March 8th, at 4 P.M.** We will continue to host LCR/LCRR/LCRI trainings and monthly “First Monday of the month, 1 pm to 2pm DEP/ DWP PWS LCRR Checking In Meetings” in the future! Keep an eye out for these trainings in upcoming our *In the Main* Newsletters including the MassDEP/ DWP training google calendar. See the training calendar at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this training or the LCR, LCRR, or LCRI, contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject LCRR Training, or LCR, LCRR, LCRI Questions.

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, 876 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 559 (64%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 656 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 438 (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-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrltvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec

PFAS Update

- 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.
- 56 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.

Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Update

EPA allotted \$38,204,000 in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to Massachusetts from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law EC-SDC grant program and will be receiving additional funding in fiscal years 2024-2026. Grants will be awarded starting in 2024. The projects awarded through this grant program will benefit small or disadvantaged communities as defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) §1459A(c).

MassDEP surveyed Public Water Suppliers (PWS) to determine their needs and eligibility for the EC-SDC grant funding. The grants will address the emerging contaminants including PFAS and manganese in drinking water sources and the projects include: planning and design, construction of treatment, extension

of water mains, and connecting small PWS to municipal water systems. To be eligible for the EC-SDC grant the PWS must meet the following criteria:

The PWS must be a Community PWS (publicly- or privately-owned) or a non-profit non-community (Transient Non-Community (TNC) or Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC)) water systems and,

- The PWS must be located in a disadvantaged community (as defined by the [Clean Water Trust's Disadvantaged Community Program](#)) and/or
- The PWS must be small (serving less than 10,000 population)
 - Please Note: Small PWS that are NOT located in a disadvantaged community, as defined by the Clean Water Trust, may be considered if they can demonstrate either or both of the following:
 - The consumers benefitting from the project are disadvantaged.
 - The PWS lacks capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance the project or activity.

Special Eligibility Cases:

There are two special eligibility cases, one in which a for-profit TNC or NTNC or a medium or large Community PWS (that does not meet the definition of a small or disadvantaged PWS) may be able to receive grant funding. The other is for households with private wells.

1. For-profit (not tax exempt) non-community water systems and medium/large Community PWS are **not** eligible for the grant **unless the project** meets one of the special eligibility cases described below.
 - The project will consolidate or interconnect for-profit TNC/NTNC system(s) with a Community PWS. The Community PWS must be the grantee, and one of the following two criteria must be met:
 - The Community PWS meets the definition of a small and/or disadvantaged system; **or**
 - The Community PWS does not meet the definition of a small and/or disadvantaged system, but the for-profit TNC/NTNC meets the definition of a disadvantaged system.
2. EC-SDC grant funding may be available to connect households with private wells to a Community PWS (including the water main and the service connections to the houses). The Community PWS must meet the definition of small and/or disadvantaged and the Community PWS must be the grantee.

For more information on this program, or to fill out the *needs assessment survey form*, see our webpage at [EC-SDC Grants](#).

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

EPA Webinar: Using CWSRF Emerging Contaminants Funds to Tackle New or Re-emerging Contamination Concerns: Panel Discussion

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites utility and local government staff, water industry professionals, and state CWSRF program managers and staff to hear from a panel of CWSRF Assistance Recipients on the Emerging Contaminants (EC) projects they are planning and implementing. This webinar will feature a variety of emerging contaminants and project types, beyond just top of mind contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Panelists will speak to how they targeted and identified specific emerging contaminants, their application experience, and details of their project plan. We will offer plenty of time for questions and answers for audience members that may be interested in planning or funding similar projects. [Register here](#)

From the Trenches: System Experiences Developing Service Line Inventories

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET; webinar

Under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), initial service line inventories must be submitted by October 16, 2024. This webinar will present lessons learned from various utilities as part of their journey to develop LCRR compliance service line inventories. List Price: \$120.00 Member Price: \$75.00 [Register here](#)

WaterISAC Information Webinar

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join WaterISAC's quarterly informational webinar to learn more about the benefits of WaterISAC membership. WaterISAC is the only all-hazards security information source for the water and wastewater sector that actively works to advance the industry's security. The webinar will discuss member benefits, tips and tricks on how to use the WaterISAC portal, the current water and wastewater sector threat landscape, and more. Members and nonmembers are welcome to attend. [Register here](#)

CISA Water/Wastewater Sector Security Webinar

Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Region 1 is hosting a webinar to focus on recent activities related to Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) compromise within the critical infrastructure sectors. The webinar aims to provide a platform for industry stakeholders to share knowledge, best practices, and strategies to address and mitigate the emerging challenges associated with PLC compromise. Presenters from CISA Region 1, CISA Water and Wastewater Sector Stakeholder Engagement Division (SED), and the Water ISAC will provide information regarding cyber threats to the water/wastewater sector. Additionally, this webinar will serve as opportunity to provide a list of resources and mitigation strategies available to stakeholders to address some of the most prevalent concerns. [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**

To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email, including deleting prepopulated signatures, to join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us. MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS. Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. 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!

2024-03-07

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

	Be Vigilant!
	Regularly review CISA'S Shields Up page.
	Incident Reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 .



EPA FREE CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Register for a free assessment with simple steps by using the following link:

<https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>.



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)? If you are interested, please let us know at your earliest convenience at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessments. PWS will be chosen based on criteria such as PWS type, size, and particularly the timing of their sanitary surveys.

Please Note: You may also conduct a self-assessment using USEPA's Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/EPA%20Water%20Cybersecurity%20Assessment%20Tool%201.0_o.xlsx



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.



COMING SOON: MID MARCH - Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program for Public Water Suppliers

- MassDEP/DWP is pleased to inform you of an **upcoming grant opportunity** to support cybersecurity improvements in PWS throughout Massachusetts. This program will offer eligible PWS the opportunity to be granted up to \$50,000 per system* to improve their cybersecurity defense, mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks, and to enhance overall resiliency and compliance. This grant program will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.
- **MassDEP plans to accept grant applications as soon as the solicitation is announced and will stop accepting applications by June 1, 2024. Applications or any submissions for this grant program will not include any security sensitive information.**
- To protect PWS information, MassDEP will not accept actual cybersecurity program information (e.g., Emergency Response Plans, cybersecurity assessments, etc.) from applicants.

To ensure your PWS is ready to apply for this program as soon as it is officially announced, MassDEP/DWP encourages you to make sure your PWS meets all the requirements by familiarizing yourself with the grant program's prerequisites listed below.

PWS Eligibility for the grant will include the following:

1. All PWS that are a **small system** (serving a population under 10,000) or a PWS that serves a population over 10,000 that also serves a **disadvantaged community**. To see if your system serves a disadvantaged community, see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-program>.
2. PWS must also meet the following two conditions:
 - a. Operation Technology (OT) Conditions:** PWS must have OT equipment with a cybersecurity risk. OT equipment is defined as hardware and software that detects or causes a change to water treatment and/or distribution processes through the direct monitoring or control of physical devices, processes, and events in the enterprise. OT equipment presenting a cybersecurity risk include equipment that is or may occasionally be connected after initial installation:
 - to a computer (for any reason including alarm reporting and patching)

- to a network (local, wide area or internet), or
- is remotely accessible (either for control or monitoring)

AND

b. Cybersecurity Assessment: PWS must have completed a cybersecurity assessment/evaluation program and have completed a cybersecurity assessment performed by either the PWS or a qualified entity such as EPA's free Cybersecurity Assessment or Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) assessment. Cybersecurity assessments must have been completed recently, but not later than two years prior to the grant application submittal date.

PWS PLEASE GET READY FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY- COMING MID-MARCH!!

GET Ready Now so that you are prepared to apply on day 1 when the application is released.

Here are a few important items to have ready!

1. Cybersecurity Assessment

If your PWS is a small system or serves a disadvantaged community, and all of the OT requirements listed above are met, **get a cybersecurity assessment performed if you have not already done an assessment.** This is a necessary step before applying for the grant. The findings of the cybersecurity report or mitigation plan will serve as the foundation for your grant application. To get an assessment, PWS have three options;

- Apply for a free EPA assessment using the link below: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>.
- Request a CISA free in-person cybersecurity assessment. PWS may contact the MassDEP/DWP about the CISA program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.
- Conduct a free self-assessment using USEPA's Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/EPA%20Water%20Cybersecurity%20Assessment%20Tool%201.0_0.xlsx .

2. Unique Entity Identifier

Be ahead of the game and apply for a UEI number now if your PWS or organization does not have one. If you are a municipal PWS, the UEI associated with the municipality is valid for your PWS unless you are considered a separate entity in terms of financial structure; see fsd.org for guidance. See the [Important Notice sent regarding UEI](https://www.mass.gov/doc/very-important-notice-public-water-suppliers-and-unique-entity-identification-uei-number-for-receipt-of-federal-grand-funds/download) numbers for more information (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/very-important-notice-public-water-suppliers-and-unique-entity-identification-uei-number-for-receipt-of-federal-grand-funds/download>)

3. Prepare your Project Description

As a part of your application, you will need to create a project description included in a Scope of Work. Begin documenting the cybersecurity projects your system needs funding for, costs, and the descriptions of work. **Stay tuned for the official program launch, and we hope you will participate in this important initiative.** If you have any questions on this information, or need cybersecurity technical assistance you may contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: Cybersecurity, or 617-292-5770.

Please remember: Do not send any sensitive information over email.



Reminder: Free Training Opportunity for MA PWS Staff -CISA Region 1 Cybersecurity Training for Industrial Control Systems (ICS)

Overview: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is providing this free training on understanding, protecting, and securing Industrial Control Systems (ICS) from cyberattacks.

Learning Goals: In order to understand how to best defend a system, trainees will learn about common vulnerabilities and the importance of understanding the environment they are tasked to protect. Learning the

weaknesses of a system will enable trainees to implement the mitigation strategies and institute policies and programs that will provide the defense-in-depth needed to ensure a more secure ICS environment.

When:

May 13th- 16th, 2024, TIME: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where:

LOCATION: Burlington Massachusetts The venue address will be provided to all approved registrants.

Who Should attend:

Members of the industrial control systems community associated with IT and process control network operations and security (Operations Technology, OT), operations or management of critical infrastructure (CI) assets and facilities, as well as those who provide CI components and software development.

Prerequisite:

- Every student attending the course **must bring a laptop computer (no tablets)** with wireless capability (to connect to the exercise networks) and a minimum of 8GB of RAM.
- A modified Kali distribution and a modified Security Onion VM containing additions to support classroom exercises will be provided and used during the course.
- Each student must arrive with a **VMware® software virtualization package** (Workstation, Player, or Fusion) installed on their laptop. You must have administrator privileges to install the VM player.

There is no fee for attending this workshop. Attendees are responsible for their own travel, food, and accommodation during the event. Registration does not guarantee your approval, you will be notified via email of your approval to attend.

Space is limited- Apply Today Using the Following Link:

[CISA Region 1 ICS Cybersecurity Training 2024 \(Massachusetts\) Registration, Mon, May 13, 2024 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite.](#)

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:

Ransomware Incident Awareness – Timeline of Events in Fulton County Incident and Main Takeaways for Utilities

- Fulton County, Georgia is still recovering from the cyber incident in late January. Phone lines, online systems, and regular county services are continuing to be restored over a month following the attack.
- Criminal ransomware gang LockBit took responsibility, yet no sensitive data has been leaked thus far and county officials say no payment has been made. These events highlight noteworthy takeaways for critical infrastructure organizations including water and wastewater utilities. [Full article](#)

(Update: March 5, 2024) Incident Awareness – Large Municipal Electric and Water Utility Experiences Ransomware Incident

- Over a month following the Muscatine Power and Water (MPW) cyber incident, the utility sent out breach notification letters and has stated that attackers were able to access the sensitive information of 36,955 customers.
- The attackers were able to access names, social security numbers, driver's licenses, and telephone service data. MPW services 50,000 residents in the Muscatine and Fruitland, Iowa area. [Full article](#)

Upcoming Trainings

DHS Webinar: Preventing Targeted Violence in Your Community - A Public Health-Informed Approach

Thursday, March 14, 2024; 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

DHS's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) has embraced and is actively encouraging a public health-informed approach to preventing targeted violence and terrorism. This approach shifts the focus to locally led efforts that are multidisciplinary, whole-of-society, and which seek to ensure the health and well-being of individuals and their communities. Please join CP3 for this Prevention Forum, the first in a new series, which will offer a conversation with CP3 Director Bill Braniff and a panel of experts discussing how public health principles can help you prevent targeted violence and terrorism in your community. [Register now](#)



CISA Webinar: Water/Wastewater Security Overview

Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

CISA Region 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) is hosting a webinar focusing on recent activities related to Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) compromise within the critical infrastructure sectors. The webinar aims to provide a platform for industry stakeholders to share knowledge, best practices, and strategies to address and mitigate the emerging challenges associated with PLC compromise. Presenters from CISA Region 1, CISA Water and Wastewater Sector Stakeholder Engagement Division (SED), and WaterISAC will provide information regarding cyber threats to the water/wastewater sector. [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.**
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