

Emergency Response Planning

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Island Health

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Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time.

Drinking Water Protection Act

Emergency response and contingency plans,
S10(1)

“In the case of a prescribed water supply system, the water supplier must have a written emergency response and contingency plan in accordance with the regulations, to be implemented in the event of an emergency or abnormal operational circumstances affecting its water supply system”

Drinking Water Protection Regulation

Emergency response and contingency plan, Section 13, includes

- Contact information for system operators/managers, Island Health Drinking Water Officers and other government agencies (MOE, FLNRO)
- Steps to follow to remediate or remedy the emergency or abnormal operational circumstances
- Protocols if immediate reporting standard is not met
- The plan must be accessible to all staff, DWO and water users and a copy to DWO
- Map of the system, showing critical control points

So what is an emergency ?

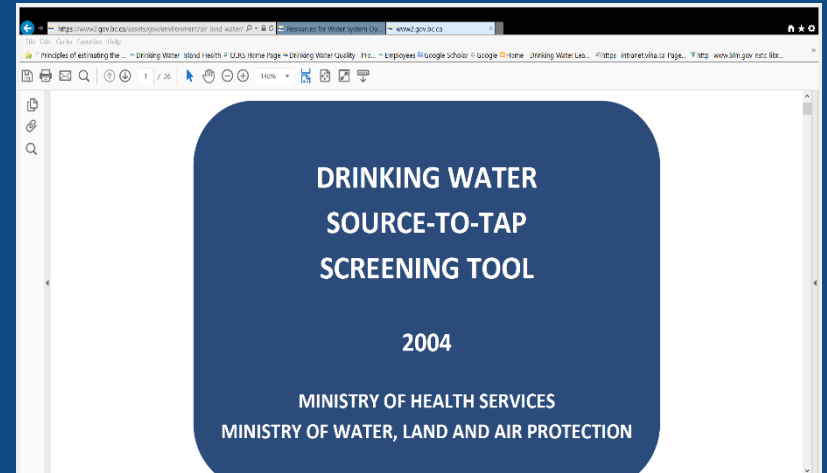
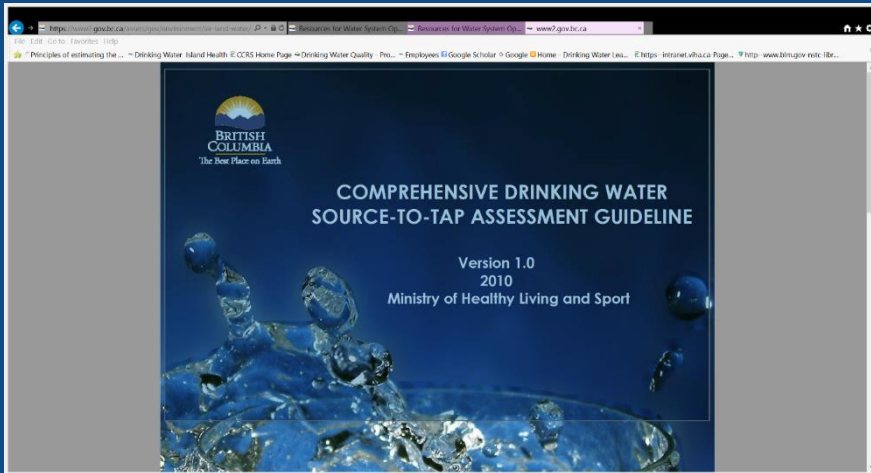
- Loss of supply
- Loss of treatment/disinfection
- Broken distribution lines
- Power outage
- Microbial contamination
- Chemical contamination
- Anything out of the ordinary which might impact the safety of the water

Water Main Break



Know your Risks

- Source to Tap Assessment
- Identifies potential hazards, assesses risk of hazards, actions to reduce risk



Responses – What will you do?

- Loss of supply - alternates
- Loss of treatment/disinfection – repairs, public notification
- Power outage - generators
- Microbial contamination – public notification
- Chemical contamination – public notification
- Anything out of the ordinary which might impact the safety of the water – site and system specific

Communication Protocol

- Who needs to know
- How will you notify
- Method - phone, door to door, media, email or text, signs



Shut-down/Start-up Procedures

- Shut off supply if necessary
- Notify appropriate agencies
- Issue/post notices
- Identify and correct source of contamination
- Flush and disinfect lines
- Water samples to confirm actions
- Contact DWO for approval to resume regular operation

Resources

- MOH – Resources for Water Operators
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-quality/drinking-water-quality/publications>
- Island Health
- <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/drinking-water>

Questions?

