

# **WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

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## **OBJECTIVE**

To present an overview of the development, components, and impact of the national capital area's 2002 Water Supply Emergency Plan. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, in coordination with its member local governments and metropolitan area water utilities have developed a plan that will provide for enhanced communication and coordination capabilities in the event of a regional water supply incidents or emergencies. The Plan, which is part of a larger Regional Emergency Coordination Plan, was developed in response to the terrorist events of September 11, 2001.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Metropolitan Washington Water Supply Emergency Plan, first adopted in 1979 and last updated in 1994, has undergone major enhancements and revisions, specifically in terms of its communication and coordination elements. The events of 9/11 clearly revealed that our regional water supplies were vulnerable to threats not previously envisioned, and that coordination and communication capabilities were inadequate. The existing water supply emergency plan was inadequate, lacking the ability to effectively coordinate the regional response to the type of events that could be faced by area water suppliers and distributors. The region now has the real possibility of physical disruptions, contamination, and threats to its water supply systems from unnatural and unexpected causes namely terrorisms.

During a twelve-month period, the members of the Metropolitan Council of Governments and area water utilities have modified the 1994 Plan. The new 2002 Water Supply Emergency Plan provides expanded and enhanced regional coordination and communication guidance in the event of a disruption, outage, or threat to regional water supplies, and as those supplies might relate to wastewater operations. Such events would have the ability to disrupt fire protection, sanitation, and potable water services within the Metropolitan Washington region. In general, the plan is capable of addressing all incidents and emergencies that might involve water treatment and/or its conveyance systems within the metropolitan Washington region. The new Plan also incorporates the 2000 Water Supply and Drought Response Plan to create a single comprehensive emergency plan for water supplies in the metropolitan Washington region.

## **PRESENTATION**

Messrs. Freudberg and Shell will provide an overview of the 2002 Water Supply Emergency Plan (WSEP) components, its development process, and its relation to the newly adopted Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) for the Washington metropolitan region. As a first of its kind, the RECP, in combination with the 2002 WSEP, is expected to be used as a model for future emergency communication and coordination planning throughout the United States.