



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

## In the Main Newsletter – 12/24/2025

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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.



*Text Image by Roula30, remixed by Eric Cheung*

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## Deadlines, New Templates, Forms, Guidance, & More

### DWSRF Service Line Funding Available Now!

***Did you Know DWSRF Funding is available right now on a rolling application first-come first-serve basis for identifying unknowns and replacing lead service lines? Applications can be submitted through the [SRF Portal](#). Please contact Kaitlyn Connors, Director of Water Investment, [Kaitlyn.Connors2@mass.gov](mailto:Kaitlyn.Connors2@mass.gov), for more information.***

### 2025 Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notices Must be Sent out By DECEMBER 31, 2025!

If your PWS has lead, GRR, and/or unknown service lines in your SLI, you must send out SLI Consumer Notices (CNs) by December 31, 2025. See the full LCR, LCRR, LCRI Updates article in the ITM below for more information.

### ERRATA

#### **In the Main (Drinking Water Program Updates) 12-12-2025 Correction:**

Language was corrected in the **Water Smart** Article (page 10, paragraph 2), of the sub article *Get Ahead with Lead Testing: Join the Water-Smart Pilot Program for Public Water Systems* to include the following:

Starting **November 1, 2027**, PWS will be **required to offer** lead testing to all primary schools and childcare facilities under the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Only schools and childcare facilities that were built on or after January 1, 2014-or have not had plumbing replacements since that date-and are not served by a lead, a galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or a lead status unknown service line may be excluded from this requirement. 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.

## Drinking Water Operator License Renewals Due December 31, 2025!

This is a reminder that all Drinking Water Operator License Renewals are due by the end of the month, December 31, 2025. See the full Drinking Water Operator License Renewal article in the ITM below for more information.

## Deadline for Community PWS Serving Between 50,000 and 99,999: Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) Certifications due to EPA on December 31, 2025!

In accordance with the American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA), 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. See the full AWIA article in the ITM below for more information.

# 1. Drinking Water Program – A Year in Review

Wishing you a happy holiday and a joyful new year!

Thanks to you, our amazing public water suppliers, owners, operators, consultants and our many partners, for working with us to continue to provide safe drinking water and protect public health! We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2026!

Below is a snapshot of the past year and future plans for the following Drinking Water Program (DWP) program areas: Source Water Protection, Technical Services, Capacity, and Safe Drinking Water Act.

## Source Water Protection

The Source Water Protection program currently provides multiple approaches to source protection, including watershed protection, with regulatory and compliance reviews, technical assistance and other resources, and collaborations with other agencies including the Pesticide Board and the Mosquito Control Program. The team in the Source Water Protection group also assists with DWP-Boston's Communication, Outreach, and Training (COT) initiatives. This group also coordinates the work of the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Program and Advisory Committee and management of the DWP-Boston communication hub. Going forward, this group will be working on making all DWP web content digital accessible per the requirements of [Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#).

## Technical Services

The Technical Services program provides hydrogeologic support to the Bureau of Water Resources and MassDEP and wellhead protection guidance to communities throughout the state. The Underground Injection Control and Well Driller programs are included in this program. Members of the Technical Services team participate in many internal and external committees supporting hydrogeologic work, groundwater, and wellhead protection.

In 2025, the Technical Services program conducted 90 hydrogeologic reviews, 20 New Source Approvals/Zone II Delineations, 62 Groundwater Discharge permits, 7 Tributary/Zone A reviews, and 1 miscellaneous review. The program revised documents related to Groundwater Discharge permits, created a tributary mapping app and protocol for Zone A edits to GIS, advanced the Well Driller

regulations, and developed a Well Drill Program online certification/recertification and payment process. Next year, the program plans to promulgate revised Well Driller regulations, continue conducting hydrogeologic reviews, develop protocols for MassGIS layer revisions, update Chapter 4 of the *Guidelines*, provide technical assistance to the Wastewater program for the development of guidance and policies related to groundwater discharges, and collaborate with USGS on wetlands modeling scenarios.

## Capacity

The Capacity program provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to Public Water Systems. This year, the Capacity program team presented at a variety of conferences about emergency response, cybersecurity, water treatment, and funding opportunities. The team also conducted educational events for the Lead in Schools program, held webinars covering many of the Drinking Water Program's program areas, placed interns at three water systems throughout the state, and created GIS tools and StoryMaps for conveying data about wells, PFAS, Manganese, the Water Smart (formerly called lead in Schools) program, and service line inventories. The Capacity program oversees eight grant programs that provide funding for water systems for work related to emerging contaminants, cybersecurity, and the Water-Smart program. Going forward, the Capacity program plans to continue providing grant funding to water systems, launch a small water system service line inventory technical assistance program, create an online self-paced Basic Math course for operators, and plan operator training programs with partners around the state.

## Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance

The Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance program implements the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) maximum contaminant levels and guidance levels for various contaminants that could potentially be found in public drinking water. The SDWA program monitors the SDWA regulatory landscape and proposes updates to the state regulations as the federal landscape changes.

This year, by providing an application for monitoring waivers, the SDWA program prepared for a new monitoring compliance period, which will run from 2026-2028. The SDWA program is also working on adding additional documents to the [PWS Document Search webpage](#). The SDWA program team oversees many data management programs for reporting and data collection, conducts New Technology Reviews and Approvals, and participates on internal and external workgroups related to SDWA rules. This group will also be working on regulations for PFAS, Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), Consumer Confidence Rule (CCR), Updates to the certified operator regulations and other minor corrections.

See more about the MassDEP Drinking Water Program by watching the [MassDEP Drinking Water Program Introduction Video](#).

## 2. Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) - Lithium

### Public Water Systems (PWS) with Lithium Detections Over 10 µg/L

MassDEP's Drinking Water Program (DWP) has reviewed the UCMR5 results and identified Public Water Systems (PWS) with lithium detections over the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Health Reference Level (HRL) of 10 µg/L (equivalent to 10 parts per billion).

A letter has been sent to those PWSs to provide recommendations on how to address those lithium detections, and to request specific actions that will support DWP's technical assistance team. DWP recommends those PWSs confirm their UCMR5 lithium levels by conducting two additional quarterly samples to establish an annual baseline of results and is requesting that they complete a survey by 12/30/2025.

### Lithium Fact Sheet

DWP has also developed a lithium fact sheet to provide information related to lithium in drinking water. The fact sheet covers information like environmental sources, EPA's risk estimates, levels in Massachusetts, recommendations for PWSs with UCMR5 detections over EPA's HRL, and Consumer Confidence Report requirements. The fact sheet is available here: [Drinking Water Contaminants Information for Water Suppliers | Mass.gov](#).

## 3. Eleventh Public Posting of UCMR5 Data

Late next month, the EPA will be releasing the eleventh batch of UCMR5 data to the [National Contaminant Occurrence Database \(NCOD\)](#). The occurrence data and the data summary document will be posted on the NCOD website.

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.

- 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	Kerri Strobeck	<a href="mailto:Kerri.L.Strobeck@mass.gov">Kerri.L.Strobeck@mass.gov</a>
Southeast	Katie Sousa	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.Sousa@mass.gov">Kathryn.Sousa@mass.gov</a>
Boston		<a href="mailto:Program.director-dwp@mass.gov">Program.director-dwp@mass.gov</a> Subject UCMR5, 617-292-5770

## 4. Drinking Water Operator License Renewals Due on December 31!

This is a reminder that drinking water operator licenses must be renewed by the end of this month, December 31, 2025!

Under the provisions of 236 CMR 4.07, drinking water 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.

Information on how to renew an operator license on ePlace can be found on the webpage [Renew Your Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities License](#). Additionally, operators can reference the [renewal FAQ](#) page, the [License Renewal Guidance for Operators with Multiple Licenses](#) guide, or contact the Board at [drinkingwaterboard@mass.gov](mailto:drinkingwaterboard@mass.gov) with any questions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Renewing your license late can impact your ability to complete your Annual Statistics Report (ASR) next year. ASR operator affiliation information can't be filled out in the eASR platform unless your license is active.

## 5. **AWIA RRA DEADLINE ON DECEMBER 31: For Community PWS Serving Between 50,000 and 99,999**

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**.

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 Section 2013/SDWA Section 1433: Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans Webpage](#).

### 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.**

### 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;](#)
  - [In the Main Newsletter-October 3, 2025;](#) and
  - [In the Main Newsletter-November 26, 2025.](#)
- [EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience Webpage](#)
- [EPA Water Resilience - AWIA Section 2013 Webpage](#)
- [EPA How to Certify Your RRA or ERP Webpage](#)

## 6. New Technical Assistance Program for Dam Owners – Applications Open

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is offering free engineering services to help dam owners comply with safety regulations through the Dam Owners Technical Assistance (TA) Program.

As storms become more severe and frequent, ensuring the safety of our dams is critical for protecting our communities and infrastructure. This year, EEA is focusing on privately owned dams classified as high or significant hazard potential that need urgent compliance assistance.

**Starting December 8, 2025**, dam owners can submit requests online at the [Dam Owners Technical Assistance Program website](#). With limited funding available, we encourage interested dam owners to apply as soon as possible. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2026.

## 7. FREE Online Self-Paced Classes at Bristol Community College – Spring 2026

MassDEP Drinking Water Program, in partnership with UMass Amherst, Bristol Community College, and Massachusetts Rural Water Association, is offering two FREE online self-paced pre-requisite training classes in Spring 2026 (starting in February).

[Basic Drinking Water Distribution](#) is approximately 30-40 hours long and is designed to prepare students to take the D2 through D4 Drinking Water Distribution exams. [Basic Drinking Water Treatment](#) is approximately 40-50 hours long and is designed to prepare students to take the T2 Drinking Water

Treatment exam. Both classes are approved by the Board of Certification for Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities and have a capacity of 25-30 students.

## Course Descriptions

Basic Drinking Water Distribution: Topics include (but are not limited to) defining a public water system, proper operation, regulatory requirements, components, equipment and operation, water quality monitoring, storage facilities, cathodic protection, corrosion control, hydraulics, chemistry, formulas, flow, pressure, performance and transmission, cross connection, pumps, motors and operator ethics, safety and more.

Basic Drinking Water Treatment: Topics include (but are not limited to) the principles of hydrology associated with groundwater and surface water supply management, the hydrologic cycle, precipitation type and measurement, aquifer types and groundwater flow measurements, surface water flow measurements, and surface water and well sampling. Students will also study source water supplies and protection, regulations, physical and chemical treatment processes, operator ethics and safety.

## Teaching Procedure

These classes are self-paced and online. The class will be taught on an eLearning platform, and all instructional content will be available on this platform. Additionally, textbooks will be provided for all students. Each week, there will be approximately 3 hours of lecture content and additional hours for reading the textbook and reviewing other required instructional material. The Basic Drinking Water Treatment class also has additional laboratory exercises each week. Students can earn Training Contact Hours (TCHs) upon successful completion of the class and will be eligible to sit for Drinking Water exams.

## How to Apply

If you are interested in taking this class, please send a letter or e-mail expressing your interest, and/or a resume to Robert Rak of Bristol Community College at [Robert.Rak@bristolcc.edu](mailto:Robert.Rak@bristolcc.edu), Subject: Interested in Bristol Community College Basic Drinking Water [Distribution/Treatment] Class. Or, you can contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: Interested in Bristol Community College Basic Drinking Water [Distribution/Treatment] Class. Minimum qualifications include, but are not limited to, an interest in a drinking water career, a high school diploma or GED (or close to completing), and 17 years or older. Interest emails from potential students will be reviewed and accepted in the order which they are received until all class spots are filled. There are approximately 25-30 available spots in the class. Registration and sign-up instructions will be sent after evaluating all inquiries. Please contact Robert Rak or the Drinking Water Program with any questions.

## 8. TNCs End of Year Wrap Up and Happy Holidays!

As we close out the year, we'd like to thank all of our Transient Non-Community (TNC) water systems for your continued commitment to providing safe and reliable drinking water across the Commonwealth. Your cooperation with monitoring, reporting, and outreach efforts plays a critical role in protecting public health for the many people who rely on your systems every day.

Throughout the year, your responsiveness and collaboration have helped support regulatory compliance and strengthen safe drinking water protection statewide. We truly appreciate the time and care you

dedicate to operating and maintaining your systems.

Thank you for your continued partnership with MassDEP. The Drinking Water Program wishes you a happy, healthy holiday season and a safe, successful New Year, and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead. As always please contact us with any questions throughout the year at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

## 9. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates



### State Revolving Fund (SRF) Lead Serving Line Funding Available Now!

**Did you know that DWSRF is currently accepting rolling applications for loan funds to identify unknowns and replace lead service lines?** Applications can be submitted through the [SRF Portal](#). Communities are strongly encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible while funds are available. Please contact Kaitlyn Connors, Director of Water Investment, [Kaitlyn.Connors2@mass.gov](mailto:Kaitlyn.Connors2@mass.gov), if you have any questions. ***Applications will be accepted and funds distributed on a first-come first-serve basis.***



### **LAST REMINDER!** 2025 Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notices Must be Sent out By DECEMBER 31, 2025!

This is a reminder for PWS, if your PWS has lead, GRR, and/or unknown service lines in your SLI, you must send out SLI CNs **annually**. This is a new recurring requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

**2025 SLI CNs must be distributed by December 31, 2025!** Templates are available on the [Lead and Copper Forms and Templates webpage](#), which were updated June 2025.

If your system has identified any unknowns, or replaced any lead/GRR service lines, your PWS is encouraged to submit an updated SLI a few days before distributing your consumer notices, so when your system certified their distribution next year, MassDEP has an accurate, updated SLI to compare your certification form to. This limits the back and forth required to review your certification form and expedites your form approval.



### Preparing for the LCRI! Notice to PWS Whose Most Recent 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Exceeded 10 ppb.

While currently the Lead Action Level is 15 ppb (0.015 mg/L) under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), **starting November 1, 2027, the Lead Action Level will be reduced to 10 ppb under the LCRI**. An email will be sent this week to all (27) PWS whose most recent 90<sup>th</sup> percentile result had exceeded 10 ppb, with information on what a 10 ppb 90<sup>th</sup> percentile will trigger under the LCRI, and the impacts of a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile over 10 ppb. PWS which received this notice are required to complete an LCRI Compliance Plan Survey and submit a LCRI Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP) Form ahead of time. This survey and form are required to assist PWS with preparation for the LCRI and to provide information to

MassDEP which can be used to provide the PWS with compliance assistance as needed. See the [Results of lead sampling for Public Water Systems Webpage](#) for all 90<sup>th</sup> percentile results.

## 10. 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, 1,225 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1,080 (88%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1,121 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 740 (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**, PWS will be **required to offer** lead testing to all primary schools and childcare facilities under the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Only schools and childcare facilities that were built on or after January 1, 2014-or have not had plumbing replacements since that date-and are not served by lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or lead status unknown service lines may be excluded from this requirement. 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.”**

## 11. 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.

What are some ways drinking water can help your body during the holidays? (or in general)

- A. Healthy skin
- B. Help you avoid catching colds
- C. Helps prevent bad breath
- 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.

## 12. 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

#### **Training Title Here, Header Style #4**

Training Info Here, remember to include descriptive lines, which are not “Register Here” or full URLs.

#### **EFCN Webinar: Pipes, Pressure, and a Precious Resource: The Engineering Challenge of Aging Water Infrastructure**

Thursday, January 15, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar

This webinar will examine the current state of public water systems, focusing on aging infrastructure, the operational and financial risks associated with delayed reinvestment, and the growing need for strategic planning. Participants will discover how modern technologies can improve efficiency, monitoring, and water quality, while addressing the financial challenges that often hinder technology adoption in small systems. The session will also highlight practical pathways forward, including asset management, system consolidation, leadership strategies, and workforce education as foundational elements for long-

term sustainability. Building on the work of the [Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute \(WRRRI\)](#), this webinar offers a systems-level view on how utilities can enhance resilience and prepare for the future. [Register for the webinar: Pipes, Pressure, and a Precious Resource: The Engineering Challenge of Aging Water Infrastructure](#)

### **EPA Tools & Resources Webinar: Lead (Pb) Overview and Data Mapper**

Wednesday, January 21, 2026; 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET; webinar

EPA reconstituted a leadership and operational structure for lead (Pb) this past summer, affirming continued progress in reducing lead exposure across environmental media. EPA put forward approaches under Administrator Zeldin for actionable risk communication, cooperative federalism, and private sector innovation while continuing to work under the government-wide 2018 Federal Lead Action Plan and fulfilling its statutory authorities and responsibilities to reduce exposure to lead. More specifically, EPA recently developed a blueprint for identifying potential lead exposures through multimedia data mapping using a systematic, flexible, multi-step process. This webinar will present both an overview of the Administration priorities for lead and a detailed look at this data mapping approach available now for states and partners to use. [Register for the Lead \(Pb\) Overview and Data Mapping webinar.](#)

### **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](#).

# 13. 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.



## Cybersecurity Biweekly Spotlight

### Reminder: Stay Vigilant Against Threats During Holidays

Staying vigilant helps protect both your personal information and PWS. A few extra precautions during this busy season can make a big difference. For more information, check the MassDEP/DWP poster on [How to Identify and Report Phishing Attacks](#). PWS are encouraged to take the following actions to protect themselves from becoming the next victim:

- Identify staff, IT/security employees, for weekends and holidays, who would be available to assist during these times in the event of an incident or ransomware attack.
- Implement multi-factor authentication.
- Mandate strong passwords and ensure they are not reused across multiple accounts.
- Keep computers, devices, and applications, including Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) /industrial control systems (ICS) software, patched and up to date.
- Secure and monitor remote desktop protocol (RDP) or any other potentially risky service. All remote access should be subject to monitoring, audit, and prompt patching.
- Remind employees not to click on suspicious links and conduct exercises to raise awareness.

## Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2026?

If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2026, MassDEP/DWP will inspect your cybersecurity assessment findings and plans during the upcoming sanitary survey cycle.

Details [here](#).

## 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](#).

## 14. 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.

## 15. 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](#).

## 16. Drinking Water Trivia! Answer

Answer: D. All of the above

Water hydrates your skin cells, helping them look fresh

When you're hydrated, your mucus membranes function better and help stop germs getting into your system

Drinking water can wash away food particles and bacteria in your mouth