

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch

DWS Circular Letter #2024-08

TO: Community Public Water Systems

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief, EHDW 

DATE: February 23, 2024

SUBJECT: Top 8 Actions to Secure Water Systems; upcoming EPA cybersecurity webinars

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) would like to circulate the attached fact sheet, [Top Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems](#), with community public water systems (CPWS). Released on February 21 by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Federal Bureau of Investigations, this fact sheet packs a plethora of important cybersecurity resources and recommendations into just two short pages.

Geopolitical tensions around the globe have further elevated concerns for cyberterrorism attacks on U.S. critical infrastructure, meaning it is more important than ever that CPWSs with internet-connected operational and informational technology systems review their sabotage prevention and response plans, if applicable, and follow all recommended best practices.

To further bolster cybersecurity preparedness, CPWSs are encouraged to attend two upcoming virtual sessions offered by EPA:

February 27, 2:00-4:00 PM EST: [Water and Wastewater Sector Threat Briefing](#)

This briefing will discuss potential threats to critical infrastructure (cyber and physical), what to do in the event of a cyber or physical intrusion, and water security preparedness products and services.

February 29, 1:00-2:00 PM EST: [Cybersecurity Drill – A Day Without SCADA](#)



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This free cybersecurity drill will allow drinking water and wastewater systems to gain vital training and experience in two of the most common cyber attacks, and test your ability to identify, report, and respond to these incidents.

Lastly, DPH would like to remind community CPWSs to take advantage of free, confidential cybersecurity and physical security assessments conducted by security experts at CISA. These confidential assessments provide CPWSs with knowledge and awareness of identified security gaps so they can take steps to maximize their defenses against bad actors at critical facilities. Interested CPWSs should contact Eric Lindquist at eric.k.lindquist@ct.gov to be referred for free, confidential cybersecurity and/or physical security assessments conducted by CISA.

c: Deputy Commissioner Lisa Morrissey, DPH
Abad Cabassa, CISA
Certified Operators
LHDs