**AP 1B Threat of or Actual Contamination to Water System**

**CREDIBLE STAGE**

**ACTION PLAN SUMMARY**

This Action Plan 1B applies to the intentional introduction of a contaminant into the water system. The contaminant could be introduced at any point within the system, including raw water, treatment facilities, distribution system including distribution pipes, finished water storage, or pump stations. The adversary may or may not give notice of the contaminant or provide the location. Contamination may have actually occurred, or it may be a hoax.

**Use this Action Plan 1B if there is credible evidence that the water system has been contaminated. If you have confirmed evidence and/or definitive information that the water system has been contaminated,** **GO TO AP 1C CONFIRMED STAGE.**

**INITIATION AND NOTIFICATION**

1. **Initiate this Action Plan if there is credible evidence that the water system has been contaminated such as the following:**
   * Additional information collected during the investigation corroborates the threat warning.
   * Collective information indicates that contamination is likely
   * Signs of contamination are observed during site characterization.
   * Additional water quality data shows unusual trends that are consistent with the initial data and corroborate the threat.
   * A pattern of customer complaints emerges.
   * Previous threats and incidents corroborate the current threat.
2. The individual who first notices or receives any of the credible evidence should immediately contact the water system’s designated Water Utility Emergency Response Manager or its alternate Water Utility Emergency Response Manager. Those individuals may also be referred to with the acronyms **WUERM** or **alternate WUERM**. Any available means of communication shall be used.
3. Initiate the Emergency Response Plan which is also known as the ERP. Perform internal and external notifications according to the ERP.
4. Initiate partial or full activation of the Emergency Operations Center also known as the EOC.

**EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED**

This equipment is available to assist in the execution of this Action Plan.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Equipment:** | **[Insert Name of Equipment]** |
| **Location:** | **[Insert Location of Equipment]** |

**SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**I. Assess the Problem**

* + 1. Assess results of previous sample analysis.
    2. Perform additional site characterization at primary sites as needed.
    3. Perform site characterization at any new investigation sites.

**II. Isolate and Fix the Problem**

* + 1. Perform actions to estimate the contaminated area and predict movement of contamination. The contaminated area can be estimated using hydraulic models, consumer complaints, public health agency reports, water quality data, or other available information. The estimate may define additional locations where site characterization should be performed
    2. Take actions to isolate portions of system containing suspect water. See ERP Section VIII for **System Shut Down Plan**.
    3. Issue “Boil Water”, “Do not Drink”, or “Do not Use” orders and Press Releases as appropriate. See Section VIII.A.1 of ERP for **Press Release Forms**.
    4. Initiate **Alternate Water Supply Plan** which is in ERP Section III.G to provide alternate water supply for customers and fire protection as necessary.

**III. Monitoring**

8. Continue to monitor water quality in suspect parts of system by manual sampling, rapid field testing, or automated means.

**IV. Recovery and Return to Safety**

1. Determine if threat is **Confirmed**. It may take several days to collect sufficient evidence to confirm a contamination incident, depending on the type of information used for confirmation. (Some microbiological analytical procedures may take several days.) If the threat is not deemed ‘confirmed’, the samples obtained during site characterization should be stored in case the situation changes and an analysis is determined to be necessary. **If Yes, initiate Action Plan 1C. If No,**
   * Verify that water is safe.
   * Notify public that water is safe
   * Notify outside agencies that water is safe.
   * Return to normal operations.
   * Store water samples for **[Insert Predetermined Time Period Here]**.

**V. Report of Findings**

10**.** File incident reports. The Utility, through its Security Director, should file an internal report for the Utility’s files, and also provide information as requested to Local Law Enforcement and other outside agencies.

**VI. Action Plan 1B Revision Dates**

**[Insert Dates of Revision of Action Plan 1B]**