



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.



[Wachusett Reservoir](#), Photo by: [NewtonCourt](#)

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

2023-08-25

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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>

Drinking Water – Sample Collection & Reporting Protocol Reminder

Carefully and correctly labelling and submitting your water samples to be analyzed by a Massachusetts certified laboratory or another certified out-of-state laboratory is critical to maintaining safe drinking water. Recently MassDEP/DWP received questions about how to ensure raw water samples are correctly labeled prior to submission for analysis. Please use the following information to make sure that your water samples are ready for laboratory submission.

- All samples must have a valid location ID: Samples sent to certified labs must have a valid Location ID (LOCID) for uploads, care must be taken when filling out the Chain of Custody (CoC) to include valid LOCIDs.
- Where can you find Location ID? LOCIDs can be found on your Sample Schedule (SS), and a list of other existing LOCIDs that can be used is located at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-supplier-document-search>.
 - The most current MassDEP Identified Sampling Location Numbers Excel Spreadsheet can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/laboratory-analytical-forms>. Use the filtering capabilities to locate your PWSID and the Contaminant group to find existing locations for your PWS.
- What if you cannot find a Location ID after checking your SS or the MassDEP/DWP website noted above? For new sample locations or locations that aren't represented in the LOCID file, PWSs must request MassDEP staff create a new location with the correct contaminant group affiliation prior to the lab uploading to eDEP. See contacts below.

If you have questions on this information, please contact DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or the contacts listed below.

Information for Massachusetts Certified Laboratories: MassDEP/DWP requires all Water Quality reporting that is within the eDEP scope to be electronically uploaded. Laboratories having difficulties and/or questions uploading data should reach out to the contacts listed below:

DEP Office Location	eDEP Reporting Topic	Staff
Boston	General eDEP Help	Andrew.Durham@mass.gov Sage.Clark2@mass.gov
Boston	LCCA (Lead & Copper for Schools and Daycares)	Gufran.Bulbul@mass.gov Alex.Smith-Lin@mass.gov
Western	General eDEP Help	Adam.T.Kinney@mass.gov
Central	General eDEP Help	Paula.Caron@mass.gov Nataly.Ramos@mass.gov
Northeastern	General eDEP Help	James.Persky@mass.gov
Southeastern	General eDEP Help	Kathryn.Sousa@Mass.Gov Sean.Nugent@mass.gov
You may also contact the MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770		

Reminder and Tips for Managing Water Quality During Warm, Rainy Months

Increased rainfalls and elevated temperatures in the drinking water distribution system can result in poor water quality. Microbial growth in the distribution system increases exponentially with elevated temperatures, resulting in an increased demand for disinfection levels within public water systems to maintain a safe water supply. To manage this on-going condition over the warm summer months, please consider implementing the following practical, proactive recommendations:

Sampling:

- a. Sample more frequently for Total Coliform bacteria.

- b. During sampling, ensure that samples are representative of the distribution system by running sampling tap(s) long enough to capture the water in the distribution system.
- c. Collect a higher quantity of samples throughout the distribution system, particularly at the extreme ends of the distribution system.
- d. Ensure temperature stability during sample collection. There should be no temperature fluctuation in the water during sample collection.

Flushing:

- a. If disinfectant residual levels are dropping, then consider “low velocity flushing” to reduce water age and refreshen disinfection residuals without stirring up sediment in the distribution system.
- b. Flush dead-ends more frequently.
- c. Avoid unidirectional flushing during this period since it may disturb resident biomass and create a greater disinfection demand.

Storage Tanks:

- a. Stratification in storage tanks may leave portions of the tank with little or no residual disinfection. Consider increasing the operating range of tanks, or deliberately draining water to allow for rapid refill and mixing to decrease the water age.
- b. Check disinfection residuals early and often to help prevent having to drain storage tanks completely to achieve homogeneous mixing within the tank.
- c. Alternatively, consider adding a MassDEP approved mixing device to the tank(s), which may be mechanical, electrical, or solar, to ensure uniform mixing of the disinfectant.

Disinfection:

- a. Identify areas in the distribution system with decreased disinfection residuals or increased water age, as nitrification is more likely to occur in these areas.
- b. For PWS that use chloramines, nitrification may be counteracted by temporarily switching from chloramines to free chlorine (Chlorine Burn) in sections of the distribution system with the least disinfection residuals and greatest resident biomass.
- c. Consider booster disinfection at strategic locations in the distribution system.
- d. Ensure that an adequate supply of disinfectant is readily available during summer months and that stand-by disinfectant equipment is in good working order.
- e. Ensure that laboratory bench-top and field equipment for testing disinfection residuals are in good working order.

Resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-distribution-system-tools-and-resources>
[Microsoft Word - Effectiveness of Disinfectant Residuals Final - 3-7-07 \(epa.gov\)](#)

Well Driller Program Summer Intern Project: BOH Survey – Brianna Bowlby

The MassDEP Well Driller Program (WDP) is conducting a survey of municipal Boards of Health (BOHs) as part of a summer intern project. WDP is conducting the project to create a more accurate and comprehensive statewide well dataset. MassDEP currently has approximately 207,000 Well Completion Reports (WCRs) on file, dating back to 1963. These reports are stored electronically in MassDEP’s Well Driller Database and are publicly available on the EEA Online Data Portal. However, based on a comparison of WCRs to other well records in a subset of towns, many wells in the Commonwealth are likely missing from this WCR dataset. Moreover, the locations of many private wells in this dataset are uncertain. For these reasons, MassDEP recently applied for and received a federal grant to properly locate as many private wells in Massachusetts as possible. Objectives of this ongoing effort include verifying the locations of wells reported in WCRs and developing an interactive online map, which was recently published and is known as the [MassDEP GIS Well Location Viewer](#).

To help aid this effort, MassDEP reached out to municipal BOHs this summer. The first step in this effort was creating and distributing an online survey aimed at assessing the types and availability of well records within the BOH offices. Once results were received, data tables and spreadsheets were created to better understand the wide array of responses. Most recently, WDP staff followed up with BOHs that specified they have electronic data available.

The MassDEP summer intern will continue to work with the BOHs to collect and process their data. The data will then be analyzed to determine how it can serve to verify and supplement WDP's existing records. This project is important because it is improving MassDEP's well records, which serve a number of purposes, such as public health protection and providing useful information to well owners, researchers, and the drilling community. BOHs can fill out the Well Driller Program Survey at <https://forms.gle/iV1D8J5K9voBwaym9>.

For questions on this project contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: Well Driller Program.

Preparing for the LCRR

Start to Develop your Service Line Inventory Now!

Assistance for Small Community Water Systems and Non-Transient Non-Community Systems - Service Line Planning Program

Please remember that small systems can now apply to the small systems grant for the development of their service line inventories! For this program, technical assistance providers work with the PWS to develop a full service line inventory, including completion of the SLI spreadsheet that needs to be submitted to the MassDEP Drinking Water Program by the compliance date of October 16, 2024.

This program is available for PWS serving a population of less than 10,000. Small PWS must notify MassDEP of their interest in this technical assistance and provide an update on how they are preparing for the LCRR requirements by submitting the [MassDEP Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Technical Assistance Survey](#). PWS will be contacted, and technical assistance will be provided virtually or in person, depending on need and resources.

For more information about this grant, please contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

August 15, 2023 EPA Training - Lead in School and Childcare Facility Drinking Water Program Training

On Tuesday August 15, 2023, members of the MassDEP Drinking Water Program attended a Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Lead in School and Childcare Facility Drinking Water Program training in Chelmsford, MA hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1. The training was attended by representatives from all New England states and provided an opportunity to discuss program best management practices, successes, and areas for improvement with colleagues. EPA also provided an overview of new guidance that allows for using WIINs Act funding for the remediation of lead in drinking water in schools and childcares. MassDEP is developing a program for using these funds to continue lead testing and provide remediation options for reducing lead in schools and childcare facilities with elevated lead levels, particularly in communities at high risk for childhood lead exposure and environmental justice communities.

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, 633 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 406 (64%) of the participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 437 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 297 (68%) 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

Grant Opportunity to Address PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants!

Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program Update and Request for Information Survey

MassDEP sent a [letter](#) and survey form ([pdf version](#) and [word version](#)) to PWS this week to gather general information about their needs for address emerging contaminants. [The EPA EC-SDC grant program](#) allotted \$38 million to Massachusetts for the next two fiscal years to address emerging contaminants in small and/or disadvantaged communities. MassDEP is developing a work plan for the PWS that are eligible and ready to access grant funds for the next two fiscal years.

Please Note: The financial needs of all eligible Massachusetts Public Water Suppliers in small or disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminants far exceed the available EC-SDC funding. Therefore, there will be a cap on the number of grant awards and the amount of any single grant awarded to a PWS based on the statewide need. PWS may also apply to the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\) loan program](#) for additional funding; MassDEP encourages you to do so if you are planning to construct a large water treatment facility to address PFAS contamination. The DWSRF program provides [0% interest rate loans](#) for construction projects to address PFAS contamination as well as a percent of principal forgiveness on the loans for [disadvantaged communities](#). PWS receiving funds through the DWSRF are not eligible to receive EC-SDC funding.

PWS should submit a separate survey form for each of their projects and email this information by August 30th to program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: EC-SDC Survey.

PFAS Update

Investigations into the sources of PFAS contamination

The MassDEP [Bureau of Waste Site Clean-up \(BWSC\)](#) has issued 124 Release Tracking Numbers (RTNs) related to site investigations of PFAS contamination. 49 of these RTNs are for Public Water Supply source contamination. Documents associated with all RTNs are made available to the public on the EEA data portal. You can search for investigations on the portal by City/Town. You will need to read the documents associated with an investigation of a

site in a City/Town to determine if it involves PFAS contamination. The data portal can be accessed at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal/#!/search/wastesite>

- For general information about how the Waste Site Cleanup program works, please contact the MassDEP Boston Headquarters at [617-292-5500](tel:617-292-5500)- ask for the Waste Site Cleanup Program
- For general program information on BWSC, please email your questions to BWSC.Information@state.ma.us
- For specific questions about waste site cleanup regulations and requirements, please contact BWSC.Regulations@state.ma.us

Looking for drinking water PFAS testing data?

Public Water Supplier PFAS testing results are available to the public on the web in the [EEA data portal](#). Search under the chemical name “PFAS6” or to see all the PFAS chemicals, search under the contaminant group “PFAS”. For questions on MassDEP Drinking Water Program and PFAS please contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

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>.

Upcoming Newly Added Trainings

Wastewater System Partnership Models

Monday, August 28, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Running a small system can be challenging. Along with meeting regulatory obligations and satisfying customer expectations, you may have issues with aging infrastructure, lack of personnel, and limited financial resources. Furthermore, small systems often cost more to operate per capita than large systems because of economy of scale. One strategy to address these challenges is to work with other utilities or consider partnership options. In this webinar, we will discuss various regionalization models and approaches to collaboration. [Register now](#).

H2O Talent Flow: Latest Insights for Utility Workforce Development Webinar

Wednesday, August 30, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will focus on workforce development and the Partnership's ethos of operational excellence. Topics include effective training programs, staff retention and engagement, and getting buy-in to a Culture of Excellence. Panelists will address operational challenges, share technical resources, and discuss partnership examples of workforce management from utilities, plants, and systems in the program. FREE for Member/\$25 Nonmember. [Register now](#).

PFAS Destruction: Two More Technologies

Thursday, August 31, 2023; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Both presenters will focus on their experience at real-world client facilities and will present analytical treatment results. They will also share information about situations their technology is particularly suited for and also the limitations. Bring your questions! \$75. [Register now](#).

Planning for and Managing the Impacts of Changing Precipitation Patterns on Wastewater and Stormwater Systems

Tuesday, September 5, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Many regions of the U.S. are experiencing heavier rain events, dropping more water in shorter periods of time. These events may overwhelm local stormwater infrastructure and cause problems for wastewater systems, in part because much of this infrastructure was designed using precipitation data from several decades ago when weather patterns were drier and storms were generally less intense. Aging and under-maintained infrastructure is also less able to handle these heavy rain events. How can a small stormwater or wastewater system cope with these changing conditions on top of their existing infrastructure challenges? This webinar will share some of the latest data and tools available to help managers take more recent, and even projected, precipitation information into account when making decisions. It will also feature examples from communities that have worked to assess and incorporate heavier rainfall into their infrastructure design guidelines and maintenance regimes. An overview of potential funding sources for supporting utilities' adaptation efforts will complete the program. [Register now](#).

All in One Place—Water Project Planning and Funding Clearinghouses Webinar

Wednesday, September 6, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

The Resilient Strategies Guide introduces drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities to the adaptive planning process. Utilities can use the Guide to identify their planning priorities, vulnerable assets, potential adaptation strategies, and available funding sources. Supplemental to this tool is the FITS, which serves as a one-stop-shop tool that explains how users can integrate various federal funding sources to support activities that protect drinking water sources specifically. By highlighting these federal tools, we expand the knowledge of these funding sources and can assist in matching eligible projects to funding sources. Though this webinar also highlights a state-specific tool, we hope other state municipalities can utilize the information to find similar funding or be inspired to create a similar clearinghouse of funding resources. \$75 Member/\$120 Nonmember. [Register now](#).

PFAS MDL Settlements Impacts All Drinking Water Utilities

Thursday, September 7, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

3M has offered up to \$12.5 billion settlement, while DuPont and its spinoff companies Chemours and Corteva have offered a \$1.185 billion settlement to resolve claims brought by public water systems in In Re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation. These settlements, if finalized, will have implications for water systems, even those that are not a direct party to the lawsuit or negotiated settlement. The upcoming webinar will provide an overview of the settlements and highlight aspects of the settlements including the estimated allocation range calculations (see www.pfaswaterprovidersettlement.com) to water system managers. Caveat: The information provided on this webinar does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials presented are for general informational purposes only. Information presented may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information. Water systems should seek counsel for legal advice relevant to the topics discussed. \$75 Member/\$120 Nonmember. [Register now](#).

Organizations Providing Training

- **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**

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. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

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

Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2023-08-25

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



Be Vigilant!



Report all incidents and anomalous activity to [CISA](#) and/or the FBI via your local [FBI field office](#) or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or CyWatch@fbi.gov



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

Keep Us Informed

Have you accessed EPA, CISA or other partners' offers for free cybersecurity vulnerability assessments? If yes, please let us know at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject Cyber security.



EPA Free Cybersecurity Assessment Program Update: To date EPA reported that only 22 MA PWSs have registered for this FREE service. We encourage all PWSs, who need or would like a cybersecurity assessment and have not yet completed one to take advantage of this opportunity and join the group of proactive PWS that have already done so. Strengthen your PWS cybersecurity posture and register for the EPA Cybersecurity Assessment right away. Register with simple steps by using the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program> .For additional resources visit [EPA Cybersecurity for the Water Sector | US EPA](#).



CISA Free In-Person Cybersecurity Assessments for Selected PWS in Massachusetts Update: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in collaboration with MassDEP/ DWP is providing in-person cyber assessment to 20 pre-selected Public Water Systems (PWS) in Massachusetts. These PWS were chosen based on criteria such as PWS type, size, and particularly the timing of their sanitary surveys. If your PWS is among the pre-selected group, you would have received an email from the Drinking Water Program noting your selection for this important opportunity. If you received an email about your system's selection and you haven't yet indicated your interest in this valuable opportunity, we urge you to do so at your earliest convenience. Your prompt response would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessments



Cybersecurity Continues to Be an Important Component of Providing Safe Drinking Water in Massachusetts MassDEP DWP wants to emphasize that cybersecurity remains a critical aspect of ensuring the safety and security of our PWS. MassDEP encourage PWS to include cybersecurity in their operations and maintenance programs and perform a cybersecurity assessment as part of their emergency planning responsibilities.

- All PWS that have operational technology-OT (hardware or software that detects or causes a change through the direct monitoring or control of physical devices, processes, and events in your system), and the operational technology is connected to a computer or to a network or is remotely accessible, must complete a cybersecurity assessment and be ready to present the cybersecurity assessment report during the sanitary survey process.
- Note: Some very small systems may not be vulnerable to cyber incidents because the PWS does not have operational technology and if it does, the OT is not connected to a computer or to a network and is not remotely accessible. If PWS believe that their system is not vulnerable to cyber incidents; They need to contact MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: Cybersecurity, at their earliest convenience not to exceed 30 days of receiving this notice. MassDEP/DWP will contact/follow up upon receipt of the response.
- MassDEP/DWP will check on PWS cybersecurity programs along with all other components of providing safe drinking water during each sanitary survey or as needed. If you have any questions on this information, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov , Subject: Cybersecurity.



MassCyberCenter's Cybersecurity Mentorship Program: Applications Open for the Fall 2023 Cycle

This highly competitive program matches diverse cybersecurity undergraduate students with a mentor from the cybersecurity industry.

- The goal of this program is to expand the diversity of the cybersecurity talent pool in Massachusetts.
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- If accepted into the Cybersecurity Mentorship Program as a mentor, you will participate in the following activities:
 - ✓ Direct Mentorship: Students and their mentor will engage in a one-on-one, ongoing dialogue on careers in cybersecurity.
 - ✓ Cybersecurity Project: Students will work on a cybersecurity project under the guidance of their mentor. Projects will be presented in a showcase event in December upon conclusion of the Cybersecurity Mentorship Program. More details about the project are contained in the application.
 - ✓ Events: Students and mentors will participate virtually in cybersecurity career panels and also have the opportunity to attend the 2023 Massachusetts Cybersecurity Forum.
- As part of the direct mentorship or working on the project, students and mentors are expected to meet one hour every two weeks at a minimum.
- Mentor Applications are being accepted until September 19, 2023.
- To apply, please complete the short form [here](#).
- The program runs from early October through December. Most activities will take place virtually.
- Additional information about the Cybersecurity Mentorship Program can be found on the MassCyberCenter's website [here](#).

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:

FBI FLASH: Suspected People's Republic of China (PRC) Cyber Actors Continue to Globally Exploit Barracuda ESG Zero-Day Vulnerability

- A TLP:CLEAR FLASH (AC-000172-TT) from the FBI emphasized the Barracuda warning from early June to replace affected appliances right away.
- The FBI has independently confirmed that all exploited Email Security Gateway (ESG) appliances, even those with patches pushed out by Barracuda, remain at risk for continued computer network compromise from suspected People's Republic of China (PRC) cyber actors exploiting this vulnerability, as part of the FBI investigation into the exploitation of CVE-2023-2868, a zero-day vulnerability in Barracuda Network's ESG appliances.
- Action strongly suggested: Utilities that use impacted Barracuda Email Security Gateway (ESG) appliances and have not yet isolated or replaced them are urged to take quick action.
- Full article

Ransomware Resilience – Renew Your Ransomware Defense with CISA's Updated Guidance

- The Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) team at the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) worked with CISA, along with other federal partners, to release an updated #StopRansomware Guide, which was published earlier this summer.
- The #StopRansomware Guide serves as a one-stop resource to help organizations reduce the risk of ransomware incidents through best practices to detect, prevent, respond, and recover, including step-by-step approaches to potential attacks.
- The Guide provides network defenders with preparation, prevention, and mitigation best practices for ransomware and data extortion.
Access the updated guide at MS-ISAC [here](#).

Upcoming Cybersecurity Trainings

Informational Webinar - Learn About WaterISAC and Issues Facing the Sector

Thursday, September 14, 2023; 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

Join the WaterISAC team for the second Informational Webinar of 2023 on Thursday, September 14 at 2 PM ET. We want to share with you! [Event details](#)

FEMA Webinar: Planning for Equitable Mitigation

Thursday, September 14, 2023; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m ET; webinar

Learn about the different types of equity that emerge in the planning process. Hear why equity matters, and how to use both tools and community conversations to create a more equitable hazard mitigation plan. [Register now](#)

Water Sector Cyber Threat Web Briefing - Discover What Attackers See: CISA's Vulnerability Scanning Service for Visibility

Wednesday, September 27, 2023; 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

On September 27, WaterISAC will convene its monthly Water Sector Cyber Threat Web Briefing. Presenters will cover the latest cyber threats facing the water and wastewater sector. [Event details](#)

H2OSecCon - 2023

Thursday - Friday, October 19 - 20, 2023; 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

Join WaterISAC for the second annual H2OSecCon! This event will be held virtually from October 19 - 20 with focus on security and resilience for the water and wastewater sector. The virtual event will feature panel discussions and presentations from water utility and security experts. [Event details](#)

MassDEP Cybersecurity Reminders:

- 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>
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Supply Chain Reminders

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.

Resources:

- MassDEP poster on supply chain issues planning and response with steps to prepare PWS for supply chain disruptions. See/download the poster here <https://www.mass.gov/doc/steps-to-prepare-your-public-water-system-for-supply-chain-disruptions/download>
 - [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 be can also be useful for finding alternative chemical suppliers in the case of supply chain shortages.
 - Join [MassWARN](#).
 - [EPA page on supply chain disruptions](#), includes information on issues impacting availability and price and also provides recommendations utilities can take to respond to shortages and position themselves for the future.
 - [Water and Wastewater Supply Chain Case Studies](#)
 - [Water Treatment Chemical Supply Chain Profiles](#)
 - [Understanding Water Treatment Chemical Supply Chains and the Risk of Disruptions](#)
-