

Emergency Response Planning for Small Utilities

Description:

How will your water system respond in the face of an emergency? What are some potential risks that could affect it? Do you have a Plan B if something happens? If you don't know the answers to these questions then this training is for you! We will cover two tools used for emergency planning including a Vulnerability Assessment and an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), and discuss step-by-step how participants can create these for their own systems. Materials and templates will be shared to help small utilities get started on putting together their ERP. This training will also cover the Emergency Management Cycle and how systems can think about resiliency to disasters and recovery afterwards.

Participants will learn:

- The components of a Vulnerability Assessment
- The stages of the Emergency Management Cycle
- The components of an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) template
- Best practices for completing an ERP for their utility

We will be using the Go To Training (GTT) virtual platform to present this workshop. Attendees will participate through pre and post-tests, polls and interactive exercises.

Schedule

9:00 – 9:10 Introductions

9:10 – 9:20 Pre-Test

9:20 – 9:30 Background – What is an Emergency

9:50 – 10:40 Vulnerability Assessment Tool

10:40 -11:00 Emergency Management Cycle overview

11:00 – 11:45 Emergency Response Plan Template Overview

11:45 – 12:00 Post Test

Tricia Kent
RDS Environmental

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Skills

- Community outreach, training, and education
- Stakeholder relations
- Bilingual Spanish/ English at full professional proficiency
- Data collection, management, and statistical analysis
- Process improvement
- Participatory analysis
- Small grant management
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Experience

Tricia Kent joined RCAC as a Rural Development Specialist (RDS) in March 2023. They provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to small, disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems in Oregon and Washington so that they can operate sustainably and deliver quality services to the communities served. Tricia works closely with rural residents and local leaders to assist them in the development and management of water, wastewater, or solid waste systems.

Prior to joining RCAC, Ms. Kent served as an Environmental Education Volunteer with Peace Corps Mexico for four years, where they developed stakeholder relationships, delivered in person trainings and workshops, and conducted surveys and other participatory analysis tools. There, Ms. Kent also managed two small grants from USAID that centered around climate change adaptation in rural communities in southern Mexico. Tricia worked as a material engineer for two years, where they developed and improved casting, plating, and coating processes.

Education

Master of Natural Resource Management - University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

Bachelor of Science, Material Science and Engineering - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York



Professional Affiliations *(Please provide any relevant professional organizations.)*