

The Wellhead Word

Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

December 2007

Contingency Plans: What you should know...

What is a contingency plan?

The goal of the Wellhead Protection Program is to prevent the contamination of source water, but accidents happen. A contingency plan identifies what to do in response to a major event, such as a natural disaster or man-made emergency. It identifies who should respond and who should be notified. Typically the plan will include contact information of response personnel, resources available, potential sources of vulnerability, response scenarios, methods of public notification and other items. The contingency plan should also identify alternative sources of water and outline the steps necessary to ensure a quick response. Once adopted, this Contingency Planning Document will become the official standardized procedural guide for responding to such emergencies.

Why is it important to have a contingency plan?

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." An old phrase that holds true today. In the event of an emergency, every minute is crucial. Time wasted trying to determine a plan of action can amplify the severity of a situation. Having an emergency response plan can limit the amount of damage in the event of an accident or natural disaster.

Who prepares the contingency plan?

The Contingency Planning Document represents the results of a coordinated effort between the citizens and local officials of your community. Suggestions and comments for improvement of Contingency Plans are valuable, and will help to keep your community's plan viable and dynamic. Your local DEQ representative can assist in the development of your community's plan and help citizens get involved. Community participation not only keeps

you informed but also strengthens the plan through new perspectives.

When should the contingency plan be updated?

As time goes on and the needs of the community grow and change, certain elements of the plan may need to be improved, modified, or eliminated altogether. As contact personnel change, the plan should be updated to reflect those changes.

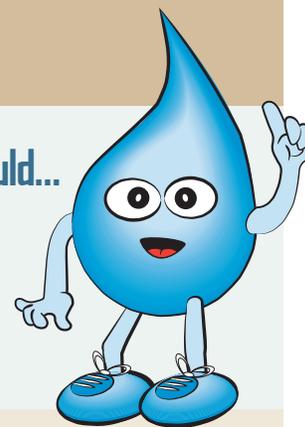


Who Can I Contact for More Information about Contingency Plans?

- Your local DEQ office.
- Groundwater Support in Oklahoma City.

H₂O Joe says a good contingency plan should...

- Identify an emergency response plan.
- Identify emergency response personnel.
- Be kept current!



Utilize your community's resources to get the word out on protecting source water. Mobilize the efforts of your local organizations such as, the Boy Scouts, School Organizations, and Social Clubs. Work to inform your friends and neighbors about the importance of wellhead protection and about what you can do as a community to identify potential contaminants.

Next Issue: The Three P's of Contingency Plans



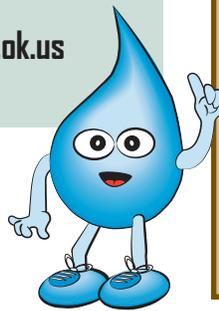
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Environmental Complaints and Local Services Wellhead Protection Contacts

For more information about the Wellhead Protection Program contact your local DEQ office or Oklahoma City Groundwater Support Unit.

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