



# Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)/Drinking Water Program (DWP)

In the Main Newsletter – 11/26/2025

# Happy Thanksgiving!

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In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at the [MassDEP Communication to Public Water Suppliers Website](#) or at the [Statehouse Archives](#) which has a searchable database.



*Plymouth, MA, photo by Ted Curtain, courtesy of [See Plymouth](#).*

## This In the Main Newsletter has these topics of interest:

1. Tenth Public Posting of UCMR5 Data ..... 2
2. AWIA Round 2: RRA Certification Deadline for PWS Serving Between 50,000 and 99,999 In One Month!... 3
3. Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) Debuts New Video on Water Operations..... 5
4. Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) Diamond Jubilee –Two DWP Staff recognized! ..... 5
5. Last Call for 2025 Mercury Questionnaire Submissions! ..... 7
6. Certified Operator Directory – Find Qualified Operators for Your TNC..... 7



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

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives Website.

7.	LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates .....	7
8.	Water Smart.....	9
9.	PFAS Update .....	10
10.	Drinking Water Trivia! .....	11
11.	Training Calendar .....	11
12.	Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You! .....	13
13.	Supply Chain Reminders .....	15
14.	<i>How To Subscribe to the In The Main Newsletter</i> .....	15

## 1.Tenth Public Posting of UCMR5 Data

EPA has released the tenth batch of UCMR5 data to the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD). The occurrence data and the data summary document is posted on the [National Contaminant Occurrence Database \(NCOD\) webpage](#). This data release includes UCMR5 results received since the start of monitoring through October 7, 2025.

Any participating PWS with preliminary results above an EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) have and continue to be notified by EPA and/or MassDEP. All PWS are automatically notified when analytical results are posted to the Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System ([SDWARS](#)). Each PWS should carefully review the analytical results reported to ensure their accuracy.

**What should PWSs do with the data?** Each PWS should carefully review the analytical results reported to ensure their accuracy. PWSs should expect to receive calls from consumers with questions about the program and data. For general information on the EPA UCMR program and frequently asked questions, visit [EPA's UCMR5 webpage](#).

### What are the EPA and MassDEP requirements for detected results?

1. **EPA and MassDEP require that UCMR5 detects be reported in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in the unregulated contaminants table.** Instructions on how to report your results from UCMR5 sampling in your CCR in the unregulated contaminants table can be found in [article 2 in the “In the Main” newsletter from 12/2022](#).

**Note:** PFAS6 is regulated in Massachusetts, and PFAS6 detects must be reported separately as one contaminant in the regulated table in your CCR.

2. **All PWSs must notify customers with a Tier 3 Public Notice (PN) about the availability of UCMR5 results no later than 12 months after the results are known.** This is required whether there were any detects or not. The fact that you had to test for UCMR5 warrants the need for PN. Failure to issue PN is a violation. Instructions on PN can be found in [article 2 in the “In the Main” newsletter from 12/2022](#).

**Note:** If your testing results also exceed the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS6, then your PWS also has public notification requirements under 310 CMR 22.07G and must also continue to follow those requirements.

**More information on reporting UCMR data in the CCR and providing customers with a PN is**

located here: [UCMR CCR and PN Guidance](#)

If you have any questions on this information, please contact the MassDEP Regional Office Drinking Water Program contacts or the Drinking Water Program listed below.

### MassDEP Drinking Water Contacts

MassDEP Region	Name	Contact
Western	Christine Simard	<a href="mailto:Christine.Simard@mass.gov">Christine.Simard@mass.gov</a>
Central	Paula Caron	<a href="mailto:Paula.Caron@mass.gov">Paula.Caron@mass.gov</a>
Northeast	Amy LaPusata	<a href="mailto:Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov">Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov</a>
Southeast	William Schwartz	<a href="mailto:William.Schwartz@mass.gov">William.Schwartz@mass.gov</a>
Boston	<a href="mailto:Program.director-dwp@mass.gov">Program.director-dwp@mass.gov</a> Subject UCMR5, 617-292-5770	

## 2.AWIA Round 2: RRA Certification Deadline for PWS Serving Between 50,000 and 99,999 In One Month!

Community PWS serving a population between 50,000 and 99,999 are required to certify to EPA updates to their Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRAs) by the end of this year, **December 31, 2025**.

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

The American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was first passed in 2018 and requires community water systems to certify that they have prepared and updated their Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). Community water systems are required to recertify to EPA that their RRAs and ERPs are up to date every five years. With changes from the past five years including supply chain issues, cybersecurity concerns, and increased funding opportunities, public water systems may have a lot to update in their RRAs and ERPs.

A comprehensive list of requirements, resources, FAQs, fact sheets, training recordings, and guidance for preparing and certifying updates to your RRAs and ERPs with the EPA can be found at the [AWIA](#)

## How do I certify my RRA and ERP to EPA?

Public Water Systems can certify updates to their RRA and ERP by filling out the RRA/ERP Certification Statement and uploading the signed document using one of three methods:

1. Electronic submission
2. Email
3. Regular mail

EPA strongly recommends submitting RRA/ERP Certification Statements via electronic submission. Guidance for submitting your RRA/ERP and downloading the Certification Statement documents can be found at [the EPA: How to Certify Your Risk and Resilience Assessment or Emergency Response Plan Webpage](#). **Do not submit your updated RRA and ERP to EPA or to MassDEP, as those documents may contain sensitive information about your system.**

## How do I submit ERP Compliance Checklists to MassDEP/DWP?

DWP requires PWS to submit an ERP Compliance Checklist whenever there are substantive changes to a PWS's ERP. PWS should submit an updated ERP Compliance Checklist once they have made updates to their ERP. PWS can submit their updated checklists to the Program Director at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: ERP Compliance Checklist. **Reminder: PWS should NOT submit their full ERP documents to DWP, as those documents contain sensitive information about their system.**

## MassDEP RRA Certification Reminder Letters for Community PWS

On November 24, 2025, MassDEP/DWP sent a letter to Community PWS serving a population between 50,000 and 99,999 to provide a 1-month reminder about the RRA certification deadline of December 31, 2025. You can find that letter at the webpage [Communication to Public Water Suppliers – Emails and Direct Mail](#).

## Where can I find more information about this topic?

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

- [MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems, Chapter 12 – Emergency Response Planning Requirements](#)
- [MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems, Appendix O – Handbook for Water Supply Emergencies](#)
- Previous MassDEP *In the Main* newsletters, including
  - [In the Main Newsletter-March 7, 2024;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-September 6, 2024;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-December 13, 2024;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-January 10, 2025;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-March 7, 2025;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-March 21, 2025;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-April 18, 2025;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-July 11, 2025;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-September 9, 2025;](#)

- [In the Main Newsletter-September 19, 2025](#); and
- [In the Main Newsletter-October 3, 2025](#).
- [EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience Webpage](#)
- [EPA Water Resilience - AWIA Section 2013 Webpage](#)
- [EPA How to Certify Your RRA or ERP Webpage](#)

### 3. Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) Debuts New Video on Water Operations

Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) recently debuted a new video titled “Water Works: Careers with Purpose” about water operations in Massachusetts. The purpose of this video is to tell the public about the waterworks profession and attract the next generation of drinking water operators.

On the [MWWA YouTube page](#), MWWA has provided the following videos:

1. A 40-second clip for social media and quick introductions to water operations;
2. A 4.5-minute video for career days, job fairs, and detailed outreach; and
3. The full 11.5-minute video for presentations to boards, community groups, and classes.

Individuals are welcome and encouraged to share the video(s) on social media, add them to a town or utility website, show them at career days or in STEM classes, share them with community groups, or play them at new employee orientations or board/commission meetings.

### 4. Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) Diamond Jubilee –Two DWP Staff recognized!

It was a festive evening at the Mass Water Works Association’s Diamond Jubilee 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Deven’s Common Center on November 7<sup>th</sup>! Michael Celona, MassDEP’s Drinking Water Program (DWP) Capacity Development Program Coordinator and Chair of the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities and Grace Ronca, MassDEP/DWP Environmental Analyst, were amongst the many rockstars of the public water system field who received recognition at the event. The James R. Fuller Award was presented to Michael and Grace as state employees who best exemplify James Fuller’s dedication to the water supplier profession. The award was presented by Jennifer Pederson, MWWA Executive Director as follows:

*James Fuller lead the Drinking Water Program at MassDEP’s Central Region for many years and was respected statewide. His approach was to work with water suppliers to solve problems, providing encouragement and education to advance the agency’s goals, while taking time to understand the challenges based in the field. MWWA continues to believe that the Jim Fuller approach, when grounded in cooperation, understanding, and partnership leads to the greatest success. We honor those that carry that spirit forward. This year we recognized colleagues whose combined efforts through MassDEP’s Capacity Development Program have strengthened the PWS water operator licensing program and advanced support for public water systems.*

*Grace is active in MWWA Emerging Water Professional Committee, serves as assistant editor for MWWA Journal and is an active MWWA member.*



*Michael, as head of the capacity development, oversees the technical assistance efforts including the Water Smart program which promotes lead awareness in schools and childcare centers. He serves as Chair of the Board of Certification of Drinking Water Operators and is also an MWWA member.*

*Together, Michael and Grace have worked to document operator statistics, create Internship opportunities for students and job shadowing programs for DEP employees. They formalized policies around operator training and licensing including addressing the complex issue of contractor operator licensing. They researched reciprocity standards from other states, developed guidance for operators with multiple licenses, and they present frequently at water works associations across the state.*

*Their responsiveness, commitment to operator improvement, streamlining of licensing, and overall promotion of capacity development have benefited systems throughout Massachusetts.*

We at MassDEP/DWP are both proud and grateful that Michael and Grace are part of our team. In sharing their knowledge and ideas with not only the public water suppliers they serve but also with our team, their positive influence on all of us is evident as we strive to be the best and most genuine public servants.

Congratulations to Michael and Grace!



Pictured: Michael Celona and Grace Ronca holding their awards.

## 5. Last Call for 2025 Mercury Questionnaire Submissions!

Survey Due December 1, 2025 (NEXT MONDAY)

**The deadline to complete the Mercury Questionnaire is Monday, December 1, 2025!** This is a survey that is completed on a 5-year schedule, and all PWS are requested and encouraged to complete this survey. **Has your PWS completed the survey? Complete the survey by clicking on this link: [MassDEP DWP 2025 Public Water System \(PWS\) Mercury Questionnaire](#).**

This survey helps MassDEP DWP to develop tools to assist PWS as you work toward the reduction of mercury-containing products. Mercury use is a concern in drinking water due to its toxicity and associated health risks, environmental impacts, and the high cost of cleanup from spills.

*Completion of the Mercury Questionnaire will be used by MassDEP DWP when calculating “beyond compliance tie breaker points” for the annual Public Drinking Water Compliance awards!*

## 6. Certified Operator Directory – Find Qualified Operators for Your TNC

Is your TNC looking for a certified operator? MassDEP maintains a directory of certified drinking water operators who provide contract services for small public water systems. You can access the directory here: [Certified Operator Directory](#).

All daily operations of a public water system must be supervised by an individual certified by the Massachusetts Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities. Learn more about the Board here: [Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities](#).

In addition to the directory, MassDEP’s website includes helpful resources for small system owners and operators, such as forms, compliance notices, drinking water regulations, water resource policies, and a list of recently expired operator licenses. Before entering into any contract, be sure to verify the operator’s current license status.

For any questions, please contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

## 7. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

**Updated Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notification (CN) Certification Form Released!**

MassDEP DWP has released an updated version of the SLI CN Certification Form, which must be used and submitted by PWS which are certifying that they have distributed all required SLI CNs by the LCRR provided distribution deadline of the previous year. Systems must submit this form by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following their CN distribution.

This form was updated for the following reasons:

- To meet new federal accessibility requirements, which go into effect April 2026 for MassDEP, and other state agencies.
- To make this form more applicable for the 2026 and 2026 certification rounds.
- To clarify some questions which request LCRR required information, to minimize the amount of back and forth with PWS to ensure LCRR compliance.

**The new version of the form is available here: [LCRR Certification of SLI CN Distribution Form](#).**

## **ONE MONTH LEFT! Service Line Inventory Consumer Notices Must be Distributed by December 31, 2025!**

If your system has at least one or more lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), or lead status unknown service line, this is a reminder that your PWS must distribute **Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notices (CNs) by December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year!**

**A reminder email was sent out to all PWS which are categorized as having 1 or more Lead, GRR, or unknown service line on Monday, November 24, 2025. Did you receive it? [Review the full SLI CN Distribution Reminder Email here](#)**, this email covers the following topics:

- Who Must Receive a CN?
- What Content Requirements Must My CNs Meet?
- Submitting an Updated SLI for your Updated SLI CNs!
- Certifying your CN Distribution

*If your PWS is an entirely non-lead system, and your PWS does not have any service lines which have the entire service line classification as lead, GRR, or unknown, your PWS should not have received an email!*

## **Compliance Responsibilities for PWS During the Interim LCRR to LCRI Process**

Below is a quick reminder summary of PWS responsibilities to maintain compliance with all current Lead and Copper Regulations, as this is a recent question we have received from PWS since October 16, 2024.

### **Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Responsibilities:**

All requirements of the LCR, as written in the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00 are still required. PWS must continue with LCR activities/tasks/requirements as your PWS has for the previous years.

### **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Responsibilities:**

Many aspects of the LCRR were paused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to the release of the LCRI, except for the following three requirements:

1. Initial SLI, due October 16, 2024
2. Annual Service Line Material Consumer Notifications
  - Required if a consumer is served by a Lead, GRR, or Unknown service line.
  - Certification is required the following year by July 1st.
3. Distribution of the 24 Hour Tier 1 Public Notice if a PWS's 90th percentile exceeds the Lead Action Level



PWS must follow the three requirements above to maintain compliance with the LCRR. If PWS are not compliant with any of these three requirements, enforcement will be conducted by U.S. EPA, as MassDEP does not have primacy for the LCRR at this time. All other LCRR requirements are paused and not in effect. These pieces of the LCRR are required in addition to the LCR requirements.

### **Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Responsibilities:**

PWS will be required to be compliant with the LCRI beginning November 1, 2027. Until November 1, 2027, PWS are to continue maintaining compliance with the LCR, and the three LCRR requirements mentioned above.

In the meantime, PWS may begin to prepare for the LCRI by doing the following:

Begin to:

- Identify and reduce your Lead Status Unknown service lines.
- remove Lead and GRR service lines when possible.

Prepare for:

- Non-Lead Validations; Visit the [EPA LCRI Non-Lead Validations Fact Sheet](#)
- the possibility of going back to Semi-Annual (Standard) Monitoring in 2028; Visit the [EPA LCRI Tap Monitoring Requirements Fact Sheet](#)
- a lower Lead Action Level of 10 ppb;
- 1st and 5th liter sampling for applicable lead sampling sites; Visit the [EPA LCRI Tap Monitoring Requirements Fact Sheet](#)
- Offering to sample primary schools and childcare facilities for 5 years, at a rate of 20% each year. See Water Smart Program for information on opportunities for free testing on the [Lead and Copper Rule Revisions website](#), “Massachusetts Free Water-Smart Pilot Program for Public Water Systems”.
- Replacing all lead, GRR, and identifying all unknowns within a 10 year period for most systems. Visit the [EPA LCRI Service Line Inventory and Replacement Requirements Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

## **8. Water Smart**

### **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, 1,195 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1,054 (88%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1,106 schools and EECFs have

completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 731 (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: [Water-Smart Program Website](#).

## Get Ahead with Lead Testing: Join the Water-Smart Pilot Program for Public Water Systems

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is proud to invite all Community Public Water Systems (PWS) to the *Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS* – a forward-thinking initiative designed to help water systems stay ahead of upcoming federal regulations.

Starting **November 1, 2027**, all PWS will be **required to offer** lead testing to schools and childcare facilities that were built or have not had plumbing replacements since 2014 under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Rather than wait, the *Pilot Program* gives PWS a head start—leveraging the well-established **Water-Smart Program**, which has already tested over 1,000 schools and childcare facilities across the Commonwealth.

Through the pilot program, MassDEP and UMass Amherst cover the cost of lead testing and provide all necessary outreach materials, sampling plans, and follow-up support. PWS simply help identify eligible facilities, assist with local outreach and help collect samples. The process is simple, cost-free, and designed to set you up for success when the rule goes into effect.

Participating in the Pilot Program allows PWS to:

- Offer a valuable service to schools and childcare centers now,
- Fulfill future federal requirements early,
- Build community trust, and
- Access expert technical support at no cost.

**Don't wait for 2027—Be Proactive, get ahead today. To join the pilot program** or receive more information, email [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) with the subject line: **“Pilot Program for PWS.”**

## 9. PFAS Update

(This link below is provided as a courtesy to our readers. MassDEP, however, has no affiliation with this web-site and makes no representations or warranties regarding the information contained therein, including whether you may qualify for settlement funds.)

For further information, PWSs may wish to consult with their legal representatives.

[PFAS Settlements: Debunking The Myths And Revealing What's Really At Stake](#)

## 10. 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.

How can drinking water benefit your body during Thanksgiving (or in general)?

- A. Promote fullness
- B. Aid digestion
- C. Hydrate you
- D. All of the above

Check out the other articles while looking for the answer. If you would like to send in a Trivia question or two, please email the question and answer to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject DWP Trivia.

## 11. Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the [MassDEP Training Calendar for Public Water System Operators](#).

### 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 Webpage](#) and view the approved education courses to sit for examination.

### Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

#### **EFCN: Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series: The Current Funding Landscape**

Tuesday, December 2, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

While funding options continue to shift, well-established federal infrastructure funding such as the EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) and USDA Rural Development programs will continue to be primary sources for many small systems. This webinar will provide an overview of the current funding landscape, and help participants get organized to identify options suitable for the needs of their local system. Learning objectives for the session include recognizing how past funding programs may have changed in recent months, where to look for potential funding in your state or territory (NOFOs, RFPs and Announcements – Oh My!), identifying best practices in gathering information for typical applications, and searching for grant and loan proposal-writing assistance. [Register for the webinar: Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series: The Current Funding Landscape](#)

#### **EFCN: Lessons Learned in Green Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance**

Tuesday, December 4, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

Join us for a practical and in-depth discussion on maintaining Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) to deliver long-term community and environmental benefits. This webinar brings together complementary perspectives from a leading municipal practitioner and an innovative consulting partner to help small-

and mid-sized municipalities confidently start or scale their GSI programs with maintenance in mind. You'll gain actionable strategies and real-world solutions to overcome common obstacles and ensure your GSI projects achieve long-term success. Learning objectives for the session include key challenges in maintaining GSI, how to integrate maintenance considerations into the design phase, strategies for building staff and contractor capacity and managing workforce development, and how to manage a programmatic-level maintenance program. [Register for the webinar: Lessons Learned in Green Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance](#)

### **EFCN: Operation, Maintenance and Inspection of Onsite Wastewater Systems**

Tuesday, December 9, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

This one-hour webinar introduces the key components of operating, maintaining, and inspecting onsite wastewater systems. By the end of the session, attendees will be able to discuss how septic tanks and drain fields are designed to function, explain essential inspection tasks for onsite wastewater systems, identify common problems that can occur in onsite wastewater systems, and apply information about soils and household usage to size onsite systems. [Register for the webinar: Operation, Maintenance and Inspection of Onsite Wastewater Systems](#)

### **EFCN: Water Quality in the Distribution System**

Thursday, December 11, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

This one-hour webinar explores the key practices and concepts needed to maintain water quality in drinking water distribution systems. By the end of the session, attendees will be able to compare and contrast chlorine and chloramine disinfection for distribution systems, describe how biofilm growth occurs and impacts water quality in distribution pipelines, explain how contaminants can enter the distribution system, discuss disinfection byproduct production and control, and analyze contamination scenarios. Join us to strengthen your understanding of how to protect water quality throughout the distribution process. [Register for the webinar: Water Quality in the Distribution System](#)

## **Trainings by Organization**

- **MassDEP**

- **Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:**

- [Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities](#)
    - [Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response](#)

- [Environmental Finance Center Network Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [EPA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [Mass Rural Water Association Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [MWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [NEWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [Water ISAC Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [RCAP Solutions Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [AWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- **SkillWorks**
  - SkillWorks offers Board-approved home-study correspondence courses to satisfy license renewal continuing education requirements. All correspondence courses use paper-based study materials and exams. Course work is submitted by mail. Mailed returns are processed and graded within 24 hours at no extra charge. Courses with optional online exams are processed and graded automatically to provide exam results and a printable Certificate of Completion instantly. View the list of approved courses and purchase a course online at [Massachusetts SkillWorks Trainings](#) website.

### Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at [The MassDEP Drinking Water Training YouTube Playlist](#).

## 12. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

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.



### **Stay Vigilant: Online Shopping Threats to Avoid This Black Friday and Cyber Monday**

- With Black Friday and Cyber Monday scams on the rise, phishing emails, fake websites, and other malicious threats could compromise sensitive systems and data.
- Staying aware of these tactics and implementing strong cybersecurity measures is essential to protect your personal information and operations.
- For Holiday Online Shopping Safety Tips visit [CISA SecureTheSeason](#).
- Stay secure while navigating the holiday season!!



### **Cybersecurity Biweekly Spotlight**

#### **EPA Alert- Security Vulnerability Affecting FortiWeb Products**

- The U.S. EPA issued an alert to inform water and wastewater system owners and operators about the active exploitation of a newly disclosed vulnerability in Fortinet FortiWeb (a web application firewall).



- According to the alert, the vulnerability, tracked as CVE-2025-64446, is a relative path traversal security flaw that allows a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute administrative commands on a vulnerable system. This vulnerability affects the following FortiWeb versions:
  - 8.0.0 through 8.0.1
  - 7.6.0 through 7.6.4
  - 7.4.0 through 7.4.9
  - 7.2.0 through 7.2.11
  - 7.0.0 through 7.0.11

**Mitigations** All drinking water and wastewater systems running the affected **FortiWeb versions** are strongly encouraged to implement the [mitigations](#) immediately to enhance resilience against this compromise. Systems that outsource technology support should consult with their service providers for assistance. For additional information and mitigations, access the [CISA alert here](#). If you have questions about any of the information in this alert, including assistance with the mitigation steps, please submit a request to [EPA’s Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Program for the Water Sector](#).



#### **EPA & WaterISAC : National Security Information Sharing Bulletin – Q4 2025 ( Source WaterISAC)**

The WaterISAC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published their Q4 2025- National Security Information Sharing Bulletin. Each issue focuses on key security and resilience topics, including cybersecurity, physical security, and natural disasters.

#### **Bulletin Highlights**

- The Bulletin emphasizes that the threat environment remains heightened: utilities face risks from **cyber-attacks, physical security threats, and natural hazards** — covering the full “all-hazards” spectrum.
- It draws attention to the **weaponized supply-chain risks** that could affect critical infrastructure operations.
- The guidance emphasizes safeguarding operational-technology (OT) systems, strengthening supply-chain resilience, and adopting robust security practices to reduce vulnerability.
- PWS are highly encouraged to review the bulletin and integrate its recommendations into security/resilience planning: access the full bulletin here: [WaterISAC\\_EPA-Bulletin](#).

## Upcoming Trainings

### MassDEP DWP Cybersecurity Webinar Series

#### MassDEP DWP : Two Years of Field Cybersecurity Insights (1-TCH)

Thursday, December 4, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Goal:** We walk you through the good, the bad and the ugly of SCADA/OT network configurations. Inspired by real world-examples leveraging two years of real field data collected during MassDEP/DWP cybersecurity assessment reviews. How does your system compare? Do you have a false sense of security or are you doing everything you reasonably can to deter cyber-attacks today?

**Register Today for Free Using the Following Link** [Registration](#)

## Grants and Fundings

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](#).

## 13. Supply Chain Reminders

**PWSs are reminded to implement the steps identified by DWP using the [Steps to Prepare Your PWS For Supply Chain Disruptions Flyer](#) 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.

## 14. How To Subscribe to the In The Main Newsletter

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 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, visit to the [Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Advisory Committee \("Section 70" Committee\) Homepage](#).

Answer: D

Drinking water can make you feel full, reducing the amount of food you eat. It also helps the body process the holiday foods, which can be very salty. This will also help with the dehydrating effects of consuming salty foods.