

TRAINING : DEVELOPING A WATER SAFETY PLAN



RAND WATER

Venue: Johannesburg, Rand Water Scientific Services Water Technology Training.

Date: September, 21st to 25th, 2009

Co-organizers: Cap-Net, Rand Water, IWA & the Global WOPs Alliance (UN-HABITAT)

Why implement a Water Safety Plan?

A water utility can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations by using the framework of the water safety plan to deliver safe water in adequate quantities to consumers.

Using a comprehensive risk assessment and risk management approach that encompasses all steps from catchment to consumer the utility can identify and address priority issues that affect service delivery.

Water suppliers have a duty of care to persons utilizing the water or service that they supply. A Water Safety Plan (WSP) is the most effective way of ensuring that a water supply is safe for human consumption and that it meets the health based standards and other regulatory requirements. The primary objectives of a water safety plan in protecting human health and ensuring good water supply practice are the minimisation of contamination of source waters, the reduction or removal of contamination through appropriate treatment processes and the prevention of contamination in the distribution network and the domestic distribution system. The advantage of the WSP is that it is applicable to ensuring the safety of water in all types of water supply systems no matter their size or complexity.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of the course is to enable participants to return to their utility and lead the process of development of a WSP. They will be able to identify the scope and requirements of a water safety plan, set up, and manage a team to develop a WSP which is feasible to implement within the constraints and opportunities of the utility. The WSP will safeguard customers, optimise operations and positively impact the environment.

Specific Outcomes of this Course

*A team from the utility is familiar with all aspects of a WSP, has identified and compiled major components of the WSP and is committed to take it further within their utility.

*An outline WSP is available from the course identifying key issues of the WSP and areas that need further development.

*Participants are able to justify the need for a WSP to their utility management.

*A process is established within the utility to develop a full WSP relevant to the size and complexity of that utility.

*Post course follow-up tracks the development of the WSP and supports peer to peer exchange of progress and challenges in development and implementation of the WSP.

The course will be provided by **experienced South-African and international trainers of high level**, with an **intimate knowledge of both local technical issues and international standards**.

Opportunities to initiate utility partnerships

Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) are being recognized as a timely response to the urgent need to increase access to sustainable water and sanitation for the world's poor. Recognizing that **peer support** is most effective in contextually similar environments and that much utility exchange happens between geographically proximal peers, a key role of the Global WOPs Alliance (UN-HABITAT) is to **bring together and support water operators to undertake non-for-profit partnerships** in various areas. The WOP-Africa platform, under AfWA (African Water Association) is expected to play a major role at the regional level to implement these partnerships and will be involved in the following up of the training.

The session will provide a **great opportunity to initiate partnerships** for those utilities eager to learn from each other and to give mutual support in designing and implementing water safety plans.

Who can apply for the training session?

Applications are expected to come from Utility Management who will nominate a team of three participants that will constitute the team to lead the development of the WSP.

The session is tailored for **utilities from the Southern Anglophone part of Africa**, namely **Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**.

Due to the limited capacity of the session, the candidate utilities will have to comply with a certain number of **criteria** and will only be selected if they meet them.

Selection criteria

1. Demonstrated commitment of the utility to the development and implementation of a WSP.
2. Nomination of an appropriate team able to participate effectively in the course and lead the subsequent process of WSP development.

Only the utilities presenting a comprehensive team application will be considered for the training.

Cost of the training session and living costs for participants are free for the selected utilities. Nevertheless, utilities are expected to bear their staff travel cost to and from the location of the training.

Pre-reading and other Requirements

You will have received and completed reading this material before attending the course:

- Guidelines for drinking water quality (2004); Chapter 4 Water Safety Plans. World Health Organisations Geneva Volume 1 Recommendations.
- Water Safety Plan Manual. WHO, IWA, 2009.
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241562638_eng_print.pdf

As the training is outcome based, **participants are requested to collect specific data in preparation for the course:**

- Familiarisation with the catchment, water abstraction, water treatment and water distribution for your system.
- Be able to describe the water supply system in your utility;
- Consult with key staff and stakeholders to identify risks in the system and service delivery issues and what is already in place to reduce the risks and address the delivery issues.

How to apply?

Applicant utilities must fill the application form and send it by **the 21st of August 2009** to:

Anne Bousquet, UN-HABITAT, Global WOPs Alliance
anne.bousquet@unhabitat.org

and to

Paul Taylor, Director, Cap-Net
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