

Ontario Public Health Standards: Roll-out Environmental Health Workshop

Safe Water Program Standard

***Presented By:
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Outline of Session

- Overview (55 minutes)
 - Overview of Safe Water Standard and Protocols – **Dianne**
 - Highlights of Changes from MHPSG – **Dianne**
 - Key Requirements – **Tony**
 - Questions & Answers
- Link to Guidance Documents (30 minutes)
 - Introduction to Table Exercise - **Tony**
 - Table exercise - **All**

Comparison of 1997 and 2008 Documents


MHPSPG (1 standard; 3 protocols)

- Safe Water Standard
 - Beach Management Protocol
 - Operation of Public Spas Protocol
 - Public Wading Pools Protocol

OPHS (1 standard; 3 protocols)

- Safe Water Standard
 - Drinking Water Protocol
 - Recreational Water Protocol
 - Beach Management Protocol
 - 8 Attachments, including:
 - 1 Guidance Document (“in accordance with”)
 - 4 Guidance Documents (“for information”)
 - 3 other attachments

Safe Water Standard: Goals and Outcomes

- **Goal**: to prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness related to drinking water and to prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use
 - **Societal Outcomes**: e.g., public exposure to water-borne illnesses is mitigated
 - **Board of Health Outcomes**: e.g., timely and effective detection and identification of water contaminants and illnesses, their associated risk factors, and emerging trends
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Safe Water Standard: Requirements

- **Requirements**: range from:
 - Reporting Safe Water Program data elements
 - Conducting surveillance (e.g., of drinking water systems, public beaches, recreational water facilities)
 - Conducting epidemiological analysis of surveillance data
 - Providing information to private citizens who operate their own wells, cisterns, rain or lake system
 - Providing education/training for owners/operators of drinking water systems / recreational water facilities
 - Increasing public awareness
 - Ensuring 24/7 availability (for receiving reports and responding)
 - Providing all the components of the Safe Water Program
 - Informing the public about unsafe drinking water conditions
 - Reducing risks of public beach and recreational water facility use

Drinking Water Protocol

- **Purpose**: to provide direction in the prevention and reduction of water-borne illness related to drinking water by providing direction to boards of health on the components of the Safe Water Program.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Inventory
 - Inspections of Drinking Water Systems
 - Inspections of Small Drinking Water Systems
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Liaison with agencies and ministries
 - Education and Training
 - Drinking water education
 - Providing water sampling bottles for citizens using private drinking water systems
 - Reporting
 - Inspection activities – general
 - Inspection activities – small drinking water systems

Drinking Water Protocol – Highlights

- Outlines the new Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) program requirements, including the new *SDWS Risk Assessment Directives Guidance Document*
 - Updates existing documents and references them for information: *Drinking Water Haulage Guidance Document* and *Response to Adverse Drinking Water Quality Incidents Guidance Document*
 - Inspection frequencies for other drinking water systems
 - Liaison with agencies and ministries, including semi-annual meetings with MOE
 - Availability of water sampling bottles from Public Health Laboratories for citizens using private drinking water systems
 - Reporting of adverse drinking water notifications including: date issued, date rescinded, corrective measures taken
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Key Requirements: Drinking Water (1)

- Requirement:
 - Inspection frequencies for other drinking water systems:
 - Drinking water haulage vehicles: inspected annually
- Comments:
 - Need for a more comprehensive approach to address the safety of drinking water from water haulage vehicles
 - Development of Drinking Water Haulage Guidance Document
 - Annual inspections to monitor operator practices and safety of drinking water

Key Requirements: Drinking Water (2)

- Requirement:
 - Liaison with agencies and ministries, including semi-annual meetings with MOE
- Comments:
 - Semi-annual meetings with local MOE staff to discuss and address operational issues
 - Participation or liaison with Source Protection Committees
 - Other committees through local planning departments, conservation authorities, etc.

Key Requirements: Drinking Water (3)

- Requirement:
 - Reporting of adverse drinking water notifications including: date issued, date rescinded, corrective measures taken
- Comments:
 - Important that ministry database be up-to-date to monitor trends, emerging issues and to respond to inquiries in a timely fashion
 - Chief Drinking Water Inspector annual report

Recreational Water Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention and reduction of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use by providing direction to boards of health on the components of the Safe Water Program related to public recreational water facilities.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Inventory of recreational water facilities
 - Assessment and inspection of recreational water facilities
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Liaison with community agencies
 - Education and Training
 - Recreational water education
 - Training of owners and operators of regulated recreational water facilities
 - Reporting

Recreational Water Protocol – Highlights

- Replaces the *Operation of Public Spas Protocol, January 1998* and *Public Wading Pools Protocol, January 1998*
- Routine inspection frequency: at least two times per year and no less than once every 3 months while operating
 - This applies for regulated public pools and public spas, as well as non-regulated recreational water facilities (e.g., public wading pools and splash pads / spray pads and water slide receiving basins)
- References the new *Operating Procedures for Non-Regulated Recreational Water Facilities Guidance Document* for information
- Recreational water training program (with minimum training requirements)

Key Requirements: Recreational Water (1)

- Requirement:
 - Routine inspection frequency: at least two times per year and no less than once every 3 months while operating
- Comments:
 - Need for minimum surveillance of all recreational water facilities
 - Aligns frequency of regulated facilities (eg: public pools) with unregulated facilities (eg: splash pads)

Key Requirements: Recreational Water (2)

- Requirement:
 - Recreational water training program (with minimum training requirements)
- Comments:
 - Need for training of operators of recreational facilities
 - Applies to those operating public pools and public spas
 - Minimum training requirements include applicable legislation, prevention of illness, safe operation of facility, emergency procedures, safety supervision, etc.

Beach Management Protocol

- **Purpose**: to assist in the prevention and reduction of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use at public beaches, and to assist boards of health in the delivery of local, comprehensive public beach management programs.
- **Outline**:
 - Surveillance and inspection
 - Pre-season assessment (including inventory)
 - Routine public beach surveillance
 - Management and Response
 - 24/7 on-call and response policy
 - Enforcement actions and procedures
 - Communication and education
 - Reporting

Beach Management Protocol – Highlights

- Replaces the *Beach Management Protocol, January 1998*
- Pre-season assessment / routine beach assessment of public beaches
- Establishment of communication strategies with partner agencies
- Considerations with respect to signage posting
- References the new *Operating Procedures for Responding to Adverse Events at Public Beaches* for information, to assist in responding to and reporting potentially hazardous spills and other adverse events at public beaches.

Key Requirements: Beach Management (1)

- Requirements:
 - Pre-season assessment of all public beaches each year includes an inventory of public beaches, a review of historical, environmental and epidemiological data, and an environmental survey.
 - During routine beach assessment, environmental factors (e.g., public beach water conditions, heavy rain, storm sewer outfalls, wave action) are considered, in addition to water sample results, to determine appropriate course of action
- Comments:
 - Emphasis on gathering site-specific information that may assist board of health staff to better understand the environmental influences of local beaches

Key Requirements: Beach Management (2)

- Requirement:
 - The board of health shall establish communication strategies with partner agencies to provide timely and clear information to the public regarding the potential risks associated with the use of public beaches.
- Comments:
 - Promote timely communication with users of public beaches where adverse conditions may be present
 - Range of activities to address local needs (eg: posting signs, website, media releases, etc.)

Key Requirements: Beach Management (3)

- Requirement:
 - Signage posting is considered where there is evidence that recreational beach water is potentially dangerous to the bathers
- Comments:
 - Protocol provides a more comprehensive approach to posting of beaches that promotes communication, visibility and operator responsibilities

Key Requirements: Beach Management (4)

- Requirement:
 - *Operating Procedures for Responding to Adverse Events at Public Beaches* referenced for information, to assist in responding to and reporting potentially hazardous spills and other adverse events at public beaches.
- Comments:
 - Document provides more detailed guidance for responding to various adverse events which may have immediate public health consequences
 - Adverse events include hazardous chemical spills, blue-green algae, visible debris, etc.

Table Exercise

Introduction to Exercise

- The following Safe Water guidance documents are currently under development:
 - Drinking Water Haulage Guidance Document
 - SDWS Risk Assessment Directives Guidance Document
 - Response to Adverse Drinking Water Quality Incidents Guidance Document
 - Operating Procedures for Non-Regulated Recreational Water Facilities Guidance Document
 - Operating Procedures for Responding to Adverse Events at Public Beaches

Instructions for Exercise

- Exercise (30 minutes): In your table groups, discuss the following questions and record your responses on the paper provided:
 1. Name the 3 most challenging areas you foresee in implementing each of the following Safe Water Protocols:
 - Drinking Water Protocol (excluding SDWS)
 - Recreational Water Protocol
 - Beach Management Protocol
 2. Provide any suggestions you have for further ministry support to address the above situations through the guidance documents.