

What do you call an emergency?

What will your emergency be? How about an earthquake, a flood, a large chemical spill, a drought or the number one most likely emergency in Kansas, a tornado. How are you going to handle it? What are you going to do? Who are you going to call?

You are going to grab the big binder on the shelf marked "ERP". What's an ERP you ask? An ERP is an Emergency Readiness Plan. This plan is also known as an Emergency Operating Plan or as an Emergency Water Supply Plan. Whatever the name, it all means the same. It's a document to turn to when answers are needed fast

*Gary Armentrout
Technical Assistant*



— real fast. It's your "what if" answer book. The book should give you instant access to the name of your pump repairman, the number to call to request a generator, spare chlorinator or backup backhoe.

Who needs one?

Who needs to have an ERP? You do, that's who. In 1982, all water systems in Kansas were required to develop an ERP. Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) 28-15-18 states in part: "All community water systems shall prepare an Emergency Operations Plan to safeguard the water supply for the protection of the public when natural or manmade disasters occur. Emergency Operation Plans shall be submitted to the department for review and approval." Developing an ERP is also a

There are many different levels of emergencies. Each needs a different type of response.

requirement under the provisions of the BioTerrorism Act of 2002, along with a Vulnerability Assessment (VA). Systems serving 3300 or greater populations were required to complete a VA by June 1, 2004. While small systems are not required to prepare a VA, it's a good idea to prepare one anyway.

What is an emergency?

There are many different levels of emergencies. Each needs a

emergency and being able to communicate it to personnel will help them respond in an effective and balanced manner. The person in charge of dealing with the emergency will make the decision as to the severity. The first is a Level I (Routine Problems/Normal Emergency). System personnel may handle a Level One with little or no outside assistance. A good example would be a line break, a power outage, or minor mechanical problem in the pump

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different type of response. When classifying the severity of an emergency in system planning, define as many different levels and descriptions found to be useful. The following are four of the most common examples that can be used for your water system. The severity of the

house. It is not likely that public health will be immediately jeopardized in this type of situation. Things should be back to normal within 24 hours. The second is a Level II (Minor Emergency). An example could be loss of pressure in the main transmission line with a pump

failure. With this, there may also be potential for backflow. Other examples of Level II emergencies could include: a minor act of vandalism or even an initial positive coliform or E-coli sample; and drought, with a noticeable and continuing decline of water level in wells or lakes. Public health may be in jeopardy during these types of emergencies, so system personnel should initiate a quick response. Administrators may want to coordinate with KDHE and consider issuing a health advisory. Most Minor Emergencies can usually be resolved within 72 hours.

A Level III (Major Emergency) is the next class. Outside assistance will be needed to handle most Level III emergencies. Examples of a Level III could be any of the following:

1. The community water system may experience major/significant contamination or mechanical problems where a disruption in the water supply is inevitable; and issuance of a health advisory to protect the public health is needed.

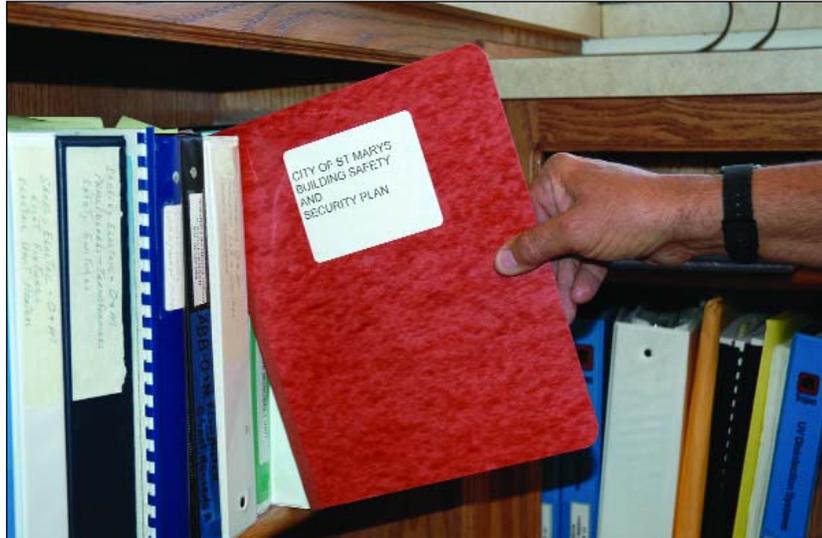
2. A severe drought that significantly affects well yield, or a verified acute confirmed coliform MCL or E. coli/fecal positive sample requiring immediate consideration of a health advisory to system customers is another.

All Level III emergencies will be reported to KDHE as soon as possible. These types of emergencies may require more than 72 hours to resolve the problem. Administrators will want to ask neighbors in other systems for help in a Level III emergency. Most water systems can not provide safe drinking water in these emergencies without help from outside sources.

A Level IV (Catastrophic Disaster) would be the highest

priority situation. Level IV emergencies include: flood disasters that infiltrate the system facilities and sources; an act of terrorism that possibly contaminates the water system with a biological or chemical

notification of the KDHE, local law enforcement and emergency management services. Repairs will normally take several days or more than a week to resolve before regaining the system's normal operations.



agent; and earthquakes, tornados, or large chemical spills close to the system's sources of water. These incident types normally require immediate

The first reaction to an emergency — the ERP comes off of the shelf.



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WHAT MAKES UP AN ERP?

At a minimum, Emergency Readiness Plans should include the following items:

1. List of office and home telephone numbers for system personnel that is updated quarterly
2. List of alternative water systems/ sources
3. Inventory of equipment available during an emergency
4. Designation of key personnel to be coordinators and on emergency call
5. Designation of a key person to expend funds during an emergency
6. Written emergency procedures
7. Checklists for actions to be taken before, during, and after an emergency
8. Chain of command
9. List of local emergencies
10. A notification list including: city/state officials, local health officials, KDHE and others that need to be notified in an emergency.

In my experience, helping systems prepare Emergency Response or Operating Plans, most systems personnel will find

start. A template has been included on the second version of the SEMS software that has been used by all but three

Many information sources are available on how to create an ERP. KRWA has a template that can assist in getting started with an E.R.P.

they have most, if not all, information needed to develop a plan. It will take some time to pull it all together. Remember, too much information cannot be included in the plan. Plan training and rehearsals will ensure the plan works before it is needed. This keeps a key phone number or name of key person from being omitted from the plan.

Many information sources are available on how to create an ERP. KRWA has a template that can assist in getting started with an ERP. Those required to complete a VA, have a head

systems statewide serving 3,300 to 10,000 populations. This is popular, straight-forward software that is free-of-charge to KRWA members. KRWA will be including the topic of developing Emergency Operating Plans in future training sessions. Meanwhile, call KRWA at 785.336.3760 if assistance is needed in completing an Emergency Response Plan, Emergency Operating Plan or Emergency Water Supply Plan – they are all one and the same.

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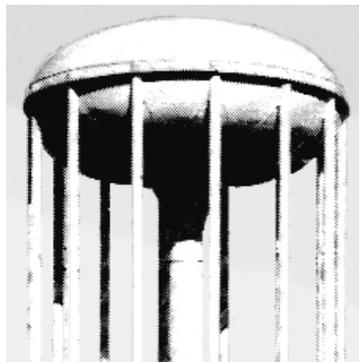
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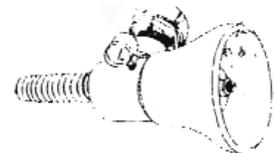
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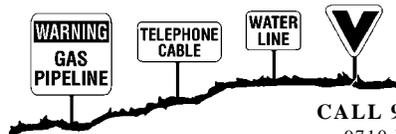
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