



US EPA Region 8 Safe Drinking Water Program

Primacy Agency for Wyoming and Region 8 Tribal Water Systems

- The EPA Region 8 Safe Drinking Water Program manages the drinking water requirements for public water systems in the state of Wyoming and Region 8 Indian country. The EPA determines which facilities qualify as public water systems, their sampling requirements, significant deficiencies and other regulatory requirements. Region 8 staff provide technical assistance to help water operators comply with the regulations. EPA contractors can provide on-site assistance during emergency situations.
- All Wyoming public water systems (PWS) are required to notify EPA Region 8 when there is an emergency/incident that affects the water supply. The general phone number during business hours is 800-227-8917, or operators can contact any EPA rule manager. If the emergency is outside of business hours, please call **(303) 293-1788** and specify that you manage a Wyoming public water system and have an emergency situation. These situations include a loss of pressure, treatment disruptions, *E coli* contamination, and other scenarios that prevent the supply of safe water.
- The EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Operations website includes information on how to prepare for an emergency, request assistance, create emergency response plans, etc. <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/emergencies-and-security-home>.
- The EPA Region 8 Laboratory in Golden, Colorado is a certified lab that supports various EPA programs with collecting samples and analyzing regulatory or non-regulatory contaminants. The Region 8 mobile lab can be mobilized within 48 hours to be deployed during a major incident where samples can be taken and analyzed on site. The mobile lab can analyze samples for coliform bacteria, harmful algal blooms and a wide variety of chemical contaminants.
- During some emergencies, the EPA Region 8 Enforcement Program is involved to ensure that actions are taken to protect public health and restore safe water supplies. They may issue an Emergency Administrative Order (EAO) when the conditions at a utility may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of humans. An EAO often requires the following actions:
 - Issue public notice (PN) to customers, including 'DO NOT USE' or 'BOIL WATER' advisories
 - Provide an alternate water supply (at least two liters daily per person)
 - Disinfect and/or flush the public water system
 - Collect confirmation samples to confirm the safety of the water supply
- The EPA Region 8 Water Emergency Response Team (WERT) is a specialized team that can be activated on short notice to respond to emergency incidents, usually after a Stafford Act declaration by a state or tribal government requesting federal assistance. The WERT works within the National Response Framework which is managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and coordinated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which then tasks EPA Region 8 for response action. The team conducts damage assessments of water and wastewater facilities, collects water samples, and reports its findings to federal, state and local agencies to help determine the level of funding and other assistance needed to restore damaged facilities to full performance.
- The national EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience website includes more hands-on information on how a water system can assess its facilities, and plan and train for specific disaster situations. Instructions on how to use the Water Utility Response On-the-Go app can be found on this website. <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience>.