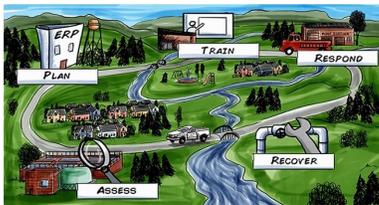# Water Security Division Products and Services List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Water Security Division (WSD) has developed a robust suite of products and services to improve the resilience of the water sector to all types of hazards. WSD resources can be found at www.epa.gov/waterresilience. Direct links to specific tools and resources are provided below.

Products are organized by topic: Assess Risks, Emergency Preparedness, Risk Communication, Laboratory Support, Mutual Aid and Assistance, Training and Exercises, Emergency Response and Recovery. The following product, Route to Resilience, incorporates the critical stages of resiliency and can assist water and wastewater utilities locate the appropriate services to fulfill their needs.

Route to Resilience (RtoR)

This 2018 version of the RtoR assists small and medium sized drinking water and wastewater utilities learn more about becoming resilient to all-hazards. The interactive desktop application guides utilities through five stops along the Route to Resilience – Assess, Plan, Train, Respond and Recover – and provides users with a custom report that highlights specific products and tools.

Assess Risks

Risk assessment tools can assist water and wastewater utilities in identifying potential threats and vulnerabilities.

- Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool (VSAT) – VSAT assists utilities in assessing the potential impacts from both man-made and natural disasters and provides actions to enhance security and resilience.

- Water Health and Economic Analysis Tool (WHEAT) – WHEAT helps utility owners and operators to better understand the human health and economic consequences of potential disasters.

- Water Quality Surveillance and Response System (SRS) – SRS helps drinking water utilities detect and respond to water quality problems – including contamination – in their distribution system or source water.

- SRS Capabilities Assessment Tool – This tool can help drinking water utilities assess existing SRS capabilities and develop potential enhancements to meet specific goals for water quality surveillance and response.

Emergency Preparedness

Water and wastewater utilities can build resilience by planning for emergencies before they occur. WSD has developed both hazard-specific and generalized products to help utilities prepare for disasters.

- Emergency Response Plan Guidance for Small and Medium Community Water Systems – Small and medium utilities can use this guidance to assist in developing or revising their Emergency Response Plans (ERPs).

- Flood Resilience Guide – This easy-to-navigate guide helps drinking water and wastewater utilities understand local flooding threats and identify practical solutions to protect critical assets.

- Drought Response and Recovery Guide – This user-friendly guide and accompanying case studies help drinking water and wastewater utilities identify key

drought preparedness and response actions to address both short-term drought impacts and long-term drought resilience.

- [Earthquake Resilience Products](#) – The easy-to-use guide, video and interactive maps help drinking water and wastewater utilities understand the earthquake threat and identify practical solutions to protect critical assets.

- [Power Resilience Guide](#) – This interactive guide assists drinking water and wastewater utilities in identifying and implementing key actions to improve resilience to power outages.

- [A Critical Connection: The Water and Healthcare/Public Health Sectors](#) - This document provides information on building relationships, coordinating water use advisories and allying with Poison Control Centers.

- [Connecting Water Utilities and Emergency Management Agencies](#) - This document summarizes best practices for how water utilities can work with emergency management agencies to increase coordination and better respond to emergencies.

- [Guidance for Responding to Drinking Water Contamination Incidents](#) - This document provides information to help drinking water utilities prepare for distribution system contamination incidents.

Risk Communication

Communicating with the public prior to and during an emergency can help to mitigate public health and economic impacts.

- [Water Utility Public Awareness Kit](#) – This kit includes customizable print, web and video materials that drinking water and wastewater utilities can use to inform customers about the value of water services, threats to water systems and actions that households can take to prepare for service disruptions.

- [Developing Risk Communication Plans for Drinking Water Contamination Incidents](#) This document helps utilities develop and implement an effective Risk Communication Plan (RCP) to respond to drinking water contamination incidents.

- [Community-Based Water Resiliency (CBWR) Tool](#) – This downloadable tool allows utilities and community members to assess the community's resilience to water service disruptions and describes tools and resources that can be used to enhance resilience.

Laboratory Support

Laboratories provide vital emergency response services during a contamination incident.

- **Analytical Preparedness Full Scale Exercise Toolkit** - Provides states, water utilities and laboratories the tools and training necessary to conduct an exercise that involves coordinating laboratory support during a contamination incident.

- **Analytical Preparedness Self-Assessment** - Designed to increase stakeholder preparedness to respond to analytical needs arising from water contamination events by enhancing awareness of EPA water security tools and resources.

- **WLA Response Plan** – This document outlines processes and procedures that can help individuals lead a coordinated laboratory response during water contamination incidents.

- **Water Laboratory Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)** – Laboratories can prepare for continued service during an emergency by developing a Continuity of Operations Plan, using available templates and instructions.

- **Accessing Laboratory Support Tool** – An interactive guide that shows users how to obtain support at the local, state, regional and federal levels. It provides tips, references and a one-page summary resource.

- **Sampling Guidance for Unknown Contaminants in Drinking Water** – This document provides recommended procedures for the collection, storage, preservation and transportation of potentially contaminated water, as well as monitoring, detection and identification recommendations.

- The Water Laboratory Alliance also provides several free webinar trainings throughout the year covering these and many other resources. To learn what is currently available for registration, please visit this **WSD training page**.

- **Guidance for Building Laboratory Capabilities to Respond to Drinking Water Contamination** – This document provides guidance for water utilities wishing to build laboratory capabilities for response to water contamination. It identifies contaminant classes of concern, lists analytical methods and provides information on the role of laboratory networks in responding to contamination.

- **Guidance for Building Field Capabilities to Respond to Drinking Water Contamination** – This document provides guidance to help water utilities plan for sample collection, water quality parameter testing and other field activities during the response to a contamination incident.

Mutual Aid and Assistance

During an emergency, "utilities helping utilities" can be an efficient way to access needed resources.

- **Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) Resources** – WSD has developed videos, guidance documents and model agreements to help water and wastewater utilities build or strengthen their mutual aid and assistance networks. A newly released **WARN Promotional Video** highlights key aspects of the WARN program and can be played at conferences and meetings.

Training and Exercises

Training and exercises provide utilities with opportunities to learn more about resilience and practice response actions.

- [Water/Wastewater All Hazards Boot Camp Training: Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery](#) – This interactive, computer-based training course provides users with the fundamentals of water sector resilience and resources for a comprehensive all-hazards program. The training is approved for operator continuing education credit in some states.

- [Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Tool for Water Systems](#) – This 2018 version of the TTX Tool provides users with the resources to plan, conduct and evaluate tabletop exercises that focus on water sector-related incidents and challenges.

- [SRS Exercise Development Toolbox (EDT)](#) – This downloadable tool guides users through the steps of designing exercises based on realistic contamination scenarios.

- [Incident Command System (ICS) Refresher Trainings](#) – Designed specifically for water and wastewater utility personnel, these recorded training webinars provide viewers with an overview of the ICS.

Emergency Response

Water and wastewater utilities can use these tools to improve response to an emergency.

- [Water Utility Response On-The-Go (OTG) App](#) – Utility personnel can download this app onto their smart phones. Response OTG enhances disaster response by providing easy access to severe weather information, key emergency contacts, emergency checklists, damage assessment forms and ICS resources.

- [Water Sector Incident Action Checklists](#) – These simple, concise checklists provide key actions to take before, during, and after a natural disaster, including drought, extreme heat and cold, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, tsunami, hurricanes, volcanic activity, cybersecurity and harmful algal blooms.

- [Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)](#) – WCIT is a secure (registration required) database with information on over 800 drinking water and wastewater contaminants including pathogens, pesticides and toxic industrial chemicals. During a contamination incident, WCIT can aid in decision-making.

Recovery

Following an emergency, drinking water and wastewater utilities can use these resources to assist in recovery.

- [Federal Funding for Utilities in National Disasters (Fed FUNDS)](#) – Fed FUNDS is a collection of resources and information for federal disaster funding programs intended for water and wastewater utilities.

- [Public Assistance for Water and Wastewater Utilities in Emergencies and Disasters](#) This short document provides information about water and wastewater utilities' eligibility for disaster funds under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Public Assistance Grant Program.

- [Reimbursement Tips for Water Sector Emergency Response and Recovery](#) – This short document provides simple tips that drinking water and wastewater utilities can use to maximize reimbursement through local, state or federal level mechanisms.

- [Hazard Mitigation for Natural Disasters: A Starter Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#) – This user-friendly guide assists water and wastewater utilities on how to mitigate against the impacts of natural disasters and encourages collaboration with local mitigation planners to implement priority projects using FEMA or other funding sources.