

RAMCAP – A New Acronym for Water and Wastewater Utilities



The use of acronyms is rampant. For example, they are used on the Internet: WWW, IP, HTML, CC, RSS and SMTP. The automobile industry uses them: 4WD, ABS, ATV, MPG, VW and GM. Sports uses them: Technology uses them: DVD, CD, MP3, LCD, RAM and DOS. The use of acronyms is prolific in texting and chatting: BRB, EZ, IM, L8R, and CUL. Acronyms are used more and more in the water and wastewater industries. Examples include: TCR, IDSE, DBPR, NPDES, TSS, TOC, SDWA, PPM, BMP and SWAP – the list goes on. USEPA, KDHE, USDA, KWO and DWR are just a few of the agencies that water and wastewater systems work with on a daily basis. RAMCAP is acronym new to most water and wastewater utilities; it compliments two acronyms most people already recognize: VA and ERP.

VA and ERP

On June 12, 2002 a federal law was signed, known as the 2002 Bio-Terrorism Act, which required all community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to conduct a VA – a vulnerability assessment and submit it to the U.S. EPA. The law also required the systems to prepare an ERP – an emergency response plan, that incorporates the VA and to then certify to the EPA that the plan was completed. A vulnerability assessment helps water systems evaluate the susceptibility to possible threats and identify a corrective action that could reduce or mitigate the risk of serious consequences from certain actions. Systems needed to take into account the vulnerability of the water supply source, treatment and distribution. Each vulnerability assessment is unique, depending how complex the design and operation of the system. KRWA held numerous training sessions and assisted many systems in completing the requirement of submitting the completed VA and certification letter to EPA that an emergency response plan was completed. USDA Rural Development requires that each system that has funding provided by them to

have a completed VA and updated ERP every three years, regardless of systems size.

Every system is required to have a completed emergency response plan according to Kansas regulations. Emergency response plans should include: system specific information, roles and responsibilities, communication or notification contact numbers, safety, alternate water source, replacement equipment and chemicals, property protection and sampling and monitoring. Many emergency response plans can be just a few pages; other will be much more extensive. I suggest to try to keep these plans as simple as possible and then, review, revise and exercise the plan. Is it time for your system to update both your VA-ERP?

RAMCAP – Risk Assessment Methodology for Critical Asset Protection

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Homeland Security determined there was a gap in protecting the chemical security in water and



The tabletop exercises proved to be both educational and interesting. KRWA Tech Greg Duryea advises representatives of the city of McLouth: Marcus Koch, Police Chief; Kim Perry, City Clerk, Carl Chalfant, Administrator, and Rick Koenig, Hiawatha Water Superintendent during a training session on April 29 at Holton.