



Water Contingency Planning

**Ohio Emergency Management
2016 Spring Conference**



Background

- **In Planning, water is both a resource and a potential hazard.**
 - Life sustaining commodity
 - Always a need post disaster
 - Potential to become tainted
 - Natural or human caused
 - System failure/service outage
- **A documented issue for Ohio**



Background

- **Water outages should not automatically become an emergency.**
 - Messaging to public to prepare for outages, algae blooms, etc.
 - Emergency adds to perception and demand
- **Expectation of prompt, coordinated response**
- **Setting and managing expectations can be difficult**



Planning for Success

- **Planning in advance is key**
 - **State EMA, EPA and Health working closely together**
 - **Messaging to local EMA, water systems and health departments on coordination**
 - **Working to clarify and expedite Ohio's response in support**
 - **County Emergency Managers will be our greatest asset for success.**



Planning for Success

- **Know your hazards**
 - **Where does the potable water come from for your jurisdictions?**
 - Ground water or surface?
 - Produced or purchased?
 - **What is the status and history of the water distribution infrastructure?**
 - **What is the storage capacity and how long can they meet demand under emergency conditions?**
 - **Do they have backup power; are they pre-wired for generator?**



Planning for Success

- **Identify Contingency Resources**
 - **What is the likely need if/when event occurs?**
 - Parts/pieces
 - Labor
 - Generator
 - **Do they have mutual aid agreements in place?**
 - **Are they/you an Ohio WARN member?**



Planning for Success

- **Know the Contingency Plan**
 - Each public water system is required to have contingency plan.
- **Includes:**
 - Likely hazards
 - Alternate water sources
 - Critical water users,
 - Map of distribution
 - Statement of amounts budgeted for emergency use.



Summary

- **Knowing our water hazards/resources is important**
- **Planning can be done to make each event better**
- **Take the opportunity to engage your utilities and reference their contingency plans.**
- **Our success depends on each of us making the best efforts, decisions and responses.**