

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



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Lt. Governor

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

DWS Circular Letter# 2024-02

TO: Community Public Water Systems and Certified Water Operators

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief *Lori J. Mathieu*

DATE: January 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Alert and Preparedness Reminder

The current weather forecast indicates that winter storm Ember will bring snow, ice, rain, and wind to Connecticut. CT Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Section encourages all community public water systems to assess their preparedness for emergencies.

The Drinking Water Section encourages all community water systems to conduct the following in preparation for potential storm impacts:

- Test backup power generators under load and top off associated fuel tanks,
- Identify 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, for possible use, a boil water advisory template, in English & other languages deemed necessary to your service area. Please use this link to find more information on [Boil-Water-Notices-and-Advisories](#), along with a template.
- Review emergency response plans, update phone numbers and emergency contact information,
- Identify all critical water facilities, critical customers and potential shelters in your service area.

You are reminded to report any and all emergency incidents (loss of pressure, infrastructure failures, flooding, storm damage, facility access problems, etc.) through [WEBEOC](#) and to the Department of Public Health as soon as possible. If your community water system experiences a power outage leading to low water pressure, then you must alert your customers to boil the water and notify the DPH by contacting our emergency number at 860-692-2333.

C. Deputy Commissioner Lisa Morrissey, MPH, DPH
Local Health Directors



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