Community-Based Water Resiliency

Helping Water Utilities Build Stronger Communities

Presentation to the Mid-Atlantic APWA Chapter Conference
Virginia Beach, VA
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What is Community-Based Water Resiliency
CBWR can help:

- Bring utilities and publics works together with:
  - Emergency Planners and First Responders
  - Business Community and Members of the Public
  - City/County Managers
  - Public Health Officials

- Increases preparedness **at the community level** by:
  - Increase understanding of critical interdependencies
  - Highlighting multiple benefits of preparedness
  - Improving integration of the Water Sector into community emergency preparedness and response efforts
Why Involve the Entire Community?

*Water service interruptions can have serious economic, environmental, psychological, and public health consequences. Resilient communities can significantly reduce these risks at negligible cost.*

- All emergencies & responses are local, all threats & vulnerabilities unique
- Public works departments play a critical role during water emergencies
- Water sector personnel need to:
  - Collaborate with interdependent sectors
  - Coordinate with law enforcement, community leaders, business leaders, and the general public
- Communities need to:
  - Understand interdependencies & how a water emergency will affect them
  - Access tools and resources that speak to their roles and responsibilities in advance of a crisis
Benefits to a Community

In a day without water, how would you meet the needs of:

Sanitation, Business Interests, Environmental Protection, and Hospitals/Dialysis Services

CBWR helps communities to:

- Recognize importance of water and organizational reliance on water
- Forge partnerships between water utilities and their community
- Clarify organizational roles and responsibilities during a disaster
- Increase community preparedness for water emergencies
- Reduce impacts of water service interruptions
5 Stakeholder Groups & Numerous "User Roles"

Example: Emergency Services Sector roles include

- Law Enforcement
- EMS
- Hazardous Materials
- LEPC
- Emergency Manager among others
The Toolbox contains stakeholder specific resources to help them prepare. Available resources include webinars, presentations, case studies, professional training courses (ICS/NIMS) and many others.
Water Resiliency Action Planner (WRAP) Kit

• Provides users with step-by-step process for planning a water emergency discussion, and covers:
  – Expectations
  – Roles and responsibilities
  – Capabilities and limitations
  – Planning, hosting and follow-up actions

• Includes sample:
  – Agendas
  – Invitations
  – Suggested participants
  – Logistical templates and scripts for recruitment
CBWR Pilot: St. Clair County, Michigan

• Participants:
  Water Utility, Neighboring County Emergency Managers, Police and Fire, Public Health Department (Local and Canadian), Schools, Hospital, State Primacy Agency, EPA Regional Water Contact

• Outcomes: Multi-Phase work plan including training, vulnerability assessments and continued tabletop exercises

• Lessons Learned:
  • **Water Utilities:**
    • Determine flow capabilities and exercise interconnections
    • Set priorities for water provision
  • **Emergency Management**
    • Post County Hazard Mitigation Plans & Strengthen public/private sector COOP
    • Conduct water audits
  • **First Responders**
    • Include details of alternate water supplies in emergency response plans
    • Implement long-range planning

• **Full Summary Review Available Online**
All-Hazards Disaster Resiliency

*Infrastructure failures are not a matter of “if” they are a matter of “when” …we all need to be prepared and plan ahead.*

The Water Sector faces numerous threats:

- Infrastructure Failure
- Natural Disasters
  - Hurricanes, Tornadoes etc.
- Contamination
  - Accidental, Intentional or Terrorist

*CBWR can help you prepare!*
Using CBWR to Achieve All-Hazard Disaster Preparedness

CBWR can help you:

• Coordinate with emergency planners
• Strengthen emergency response plans
• Increase citizen understanding of potential impacts from a service interruption
• Support business and community services to factor water service interruptions into emergency plans and,
• Ensure hospitals and critical facilities have alternate water supply
Upcoming CBWR Training

• New Jersey – June 12

• New York – Mid June

• Other Locations to be Announced Soon
Don’t Forget About Other EPA Resources to Improve Resiliency

http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/
Federal Disaster Funding for Water/Wastewater Utilities

Which Funding Is Right for You?

Currently In a Disaster?
Here are forms to document the damage, costs, and repairs.

Be Prepared to Tap into Funding

Federal Disaster Funding Programs

Utility Examples, Training, & Assistance

Click here if you are currently experiencing a disaster or a large-scale service interruption. This page contains recommendations including printable forms on how to document damage, emergency response, and temporary repair actions for water and/or wastewater utilities.
Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative

Climate Ready Process

Adaptive Response Framework

Explore Elements of Climate Readiness

Learn Climate and Adaptation Basics

Adaptation Strategies Guide

Toolbox

Research and Gather Information

Extreme Events Workshop Planner

Collaborate with Partners

Assess Risks and Evaluate Opportunities

Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool

epa.gov/climatereadyutilities
Download The Community-Based Water Resiliency Tool Today!

Please visit:

http://www.epa.gov/communitywaterresiliency

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