

From: [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#)
To: [Evan Miller](#)
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New Cybersecurity Resources For Public Water Systems

Sixty percent of the world's internet-exposed critical infrastructures are in the United States. With Wisconsin having the largest number of public water systems in the country, it is possible that your system could be a target for malicious cyber attacks.

A single cyber attack could cause disastrous health, fiscal and reputational damage,

all of which could be avoided when a water system operator and/or IT team acts to address cyber weaknesses.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) highly encourages public drinking water systems to take advantage of the various **free** resources available to help mitigate and prevent exposure to these damaging attacks.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a free [Cybersecurity Evaluation Program](#) that is conducted by a third party. The assessment has yielded nationwide success and could reduce the risk of a cyber attack by up to 45%.
- The [Emergency Response Plan Guide](#) can be used to prepare for and respond to all types of natural or man-made emergency incidents.
- [Developing a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan Template](#) helps systems develop their own cybersecurity incident response plan.
- Two new [Incident Action Checklists](#) (IACs) were created to help systems prepare for and response to emergencies. These are the [Source Water Contamination](#) IAC and the [Distribution System Contamination](#) IAC.
- The [Cybersecurity Procurement Checklist](#) helps utilities assess the cybersecurity practices of vendors, manufacturers and service providers.
- The FBI puts together [Public Safety Awareness Reports](#) (PSAR) to help inform the public about safety threats. Review the recent report on Cybersecurity and share your thoughts on how to improve the PSARs so they are useful to you.

Take the first step to secure your system today by using one or several of the resources above or contacting Marty Pollard at Martin.Pollard@wisconsin.gov.





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