



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TO: Public Water System Owners  
Certified Chief Operators

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Chief  
Drinking Water Section

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Drinking Water Section

DATE: October 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Hurricane Sandy

The latest weather forecasts are predicting Hurricane Sandy to begin tracking northeast along the Atlantic coast. One forecast scenario estimates the tropical storm to produce an intense East Coast storm sometime early next week. The hurricane could pose obvious threats to public water systems including flooding, power outages and wind damage. The Connecticut Department of Public Health would like to encourage you to adhere to the alerts provided by the National Weather Service, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>, and refer you to helpful documents and other resources to assist you in preparation and response to a potential severe weather event.

The Department encourages all public water systems to review their emergency response plans and prepare a boil water advisory in advance of the storm so it is ready and available if needed. In the event the storm makes landfall in Connecticut and impacts your public water system you are asked to report any flooding, power outage, loss of system pressure or storm damage that is threatening water supply operations and other water system facilities to the Department as soon as possible and your local emergency management director. It is recommended that all public water systems impacted closely monitor disinfection treatment operation and consider issuing a boil water advisory to consumers if any treatment facility, storage tank or source of supply has been flooded or if pressure in the distribution system is lost due to loss of power to pumps that maintain system pressure. Prior to issuing any notice to consumers, contact the Department of Public Health –Drinking Water Section at 860-509-7333 during business hours (8:00AM – 4:30PM) or 860-509-8000 after hours.

Public water systems should complete the following actions prior to the storm making landfall:

- Top off all fuel tanks and confirm availability of additional supplies with fuel supply contractors.
- Exercise all emergency generators under a load.
- Check level of bulk chemical storage tanks and ensure adequate disinfection chemicals are available.
- Review staffing levels and prepare plans for staffing during emergency response operations.
- Prepare public notice documents and consider issuing a water advisory prior to the storm in the event customers experience water discoloration or low pressure.
- Review communication plans and test communication equipment.
- Check status and availability of all water quality sampling equipment and availability of contractors that perform water quality sampling activities.



Phone: (860) 509-7333  
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The following attachments are being provided to you for use in response to a storm event. Please print a copy of these documents and keep them in a file accessible at your emergency communication posts:

1. A listing of local Emergency Management Directors (EMD) by town. Public water systems should have the name and phone numbers for the local EMD for each town served by their public water system and establishes communication with them for commodity needs such as generators, fuel and bottled water, which is also available at the following link:  
[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/excel/emergency\\_manager\\_table.xls](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/excel/emergency_manager_table.xls)
2. Boil water advisory and frequently asked questions, which is also available at the following link:  
[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/Boil\\_Water\\_Advisory.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/Boil_Water_Advisory.pdf)
3. Flood and Storm Water Advisory for Public Water Systems, which is also available at the following link:  
[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/PWS\\_Flooding\\_Advisory\\_Document\\_6\\_06.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/PWS_Flooding_Advisory_Document_6_06.pdf)
4. The Environmental Protection Agency's generator guidance for water and wastewater systems. This document can also be found at the following link:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/drinkwater/pdfs/WaterWastewaterSystemGeneratorPreparedness.pdf>

Public water systems operating dam structures should adhere to their dam safety plans and notify the Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as required.

An excellent way to increase the level of resources available to your water system is to join CtWARN – Connecticut's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. CtWARN offers a network of mutual aid and assistance between utilities based on a national model tested during the worst California wildfires and Florida hurricanes. The network is free to join and requires no commitment of resources unless you decide to assist. Go to [www.ctwarn.org](http://www.ctwarn.org) for more information.

cc: Local DOHs  
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