



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

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

[mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers](https://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.



Springfield Memorial Bridge, Photo by: [John Phelan](#) (cropped)

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2025-05-16

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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>

## 2025 Public Water Systems Awards Congratulations!



Kirsten King (NEWWA) presenting a shortened version of her 8-hour training on PWS Media and Outreach



MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple Starting the 2025 Public Water System Awards Ceremony

Last week, from May 4 - May 10, was National Drinking Water Week. Massachusetts celebrates our Public Water Systems Awards during that week to help celebrate water!

This year's Public Water Systems Awards date was May 9, 2025, at the Devens Community Center in Devens, Massachusetts. There were 37 Compliance Awards given to community and non-transient non-community systems during the awards.



MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple giving an award to a well-deserving individual

To earn this qualification a system must be in compliance with all regulations for all of 2024, have no violations for the past five years, and go above and beyond compliance with accomplishing other items such as testing for the full suite of secondary contaminants, join the Health & Homeland Alert Network (HHAN), join the Massachusetts Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN), receive a fluoride certificate from the CDC and/or other compliance planning activities to make them the best of the best.

There were also several Nominated Award categories in which to receive awards such as **Water Conservation, Energy Conservation, Lead Reduction in Schools, Regional Recognition, and Distinguished Operator.**

This awards ceremony also featured a 1-hour complementary training course for all award recipients, which allowed them to receive 1 Training Contact Hour (TCH). This training featured presentations from Kirsten King of NEWWA and Jaimye Bartak of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. Both presentations discussed public outreach and transparency and how this can improve public morale and trust in their drinking water.

See the list of award recipients here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2025-public-water-system-award-recipients/download>.

**Where to see photos of award recipients!**

Photos of both the recipients and the award ceremony are available here:

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/photos-of-2025-public-water-system-awards-ceremony/download>
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2025-public-water-system-award-recipient-photos/download>

Recipients may download these photos using this link to a hightail space, courtesy of Jennifer Pederson (MWWA Executive Director): <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/flrnwl231Y>.

Congratulations to all systems and award recipients! And we thank all our partners and organizations that assisted with the 2025 Public Water System Awards!

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## Recognizing Marie Tennant at the Public Water System Awards!



*L to R: MassDEP DWP Director Yvette DePeiza, Award Recipient Marie Tennant, MWWA Executive Director Jennifer Pederson, MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple*

## **Congratulations to Marie Tennant (Retired MassDEP DWP Staff) for her many years of organizing Drinking Water Day events, including the Public Water System Awards.**

In an era where clean water is paramount, there are unsung heroes in MA working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that every drop from our taps meets the highest standards. On May 9, 2025, we honored one such MassDEP Drinking Water Program stalwart of the cause – Marie Tennant, whose unwavering commitment to safeguarding our drinking water has spanned decades.

At the heart of Marie's efforts lie the annual **Drinking Water Awards** and the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) – a vital lifeline that keeps our communities informed and empowered about the quality of their drinking water. Through her tireless work, she has ensured that transparency remains at the forefront, fostering trust and confidence among consumers.

But Marie's contributions extend far beyond the **Drinking Water Awards** and CCRs. Her vision has propelled innovative initiatives like recognizing the unsung heroes who go above and beyond to ensure public water systems meet and exceed expectations. Her passion for excellence has not only inspired our team but has also brought deserved recognition to those who strive for perfection in their service.

Moreover, Marie has been the driving force behind numerous outreach campaigns, tirelessly keeping all stakeholders abreast of the latest updates and advancements in the field of drinking water management. Her ability to communicate complex issues with clarity and compassion has bridged gaps and fostered collaboration, making our collective mission all the more attainable. For twenty-seven years, Marie Tennant has been involved with the MassDEP Drinking Water Program's newsletter, *In the Main*, serving as its editor for much of that time. Her design sense guided the look of the newsletter as it's transitioned from print to email to its current incarnation on the web.

At MassDEP DWP, we recognize Marie's constant work and excellence, as she worked decades in the name of protecting public health, and ensuring the MA Public Water Systems produced safe, clean drinking water with her outreach, campaigns and program coordination for decades. Thank you, Marie.



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# LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

## LCRR Required CCR Changes Going Forward

Have you updated your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) with the newly required Lead and Copper language and information that needs to be included starting this year (2025)?

**For this year (2025) and going forward, your CCR must include the following:**

- Range of Tap Sampling Results
- A Statement that a Service Line Inventory (SLI) was prepared and instructions to access it (even if it only consists of a statement that there are no Lead, GRR, or Unknown service lines)
- Modified Informational Statement on Lead
  - *Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. [NAME OF UTILITY] is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact [NAME OF UTILITY and CONTACT INFORMATION]. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.*
- Modified Health Effects Language for Lead
  - While PWS are required to use the LCRR health effects language, MassDEP DWP strongly encourages PWS to begin using the LCRI health effects language now instead of the LCRR health effects language, as this language is more protective of public health. Note that PWS using LCRI language will be considered in compliance, as the LCRI language is more stringent than the LCRR language.
  - **LCRI Language:** *There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.*

Remember that due to the CCR Rule Revisions and LCRI, CCR language requirements will change for the CCR sent after 1/1/2027 and 11/1/2027. Save these dates, and keep an eye out for those updates as we get closer to 2027!

EPA Comparison Chart for the current CCR and revised CCR (requirements start 1/1/2027): [Reference Sheet: Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions Comparison](#). (Remember, this does not account for LCRI changes in November 2027).

## 24 Hour Tier 1 Public Notification (PN) Templates will now be required in PWS Emergency and Response Plans (ERP)

PWS should be aware that as required by the new LCRR (effective October 2024), PWS must distribute a Tier 1 PN within 24 hours if the PWS exceeds the 15 parts per billion (ppb) lead action level. This requirement began the day LCRR became the compliant rule, October 16, 2024.

**To ensure that all PWSs are ready to comply when/if a 24 Hour Tier 1 PN is required, in accordance with 310 CMR 22.04(13), MassDEP DWP is requiring PWSs subject to the LCRR to create a 24 Hour Tier 1 PN template and process and include it in their Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to use should the PWS have a lead action level exceedance.** Your PWS should ensure this template language has been approved by all necessary staff in the PWS and town/city, such as if your PWS has a town manager/city council, or similar board that need to approve documentation prior to distribution. If your PWS has exceeded the lead action level in the past, PWS are also encouraged to have their templates reviewed by MassDEP DWP staff ahead of time for pre-approval (especially if you plan to deviate in any way from the MassDEP/DWP template) to ensure that these notices are issued within the required 24-Hour period. Tier 1 PNs are triggered once PWS learns of the lead action level exceedance, which could happen after normal business hours, or on the weekends, depending on the PWS and when sampling results are received. Receiving pre-approval from MassDEP DWP prior to an exceedance will allow PWS to ensure that their PN meets federal requirements prior to distribution.

**As this is a new requirement, MassDEP's normal response includes a year of enforcement forbearance. Although violations will still be recorded, MassDEP will attempt to return the PWS to compliance using technical assistance. However, following this year of forbearance, PWS that violate the MassDEP Drinking Water Regulation 22.04(13) will face enforcement actions.**

MassDEP DWP Sanitary Surveyors will begin asking to see 24 Hour Tier 1 PN Templates on Surveys going forward, to confirm if PWS has met this requirement. PWS should begin drafting their template NOW to ensure a PN is on hand going forward. The Tier 1 Lead PN is available here:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/public-notification-forms-and-templates#tier-1-templates>.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE Regarding Predictive Modeling and Statistical Analysis!

All Massachusetts COM and NTNC PWS should note that MassDEP is currently in the process of reviewing the [MassDEP DWP Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Guidance](#), based on the initial SLIs submitted which used statistical analysis and/or predictive modeling.

**Please continue to read the biweekly *In the Main Newsletter* editions for any future updates on the status of the MassDEP DWP Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Guidance. In addition, MassDEP DWP will provide updates to all NTNC and COM PWS via direct email when the new guidance is available.**

## Does Your PWS Have Success Stories with Service Line Outreach Programs?

Does your PWS have success stories with reaching out to consumers regarding their lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or lead status unknown service lines? Has your PWS had success by offering positive incentives, or negative actions, to increase consumer participation in identifying/replacing their service line?

Has your PWS created an outreach program to reach out to consumers, and what was successful, versus what was not?

**MassDEP DWP is interested in hearing your stories!** Your success with consumer outreach can help other PWS to conduct their outreach preparing for the LCRI. **Please share your stories with MassDEP DWP by emailing them to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), subject: SLI Outreach.**

Your stories and success will be extremely helpful to create guidance in the future for PWS to create and update their own SLI consumer outreach programs.

### Success Story From a COM Water District!

One water district has seen success by placing a note within the screen door of the residence multiple times per week titled "We're Sorry We Missed You!" In the note, this district includes information about how the consumer can submit service line data on their own, or make an appointment during days, nights, or weekends.

“After receiving so many notices, people typically call to make an appointment”

PWS can use the LCRR SLI Toolkit for different flyers and resources, including **doorhanger templates** to use for their outreach! **Download the toolkit (Word) here:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lcrr-service-line-inventory-public-outreach-toolkit/download>

### Helpful Resources to Answering Consumer Questions when Receiving SL Notices

PWS should check and may refer consumers to the MassDEP [LCRR Consumer's Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) This webpage is a compilation of frequently asked questions regarding consumer notices, SLIs, what a service line is, and so on.

Do you have questions that your consumers are asking about that aren't featured on the FAQ webpage? Let us know by emailing us at the [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) webpage, Subject: LCRR Consumer FAQs.

The Consumer FAQ webpage is featured on the [Lead in Drinking Water](#) homepage: <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>

### EPA LCRI Resources

The EPA has a [webpage](#) dedicated to the LCRI, available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

EPA has also released a variety of [LCRI Supporting Materials](#), including fact sheets and technical documents: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements-supporting-materials>.

### MassDEP/DWP Contacts

For all questions on LCR, LCRR and LCRI, please contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

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## Guidance from MDAR About Treating Poison Ivy for the 2025 Season

MassDEP's Regional and Boston Drinking Water Program staff sometimes receive calls or emails from water suppliers with questions about spraying herbicides for poison ivy near drinking water reservoirs. Below is some guidance from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and UMass Extension for managing poison ivy.

### UMass Extension Information on Managing Poison Ivy

Guidance for managing poison ivy is available from the UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program (<https://www.umass.edu/agriculture-food-environment/landscape/fact-sheets/poison-ivy>). This guidance includes the following:

When attempting to control poison ivy, one should dress appropriately (see website linked to above). Physical or mechanical strategies are not encouraged for the control of poison ivy due to the risk of allergic reaction. An application of an herbicide will control plants and reduce the risk of an allergic reaction. Herbicides that contain the active ingredient(s) Glyphosate and/or Triclopyr will effectively control poison ivy. Grasses are tolerant of triclopyr, therefore the use of triclopyr would be selected over glyphosate in areas where grasses are maintained. Exercise caution around broadleaf plants to be maintained, as both herbicides will harm or injure these plants.

Application to poison ivy should be made after full leaf expansion and when the plant is actively growing. In New England; the application period is late June through early September. It is important to note that urushiol [the compound causing allergic reactions] is active in dead plant material for several years. Unknowingly digging and hand-pulling poison ivy roots can result in severe dermatitis on unprotected hands.

## MDAR Pesticide Product Registration Information

Information regarding specific products containing Glyphosate and/or Triclopyr that are labeled for poison ivy control and are registered in Massachusetts can be identified by accessing in the following resource:

Massachusetts Pesticide Product Registration Information – Kelly Registration Systems, Inc.:  
<https://www.kellysolutions.com/ma/pesticideindex.htm>

- To identify products for poison ivy control, it is suggested to select the option ‘Search by Product Name’ and enter ‘poison ivy’. This will provide a list with MA-registered products that are specifically named and labeled for poison ivy control.
- By clicking on the product name, one can view additional product information, including ‘Active Ingredients’ and ‘EPA Stamped Label’.
- It should be noted that some products have additional active ingredients besides glyphosate or triclopyr that may further aid in the weed control.
- Use of the Pesticide Product: Read the pesticide product label carefully for details on how to use the product correctly and legally. Labels also contain information on potential hazards associated with the product and instructions you should follow in the event of a poisoning or spill. Following label instructions will allow you to minimize the risks and maximize the benefits.
- Licensing: A pesticide applicator license is required of anyone who is applying pesticides as part of their occupation.

Contact Hotze Wijnja at MDAR (email: [Hotze.wijnja@mass.gov](mailto:Hotze.wijnja@mass.gov); phone: 857-972-4670) for more information.

## Resources:

- Landscape: Poison Ivy | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst: [Poison Ivy : Landscape : Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst](#)
- Massachusetts Rights of Way Sensitive Area Materials List: [Rights of Way Sensitive Area Materials List | Mass.gov](#)
- Triclopyr Factsheet: [Triclopyr Factsheet 2022.pdf](#)
- Triclopyr General Fact Sheet (orst.edu): [Triclopyr General Fact Sheet](#)
- Glyphosate Factsheet: [Glyphosate-Factsheet-2022-updated-May13.pdf](#)



- Glyphosate General Fact Sheet (orst.edu): [Glyphosate General Fact Sheet](#)

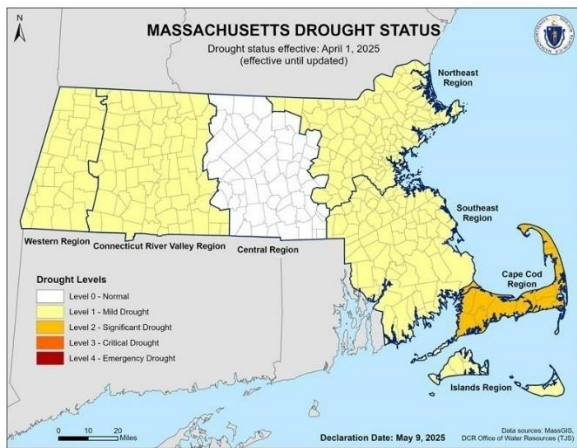
## Reminder

The Drinking Water Program's *Reminders for Massachusetts Public Water Systems Applying Pesticides to Reservoirs* checklist is posted at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/applying-pesticides-to-reservoirs-checklist-o/download>.

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# Drought Conditions Continue to Improve Across Several Regions in Massachusetts

On **May 9, 2025**, following several months of more frequent rain events, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has downgraded the drought declaration in the Central Region from Level 1 – Mild Drought to Level 0 – Normal Conditions. The Northeast and Islands Regions were also lowered to a Level 1 – Mild Drought, joining the Connecticut River Valley, Southeast, and Western Regions. The Cape Cod Region remains at a Level 2 – Significant Drought. However, drought conditions and groundwater levels are still affecting the regions due to ongoing long-term precipitation deficits.



Level 1 (“Mild Drought”) and Level 2 (“Significant Drought”) drought declarations require detailed monitoring of drought conditions; continued coordination among state and federal agencies to advance the implementation of water use restrictions; and engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health, to provide technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities.

Below is a list of resources for communities to use related to drought outreach and education, water conservation, and drought status monitoring.

- The **Massachusetts Drought Dashboard** provides regularly updated maps monitoring drought conditions across the state. The dashboard can be accessed at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-drought-resources>.
  - The **Drought Alert Flyer** provides information about current drought conditions and how communities across the state can help promote water conservation, fire prevention, and drought preparedness. The most recent Drought Alert flyer is posted at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-tips-tools-resources#drought-alerts->.
  - The **Drought Management in Massachusetts** webpage includes several recommendations for residents, businesses, and communities during Level 1 and Level 3 droughts related to water conservation and fire prevention. These tips can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/drought-management-in-massachusetts>.
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- The **Water Resources Toolkit** offers many examples of outreach materials for communities to use related to droughts. These resources can be downloaded at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-toolkit-library-of-outreach-materials>.
  - Utilities are encouraged to develop a **Drought Management Plan** to identify preparedness, monitoring, response, and outreach procedures related to droughts. The Drought Management Plan guidance can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-drought-management-plan/download>.
  - Information for **private well owners** can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/information-for-private-well-owners-during-a-drought>
  - Previous issues of *In the Main* include **additional resources** related to drought preparedness and response resources. Previous issues of *In the Main* can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers>.
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## Department of Public Health (DPH) Heat Education and Alert Tools

Summer is fast approaching! As we get closer to the summer months, the risk of heat waves and periods of prolonged high temperatures will increase. The Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH), in collaboration with the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM), the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) and the Office of Health Equity (OHE), is launching the **2025 Heat Education and Alert Tools (HEAT) response initiative** to help communities across Massachusetts prepare for and respond to the growing public health risks of extreme heat.

As climate change drives more frequent and prolonged periods of high temperatures, this initiative uses a data-driven approach to deliver timely alerts and practical guidance to health officials, clinicians, and community partners. Building on lessons learned in 2024, the initiative introduces a new Unhealthy Heat threshold, a statewide Unhealthy Heat Forecasting Tool, and updated educational resources to increase awareness, support preparedness, and strengthen our collective response to extreme heat events.

The unhealthy heat threshold in Massachusetts is when temperatures reach 85°F or higher for three days in a row. There is an increase in heat-related emergency room visits when this happens. DPH's Unhealthy Heat Forecast webpage helps people prepare to stay safe from the heat. This tool shows real-time temperature forecasts and when high temperatures pose a higher risk for vulnerable groups. These include children, older adults, and people with chronic medical conditions. You can find more information about this tool at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-unhealthy-heat-forecast>.

### Additional Resources

Additional H.E.A.T. resources and alerts can be found at the following webpages.

- **Extreme Heat Page:** A central hub for resources, tools, and guidance to stay safe during periods of extreme heat.
  - **Unhealthy Heat Forecast Page:** Track upcoming heat conditions in your community with a 7-day forecast and color-coded risk levels.
  - **Updated Extreme Heat Resource Guide:** A comprehensive guide for local health, clinicians, and agencies to plan for and respond to extreme heat. ([PDF](#)) ([DOCX](#))
  - **Targeted DPH Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) H.E.A.T. Alerts:** Timely alerts delivered through the HHAN to help healthcare professionals, local health departments, and other interested parties respond during extreme heat events.
  - **Expanded Fact Sheets:** Clear, targeted guidance for specific settings and populations vulnerable to extreme heat.
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## CCRs for Calendar Year 2024 are due July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

All community drinking water systems in the US must make a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and deliver it by July 1 to all customers and state agencies.

Please see <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/consumer-confidence-reports> for guidance on making, distributing, and submitting your 2024 CCR to MassDEP.

Your CCR must be delivered to your customers, MassDEP, Mass DPH, and your local board of health by July 1 or risk compliance enforcement. Please email a PDF of your CCR Certification Form, the CCR, and any needed documentation to [Program.DirectorDWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.DirectorDWP@mass.gov) by July 1. If you need help, contact the Program Director at the above address to contact drinking water program staff to help you. You can also go to: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/consumer-confidence-reporting-forms-templates> to obtain needed forms, guides, and templates.



## Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

Congratulations Gloucester Public Utility Division- 2024 Star L Award Winner



Recipients Pictured: Sara Vargas and Karen Wright

We are proud to congratulate the Gloucester Public Utility Division on receiving the STAR L (Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead) Award for their outstanding leadership in protecting children from lead exposure.



In joining MassDEP DWP's **Water-Smart Pilot Program** for Public Water Suppliers, Gloucester took proactive steps to sample all of their public schools for lead in drinking water and extended the opportunity all childcare facilities they serve—at no cost to them.

Their commitment to public health, collaboration, and transparency sets a powerful example for communities across the Commonwealth. Thank you, Gloucester, for your dedication to keeping Massachusetts children safe from the dangers of lead.

For more information about the Pilot Program and how to apply, please contact [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov). Subject: Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS.

## Thank You Amy Izen- 2024 School and Day Care Lead Reduction Advocate Award Winner



*Recipients Pictured: Amy Izen, Fran Roznowski, Kiera Alventosa, Tania Perez*

The Water Smart Program extends gratitude to Amy Izen for her outstanding support in making our 2024 Annual Water-Smart Seminar, which was held in Chelsea, a success. Her logistical planning and coordination with childcare providers and organizations was essential to the smooth execution of the event.

Thanks to Amy's dedication and strong community connections, the seminar ran efficiently and reached key audiences, advancing our mission to reduce lead exposure in schools and childcare facilities.

We sincerely congratulate Amy on receiving the 2024 School and Day Care Lead-Reduction Advocate Award—a well-deserved honor that reflects her deep commitment to public health and safe drinking water for children across Massachusetts. Thank you, Amy!



## Water-Smart Program Update

Water-Smart (formally known as the Expanded Assistance Program) provides free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to eligible public and private schools and early education and childcare facilities (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 and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

Currently 1,120 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 836 (75%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 1,017 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 672 (66%) had one or more lead detections.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Water-Smart 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://tinyurl.com/Water-SmartProgram>

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## EPA Announcement on PFAS MCLs

### Changes to the regulated PFAS contaminants under the PFAS NPDWR

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, EPA announced changes to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) and the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFAS. EPA announced it will keep the MCLs of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS that were established in April 2024; however, EPA intends to rescind the regulations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three compounds plus PFBS. EPA will provide additional time for MCL compliance, including a proposal to extend the compliance date from 2029 to 2031. EPA plans to issue a proposed rule this fall and finalize this rule in the Spring of 2026.

See the announcement: [EPA Announces It Will Keep Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA, PFOS | US EPA](#)

### How does this information impact Mass PWS

The vast majority of PFAS testing results in Massachusetts that have exceeded an EPA MCL did so because the level of PFOS and/or PFOA exceeded 4 ppt. MassDEP does not expect EPA's rule proposal to change the number of Public Water Suppliers that will need to address PFAS by taking action such as installing treatment or using an alternate source of drinking water. EPA's announcement of a 2-year extension of the 2029 deadline for compliance with the PFOS and PFOA MCLs, will allow more of our PWS to obtain funding and construct treatment facilities.

It is still important for PWS to address elevated PFAS in their drinking water. PFAS compounds may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. Effects on the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system have also been reported. Some studies suggest a cancer risk may exist following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some of these compounds.

MassDEP continues to be committed to using the most current scientific data to establish drinking water standards to protect the health of our residents and thanks our Public Water Suppliers for all the work they do.

MassDEP will continue to keep PWS informed about PFAS. Please contact the Drinking Water Program at [program-director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program-director-dwp@mass.gov) with any questions on drinking water.

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# Drinking Water Trivia!

Tickle your brain and test your knowledge on drinking water related information. In each issue, we will ask 1-3 questions and provide the answers somewhere else in the newsletter to encourage your sleuthing skills.

Typically, how much water does breathing in and out use in a day?

- A. 1 liter
- B. 1 pint
- C. 1 gallon
- D. 1 cup

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## 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/info-details/board-of-certification-of-operators-of-drinking-water-supply-facilities-approved-education-courses-to-sit-for-examination>

### Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

#### **Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: Why Should I be Taking on Debt?**

Monday, May 19, 2025; 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Ask Me Anything SRF Office Hours will expand your knowledge and enhance your ability to navigate the SRFs. These sessions are tailored for state agencies, utility operators, and stakeholders who support water infrastructure projects. Each session will feature a specific theme, providing clarity, strategies, and practical insights for preparing and managing an SRF funded project. Participants can attend all sessions or select those that best meet their needs. Submit your questions in advance or bring them to the session for real-time support from our experts. Sessions will take place 2x/month from Dec. 2024 -Nov. 2025.

Except for holidays, sessions are scheduled on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 11-1pm EST and the 3rd Monday of the month from 2-4pm EST. [Register here](#)

#### **Unlocking Energy Efficiency for Small Wastewater Treatment Plants**

Tuesday, May 20, 2025; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Small wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) face increasingly complex challenges from tightening regulatory requirements to rising energy demands and escalating electricity costs. For small WWTPs energy expenses are often among the highest operational costs. This webinar will explore practical strategies for reducing energy consumption through targeted efficiency measures, energy audits, and available rebates and incentives. Actionable tools and resources will empower attendees to enhance efficiency, lower energy costs, and achieve long-term financial gains. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights into energy efficiency that can transform your wastewater treatment plant, reduce operational costs, and deliver lasting benefits to your community. Presenter: Danish Kumar, Climate Change Program Manager, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center [Register here](#)

### **Funding Resources: Lead Service Line Replacement and Emerging Contaminants**

Tuesday, May 20, 2025; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar, hosted as part of EPA's Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series, will discuss funding opportunities for Lead Service Line replacement and Emerging Contaminants treatment. The first presentation will provide an overview of the DWSRF, discuss borrower and project eligibilities for LSL identification and replacement, and cover eligibilities for emerging contaminants in drinking water. The second presentation will provide an overview of the EC-SDC grant program, including project and community eligibilities and examples. [Register here](#)

### **The Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) and the Water Sector: A 2025 Update**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This interactive session will feature a discussion between water stakeholders including utility, legal, and consulting firm experts on the key components of BABA and how the Act impacts water utilities' operations and the sector. Our discussion will focus on the legal and financial requirements of BABA, as well as how utility managers are successfully navigating the compliance and implementation aspects of the Act. Enacted in 2021, the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act applies to water infrastructure projects that receive federal funding – including SRF and WIFIA funds – and requires that materials used in these projects be produced in the United States. For water infrastructure projects to comply with BABA, they must have either an EPA-issued waiver or a certification letter from the manufacturer stating that the materials used were produced in the U.S. \$75 member, \$120 nonmember. [Register here](#)

### **TPO425AT: IDENTIFYING AND REMOVING PROBLEM ORGANISMS IN DRINKING WATER**

Thursday, May 22, 2025; 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET; Andover

This course will provide participants with an explanation of the most common types of problem or nuisance organisms, and how to best remove them. It will begin by reviewing the meaning of “indicator organisms” to distinguish regulated and unregulated microbiological concerns in drinking water. Each group of problem-causing organisms will then be examined to show how they can be identified, what problems they cause, and how to best remove them. Specific examples include: actinomycetes; iron, sulfur, and denitrifying bacteria; algae and protozoa; nematodes; bloodworms or midges; rotifers and crustaceans; and finally, zebra mussels. 0.6 CEUs; \$195 Member/ \$355 Non-Member [Register here](#)

### **Intermediate Asset Management**

Thursday, May 22, 2025; 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Asset Management is a process that allows a water or wastewater system to better manage its assets and improve the workday for its employees. It helps improve efficiency and reduce unplanned, reactionary activities in favor of more planned, proactive work. Hence, asset management is a strategic way of thinking about assets: an iterative process that involves five core concepts: Level of Service, Current State of the Assets, Criticality, Life Cycle Costing, and Long-Term funding. As we move beyond the basics of asset management, we will briefly revisit the overall thought-process of asset management during the first part of this training and move into the more advanced concepts as the day progresses. [Register here](#)

### **Empowering Community Voices for Blue-Green Infrastructure in the Chollas Creek Watershed**

Thursday, May 22, 2025; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. ET; webinar

The Resident Empowerment Training (RET) is a project-based learning program that empowered 20 emerging community leaders in San Diego with skills in community organizing and urban greening to help transform the health of their watershed. Participants attended workshops on climate resilience, green stormwater infrastructure, and community involvement in planning blue-green infrastructure in the Chollas Creek Watershed. As a result, five project concepts were developed, including a “Safe Routes to School” project. Learn about the Chollas Creek Watershed project, the Resident Empowerment Training model, hear directly from three of the resident leaders (fellows), and discover lessons learned from listening to the community and supporting them as integral partners in watershed management.

Presenters: April Mendez, CEO, Greenprint Partners, Jacinta Hinojosa, Resident Fellow, Brian Flaigmore, Resident Fellow, and Howard Cuarezma, Resident Fellow, Groundwork San Diego. [Register here](#)

#### **BSP425AT: SOUND PROCEDURES FOR DRINKING WATER SAMPLING**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025; 8:30 – 11:45 a.m. ET; Holliston

This course will provide fundamental information to anyone responsible for taking drinking water samples. It will explain key concepts and sound scientific procedures that should be included in every sampling program, and feature focused, hands-on demonstrations to illustrate essential points and techniques. Instructions will focus on the need for accurate sampling and follow the sample through the chain of custody to its eventual analysis. Proper sampling methods are critical in evaluating the quality of the water you produce or distribute. Without strict attention to detail in procedures and methodology, a host of problems can develop. Don't let this happen to you! Though this course is lecture and discussion based, it will also feature focused, hands-on video demonstrations to illustrate essential points and techniques. 0.3 CEUs; \$145 Member/ \$305 Non-Member [Register here](#)

#### **TTP425BT: OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF COAGULATION AND FILTRATION TREATMENT**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025; 8:30 – 11:45 a.m. ET; Beverly

Meeting current water quality treatment objectives will require a thorough understanding of the evaluation, control, and optimization of coagulation and filtration processes. This course will familiarize attendees with the chemical and physical aspects of creating appropriate and efficient coagulation and floc formation to allow for successful particle removal in untreated drinking water. A discussion of jar testing procedures and how the jar test can be used as a process control tool will be included as well. A major focus will be made on how to apply all processes directly to real-world situations. 0.3 CEUs; \$145 Member/ \$305 Non-Member [Register here](#)

#### **Unlock the Power of Your Distribution Network Data**

Thursday, May 29, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will explore how digital solutions and advanced sensor networks are transforming the way utilities operate, leading to greater efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. Xylem Vue experts will showcase how these technologies help optimize operations and improve decision-making. Metro Water Services will also share their real-world experience using digital solutions to reduce water losses, improve supply quality, and make data-driven, real-time decisions. The session will highlight how digital platforms and IoT sensor networks can provide actionable insights and help organizations stay ahead in their operations. [Register here](#)

#### **Wastewater Treatment Process Control Concepts and Calculations**

Thursday, May 29, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This 1-hour webinar covers process control concepts and calculations necessary for wastewater treatment process control. Attendees will achieve the following learning objectives:

- Calculate Biochemical Oxygen Demand for wastewater influent and effluent flows
- Calculate F:M ratios and MCRT's for activated sludge process control
- Determine the retention time for lagoon wastewater treatment systems
- Calculate hydraulic and organic loading rates for trickling filter plants
- Describe wastewater treatment process steps

Presenter: Gregory Pearson, Water & Wastewater Trainer, Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center [Register here](#)

#### **Building Resilience in Rural Water Systems (Part 2)**

Thursday, June 5, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Rural water systems are increasingly challenged by changing weather patterns, natural disasters, aging infrastructure, and limited funding—pressing decision-makers to develop effective, resilient strategies in




the face of these complex realities. This webinar, the second in a two-part series, will explore practical strategies for advancing community resilience, featuring research insights and highlighting real-world examples of successful approaches at water systems across the country. [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/training-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](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:  
<https://www.rcapsolutions.org/events/>
- **AWWA**  
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:  
<https://www.awwa.org/event-calendar/>

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  **YouTube**

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To subscribe to the *In The Main* Newsletter, send a blank email to [join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto: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

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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. To subscribe to the *In The Main* Newsletter, send a blank email to [join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us). 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>.

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# Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2025-05-16

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

For additional information and alerts see [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\)](#). The purpose of this hub is to provide resources for public water systems (PWS) to improve cybersecurity defenses, mitigate cyber-attack risks, and enhance overall resiliency and compliance.

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## Cybersecurity Biweekly Spotlight

### Great Opportunity -Free Program!!

#### Cyber Leadership for Superintendents and Other Water and Wastewater Managers – CYBER READINESS PROGRAM

- If you are a water or wastewater system manager who is not confident with cybersecurity, but you want to make your utility more cyber secure and resilient, this is a wonderful opportunity.
- This program is designed for a utility leader who is not a technical cybersecurity person. It requires a time commitment of approximately one hour a week over six weeks, but it is self-paced and flexible to match your schedule.

With guidance from the Cyber Readiness Institute, you will learn and lead your staff through the core cybersecurity topics of:

- **Passwords / authentication**
  - **Patching**
  - **Phishing**
  - **USB and portable storage devices.**
- 
- One of the great aspects of the Cyber Readiness Program for water utilities is that you will be teamed up with a remote live “coach” who provides support, advice, and encouragement.
  - This program is particularly well suited to managers who want to establish a cybersecurity program and mindset at their utility. While Information Technology and Operational Technology staff or contractors are essential for many aspects of cybersecurity, a single person in a leadership role overseeing the effort is critical to long-term success.
  - The program is run by the Cyber Readiness Institute, which is an established non-profit created in 2018 to improve the cybersecurity of small to medium sized enterprises. It is funded by Microsoft, the non-partisan Foundation for Defense of Democracy, and others.
  - Last year they piloted the program, Resiliency for Water Utilities, to help water and wastewater systems improve cybersecurity. They are now in the second year of the pilot that incorporates earlier lessons learned.

Utility (PWS) leaders can learn more about the program and register at: <https://cyberreadinessinstitute.org/water-utilities-cyber-ready-training-interest>



## **Reminder: Free MassDEP/DWP & EPA Training- Cybersecurity Overview and Tabletop Exercise (In-person, 3 TCHs)**

The 3-hour training is an interactive, scenario driven discussion which allows participants to learn cybersecurity best practices and exercise cybersecurity incident response plans.

**When:** Thursday, June 12, 2025

**Time:** 8:30 am – 12:00 pm (ET)

**Where :** Karl Weiss Education & Conf. Center 75 North Street, Westborough, MA

**TCHs:** 3 TCHs

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cybersecurity-overview-and-tabletop-exercise-for-massachusetts-utilities-tickets-1290334578459?aff=oddtcreator>

## **Grants and Funding**

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in partnership with MassDEP/DWP, is offering grants funds of **up to \$50,000**, to PWSs that have a cybersecurity risk assessment and use operational technology equipment with an identified cybersecurity risk. Details here: [Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

## **NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:**



### **FACT SHEET: Primary Mitigations to Reduce Cyber Threats to Operational Technology**

CISA, the FBI, EPA, and the Department of Energy (DOE) published a fact sheet urging critical infrastructure entities with operational technology (OT) and industrial control systems (ICS) to implement five primary mitigations that will strengthen their cybersecurity.

**PWS are encouraged to review the [fact sheet](#) and apply the following mitigations:**

- Remove OT connections to the public internet
- Change default passwords immediately and use strong, unique passwords
- Secure remote access to OT networks
- Segment IT and OT networks
- Practice and maintain the ability to operate OT systems manually.
- Access the full factsheet [here](#).

## **Reminders**

**Self-Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts (Massachusetts Board of Certification Approved for 1 TCH)**

- Participants will learn about water sector threats, basic cybersecurity measures, incident response, system resilience, and valuable resources, with the goal of fostering a culture of cybersecurity within their organizations.
- **Enroll Here for Free:** <https://classes.wateroperator.org/courses/cybersecurity>

## **2025 Sanitary Surveys and Cybersecurity**

**Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2025?** If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2025 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. If you have any questions on this information, you may also contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

**Have you completed a cybersecurity assessment for your PWS? If not, sign up free today!**

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

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

**All PWS are required to have a cybersecurity plan/program and complete a cybersecurity assessment as part of their Emergency Response Planning (ERP) responsibilities.**

**Please Note:** MassDEP includes cybersecurity checks in capacity evaluations for PWS for DWSRF grant and loans and during or after sanitary surveys or as needed. In addition, the DWSRF program encourages cybersecurity assessments through its Asset Management Planning Grant activities, as well as offers financing for cybersecurity related equipment and software. See details here <https://www.mass.gov/state-revolving-fund-srf-financial-assistance-program>

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## Supply Chain Reminders



### **Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions Amid New Tariff Impacts- PWSs must plan for potential supply chain issues**

- Recent tariff changes under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) are significantly impacting utilities supply chain, as highlighted by AquaPhoenix Scientific's recent announcement.
- These tariffs are affecting both domestic and international suppliers, leading to price increases across a wide range of products.
- AquaPhoenix Scientific has reported that several of its partners are implementing price hikes in response to the new tariffs.
- For instance, Carlon has announced a 15% increase on all products, while Ohaus is adjusting prices by 10–20%, depending on the item. Other companies, such as Belimo, Extech, and Sensorex, are also enacting increases ranging from 5% to nearly 15%.
- Read full article [here](#).

**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.**

#### **Tools and Resources:**

- [EPA Chemical Supplier and Manufacturer Locator Tool](#): This tool allows water and wastewater utilities to search for suppliers and manufacturers across the U.S. that may be able to fulfill their chemical supply needs and increase resilience to supply chain disruptions. This tool can also be useful for finding alternative chemical suppliers in the case of supply chain shortages.

Answer: B