

Why is there a need for a Water Watchers Program?

Water Security is now a more prevalent concern than it has ever been before. Water security is a shared responsibility involving water suppliers, wastewater utilities, government, law enforcement and citizens. Homeland security is now being heightened and everyone can help by taking small steps. Citizens can be involved in homeland security by playing an important role in protecting our critical water resources.

Concerning Issues:

Drinking water and wastewater systems may be targets for terrorists and other potential criminals wanting to interrupt and cause harm to the community's water supplies and wastewater facilities. Water utility facilities are often located in remote areas therefore the chance of getting caught while attempting to disrupt the system is small. Water collection systems cover great areas that are difficult to patrol and secure.

Steps toward a solution:

Citizens participating in a common goal, keeping our water supply safe! The Water Watchers group will be educated in what to look for around the facility and what is considered suspicious activity.

Who should be involved in the Water Watchers Program?

Any resident who is concerned for the safety of the public water supply should get involved.

How to get involved:

First you need to contact your local water supplier and inform them of your name and contact information and let them know you want to be involved in the **Neighborhood Water Watchers Program!**

Having a Water Watchers Program -

- Provides a way for citizens to recognize potential crime in the area of the water utility and implement prevention strategies.
- Gives the water system and citizens an increased sense of security.
- Gives residence the opportunity to become more familiar with the activities and citizens of the community.

What do Water Watchers do?

Recognize suspicious Activity – This program gives citizen the opportunity to become more familiar with their community. This will enable you to quickly recognize suspicious activity around your water utility opposed to the day to day operation of a water utility.

Describe Suspicious Activity - Documenting your observations based on the key elements needed, which are:

- State the nature of the incident
- Identify yourself and your location
- Describe any vehicle/equipment involved (color, make, model, plate #)
- Describe the participants (number of people involved, gender, race, color of hair, clothing, weight, height)

Call the Police – Call the police and provide them with your observations of suspicious activity.

What to consider suspicious Activity:

- People climbing or cutting a fence
- People on top of water tanks
- Suspicious opening or tampering of buildings, equipment, or manhole covers
- People dumping or discharging material to a water reservoir
- People photographing or video taping utility facilities, equipment or structures
- Strangers hanging around locks or gates
- Personal present at unusual hours
- **Do not confront the person, simply report it to the local authorities right away.**

Emergency Contacts:

Local Emergency Response: 911

Police:

Fire:

Water Utility:

Water Watcher's contact: