

WATER

Water Emergency Procedures

It pays to be prepared before an emergency. Prior to an emergency the system should review their Emergency Response Plan and update the plan where required. If possible maintain elevated storage at full capacity to provide fire protection. Exercise generators and valves.



Monitor system pressure and chlorine residuals. If the system loses pressure or wells are submerged, issue a **precautionary boil advisory**. Precautionary boil advisories or water rationing notices should be issued through media or posting or by word of mouth. Notices can be posted at prominent locations such as City Hall, water office, post office, and grocery stores. Ask users to take precautions to avoid cross connections so when power is restored cross contamination potential is diminished. After the problem is corrected the system should perform bacteriological line tests before lifting a precautionary boil advisory.

The system may have to valve off portions of the distribution system. Valved off areas have the potential for external

contamination to enter the system through leaking joints or cracked pipe. To avoid further line damage the system should be repressurized slowly to avoid water hammer and air should be bled from lines as they refill since entrapped air can impede flows.

If there is power loss, contact the power company and make arrangements to restore power as a primary customer. If there is equipment damage, make arrangements with local companies to purchase materials and supplies and to borrow/lease equipment that is needed to make repairs. Keep detailed records of expenditures.

- Join SoonerWARN prior to an emergency. Oklahoma's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (SoonerWARN) is the formalized system of "utilities helping utilities" with mutual aid during emergency situations. The goal of SoonerWARN is to provide immediate relief for member utilities during times of emergencies.
- To join SoonerWARN visit www.soonerwarn.org or call 1-800-522-0206.

The following measures should be taken in the event of a water outage:

1. The system should ask the public to restrict water use and implement rationing. Non-essential businesses such as carwashes and laundries should be curtailed. Outside uses of water such as watering lawns and filling of swimming pools should be prohibited. It should be recommended that major inside uses such as clothes washing be postponed until service is restored.
2. The system should contact the DEQ Environmental Complaints and Local Services County office or DEQ hotline 1-800-522-0206 to report event.
3. The Mayor or Chairman of the Board should contact the County Emergency Manager if bottled water, water buffaloes or a generator is needed. The system operator should insure a safe chlorine residual in the tankers before distributing the water to citizens. The system may want to have some bottled water available until water tankers are on-site.

For more information regarding public water supplies, contact the Water Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality at (405)702-8100.

