

Title IV of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act¹ requires drinking water facilities serving populations of more than 3,300² to perform vulnerability assessments and to prepare an Emergency Response Plan that incorporates the results of the vulnerability assessment. Developing an emergency response plan can take a lot of time and effort. It is important to note that the Water System ERP is a “living” document requiring periodic updates (i.e., at least annually or if there is a major change to the water utility system configuration). It should be maintained in a binder or notebook to accommodate revisions and appendices.

The Bioterrorism Act requires drinking water utilities to identify plans, procedures, and equipment that can be implemented or utilized in the event of a terrorist or intentional attack, or that can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a terrorist or other intentional attack, on the utility. The Bioterrorism Act also calls for coordination with Local Emergency Planning Committees (Pacific County Emergency Management Agency).

Washington State law requires public water systems to include an emergency response plan in its operations and maintenance program³. The District must comply with both the federal and state laws. It is the District’s responsibility to evaluate the potential vulnerabilities related to its system and determine the appropriate responses.

Mission Statement:

1. To continue minimum service levels and mitigate public health risks from drinking water contamination that occur during a disaster or other emergency events. Therefore, to provide reliable water service and minimize public health risks from unsafe drinking water during emergencies, North Beach Water District developed the following plan that delineates in detail how the District will respond to emergencies and/or disasters that are likely to affect its operation.
2. To prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the loss of life, injuries, and property damage from hazards, resulting from intentional, unintentional, or natural disasters, which would adversely affect the ratepayers of North Beach Water District.
3. The Emergency Preparedness Mission of North Beach Water District shall be to develop, organize, and coordinate effective preparation for, and efficient response to, emergencies and disasters with the primary focus on saving lives, reducing human suffering and the minimizing of property loss by maintaining or restoring potable water services to District ratepayers.

¹ Public Law 107-188

² NBWD populations served is 5,093

³ WAC 246-290-100(4)(a)(i) & WAC 246-290-415(2)(d) & WAC 246-290-420(6)