Community-Based Water Resiliency

Helping Water Utilities Build Stronger Communities
CBWR Provides Resources to Help Increase Preparedness & Resiliency

CBWR can help:

- Brings utilities 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 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

• Utilities play a critical role during water emergencies

• Utilities 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
Self Assessment

5 Stakeholder Groups & Numerous "User Roles"

Example: Emergency Services Sector roles include

- Law Enforcement
- EMS
- Hazardous Materials
- LEPC and,
- 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
Infrastructure failures are not a matter of “if” they are a matter of “when”…we all need to be prepared and plan ahead.

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
Florida Workshops
Federal Disaster Funding for Wastewater Utilities

Registration Coming Soon!
Download The Community-Based Water Resiliency Tool Today!

Please visit:
http://www.epa.gov/communitywaterresiliency

Community-Based Water Resiliency Project Lead:

Nushat Thomas
202-564-4674

Thomas.nushat@epa.gov