



## **A Word about the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)**

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a federally-funded non-profit that provides training and technical assistance on water and wastewater issues for small, rural communities and Tribes. Most of RCAP's project communities are economically disadvantaged and have a population under 2,500. The RCAP partnership operates as a national service delivery network comprised of a national office in Washington DC and six regional offices. RCAP has over 200 field staff, including 12 registered professional engineers, 62 certified operators, and finance/utility rate and board management specialists. RCAP has active programs in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and (periodically) Guam.

After three decades, the RCAP network has gained considerable knowledge and appreciation of the challenges facing the tens of thousands of small water and wastewater systems across the nation. One of the many competing interests facing small, rural communities is the need to comply with federal and state guidelines regarding the safety and security of water and wastewater infrastructure systems. Responding to this need, all RCAP field staff members have been trained in assisting communities in conducting vulnerability assessments (VAs) and preparing emergency response plans (ERPs) for their water and wastewater systems. Extensive experience with VAs and ERPs led RCAP to adapt existing materials, and, where necessary, create new materials, that are particularly appropriate for small and very small water and wastewater systems. The tools in this Toolbox are the product of that effort, and are useful for both computer- and non-computer-equipped utilities.

The security outreach activities of the RCAP network include the development of a web-based news bulletin and technical assistance tool for small water and wastewater systems. The RCAP Safe Drinking Water Trust eBulletin contains information on practical subjects, written in non-technical language. The eBulletin contains articles on a wide variety of security topics. It also covers regulatory issues and provides tools on financial, managerial, and technical capacity. The eBulletin has a resource section, with links to a large number of organizations and materials. There is a bank of frequently asked questions (FAQs), and each issue provides simple security tips for making plants more safe and secure.

The eBulletin has a section where readers can request free technical assistance or ask questions on a variety of topics, including vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans, regulations, or the operation and maintenance of their facilities. The eBulletin is free, and can be found at [www.watertrust.org](http://www.watertrust.org).

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More information about the RCAP network, including its resources, services, and regional and state offices can be found at [www.rcap.org](http://www.rcap.org).



Regional Offices	Contact Number	Web Address
RCAP National Office	888/321-7227	<a href="http://www.rcap.org">www.rcap.org</a>
Western RCAP	916/447-2854	<a href="http://www.rcac.org">www.rcac.org</a>
Southeast RCAP	866/928-3731	<a href="http://www.southeastrcap.org">www.southeastrcap.org</a>
Great Lakes RCAP	800/775-9767	<a href="http://www.glracap.org">www.glracap.org</a>
Southern RCAP	479/443-2700	<a href="http://www.crg.org">www.crg.org</a>
Northeast RCAP	800/488-1969	<a href="http://www.rcapsolutions.org">www.rcapsolutions.org</a>
Midwest RCAP	952/758-4334	<a href="http://www.map-inc.org">www.map-inc.org</a>

