

Risk and Resiliency Assessments and Emergency Response Planning for Small Utilities

Course Description:

Risk and Resiliency Assessments and Emergency Response Planning for Small Utilities is a training designed to help small drinking water and wastewater utilities strengthen their preparedness for natural disasters and malevolent acts. Although wastewater systems and community drinking water systems (CWS) serving fewer than 3,301 people are not federally required to certify completion of Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) or Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) under the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA), the potential for disruptions remains a critical concern. Additionally, these documents are often required by certain funders, such as USDA Rural Development. This training will guide participants through the importance of RRAs and ERPs and provide practical steps for their development, ensuring systems are better equipped to respond during emergencies. Participants will also learn about the EPA's Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program, which allows operators to earn CEUs upon completing an RRA and ERP.

Tracking participation: *Participation will be tracked in the class on the Go To training platform, via polls throughout the training, group chat box discussions, a pre and post test, and a record of the length of time that a participant is in the training. It is required of participants to attend the entire training session, complete both the pre and post tests, and participate in all polls and chat box discussions to be eligible for a certificate for the training.*

Agenda:

- Introduction to emergency preparedness and overview of training topics
- Understanding risk and resilience
- Developing a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA)
- Creating an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- EPA's CEU program
- Funding and resources for developing RRAs and ERPs
- Wrap up – key takeaways and next steps for participants

9:00 – 9:15 AM: Introductions

Introduction to emergency preparedness
Overview of training topics
Pre-test

9:15 – 9:45 AM: Understanding Risk and Resilience

Common threats
Critical assets and vulnerabilities
What is a Risk and Resiliency Assessment?

9:45 – 10:30 AM: Developing a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA)

Step by step guide using EPA resources

10:30 – 11:25 AM: Creating an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

What is an Emergency Response Plan and why is it important?
Integrating RRAs into ERP development
Step by step guide using EPA resources

11:25 – 11:35 AM: Continuing Education Unit Program

How to get CEUs for creating an RRA and ERP

11:35 – 11:50 AM: Funding and other resources

Overview of resources for developing RRAs and ERPs

11:50 – 12:00 PM: Wrap-Up

Final tips for staying prepared, key takeaways, and action items

Post test