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Risk & Resiliency and Emergency Response Plan Training for PWS

From EPA Region 7, April 9, 2021

The America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) required systems serving at least 3,300 people to conduct a risk and resiliency assessment, and then incorporate those findings into an updated Emergency Response Plan. EPA Region 7 held a series of three workshops in February 2021. The recordings of those three workshops can be found at these links (enter your name, email, and then the recording will show):

- [Module 1](#)
- [Module 2](#)
- [Module 3](#)

Other recordings are also posted to the [EPA AWIA RR&ER website](#) under the heading "Fall 2020 AWIA Workshop Series Video."

In addition, EPA is also hosting another full 3-part AWIA workshop and an AWIA webinar. You must register separately for each module.

- Module 1 "AWIA Section 2013 Requirements, Certification, and Section 2018 Basics," 4/26/2021, 12:30 – 2:00 pm CDT [Registration](#)
- Module 2 "Malevolent Acts, Natural Hazards, and the Small Systems Checklist," 4/27/2021, 12:30 – 2:00 pm CDT [Registration](#)
- Module 3 "AWIA Emergency Response Template and Guidance," 4/28/2021, 12:30 – 2:00 pm CDT [Registration](#)

In May, EPA will host another AWIA webinar to answer attendee questions and review key topics. This will be especially helpful for systems that have started to complete their RRA or ERP and have specific questions or topics they would like to revisit.

Risk and Resiliency Assessment Certification Deadlines (by system size):

- At least 100,000 people served: March 31, 2020
- 50,000 to 99,999 people served: December 31, 2020

- At least 3,300 to 49,999 people served: June 30, 2021

Emergency Response Plan Certification Deadlines (by system size):

- At least 100,000 people served: September 30, 2020
- 50,000 to 99,999 people served: June 30, 2021
- At least 3,300 to 49,999 people served: December 31, 2021

Reminder: Both certifications are required every five years. EPA is implementing this requirement; the certifications are submitted directly to EPA and not to Iowa DNR. Note that the actual assessment and ER plan are not submitted to EPA; only the certifications are submitted.

EPA's Updated Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool

From EPA Water Security Division, April 13, 2021

EPA's [Creating Resilient Water Utilities Initiative \(CRWU\)](#) released an updated version of its [Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool](#), or CREAT, a climate change risk assessment application for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water utilities.

Improvements include:

- A new process for selecting scenario data with the addition of streamflow and coastal flooding projections;
- A new option to assess regional economic consequences using data from EPA's [Water Health Economic Analysis Tool \(WHEAT\)](#);
- Updated sea-level rise data; and
- Improved tutorials and help.

CRWU also updated the [CREAT v. 3.1 Methodology Guide](#), which provides information on the tool's risk assessment process, as well as details on the [climate science projection data](#) provided in CREAT.

[Access CREAT](#)

Drought Resilience Case Studies

From EPA Water Security Division, April 13, 2021

"EPA's [Drought GeoPlatform Case Studies Map](#) tells the story of how nine diverse small- to medium-sized water utilities were challenged by drought impacts, and how they were able to successfully respond to and recover from drought. The interactive GeoPlatform site also features three additional videos describing how utilities addressed specific drought challenges, including:

- Reducing customer demand
- Managing water supplies
- Partnerships."

EPA Incident Action Checklists

From EPA Water Security Division, April 13, 2021

"EPA's [Incident Action Checklists](#) are a great way to stay prepared for all hazards. The concise checklists provide key actions to take before, during, and after an incident or natural disaster.

The available checklists cover cybersecurity, drought, earthquakes, extreme cold and winter storms, extreme heat, flooding, harmful algal blooms, hurricanes, pandemic, power outages, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, and wildfires."

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

To find continuing education opportunities, please view the "Training Calendar" at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/ Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.