

SWRCB-DDW

Check List of Security Measures for Water Utilities

When assuring the safety of any facility, consider the credo "detect, delay, and respond" (Sandia, 2000). Basically, some saboteurs will be deterred if they think what they might do would be detected; others will be deterred if they are delayed for a significant amount of time before reaching their end goal because they fear detection. If an intruder does obtain his goal of sabotage, be it contamination of the water or physical destruction of system facilities, then utility staff must respond quickly and appropriately to keep the consequences of the saboteur's action to a minimum.

Immediate action you can take to secure your facilities includes:

- At your office, well houses, treatment plants and vaults, make it a rule that doors are locked and alarms set.
- Tell your employees to ask questions of strangers in your facilities.
- Limit access to facilities. Indicate restricted areas by posting "Employees Only" signs.
- Increase lighting in parking lots, treatment bays, and other areas with limited staffing.
- DO NOT leave keys in equipment at any time.
- Invite local law enforcement to become familiar with facilities and establish a protocol for reporting and responding to threats.
- Discuss detection, response, and notification issues with public health officials and establish a protocol.
- Establish a chain of command and emergency call list in case of emergencies.
- Provide copies of operational procedures to law enforcement and emergency management personnel.
- Limit access to water supply reservoirs.
- Fence and lock vulnerable areas such as wellheads and meter pits.