

EMERGENCY POTABLE WATER PROCUREMENT & DISTRIBUTION

INTRODUCTION

The following procedures are designed to facilitate acquisition and distribution of alternative potable water. They set forth-specific activities that should be considered to evaluate emergency situations and then to procure and distribute potable water to critical locations if needed.

Primary Response Agency Roles and Responsibilities:

Agent:

Function:

City of Santa Monica

Primary responsibility for purchase and distribution of alternate source of potable water for populations within its jurisdiction. Operates Local Emergency Operations Center (LEOC): Coordinates resources and manages operations for distribution of alternative potable water to affected populations.

Los Angeles County
(Operational Area)

Operates Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OAEOC): Coordinates county resources and assists LEOC(s) in providing potable water to affected population(s).

Dept. of Health

State Governor's Office
of Emergency Services

Coordinates federal, state, and regional resources to assist OAEOC(s) in providing alternative source of potable water to affected populations. Operates Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) and State Operations Center (SOC).

Federal Emergency
Management Agency
(FEMA)

Coordinates federal emergency response resources and provides alternate source of potable water to affected populations, as requested by State.

Note: For the purpose of this document: "alternative potable water" and "emergency potable water" means water that is supplied from an alternative source and/or delivery system. The Governor's Office of Emergency Management will assist local government in pursuing possible Federal reimbursement for costs incurred.

Water Concept Of Operations

During the initial hours following an emergency it is especially important to ascertain the scale of the emergency and the areas where the potable water supply and delivery system has been affected.

PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Successful implementation of these procedures will require the support of public, private, and volunteer agencies. The following identifies the public, private, and volunteer agencies, which will play a part in the acquisition and distribution of emergency potable water and assigns to them specific roles and responsibilities.

OPERATIONAL AREA

The **Los Angeles County Department of Health** is the primary agents responsible for the purchase and distribution of emergency potable water to populations within its jurisdiction.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Provide alternate source of potable water to affected populations. Deploy Field Response personnel activate Local Emergency Operations Center(s) (LEOC) and Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OAEOC). Implement duties pursuant to Field Response Agent, LEOC and OAEOC roles and responsibilities.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OES)

If the Operational Area cannot provide enough alternate source of potable water to affected populations the State OES will activate Regional Emergency Operations Center(s) (REOC) and State Operations Center (SOC). Implement duties pursuant to REOC and SOC roles and responsibilities.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Provide alternate source of potable water to affected populations, as requested by State. Implement duties pursuant to FEMA roles and responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Department of Public Works is the lead agency for establishing and operating emergency potable water distribution sites.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for evaluating situation assessments and prioritizing resource allocation. When necessary, the water coordinator will activate a water task group to help establish or assist in the establishment and operation of the alternative potable water procurement and distribution program. The size, makeup and specific assignment of the water task group will be dependent on the magnitude of the problem at hand.

The Water Coordinator and Water Task Group will be staffed by the City of Santa Monica, Department of Public Works. The unit will report to the Public Works Branch. Duties of the water coordinator/water task group are as follows:

1. Serve as EOC primary contact for all potable water procurement and distribution matters.
Coordinate conference calls with other level EOC water coordinators to assess potable water needs.
3. Obtain consolidated situation information compiled by the Planning/Intelligence Section and other sources. This information would include:
 - cause and extent of water system damage
 - estimated duration of system outage
 - geographical area affected
 - population affected
 - actions taken to restore system
 - resources needed to reactivate system
 - emergency potable water needs (quantity and prioritized areas)
4. Prioritize distribution locations (include needs of critical facilities) and make recommendations to Public Works Branch Director who will discuss with the Operations Section Chief.
 1. Identify and secure potable water resources with assistance from the Logistics Section, Procurement Unit.
 6. Identify transportation and equipment needs and secure required resources through the Logistics Section, Procurement Unit.
 7. Coordinate with DHS, water utilities, and EOC Public Information Officer for appropriate public information announcements and Media interface.
 8. Document all information related to expenditures, resource commitments, contracts and other costs related to procurement and distribution of potable water and provide such information to the Finance and Administration Section.

EMERGENCY POTABLE WATER SUPPLY CONSIDERATIONS

When there is a need for emergency potable water, everyone should work with the Operational Area and with the State Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management. When there is a "Boil Water" advisory, the public should be advised to bring water to a rapid boil for 1-2 minutes. In the event of any other situation that may require supplying potable water, the Local Emergency Operations Center (LEOC) and Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OAEOC) will utilize the following options in the order listed below. All City requests should go through the Operational Area EOC.

Bottled Water

Water in one-gallon plastic containers is by far the most convenient and effective way to initially provide emergency water to the public. A list of approved commercial vendors is maintained by the State Department of Health Services, Food and Drug Branch, is available through the REOC Operations Section Water Coordinator.

The Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) can arrange transportation, if necessary, with state assets. Water and beverage bottlers sometimes offer free bottled water and delivery.

Bulk Potable Water Deliveries: (If bottled water is not a viable option)

Bulk potable water deliveries are for limited use and should only be employed for immediate crisis situations when the first option is not available. Bulk potable water may also be needed for critical facilities such as hospitals, clinics and other health facilities.

Portions of the existing potable water system, or near by systems, may continue to have potable water in their normal distribution systems. These sources are closest and easiest to access and should be used for bulk water deliveries.

National Guard water buffaloes (500 gallon trailers) are available in limited numbers and should only be used to support evacuation efforts and immediate crisis situations. The small volume necessitates that water tenders keep buffaloes filled.

Water Purification Systems: (If bulk potable water deliveries are not a viable option):

Commercial portable water purification systems are available where connection to an approved water source and some means of storing or distributing water is available. Approved and licensed commercial vendors can provide limited water storage (approximately 1,000 gallons). The State Department of Health Services Drinking Water Program or County Health Department must approve the water source to assure that the treatment is sufficient to deal with the level of contamination, and confirm the integrity of the system. The National Guard has limited purification capability, which should only be requested when all other options are exhausted.