

Routine Sanitary Surveys



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

Mission

**To protect the health
of the people of
Washington State
by assuring safe
and reliable
drinking water.**



What You Will Learn Today

- 💧 **How capacity relates to sanitary surveys.**
- 💧 **Eight elements of a sanitary survey.**
- 💧 **How to prepare for your sanitary survey.**
- 💧 **Examples of common problems.**

Importance Of Sanitary Surveys

- ◆ Identify areas that are currently, or may in the future, prevent the water system's **capacity** to provide safe drinking water.

What Is Capacity?

- **Ability of a water system to plan for, achieve, and maintain compliance with applicable drinking water standards.**

Three Elements of Capacity

💧 **For a water system to have “capacity” it must have adequate capability in three areas:**

- **Technical,**
- **Managerial.**
- **Financial.**

Technical Capacity

- 💧 **Source-water adequacy and protection.**
- 💧 **Infrastructure adequacy and improvement.**
- 💧 **Technical knowledge and implementation.**

Managerial Capacity

- 💧 **Ownership accountability.**
- 💧 **Staffing and organization.**
- 💧 **Effective external linkages.**

Financial Capacity

- 💧 **Fiscal controls.**
- 💧 **Revenue sufficiency.**
- 💧 **Credit worthiness.**

Relationship To Sanitary Surveys

- ◆ **Eight elements of a survey cover all aspects of technical capacity and some elements of managerial capacity.**
- ◆ **Financial capacity assessment should be evident if the surveyor assesses the reasons for sanitary deficiencies.**

Eight Elements of a Sanitary Survey

- 1. Source**
- 2. Treatment**
- 3. Distribution System**
- 4. Finished Water Storage**
- 5. Pumps, etc.**
- 6. Monitoring and reporting and data verification**
- 7. System management and operations**
- 8. Operator certification**

Assessment of Capacity Is Easier Than You Think

- 💧 **We presume system has capacity if:**
 - **System is complying with all regulations.**
 - **Everything is well maintained.**
 - **They have a plan for routine replacement of infrastructure.**
 - **Revenues exceed costs.**

Preparing For Your Sanitary Survey

Notification and Inspection

- You will receive a notice from either DOH or your local health jurisdiction when a sanitary survey is required.
- Sanitary surveys are conducted either by DOH staff or a DOH designee called a Third Party Qualified Sanitary Surveyor (QSS).

Who Are Third Party QSS?

- 💧 **Third Party QSS include:**
 - **Local Health Jurisdictions.**
 - **Independent Contractors.**
- 💧 **Systems assigned to Third Party QSS:**
 - **Groundwater sources with simple treatment.**
 - **TNC and NTNC systems.**
 - **Community systems with ≤ 100 connections.**

Preparing For Your Survey

- ◆ **Arrange to have system operator available on day of survey.**
- ◆ **Organize system records and have available on day of survey.**
- ◆ **Arrange to have keys needed to open buildings, gates, well enclosures, hatches, etc. on day of survey.**
- ◆ **Complete general housekeeping.**

What About Safety?

- 💧 **Have on hand any special tools needed to open manholes or heavy lids.**
- 💧 **Clear brush or other vegetation around wells or buildings.**
- 💧 **If the surveyor can't proceed due to safety concerns, they will either point out what is needed before they can proceed or request you get the information for them.**

What Happens After the Survey Is Completed?

- 💧 **A copy of the survey report will be provided to you.**
- 💧 **Read The Report Carefully - It describes any observed deficiencies you will be responsible for correcting.**
- 💧 **DOH will notify you in writing if any immediate follow-up action is required.**

What Happens If I Do Not Follow The Requirements?

- 💧 **Primary reason for following the requirements is to ensure that the water you serve is safe to drink.**
- 💧 **Failing to meet your legal responsibilities to correct deficiencies promptly may result in a red operating permit and state significant non-complier (SNC) status.**

Common Problems Found

- ❖ **Poor control of sanitary control area at source.**
- ❖ **Lack of screened vent or other holes in the well cap.**
- ❖ **Lack of watertight well cap.**
- ❖ **Improperly installed pitless adapter.**
- ❖ **Lack of a screen on storage tank vents or screen/flap valves on tank overflows.**

Common Problems Found (con't)

- ❖ **Did not use proper flushing and disinfection techniques.**
- ❖ **Old piping and tanks not eliminated (not just valved off).**
- ❖ **Potential high health cross-connection hazards.**
- ❖ **Deficiencies noted on a previous survey report had not been corrected.**

A Few Examples



Well located next to underground storage tanks.



Flooding at Well Head.



Well Casing terminating close to ground surface.



No Well Cap.



Lack of screened vent and holes in Well Cap.



Watertight Well Cap not used.



**Conduit separated
from Well Cap.**



**Improperly installed
Pitless Adaptor.**



**Hand pump with
shrouding missing.**



**Lack of seals on
Reservoir Hatches.**



**Unscreened
Reservoir Vent.**



**Unscreened
Reservoir Overflow.**



High health cross connection hazards.

Tools

- 💧 **Office of Drinking Water Publications**

www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

- 💧 **EPA Tools For Small Water Systems**

www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm

For more information:

💧 **Northwest Regional Office**
253-395-6750

💧 **Southwest Regional Office**
360-236-3030

💧 **Eastern Regional Office**
509-456-3115