

BEST PRACTICE

Water Safety Planning for robust utility: good quality water now -and in the future- from source to tap

TOPIC:

Water Safety Planning

COP:

Water Production and Asset Management

WOP:

WOP – Philippines and Malawi



MORE INFORMATION:



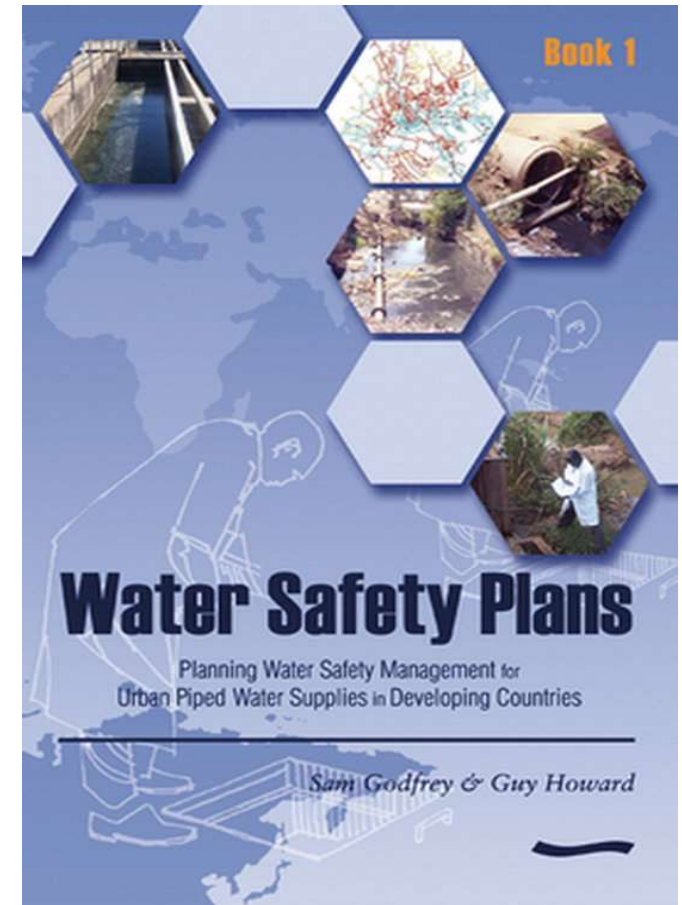
CHALLENGE

Water safety planning for utilities ensures the provision of clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to communities. By identifying and managing potential hazards, such as contamination and infrastructure risks, utilities can prevent waterborne diseases and emergencies. This proactive approach safeguards public health, sustains essential services, and promotes resilience in the face of natural disasters and emerging threats.



APPROACH

For an extended period, the World Health Organization (WHO) has advocated and developed water safety plans. Implementing such a plan equips a drinking water company with a comprehensive risk assessment tool encompassing all facets of the water system. This health-focused assessment evaluates microbiological, chemical, and physical hazards from source to consumer. Subsequently, the plan involves scrutinizing measures integrated into the water company's maintenance and investment plans to mitigate risks. Regularly re-evaluating the risk matrix ensures gradual risk reduction.



RESULTS

The first edition of the WSP in 2018 was submitted to the LWUA (local authorities) and approved in The Philippines. The Cagayan de Oro Water District (COWD) adopted the WSP 2021 as part of their business operations. Their recently completed Emergency Response Plan is linked to the WSP.

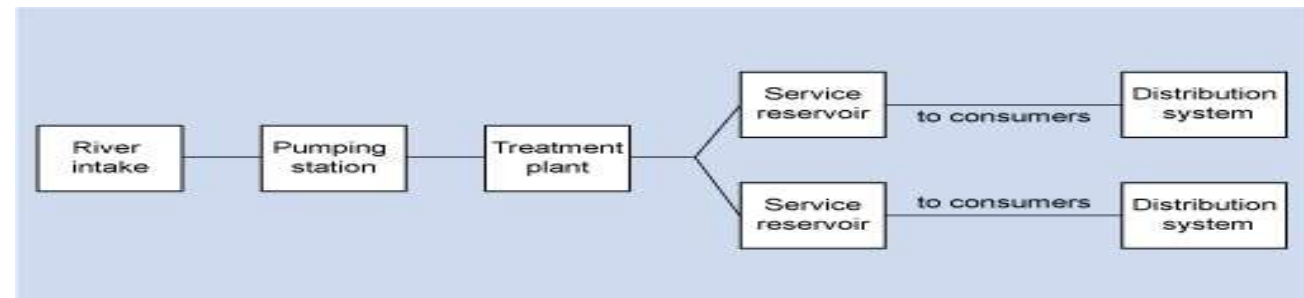
The Central Region Water Board (CRWB) of Malawi subjected their water supply systems to a systematic hazard and risks assessment for numerous reasons. The WSP is step-by-step filled with data for all components of production locations (including SOP) to create a robust and complete WSP overview. This process raised employee awareness on current and future risks due to climate change.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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SUCCESS FACTORS

Success factors for water safety plans include robust risk assessment, stakeholder collaboration, strict monitoring, continual training of employees by WSP experts (via WOPs), clear communication, adequate resources allocation, regulatory compliance, swift response protocols, adaptable contingency plans, and a proactive approach toward identifying and addressing potential hazards to ensure safe and clean water supply.

“WSP is a comprehensive strategy to ensuring safe drinking water through rigorous risk assessment, mitigation measures, and continual monitoring from source to consumer.”

OTHER

The Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) helps water operators help one another to provide quality services to all. GWOPA is an international network alliance supporting water operators to engage in WOPs. WOPs are peer support exchanges between two or more water operators, carried out on a not-for-profit basis with the objective of strengthening operators’ capacity and performance to provide better services to more people (www.gwopa.org).

WaterworX is a major Dutch WOP program engaging over 50 water operators in their joint effort to capacitate peers, strengthen their work processes, and improve operational performance over time (www.waterworxprogramme.com).