

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.**  
Commissioner



**Dannel P. Malloy**  
Governor  
**Nancy Wyman**  
Lt. Governor

DWS Circular Letter # 2015-14

To: Public Water System Owners & Certified Operators  
From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section  
Date: October 2, 2015  
Subject: Hurricane Joaquin

The latest weather forecasts are predicting, albeit not with great certainty, Hurricane Joaquin to begin tracking northeast along the Atlantic coast this weekend. Although track and intensity forecasts have been problematic over the last several days, we ask you to prepare for the worst case scenario. We are encouraging you to review your emergency plans and assure that all preparations and precautions are taken.

Hurricanes pose obvious threats to public water systems including flooding, power outages and wind damage. The Connecticut Department of Public Health would like to encourage you to adhere to the alerts provided by the National Weather Service, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>, and refer you to helpful documents and other resources to assist you in preparation and response to a potential severe weather event.

The Department encourages all public water systems to report any flooding, power outage or storm damage that is threatening water supply operations and other water system facilities to the Department and the local Director of Health as soon as possible. It is recommended that impacted public water systems closely monitor disinfection treatment operation and issue a boil water notice to consumers if any treatment facility, storage tank or source of supply has been flooded or power outage causing depressurization of a water system below 25 psi. Prior to issuing a notice to consumers, contact the Department of Public Health –Drinking Water Section at 860-509-7333 during business hours or 860-509-8000 after hours.

Boil water information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3115&q=458426>

and, bulk water hauling related info can be found at:

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3139&Q=569418>



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359 • VP: (860) 899-1611  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51WAT, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

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Please see the attached link for Flood and Storm Water Advisory for Public Water Systems, which is also available at the following link:

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/PWS\\_Flooding\\_Advisory\\_Document\\_6\\_06.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/PWS_Flooding_Advisory_Document_6_06.pdf)

Public water systems operating dam structures should adhere to their dam safety plans and notify the Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as required.

An excellent way to increase the level of resources available to your water system is to join CtWARN – Connecticut's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. CtWARN offers a network of mutual aid and assistance between utilities. Go to [www.ctwarn.org](http://www.ctwarn.org) for more information.

CC: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief – DPH Regulatory Services Branch

Jane Downing, EPA Region 1 Boston

Johnathan Best, Emergency Preparedness

Local Health Directors