

U.S. EPA Offers Utilities Security and Emergency Management Resources

Information on infrastructure protection and recovery from all hazards is vital to utilities. So important is this information that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and WaterISAC are offering 12-months of free access to WaterISAC's Pro service. It's a one-of-a-kind clearinghouse of security and emergency management resources. The offer is open to water and wastewater utilities of all sizes, as well as water associations, state environment and homeland security agencies and circuit riders.

WaterISAC was established in 2002 as a non-profit water sector organization in support of infrastructure protection.

"I have followed the progress of the WaterISAC for a number of years. Early on, it was perceived by many, including myself, to be only for the big boys in the business with little or no support for the small and rural water systems across America. Several years ago, the WaterISAC team made a conscientious effort to reach small systems by providing the basic services free to our membership. At the time, I applauded their efforts to reach my colleagues in rural America. Now, in a far greater effort to reach the membership of NRWA, the WaterISAC team has secured funding to reach the entire membership of NRWA without charge for one year. I urge you to take advantage of this offer and see what the ISAC has to offer you," said Charles Hilton of Breezy Hill Water and Sewer in Graniteville, SC.

WaterISAC subscribers include utility personnel, from general managers to circuit riders and everything in between. State and federal government agencies with responsibilities for water, homeland security and emergency management are also enrolled.

WaterISAC Pro's library secure online library contains more than 2,000 white papers, best practices, vulnerability assessment tools, and research reports from the Water Research Foundation, and the Water Environment Research Foundation. These resources help utilities prepare for all hazards and develop response and recovery plans. WaterISAC Pro also hosts free webinars on hot topics such as lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, insider threats, and the H1N1 pandemic. Upcoming webinar topics include current terrorism threats and the use of social media to communicate with consumers.

"WaterISAC is a rich source of information that my staff uses to support our mission to help protect water infrastructure," said Phil Bastin of BBP Water Corporation in Indiana. "The WaterISAC team is attuned to the needs of rural communities."

To sign-up for 12 months of free access to WaterISAC Pro, visit www.waterisac.org