

The Wellhead Word

January 2008

Protecting Groundwater Supplies Through Wellhead Protection

Contingency Plans: Partnerships, Planning and Personnel...

Partnerships

When developing your community's Contingency Plan it is important to remember partnerships. Partnering with neighboring communities, counties, or the private sector can be a crucial component of your community's plan. These relationships can assist you in finding alternate sources of water, notifying the public and increase your available resources. Individuals in the private sector may be able to assist with equipment or extra manpower. Neighboring communities and counties may already have emergency response plans in place and can be excellent sources for ideas and feedback. Utilizing these assets can strengthen your community's Contingency Plan and ensure you will be better prepared in the case of an emergency.



Planning

In the event of an emergency, every minute is critical. Having an emergency response plan can limit the amount of damage in the event of an accident or natural disaster. What is important to include in your plan? Start by evaluating your community as a whole and identifying potential sources of vulnerability. Can these problems be corrected? If not, what can you do to minimize the damage and increase security? If you are limited by finances, determine the areas where the money will have the greatest benefit for your community. Develop response scenarios for areas of concern that you are not currently able to address.

Personnel

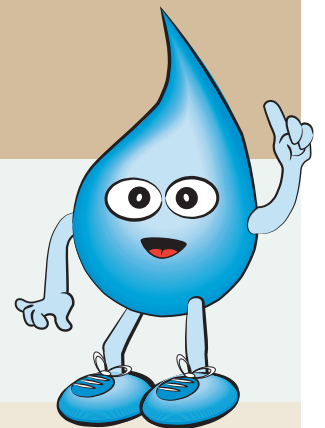
What key personnel need to be included in your plan? City officials, emergency response personnel and your local DEQ representatives are a good start but don't forget those partnerships you have developed. Be sure to designate an individual who will be in charge of implementing your emergency response plan. Identifying who should respond in the case of emergency reduces confusion and saves time. It is also important to update your plan as personnel change. Think of your contingency plan as a living document and update it often.

Who Can I Contact for More Information about Contingency Plans?

- Your local DEQ office.
- Groundwater Support in Oklahoma City.

H₂O Joe says remember the three P's...

- Partnership
- Personnel
- Planning



Utilize your community's resources to get the word out on protecting source water. Mobilize the efforts of your local organizations such as, the Boy Scouts, School Organizations, and Social Clubs. Work to inform your friends and neighbors about the importance of wellhead protection and about what you can do as a community to identify potential contaminants.

Next Issue: Public Awareness



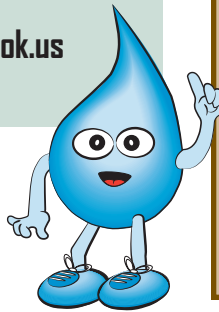
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Environmental Complaints and Local Services Wellhead Protection Contacts

For more information about the Wellhead Protection Program contact your local DEQ office or Oklahoma City Groundwater Support Unit.

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Web Site
www.deq.state.ok.us



Local Offices

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Alva.....(580) 327-2649	Oklahoma City.....(405) 702-6100
Ardmore.....(580) 226-2554	Ponca City.....(580) 762-1907
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Chouteau.....(918) 476-8588	Tulsa.....(918) 293-1600
Claremore.....(918) 341-7179	Sallisaw.....(918) 790-2498
Duncan.....(580) 255-6068	Shawnee.....(405) 275-7967
Durant.....(580) 920-2037	Stillwater.....(405) 372-7387
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Henryetta.....(918) 652-0446	Wagoner.....(918) 485-8873
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