

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

### Drinking Water Section

#### DWS Circular Letter #2017-08

TO: Public Water Systems Serving Over 1000 persons

FROM: Lori Mathieu   
Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section

DATE: September 8, 2017

RE: Emergency Preparedness Reminder to Large Public Water Systems

As we witnessed the devastation across Eastern Texas due to Hurricane Harvey and the preparation in the State of Florida for the approaching Hurricane Irma, the Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section (DWS) encourages all large public water systems to do the following:

- Review the emergency response plans, update phone numbers and emergency contact information,
- Identify all of your critical water facilities, critical customers and potential shelters in your service area,
- Test the backup power generators under load and top off associated fuel tanks,
- Identify the emergency response staff and assign roles and responsibilities,
- Draft and prepare messages to be communicated to the media, the public and public officials,
- Draft and prepare the template of a boil water advisory, in English & other languages deemed necessary to your service area, so it is ready and available if needed,
- Visit all your emergency interconnections and ensure that all valves and necessary pumps are in good working order,
- Revisit the mutual aid agreements or commitments you have with neighboring companies,
- Reach out to the emergency coordinators in the towns you serve and keep them informed of



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- your plans, and
- Designate a system representative to log in and enter water supply status into WebEOC when is deemed necessary during an impending emergency

The DWS 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 available on the DWS website <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3139&q=387336> <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3139&q=387310> and [http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/Boil\\_Water\\_Advisory.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/Boil_Water_Advisory.pdf)

You are reminded to report any and all emergency incidents (loss of pressure, infrastructure failures, flooding, storm damage, facility access problems, etc.) to your local Emergency Management Directors, DEMHS Regional Coordinators and the Department of Public Health as soon as practical and by whatever means available. The Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section can be reached at 860-509-7333 during normal business hours (8:00AM – 4:30PM) or 860-509-8000 after-hours and holidays.

cc: Local Health Directors  
Certified Water Operators  
Yvonne Addo, DPH Deputy Commissioner