CYBERSECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SPRING 2025
SURVEY RESULTS

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water (ODW) sent a survey to all waterworks asking questions about cybersecurity and emergency management. The survey results provide ODW insight into waterworks' needs in the areas of cybersecurity and emergency management. That insight helps ODW focus resources where they are most needed to assist waterworks in developing their cybersecurity and emergency management programs. Helping waterworks protect themselves from cybersecurity threats and respond to emergencies helps protect the waterworks and public health.

Cybersecurity Questions & Responses

Does your waterworks use operational technology as part of the equipment or operation of any required component of a sanitary survey?

- 54% of community waterworks and 9% of non-community systems use operational technology.

Has your waterworks conducted a cybersecurity assessment in the last 12 months?

- 46% of waterworks answered "Yes."

Are you interested in learning more about what cybersecurity assessment options are available?

- 66% of community waterworks answered "Yes."
- 67% of non-community waterworks answered "No."

This difference is likely due to the low percentage of non-community waterworks with operational technology.

> **Do waterworks' staff participate in cybersecurity training?**

- 64% of community systems and 44% of non-community systems answered "Yes."

ODW notes that this as an area of focus for those systems with any vulnerability to cyberattacks.

> **Do any waterworks staff currently remotely monitor the waterworks' operations?**

- 70% of community systems and 27% of non-community systems answered "Yes."

> **Are you aware of the Virginia Fusion Center's role in protecting against, and responding to, cyber threats?**

- 49% of community systems and 13% of non-community systems answered "Yes."

> **Did you know that public bodies are required by law to report certain cyber incidents to the Virginia Fusion Center ([§ 2.2-5514. Prohibited products and services and required incident reporting](#))?**

- 57% of public bodies answered "Yes."

> **Would you or your team be interested in attending a desktop training exercise regarding a cybersecurity incident?**

- 65% of waterworks, including 71% of community systems, answered "Yes."

Emergency Management Questions & Responses

Does your waterworks have an emergency response plan?

- 79% of community systems and 37% of non-community systems answered "Yes."

Does your waterworks have an emergency power plan?

- 77% of community systems and 37% of non-community systems answered "Yes."

Do you know who your locality Emergency Manager is?

- 79% of community systems and 56% of non-community systems answered "Yes."

Do you know how to contact your Office of Drinking Water Field Office in the event of an emergency?

- 94% of all respondents answered "Yes."