



Training Resource: Cybersecurity Overview for EPA Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Utilities

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division and EPA Region 8 are offering a free Cybersecurity Overview for EPA Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Utilities Webinar. This webinar is designed to provide actionable guidance and cybersecurity best practices to drinking water utilities.

The webinar will include the following cybersecurity topics:

- EPA's free cybersecurity assessment resources, guidance, and technical assistance available to drinking water utilities to develop a cybersecurity program
- Common cybersecurity threats against the water sector
- Basic cyber hygiene practices
- Presentations from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Questions:

Additional questions concerning this training can be directed by email to: *Cole Dutton, Cybersecurity Specialist, U.S. EPA, Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division* at: Dutton.Cole@epa.gov

Visit EPA's Cybersecurity for the Water Sector Website for more information on water sector cybersecurity: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector>

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023 (10:00 – 12:00 pm MT)

[Click Here to Register](#)

THIS MONTH

Training Resource: Cybersecurity Overview for EPA Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Utilities

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month – Tips to Keep you Cyber Safe!

Funding Resource: Access New Grant Funding for Sustainability and Resilience

Funding Opportunity: Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program

Training Resource: Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) Webinar

Training Resource: Securing the Flow – Advancing Public Water Systems Cybersecurity and Resilience

Training Resource: Webinar - How to Prepare your Utility for Disasters

Resource: WaterTA

Resource: Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLI) Monthly Office Hours – Ask EPA

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October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month – 4 Simple Steps to Keep you Cyber Safe

Use Strong Passwords - The use of complex passwords which contain a lowercase letter, an uppercase letter, a number, and a symbol has been shown to increase the length of time it takes to crack a password. In fact, it could take **34,000 years** to crack a password that's at least 12 characters long containing the combination provided above.

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) - MFA provides an added layer of protection as it is a multi-step process that requires users to enter in more information than just a password.

Think Before You Click - Phishing scams account for over 20% of all data breaches. Be mindful of any unsolicited calls or emails that ask for personal information and avoid clicking on links or attachments that come from unknown sources.

Update Your Software - Keeping up with updates, or enabling automatic updates, ensures that your systems have the latest security patches to protect against known vulnerabilities.

Funding Resource: Access New Grant Funding for Sustainability and Resilience

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced \$19 million in funding through the new *Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Program*, which will support drinking water systems in underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities that are working to prepare for, and reduce vulnerability to, impacts from climate change ranging from extreme flooding to extreme drought. This grant will be made available through a competitive Request for Application process. The current closing date for applications is November 6, 2023.

[Learn More!](#)

Funding Opportunity: Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program

On September 25, EPA announced a new Request for Applications (RFA) for the [Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant Program](#). Over \$20 million in grant funding will be available for eligible organizations interested in building a stronger pool of skilled and diverse workers in the water and wastewater utilities sector.

- [Press release](#)

Job training and workforce development are an important part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advance economic opportunities and address environmental justice issues in underserved communities. Frontline workers at water and wastewater treatment utilities across the country are central to public health, environmental, and economic well-being in all communities, big and small. The water industry is facing wide-spread shortages of qualified workers due to expected retirements, new investments in the nation's infrastructure, and new technical and scientific skill sets required to operate and maintain these systems. This grant program supports collaboration among federal, state, and local governments and institutions of higher education, apprentice programs, labor organizations, high schools, and other community-based organizations to provide access to workforce opportunities and build career pipelines in the water sector.

- [Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program \(RFA\)](#)

Eligible organizations interested in applying **must submit their application to EPA by November 17, 2023**. EPA encourages all eligible organizations who have an interest in the following types of projects to apply:

- **Project Area 1:** Targeted internships apprenticeships for skilled water utility trades.

- **Project Area 2:** Education programs designed for elementary, secondary, and higher education students.
- **Project Area 3:** Regional industry and workforce development collaborations to hiring qualified candidates.
- **Project Area 4:** Leadership development, occupational training, mentoring, or cross-training programs that support career advancement.
- **Project Area 5:** Education and training programs designed for decentralized (septic) water workers to support public health for communities that rely on private wells for drinking water or septic systems.
- **Project Area 6:** Training and development for workforce development programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants to benefit disadvantaged communities.

[Click here for additional information.](#)

Training Resource: Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5)

This webinar will be held October 31, 2023, from 2:00 – 3:30 ET

[Register Here!](#)

The U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) provides national occurrence data for unregulated contaminants in public drinking water to protect public health and support future regulatory decisions. UCMR 5 requires monitoring for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium by over 10,300 public water systems between January 2023 and December 2025. This presentation provides an overview of the UCMR 5 program and monitoring requirements for water systems, information on data access, resources for understanding the data, and a summary of the UCMR 5 results to date.

Training Resource: Securing the Flow – Advancing Public Water Systems Cybersecurity and Resilience

Thursday, October 19, 2023; 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

[Click Here to Register](#)

Environmental Protection Agency, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and the Water Information Sharing & Analysis Center will jointly host a webinar designed to empower and enhance the cybersecurity and resilience of water infrastructure.

This webinar is specifically designed to provide actionable guidance and best practices for professionals who manage drinking water and wastewater systems.

Training Resource: Webinar – How to Prepare your Utility for Disasters

This webinar is for very small drinking water systems that serve under 3,301 people.

When: Tuesday, November 14, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET

Join the US EPA for a free webinar on how to prepare your utility for disasters. The webinar will include:

- How to create a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) using drought and water contamination scenarios

- Information on a new opportunity where operators may be eligible to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for creating an RRA and ERP
- 10 quick and easy tips on how to prepare for disasters

This workshop is meant for very small drinking water systems (those that serve under 3,301 people and do not need to comply with America's Water Infrastructure Act). Water sector technical assistance providers and consultants are also encouraged to attend. [Register Here](#)

Resource: [WaterTA](#)

All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing EPA [Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) programs](#) will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

What is WaterTA?

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, tribes, territories, community partners, and other key stakeholders. Learn more about [WaterTA services and programs](#).

Help for Your Community

EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality infrastructure, and reliable water services. If your community is facing water infrastructure challenges and could benefit from support, we encourage you to learn more about [who can receive WaterTA and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address](#) then complete and submit a webform request by clicking on the link below:

[Request Water Technical Assistance for Your Community](#)

Resource: [Lead Service Line Inventories \(LSLI\) Monthly Office Hours – Ask EPA](#)

Jill Minter, Lead Service Line (LSL) Coordinator, and Erica Wenzel, Lead Copper Rule and LSL Specialist, will be holding virtual Lead Service Line Inventories monthly office hours, beginning October 18, 2023, from 10am to 11am Central Time, and at the same time on the 3rd Wednesday of every month thereafter. This will be a time for operators and managers to ask EPA any questions on developing lead service line inventories as well as hear questions from other operators. An email will be sent out each month to tribal public water system contacts with the LSLI Office Hours Teams meeting link, which is also copied below.

If interest is high, we can schedule additional LSLI Office Hours. We are thinking that holding monthly LSLI Office Hours will be an efficient way to answer questions and share information that may be common to multiple systems. The forum should also provide a good opportunity to learn from other operators who are also developing inventories and facing similar challenges. Do consider attending to listen in even if you do not have questions to ask that month. While we have scheduled monthly Office Hours, please know that water system operators and managers are always welcome to contact EPA with questions by email or by phone as well.

Monthly Meeting Info (Starting October 18 and then the 3rd Wednesday of every month):

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 216 909 557 054

Passcode: e2Efid

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 202-991-0477,,904938593#](#) United States, Washington DC

Phone Conference ID: 904 938 593#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every calendar month	Last day to collect monthly total coliform samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10 th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A
December 31 st	Many monitoring periods for different rules (eg. DBP, RADS, Chems, Nitrate, LCR) conclude. Refer to your monitoring requirements or tickler for system-specific information.	Sites approved for each rule
December 31 st	Lead Consumer Notice for systems with a June – September Monitoring Period. Click here for more information.	N/A

Key EPA Contacts

[Region 8 Tribal Team](#)

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Bryce Faliskie (EPA WaterTA/BIL Funding Opportunities) – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6651 – faliskie.bryce@epa.gov

Other R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact Information Can be Found [Here](#).

This newsletter can be viewed online by visiting: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-region-8-tribal-drinking-water-monthly-newsletter>.

If you would like to be added or removed from this newsletter distribution list, please email griese.andrea@epa.gov.

