



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 35 December 9, 2011 | Focus on Water Safety Plans

This issue of the *WASHplus Weekly* contains recent fact sheets, guidelines, country reports, and videos on Water Safety Plans (WSPs). Water Safety Plans are considered to be the most effective means of maintaining a safe supply of drinking water to the public. Their use should ensure that water is safe for human consumption and that it meets regulatory water standards relating to human health. They can be developed and implemented for use with simple household-level supplies as well as with complex utility-managed systems. Please contact WASHplus if you have additional information on this topic or to suggest other topics for future issues of the *WASHplus Weekly*.

FACT SHEETS/OVERVIEWS

- **Drinking Water Safety Planning: Managing Drinking Water Quality for Better Public Health**, 2011. Secretariat of the Pacific Community. ([Full-text](#))

Drinking Water Safety Planning is applicable to all water supply systems, irrespective of their size or complexity—large and small, urban and rural. Implementation of the approach requires commitment and support from high-level management as there may be some financial and technical implications. This document provides an overview of the planning process, advantages of implementation, and key steps.

- **Water Safety Plans: Managing Drinking Water Quality for Public Health**, 2010. World Health Organization. ([Full-text](#))

A brief on the benefits of shifting to a Water Safety Plan approach. The WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality and the IWA Bonn Charter recommend WSPs as proactive efforts to reduce risks and prevent contamination before water reaches the consumer.

- **Water Safety Plans: Why Are They Important and How Can Their Implementation Be Supported by Regulations?** 2010. World Health Organization. ([Full-text](#))

Water Safety Plans are designed for implementation by any supplier of water in any situation or circumstance, including emergency settings. They can be developed and implemented for use with simple household-level supplies on one end of the spectrum

as well as with complex utility-managed systems on the other. In addition to providing an overview of the WSP concept, this issue sheet details the benefits of this approach and explains how to incorporate WSPs into regulations.

GUIDELINES/MANUALS

- **A Conceptual Framework to Evaluate the Impacts of Water Safety Plans**, 2011. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ([Full-text](#))

This paper outlines a conceptual framework for conducting an overall evaluation of the impacts of a WSP. Drawing examples from existing WSPs in various regions, the framework also illustrates the types of intermediate outcomes that can be expected during WSP implementation.

- **Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality**, 2011. World Health Organization. ([Link to Water Safety Plans Chapter](#))

The WSP approach has been developed to organize and systematize a long history of management practices applied to drinking water and ensure the applicability of these practices to the management of drinking-water quality. WSPs represent an evolution of the concept of sanitary surveys and vulnerability assessments that include and encompass the whole of the water supply system and its operation. This chapter focuses on the key principles of WSPs.

- **Water Safety Plans for Communities: Guidance for Adoption of Water Safety Plans at Community Level**, 2011. F Greaves, Tearfund. ([Full-text](#))

Tearfund and its partners believe that a community water supply should be owned and managed by the user community that takes responsibility for the safety and reliability of the supply. Tearfund's particular interest is in how WSPs can be understood and established by user communities faced with self-managing a WSP to gain sustainable access to safe water quality.

- **Water Safety Plans Explained: What They Are and How You Can Get Involved**, Presentation at the WASH 2011 Conference, Australia. No author listed.