

# Emergency Preparedness Regulation: A Quick Reference Guide

Overview of the Regulation	
<b>Title</b>	<b>18 AAC 80.055, Proposed Emergency Preparedness Regulation</b>
Purpose	To enhance preparedness of Public Water Systems (PWS) to maintain service and operations during and after a natural or human-caused emergency that would directly or indirectly affect drinking water quality and quantity.
General Description	Establishes a state requirement for most PWS to complete some level of emergency response planning. Depending on federal classification and population served, a PWS will be required to complete either a Vulnerability Assessment and a written Emergency Response Plan, or a Priority Measures Plan (condensed Emergency Response Plan).
Utilities covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All Community Water Systems (CWS)</li> <li>➤ All Non-transient Non-community Water Systems (NTNCWS)</li> <li>➤ Transient Non-community Water Systems serving 1,000 or more individuals (TNCWS)</li> </ul>
*This document provides a summary of <b>proposed</b> State of Alaska drinking water regulations and is subject to change, pending review of public comments.	
Public Health Benefits	
Implementation of the Emergency Preparedness Regulation will result in...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Greater continuity of water system operations during and after a disaster.</li> <li>➤ Lessening of public health risks associated with drinking water due to power failure, inundation, or other events that could impact service and water quality.</li> </ul>
Major Provisions	
Requirements for <u>Community</u> Water Systems and <u>Non-Transient Non-Community</u> Water Systems	Requirements for <u>Transient Non-Community</u> Water Systems
If serving a population of 1,000 or more persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a Vulnerability Assessment (VA)</li> <li>• Complete an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)</li> <li>• Update ERP Biennially</li> </ul> If serving a population of 999 or fewer persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a Priority Measures Plan (PMP)</li> <li>• Update Biennially</li> </ul>	If serving a population of 1,000 or more persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a Priority Measures Plan (PMP)</li> <li>• Update Biennially</li> </ul> If serving a population of 999 or fewer persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No requirements</li> </ul>
Vulnerability Assessment (VA)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing the vulnerabilities in a water system and assessing the threats from potential hazards to the public and infrastructure.</li> <li>➤ The information on specific risks identified in the vulnerability assessment process will be used in drafting the emergency response plan for the water system.</li> </ul>	
Emergency Response Plan (ERP)	
A written document that prescribes specific actions water system staff would take to respond to, and mitigate, the detrimental effects of a natural disaster, human-caused act or accident, or other hazards that would affect a system's operation. The actions prescribed in an ERP are based directly on the findings of a water system's vulnerability assessment, and are therefore specific to each water system. An ERP addresses the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System specific information</li> <li>• PWS staff roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Communication procedures</li> <li>• Plan for responding to power loss</li> <li>• Identification of alternate drinking water source(s) for both short-term and long-term outages</li> <li>• Provisions for replacement equipment and chemicals</li> <li>• Water sampling and monitoring</li> <li>• Familiarization and training of system personnel in the plan</li> </ul>	

**Priority Measures Plan (PMP)**

A condensed version of the ERP, the Priority Measures Plan prescribes specific actions water system staff will take to respond to, and mitigate, the detrimental effects of a natural disaster, human-caused act or accident, or other hazards affecting a system’s operation. The PMP addresses the most basic elements of water system preparedness:

- PWS staff roles and responsibilities
- Communication procedures
- Identification of alternate drinking water source(s) for both short-term and long-term outages
- Plan for responding to power loss
- Familiarization and training of system personnel in the plan

**How is Compliance Determined?**

Certification Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The water system owner must complete and submit to DEC a <b>DEC ERP/PMP Certification Form</b> confirming that the appropriate information has been covered in the required emergency planning documents.</li> <li>➤ There will be no requirement to submit the VA, ERP, or PMP to DEC, but these documents must be available for review by an inspector during a Sanitary Survey.</li> </ul>
Sanitary Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Routine Sanitary Surveys will include a review of a water system’s overall safety, security, and emergency response procedures.</li> <li>➤ The water system will provide the Sanitary Survey Inspector with access to the water system’s ERP or PMP.</li> </ul>
New System Approval to Operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New public water systems will need to address and document safety, security, and emergency response procedures to receive final approval to operate.</li> <li>➤ The appropriate emergency planning documents will be required by the state as a part of final approval to operate.</li> </ul>

**Critical Deadlines and Requirements**

**For New Water Systems**

Effective Date of Regulation	All new public water systems subject to this regulation beginning operation after effective date must have an ERP/PMP in place.
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**For Existing Water Systems**

18 months after regulation effective	All systems required to complete a Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan must complete the documents and submit a <b>DEC ERP/PMP Certification Form</b> within 18 months of this regulation becoming effective.
12 months after regulation effective	All systems required to complete a Priority Measures Plan must complete the documents and submit a completed <b>DEC ERP/PMP Certification Form</b> within 12 months of this regulation becoming effective.

**For All Water Systems**

Biennially	ERP/PMP must be updated every two (2) years after the initial ERP/PMP.
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**Resources for Emergency Response Planning**

**Alaska DEC Drinking Water Program**

**Alaska DEC VA/ERP Toolkit CD-ROM**

The VA/ERP Toolkit is a free CD-ROM for water system owners containing:

- Checklists for conducting VAs and other assessments of water system vulnerabilities.
- Templates for developing ERPs and Priority Measures.
- Action Plans for specific incident response procedures.
- Other publications for emergency management for water systems.

The Drinking Water Program has emergency response planning information, including CD-ROM ordering and contact information for the PWS Security Specialist:

- <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/security/security.html>

**U.S. EPA Water Security and Emergency Response Planning website**

EPA provides digital and printable publications for emergency response planning and water security.

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/emerplan/index.cfm>