

EPA Region 6 Water Security¹

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 office is located in Dallas, Texas and includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The regional drinking water and wastewater programs work with the State agencies in administering the federal drinking water and wastewater rules and regulations.

Security issues are a priority for EPA. In June 2002, the President signed PL 107-188, the Public Health, Security, and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act that includes provisions to help safeguard the nation's public drinking water and wastewater systems against terrorist and other intentional acts. On a national level, the EPA has been designated as the lead for water and wastewater infrastructure security so Region 6 has a vested interest in preparing for an incident of catastrophic proportions. Such effects could potentially impact the water and wastewater infrastructure and/or water quality within Region 6. The events of 9/11 have resulted in new legislation, funds and responsibility for EPA and other federal agencies. EPA is working with numerous other federal and state agencies in these endeavors as well.

The Region 6 office has formed a regional team to deal with drinking water and wastewater issues. Drinking water and wastewater systems can contact the regional contacts directly for information on security issues; however, in the event of an emergency, remember to first contact 911, then the EPA Regional Emergency Response Center and the appropriate State drinking water and wastewater emergency response contact. Please refer to the following page for important Regional contact information.

EPA encourages drinking water and wastewater systems to take action to protect their assets from tampering. The handouts being provided are inexpensive steps that can be taken to enhance security and protect our drinking water and wastewater systems.

Handouts

Security Awareness for Industrial and Municipal Facilities – *overview on steps to take to protect your facility, your products and your community*

Pipe Hanger – *top ten list for emergency preparedness and security for small groundwater suppliers*

General Security Checklist – *questions to consider for safe security practices at your facility*

Emergency Contact List – *to summarize various contacts needed in an emergency*

Threat Identification Checklist – *to be used if your utility receives a threatening phone call*

Water/Wastewater System Incident Checklist – *to be used to report an actual incident*

Guidance for Water Utility, Response, Recovery & Remediation Actions for

Man-made and/or Technological Emergencies – *guidance for responding to a catastrophic emergency*

Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide – *guidance intended for systems 3,300 or less and does not include most of the 8 essential elements necessary for adequate vulnerability assessment at larger systems*

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