



# Using Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity to Improve System Security — Suggestions for States

## Security at Systems is Just Common Sense

The nation's water systems are vulnerable to a variety of threats including natural disasters (e.g., floods, tornados, wildfires, and drought); contamination from biological, chemical, or radiological agents; power outages; and deliberate acts of vandalism or terrorism. Small public water systems need to be prepared to deal with these types of threats. Public safety and confidence in drinking water may be seriously threatened, regardless of whether a breach of security was accidental, intentional, or due to a natural disaster. Being prepared just makes common sense. For this reason, it is important for small systems to evaluate their susceptibility to potential threats; to identify actions they can take to help reduce the risk of serious consequences; and be able to quickly recover from any type of emergency. There are many ways that states and water systems can work together to be ready to detect, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats and emergencies. Conducting a vulnerability assessment, developing an emergency response plan, and incorporating security into capacity development programs can be important steps in that direction.

## *Capacity Development is Security is Capacity Development . . . . . . is more than just a catchy phrase.*

*Long after the technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) elements and activities were defined, the water sector has come together to identify four principal security goals:*

- **Sustain protection of the public health and environment;**
- **Recognize and reduce risks in the water sector;**
- **Maintain a resilient infrastructure; and**
- **Increase communication, outreach, and public confidence.**

*Each of these goals can be met through an effective Capacity Development program.*

## Capacity Development Makes Security Feasible for Small Systems

States and water systems don't need to undertake extensive new security initiatives to be better prepared. Many capacity development activities can help systems assess their potential vulnerabilities, take steps to reduce the risk of serious consequences from a security breach or other emergency, enhance their resiliency, and otherwise address system security issues. By integrating capacity development programs and security-related activities, states and water systems can build upon already established programs which helps avoid duplication of effort, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. For example, operator certification training programs and sanitary surveys can be modified to include security-related components. Cross-connection programs can be encouraged in order to prevent chemical and microbiological contamination. Communication and information systems (e.g., hotlines or emergency response systems) can help water systems respond to threats or emergencies. Participation in mutual aid and assistance networks can complement and enhance a system's ability to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from a broad range of threats. Building on additional existing relationships (such as those between the state and water systems or between water systems and local law enforcement) can enhance the effect that the capacity development program has on improving security at small water systems by leveraging additional knowledge, expertise, and resources.

## Good Capacity Development is Good Security

Capacity development focuses on a system's ability to fulfill its mission to provide a safe and reliable supply of water. Security is an integral part of that mission. By using successful capacity development programs and tools to help small systems identify and implement new security measures and strengthen existing ones, states can ensure that systems will continue to maintain capacity while improving their security protection. Carrying out security-related measures through existing capacity development activities will enable states and systems to realize multiple benefits.

These benefits include: 1) additional training opportunities for water system operators and managers; 2) improved source water protection plans; 3) incorporation of security-related resource needs into the budget planning process; 4) better educated and prepared customers, and 5) successful capacity development programs and tools, enhanced with security-related measures. These activities can improve states' and systems' ability to continue to provide a safe and reliable supply of water.

## Resources for Systems

EPA Small Systems Web site	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys.html">www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys.html</a>
EPA Security Web site	<a href="http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity">cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity</a>
EPA Drinking Water Academy	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html">www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html</a>
EPA Homeland Security Research	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/ordnhsr">www.epa.gov/ordnhsr</a>
EPA Emergency Preparedness	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/emergencypreparedness.html">www.epa.gov/ebtpages/emergencypreparedness.html</a>
EPA Lab Compendium	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/compendium">www.epa.gov/compendium</a>
EPA Water Contaminant Information Tool	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/wcit">www.epa.gov/wcit</a>
Water Security Channel	<a href="http://www.watersc.org">www.watersc.org</a>
Center for Disease Control	<a href="http://www.bt.cdc.gov">www.bt.cdc.gov</a>
Department of Homeland Security	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov">www.dhs.gov</a>
FEMA Emergency Management Institute	<a href="http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/ceus.asp">www.training.fema.gov/IS/ceus.asp</a>
FEMA National Incident Management System Integration Center	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm">www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm</a>
US National Response Team	<a href="http://www.nrt.org">www.nrt.org</a>
Water Health Connection	<a href="http://www.waterhealthconnection.org">www.waterhealthconnection.org</a>

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[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

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