

Checklist: Security questions for small drinking water systems

While many terrorism preparedness efforts have been focused on large monuments, skyscrapers and big cities, smaller facilities and communities must increase security measures as well. To help small drinking water systems (serving a population of 3,300 or less) assess potential vulnerabilities and take appropriate action, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and the National Rural Water Association have released a new guide, "Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide for Small Drinking Water Systems." This checklist of general security questions for the entire water system is just one component of this new guide.

1. Do you have a written emergency response plan?
2. Is access to the critical components of the water system (i.e. a part of the physical infrastructure of the system that is essential for water flow and/or water quality) restricted to authorized personnel only?
3. Are facilities fenced, including well houses and pump pits, and are gates locked where appropriate?
4. Are doors, windows and other points of entry such as tank and roof hatches and vents kept closed and locked?
5. Is there external lighting around the critical components of the water system?
6. Are warning signs (tampering, unauthorized access, etc.) posted on all critical components of the water system (for example, well houses and storage tanks)?
7. Do you patrol and inspect source intake, buildings, storage tanks, equipment and other critical components?
8. Is the area around the critical components free of objects that may be used for breaking and entering?
9. Are entry points to the water system easily seen?
10. Do you have an alarm system that will detect unauthorized entry or attempted entry at critical components?
11. Do you have a key control and accountability policy?
12. Are entry codes and keys limited to water system personnel only?
13. Do you have a neighborhood watch program for your water system?
14. Are your wellheads properly sealed?

15. Are well vents and caps screened and securely attached?
16. Are observation/test and abandoned wells properly secured to prevent tampering?
17. Is your surface water source secured with fences or gates? Do water system personnel visit the source?

The complete, printable guide is available in Adobe Acrobat format at www.asdwa.org/mem_info/committees/cipinfo/6-02/5-31%20draft%20latestv3.pdf.

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