



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## DRINKING WATER DIVISION POSITION BACKGROUND CHECKS OF CERTIFIED OPERATORS AND OPERATOR APPLICANTS

The events of September 11, 2001 have prompted the Drinking Water Division (DWD) to evaluate the need for checking the background of operators and operator applicants. It is the DWD's position to encourage Public Water Systems (PWS) to have background checks performed on its operators. The purpose is to provide a basic screening to possibly detect if an operator or an operator applicant could be a threat to the operation of a PWS and therefore a threat to the public health.

This position was established after collecting information from the Department of Public Safety, PWSs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Public Health (DPH) Legal Office, certification programs of other states, and the DPH Childcare Licensing Program. Encouraging background checks is incorporated within the vulnerability assessment tools provided by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the New England Water Works Association, and the Atlantic States Rural Water Works Association. It is also consistent with guidance on suggested system actions to terrorist alert levels provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Connecticut Department of Public Safety.

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