



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 or at the
Statehouse Archives at:
<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119> which has a
searchable database.



[Moswetuset Hummock](#) as seen from Quincy Shore Drive photo by: [Inquietudeofcharacter](#)

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

2023-10-05

1. In the Main has a new look!
2. Congratulations to MWWA and NEWWA Award Recipients for 2023!
3. Grant Opportunity
4. UMass and MassDEP Searching for Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Providers
5. National Preparedness Month: A Recap
6. REMINDER: Operator License Renewals Due Before December 31, 2023
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12. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
13. 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>



In The Main has a New Look!

The contents of this newsletter have moved to Mass.gov for greater useability. Feel free to bookmark (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/in-the-main>) and check it bi-weekly for DWP updates. Our ITM emails will now consist of quick links for easy access to information. Previous issues of ITM will still be accessible through our 1-year and the state archives. We have also transitioned to using a list server to better serve our interested party email addresses. During this transition, we ask that you are patient if you end up receiving the same email twice. We plan to launch features such as subscription tools, so stay tuned! If you have any questions, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

Congratulations to All MWWA and NEWWA Award Recipients for 2023!

The Drinking Water Program congratulates all recipients of well-deserved awards from the Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) and the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA).

Two members of MassDEP's Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Advisory Committee received awards from MWWA for outstanding work in the water supply field.

Paul F. Howard Award – Neal Merritt – Town of Hanover - Water Division
Harold A. Fletcher Education Award – Robert Prophett, Bourne Water District

Grace Ronca, recently hired by MassDEP's Drinking Water Program, is the recipient of NEWWA's Younger Member of the Year Award. This award recognizes a NEWWA member under the age of 35 or new to the water works profession who has demonstrated outstanding service to NEWWA through active participation in NEWWA programs, committees, and/or presentations. Grace is working on Capacity Development, Lead in School Drinking Water and other programs in her new role in the Drinking Water Program.

Younger Member of the Year Award – Grace Ronca, MassDEP DWP

MWWA's awards will be presented at MWWA's Annual Meeting on November 3rd. Information on the Annual Meeting can be found here: [2023, 11-03-23, Annual Meeting, Devens](#).

NEWWA's award recipients were recognized during NEWWA's Annual Conference this month. More information about NEWWA's awards is posted at [New England Water Works Association, Inc. > Membership & Resources > Awards & Scholarships \(newwa.org\)](#).

Grant Opportunity

Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Program

What: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced the opening of the Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Program, which aims to provide funding to assist public water systems in underserved communities that are disadvantaged communities or communities with a population of less than 10,000 individuals for the purpose of increasing drinking water system resilience to natural hazards.

Examples of projects include:

- Conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure significantly impaired by natural hazards
- Enhancement of water supply through watershed management and source water protection
- Enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water
- Measures to increase the resilience of the drinking water system to natural hazards, including planning for analytical considerations and climate change

Who: Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity include a public water system, a water system located in an area governed by an Indian tribe and a State (on behalf of an underserved community) that serves a community that is underserved and disadvantaged or has a population of less than 10,000 individuals.

When: The application is open until November 6th, 2023. Applicants now have **one month** to apply for this opportunity. Questions about the announcement can be sent to ResiliencyGrant@epa.gov up until October 16, 2023.

Where: The Request for Applications (RFA) is posted on www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/drinking-water-system-infrastructure-resilience-and-sustainability. The RFA will provide more details on the opportunity and instructions on how to apply. Applications for this funding opportunity will be accepted at Grants.gov. The opportunity number is EPA-OW-OGWDW-23-01, assistance listing number 66.448.

Website: www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/drinking-water-system-infrastructure-resilience-and-sustainability

Contact Information: ResiliencyGrant@epa.gov

UMass and MassDEP Searching for Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Providers

MassDEP/DWP partners with UMass Amherst to provide training and on-site assistance to help with technical, financial, managerial, and operational aspects of small public water systems (PWS) in Massachusetts. The assistance is designed to help PWS provide safe drinking water while helping the systems remain in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

MassDEP/DWP and UMass Amherst are looking to hire Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) to help ensure the security and cyber hygiene of PWS. TAPs on this team will review cybersecurity assessment reports, guide and prompt PWS in addressing gaps, provide and help identify technical support, and contribute to overall cybersecurity resilience.

Job Description

- **Cyber assessment review:** Assist MassDEP/DWP and surveyors to review PWS emergency response plans (ERP) and cybersecurity evaluation reports.
- **Reporting and Documentation:** Develop/generate the Sanitary Survey Inspection Report/ Cyber Security Corrective Action Plan (CSCAP).

- **Develop/Implement Remediation Strategies:** Work with PWS and MassDEP/DWP to develop and implement cyber mitigation strategies and discuss remediation actions promptly.
- **Communication:** Maintain communication and follow-up with PWS to ensure they are addressing identified cyber gaps and maintaining their cybersecurity hygiene.
- **Training Development:** Provide training/guidance to both PWS, MassDEP/DWP, etc.
- **Informational Material Creation:** Assist in the development of informative materials such as flyers and posters on cybersecurity awareness and best practices.
- **Identify Funding Sources:** Research and identify potential funding opportunities to support PWS in enhancing its cybersecurity posture.
- **Query Resolution:** Respond to phone and email inquiries about cybersecurity and emergency response.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Actively participate in meetings and collaborate with various stakeholders to promote cybersecurity awareness and coordination.

Qualifications

Several positions available. Candidates of all experience and skill levels are encouraged to apply. The selected candidates will provide assistance in-person or virtually. Applicants must have an understanding of water utility operations. Familiarity with cybersecurity principles, concepts, and best practices skills preferred but training will be provided. Background in IT is not required. Ability to travel is required.

Schedule

10-40 hours per week

Compensation

\$18-45 per hour, depending on experience. This is an hourly, non-benefitted position.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please send a resume and a brief statement of interest to Patrick Wittbold at pwittbold@umass.edu, Subject: Cybersecurity TAP.

National Preparedness Month: A Recap

Last month, the Commonwealth participated in [National Preparedness Month](#). National Preparedness month, which takes place in September, is a month dedicated to highlighting the importance of emergency preparedness and encouraging planning for disasters and other types of emergencies. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and other state agencies promoted public preparedness through various outreach initiatives throughout the month. You can learn more about National Preparedness Month and access informational resources published by MEMA and DPH at <https://www.mass.gov/emergency-preparedness-month>.

Additional resources for emergency preparedness are listed below.

- [Emergency Preparedness Flyers and Toolkits](#) from MEMA, including emergency preparedness tips and social media strategies
- [Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience](#) webpage from the USEPA
- [Water Utility Public Awareness Kit](#) resources from USPEA for communicating to PWS customers about the value of water
- [Water Contaminant Information Tool \(WCIT\)](#) by USEPA for preparing, responding to, and recovering from drinking water and wastewater contamination incidents
- [“Resources for Water Systems Regarding Storm Preparedness and Emergency Response”](#) from MassDEP’s *In the Main* 9/22/2023

REMINDER: Operator License Renewals Due Before December 31, 2023

This year is a renewal year for all certified operators in Massachusetts! Under the provisions of 236 CMR 4.07, operator licenses expire December 31 of every odd-numbered year. Operators seeking to renew their license(s) must submit a license renewal fee and certification that they have completed the required number of training contact hours (TCHs) for the highest-grade license they hold.

The Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities (the Board) will be reviewing all license renewal applications. This coming year, the Board may perform some audits on license renewals to confirm the correct TCHs were obtained.

Information on how to renew an operator license on ePlace can be found on the page [Renew Your Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities License](#). Additionally, operators can reference the [FAQ](#) page or contact the [Board](#) with any questions.

Resources for Finding Board-Approved Trainings

The [Information on Required Training for License Renewal](#) page includes information about the number of required TCHs for each license grade and other information about receiving and documenting TCHs.

Additionally, operators can use the following resources to find Board-approved trainings.

- Organizations with blanket approval for trainings:
 - [MA Water Works Association](#)
 - [MA Rural Water Association](#)
 - [New England Water Works Association](#)
 - [MA Water Resources Authority](#) (note: trainings for MWRA employees only)
 - [Western MA Waterworks Association](#)
- MassDEP [Training Calendars](#):
 - [Free trainings](#) and [fee-based trainings](#)
 - Note: Not all trainings listed have been Board-approved. Confirm approval with the training provider or the Board.

Getting Ready for the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

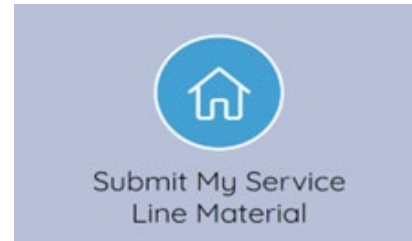
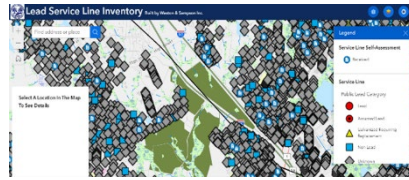
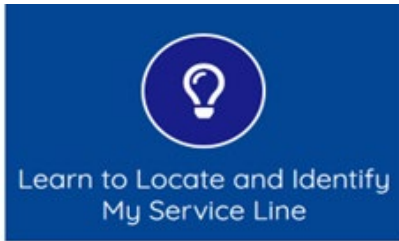
Public Water System (PWS) Highlight of this Week: Dedham Westwood Water District (DWWD)

DWWD has started its water service line inventory project and is inviting their residents to help them complete their inventory!

DWWD, as all PWS subject to the upcoming LCRR, is required to identify the service line materials in their distribution system, including lead service lines. For this, the PWS has created an amazing outreach campaign that allows residents to identify their own service line material by submitting a picture.

Residents can go to the town's website to:

Learn how to identify Service Lines (SL)	Check their SL material in an interactive GIS Map	Submit their SL material
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If you want to learn more about DWWD's program, see [Water Service Line Inventory Project – Dedham-Westwood Water District \(dwwd.org\)](http://www.dwwd.org).

Please remember to start developing your own PWS inventory now! If you would like to recruit your residents help, remember that you can also sign up to use MassDEP crowdsourcing application to allow your residents to help you identify their service line materials at [ma-lsli-app-instructions.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ma-lsli-app-instructions) | [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).

More MassDEP/DWP sources:

- [LCRR Service Line Inventory Public Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [How to Identify Service Line Materials: An Infographic for Customers \(English\)](#)

You can also benefit from programs we have in place to help you develop your inventory:

1. **FUNDING: The Service Lines Inventory and Replacement Plan Grant Program**

MassDEP is accepting Lead Service Lines planning grant applications, on a rolling basis, while funding it available. Eligible activities for these planning programs include:

- o Completing a comprehensive Service Line Inventory for both public and private portions that will be made publicly available.
- o Preparing a Lead Service Line replacement program for the PWS that complies with the LCRR.

The application for this program can be found on our website at:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms#loan-and-grant-applications-for-lead-service-line-replacement>

The application for the program can be found under the section titled “Loan and Grant Applications for Lead Service Line Replacement”. This section also includes an application for Lead Service Line Replacement Financial Assistance.

2. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Assistance for Small Community Water Systems and Non-Transient Non-Community Systems - Lead Service Line Planning Program**

This program is available for small Public Water Systems serving a population of less than 10,000. Small systems can qualify for free technical assistance to develop the inventory.

Our Technical Assistance providers will work with you by helping you to gather all your available data, create your inventory using MassDEP Service Line Inventory spreadsheet that has all the required fields and guiding you through the submission process. If your system has lead service lines (LSL), galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) or unknowns service lines, they will also help you to develop the LSL replacement plan.

To apply, just complete the survey available at: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/massdep-service-line-inventory-and-lead-service-line-replacement-plan-technical-assistance-survey>.

If you have any questions /comments please contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject LCRR.

Upcoming Lead Webinars

LSLI – T-Minus 12 Months: Lessons Learned and Information Gaps for Initial Lead Service Line Inventories

Date: Monday, October 16, 1-2:30 PM, webinar

With the deadline for initial lead service line inventories on October 16, 2024, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) is hosting a free webinar to provide lessons learned and information gaps that have been found so far through a panel discussion from a range of consultants working on the initial inventories. From the presentations and discussions, participants will learn how to optimize ongoing work to elicit as much useful information as possible to use in initial inventories.

[Register here](#)

Engaging in EPA's Upcoming Proposed LCRI Drinking Water Regulatory Process

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2-3 PM, webinar

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a free webinar to prepare communities on how to get involved and to provide information to the public on how to participate in the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) rulemaking process. The public webinar will be held on October 17, 2023 (2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time).

In the webinar, attendees will learn about:

1. EPA's timeline and activities associated with the proposed LCRI
2. What happens after the LCRI is proposed and how communities can provide their input to EPA
3. Where to go for more information about the LCRI

If you are interested, you can register at [this link](#). NOTE: EPA may have to limit attendance due to web conferencing size. For those unable to attend, the meeting will be recorded and made available on EPA's [Lead and Copper Rule Improvements website](#). For meeting registration issues or logistical questions, please contact LCRIMeetingSupport@cadmusgroup.com. For all other questions, please contact LCRI@epa.gov.

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, 679 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 410 (60%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 486 schools and EECFs have completed testing.

Of facilities that have tested and received results, 329 (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

PFAS Update

Looking for PWS testing data for PFAS?

PWS PFAS testing results are available to the public on the web in the [EEA data portal](#). Search under the chemical name: “PFAS6” or to see all the PFAS chemicals, search under the contaminant group “PFAS”.

EPA Finalizes Rule to Require Reporting of PFAS Data to Better Protect Communities from Forever Chemicals – September 28, 2023

The finalized a rule, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), will provide EPA, its partners, and the public with the largest-ever dataset of PFAS manufactured and used in the United States. The rule requires all manufacturers and importers of PFAS and PFAS-containing articles in any year since 2011 to report information related to chemical identity, uses, volumes made and processed, byproducts, environmental and health effects, worker exposure, and disposal to EPA. Data is due to EPA within 18 months of the effective date of the final rule. See EPA’s press release for more information: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-rule-require-reporting-pfas-data-better-protect-communities-forever>

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

PVC Pipe: Safety and Sustainability

Tuesday, October 10, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Today, we hear a lot of industries and brands talk about how "green" their products are, but how many of those claims are really true? And what is the real impact of those products to our environment and communities?

This webinar will turn to science-based insights, rigorous testing results, and thoughts from leading sustainability and toxicology experts to underscore how PVC pipe can help municipalities meet their green infrastructure goals. [Register now](#)

How to Prepare Your Utility for Disasters: A Webinar for Very Small Drinking Water Systems that Serve under 3,301 People

Tuesday, October 10, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Join the US EPA for a free webinar on how to prepare your utility for disasters. The webinar includes topics such as: how to create a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) using drought and water contamination scenarios; information on a new opportunity where operators may be eligible to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for creating an RRA and ERP; and quick and easy tips on how to prepare for disasters. This workshop is meant for very small drinking water systems (those that serve under 3,301 people and do not need to comply with America's Water Infrastructure Act). We also encourage water sector technical assistance providers and consultants to attend. [Register now](#)

Operator Certification: Activated Sludge – Troubleshooting and Characteristics

Wednesday, October 11, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join EFCN for this webinar series designed to help small wastewater system operators pass their certification exams. The series started with a 1-hour overview of study tips and test preparation techniques, and each subsequent 1-hour webinar focuses on a single topic typically found in Level 1 and Level 2 exams. Each session will include sample questions and a short Q and A period. This series can benefit new operators aiming for Level 1 and 2 certifications, as well as currently certified operators looking to pass higher-level tests. Session 17: This webinar is the second of a two-part series on activated sludge. This session will provide a more in-depth review of activated sludge microbiology, cover abnormal operations, process troubleshooting and modifications, as well as influent characteristics. [Register now](#)

How Metering-as-a-Service Can Reduce Risk and Improve Outcomes in Advanced Metering Projects

Tuesday, October 17, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The water and energy industry has advanced exponentially in the last five years in terms of the technology available to utilities – new types of meters, new ways of communication, and new sensors and technology that continually monitor the health and quality of our systems. Yet for all the advancement in technology, advanced metering projects remain inherently risky for many reasons; siloed decision-making within the city, multiple projects wrapped into one large deployment, and turnover in the department that leaves many operators and managers with inadequate tools to effectively run their new, advanced system to name a few. Moreover, many systems work incredibly well on day one, but after four or five years of stagnation are not performing at their most optimal. This presentation will hit on how Metering-as-a-Service can help mitigate risk and improve outcomes in projects by approaching the deployment through the lens of comprehensive services and ongoing maintenance implementation. Delve into the vital importance of a robust maintenance program that ensures your upgraded metering system consistently performs at optimal levels, safeguarding your assets and maximizing efficiency – while learning how utilities can unlock the full value of their investments and attain unparalleled customer service benefits by adopting a holistic approach to modernizing their metering infrastructure. This presentation will also touch on how utilities can procure this type of end-to-end approach in their own cities, making it accessible to everyone. [Register now](#)

CWSRF Funding Process Virtual Workshop Series: How States Prioritize & Select CWSRF Projects

Thursday, October 19, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join experts from the Environmental Finance Center Network for a no-cost webinar series on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). This monthly series is intended to help you better understand the CWSRF funding process. Sessions will be held on the third Thursday of every month. Description: Understanding what happens "behind the curtain" after states receive your Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) application is key to making sure your application is successful, and in knowing what to expect when you apply for funding. In this workshop, we will dive into: SRF Project Priority Lists and how to get on them, Project Ranking Criteria and how they vary state by state, and other topics on how states decide how to prioritize and award funding. We will also explore options for creatively incorporating green and natural infrastructure strategies into projects to take advantage of the flexibility of CWSRF funding. Analyzing and Adjusting Rates to Manage SRF Debt Service [Register now](#)

- **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-
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[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!

2023-10-06

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

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of Cybersecurity Awareness Month. While great efforts have been made to increase cyber resilience let's dedicate this month to changing behaviors to make even bigger increases in cyber resilience. Check out the USEPA information at [Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience | US EPA](#). In their newsletter, you will find information on an upcoming webinar for Cybersecurity Awareness Month and highlights on EPA resources to help increase your cyber resilience: Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program, Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool, the Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Program. Don't forget to sign up for USEPA cybersecurity information including the Water Sector Cybersecurity Newsletter



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.



EPA FREE CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: 36 PWS have already used this no cost opportunity.

Take advantage of this opportunity and join the group of proactive PWS that have 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 20 PWS in Massachusetts: 9 PWS have already signed up.

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 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

Keep Us Informed when you register for EPA, CISA or other partners' offers for free cybersecurity vulnerability assessments at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject Cyber security.



Register Today- MassDEP /DWP Free Webinar on Cybersecurity Basics for Drinking Water Operators (1 TCH for MA Drinking Water Operators)

When - Wed, Oct 11, 2023

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

- This webinar will discuss basic cybersecurity for water utilities that enable them to better assess and understand existing cybersecurity issues/risks and identify resources.
- It will introduce participants to topics like passwords and multifactor authentication, patching and backups, awareness training, and assets identification remote access.
- This training will also cover existing regulations and requirements and more importantly free available resources for cybersecurity assessments.
- Registration Link: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8760204296945114368>

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:

Cybersecurity Awareness Month: CISA and NCA key Actions for Users

- Since 2004, the President of the United States and Congress have declared October to be Cybersecurity Awareness Month, helping individuals protect themselves online as threats to technology and confidential data become more commonplace.
- This year's campaign theme is "Secure Our World", which focuses on individual actions to protect ourselves when online or using connected devices. Find more information on the CISA website at <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month>
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA) lead a collaborative effort between government and industry to raise cybersecurity awareness nationally and internationally.

Four Easy Ways to Stay Safe Online

Think Before You Click: Recognize and Report Phishing: If a link looks a little off, think before you click. It could be an attempt to get sensitive information or install malware.

Update Your Software: Don't delay: If you see a software update notification, act promptly. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

Use Strong Passwords: Use passwords that are long, unique, and randomly generated. Use password managers to generate and remember different, complex passwords for each of your accounts. A passwords manager will encrypt passwords securing them for you!

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication: You need more than a password to protect your online accounts, and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked. (Source: CISA)

Security Awareness – AI Makes Difficult to Detect Emails Even More Challenging (Source WaterISAC)

- In a report by Egress, researchers found that human-generated phishing campaigns are getting harder to detect, with a 24.4% increase in obfuscation techniques integrated into over half (55%) of phishing emails in 2023.
- These techniques have also grown in sophistication, with almost half (47%) of phishing threat actors deploying two obfuscation layers, while less than one-third (31%) use only one technique. [Full article](#)

NSA Releases Guidance on Acceptance Testing for Supply Chain Risk Management (Source WaterISAC)

- The National Security Agency (NSA) has released the Cybersecurity Information Sheet (CSI) “Procurement and Acceptance Testing Guide for Servers, Laptops, and Desktop Computers,” encouraging U.S. government departments and agencies operating National Security Systems (NSS) to implement a robust supply chain risk management strategy. [Full article](#)

Upcoming Trainings

Securing the Flow – Advancing Public Water Systems Cybersecurity and Resilience Webinar

Thursday, October 19, 2023; 2-3 PM E.T.; webinar

USEPA, in partnership with CISA, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and the Water Information Sharing & Analysis Center, is offering a free two-part cybersecurity webinar to provide water utilities with cybersecurity tools, resources, and best practices to improve resilience to cyber incidents. In Part One of this series, attendees will gain insight from a peer practitioner’s real-world experiences, explore the collaborative EPA/CISA Toolkit, and discover a range of no-cost and low-cost tools and resources that are designed to empower and fortify the security of your PWS’s infrastructure. Part Two of this series will take place on January 25, 2024, and will discuss cybersecurity best practices and lessons learned from real practitioners. [Register Here](#) for one or both of the webinars.

MassDEP Cybersecurity 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 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>
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- [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](#)
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