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.