



OREGON  
**HEALTH**  
AUTHORITY

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# **Winter Weather Preparation and Drinking Water**

**House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government  
and Veterans**

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Division

## OHA – Drinking Water Services (DWS) Roles During an Emergency

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- Information sharing and communications with Public Water Systems (PWSs) and county partners
- Assist with PWS resource requests
- Technical and regulatory assistance for PWSs and county partners
- Assist and guidance for public notices and advisories
- Update contact reports and public notice advisories for PWSs:  
<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/advisories.php>

# Emergency Communications for PWSs

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- OHA-DWS sent [guidance](#) to PWS operators and county partners on how to report drinking water emergencies.
- If a PWS is overwhelmed and cannot respond to an emergency, PWS first contact their local or county emergency manager to request assistance with public notices, or resource requests.

**To report a drinking water emergency** (wildfire, flooding, operational issues, etc.) during normal business hours (Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm) call Oregon Health Authority – Drinking Water Services (OHA-DWS) at 971-673-0405, or email [info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

# What should PWSs report to OHA-DWS?

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- Infrastructure damage
- Operational issues
- Water supply issues
- Public notices and advisories
- Technical assistance requests

# Inclement Weather Preparedness for PWSs

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OHA-DWS sent [inclement weather preparedness guidance](#) to PWS operators and county partners to assist water systems prepare for potential inclement weather impacts. Examples include:

- Fill storage reservoirs before inclement weather is predicted to affect service area,
- Discuss with local or county emergency managers on how the water system may be impacted by inclement weather and what resources the system may or may not have to respond,
- Work with local agencies and partners to ensure the water utility is prioritized when determining road clearing operations,
- Work with local electric utility to ensure that key water system infrastructure is on their priority list for power restoration.

# Technical Assistance During Emergencies

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- **Oregon Water Agency Response Network (ORWARN)**
  - Free! Must become a member before requesting assistance. Member utilities can request assistance (resources, personnel, etc.) from other member utilities.
  - [info@orwarn.org](mailto:info@orwarn.org)
  - <https://www.orwarn.org/>
- **DWS Circuit Rider Program**
  - 10 hours or less for CWSs under 10,000 people & non-profit TNCs/NTNCs
  - Contact: Marlin Gochnour, Civil West Engineering 541-266-8601, [mgochnour@civilwest.net](mailto:mgochnour@civilwest.net)
  - <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater/operations/pages/circuitrider.aspx>
- **Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU)**
  - Circuit riders provide technical on-site assistance
  - Contact: 503-837-1212, emergency contact 503-580-4445, [office@oawu.net](mailto:office@oawu.net)
  - <https://oawu.net/>

# OHA – DWS Contact Information

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- **Website:**  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/Pages/index.aspx>
- **For questions regarding PWS emergency response and preparedness, contact:** Chantal Wikstrom, DWS emergency response/preparedness coordinator (971-666-8512, [Chantal.t.Wikstrom@oha.Oregon.gov](mailto:Chantal.t.Wikstrom@oha.Oregon.gov))