

Law Enforcement Role in Water Sector Infrastructure Protection



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U.S. EPA Region 1

NEWWA, April 2, 2009

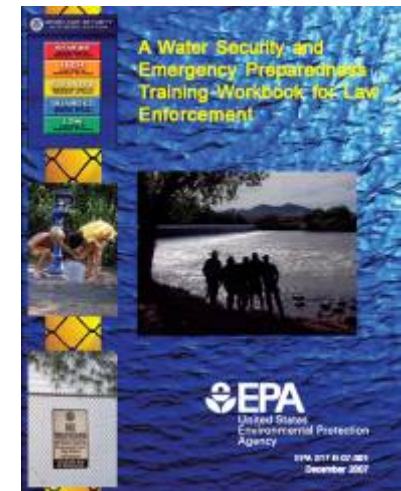
Presentation Outline

- Law Enforcement Handbook
- Importance of Law Enforcement in Water Preparedness
- Nature of Potential Threats
- Role of Law Enforcement
- Partnerships
- Available Resources



Why a Workbook?

- Water Security Training Workbook for Law Enforcement was developed:
 - To increase awareness of state and local law enforcement to potential threats and other security issues related to drinking water supplies and wastewater facilities
 - To help facilitate integration and coordination between utility owners/operators and law enforcement at the local level



Importance of Law Enforcement

Drinking water and wastewater utility operators work to ensure the safety and security of the water infrastructure...but can't do the job alone

Law Enforcement provides a critical role in:

- Threat identification and information sharing for incident prevention
- Asset protection
- Pre-incident Prevention/Post-incident investigation
- Site Control

Law enforcement must be integrated into overall protection framework at local, state, and federal levels

Law Enforcement's knowledge and expertise are needed:

- For emergency response and investigative purposes
- To help determine whether intentional acts constitute vandalism, environmental crimes, or an act of terrorism
- To bring those who intentionally tamper with water infrastructure to justice



Nature of Potential Threats

- Physical threats:
 - Can range from vandalism of storage tanks to destruction of treatment works and/or delivery systems
- Contamination threats:
 - Can be more difficult to identify and confirm than physical threats
 - Don't have to involve actual contamination, threats alone can substantially alter a system's operation
- Cyber threats:
 - Relatively new category of threat
 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Control (SCADA) systems:
 - > May be susceptible to hacking
 - > Could result in disclosure, theft, or corruption of sensitive information
 - > Remote unauthorized operation of utility facilities, could result in disruption of service



Recent Incidents

- Incidents and threats are more common than many realize
- Information on threats and incidents is often closely held unless public health is at risk
- Examples of incidents include events at:
 - **Blackstone, MA**
 - > Physical break-in and vandalism with possible threat of contamination.
 - **Eugene, OR**
 - > Physical break-in at reservoir with possible threat of contamination
 - **Janesville, WI**
 - > Vandalism to security fence and removed padlock on tank hatch
 - **Volusia, FL**
 - > Physical break-in at a water treatment plant – considered a “professional job”
 - **Queensland, Australia**
 - > Cyber attack to supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system – (criminal)



Role of Law Enforcement

- Law Enforcement will:
 - Have lead in criminal investigations involving water infrastructure
 - Determine whether or not a crime has been committed
- Federal Bureau of Investigation leads incidents that involve terrorism
- Local law enforcement may assume responsibility for incident command in situations in which criminal activity is suspected
- Law enforcement and water utilities need to work together to preserve crime scenes while, at the same time, allowing water utility personnel access to facilities, as necessary



Benefits of Partnerships

- Partnerships between utility owner/operators and law enforcement are essential to protecting the water infrastructure
- Partnerships can:
 - Increase awareness among law enforcement officials about potential threats to, and vulnerabilities of, local water systems
 - Help familiarize law enforcement officials with utility emergency response plans
 - Encourage utilities and law enforcement to get involved in water security exercises and drills
 - Facilitate networking among agencies they may not routinely interact but could be involved in a water-related event, e.g., EPA, FBI, EPA CID)
 - Highlight importance of establishing these relationships prior to an incident



Resources Available

- Additional information can be obtained at the following Web sites:
 - Law Enforcement:
 - > InfraGard (www.infragard.net)
 - > Law Enforcement Online (www.leo.gov)
 - Water Sector:
 - > WaterISAC (www.waterisac.org)
 - » For water utility owners and operators
 - > National Association of Clean Water Agencies (www.nacwa.org)
 - » For wastewater utility owners and operators
 - > EPA Water Security Division (www.epa.gov/watersecurity)

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