



2018 Potomac River Spill Functional Exercise  
Recap  
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## Exercise Objectives:

1. Utilize multi-agency coordination systems
2. Identify action to maintain public health and safety during a regional water outage
3. Review and identify potential updates to the Potomac DWSPP Utility Response Plan
4. Develop resource management strategies for a regional water outage that lasts several days



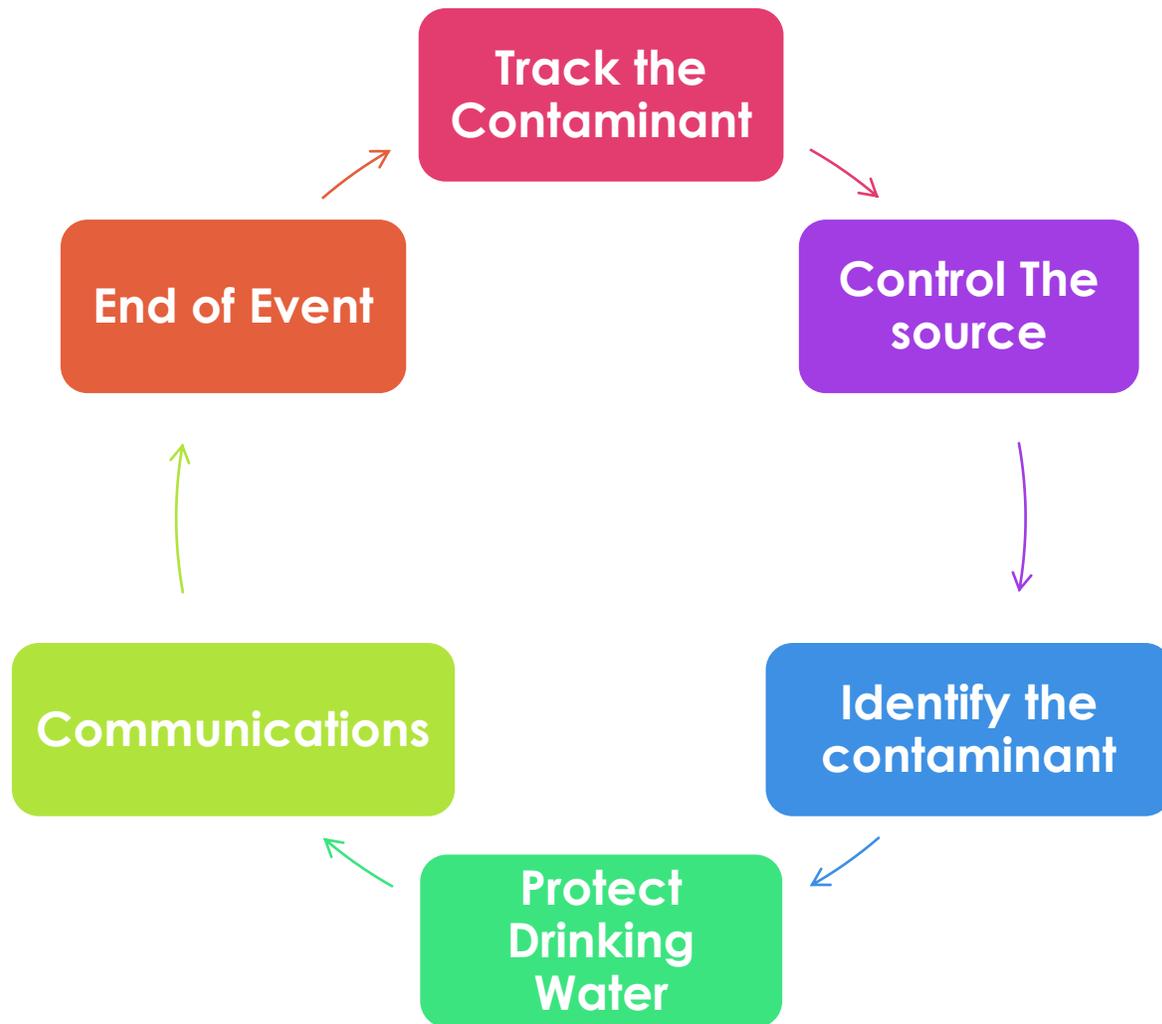
## Follow-up Actions

- After Action Report
- Recommend a post-exercise seminar with local and state OEMs
- Future exercise event, FY20, focus on recovery/water outage



# DWSPP Utility Spill Response Plan

FEEDBACK FROM THE 2018 POTOMAC RIVER SPILL FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE



## Elements of the Plan

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## Track the Contaminant

- ▶ ICPRB Time of Travel Model
- ▶ Difficulty to run the Model with so many unknowns (source, type and volume of contamination, start and end time of spill etc.)
- ▶ Better understanding of limitations of the Model
- ▶ Establish protocols to better define what assumptions can be made to get meaningful output

## Control the Source

- ▶ Utilities generally at the mercy of primacy agencies to often identify and stop the spill. Involvement with ICS structure essential

# Elements of the Plan

## Identify the Contaminant

- ▶ Multiple utilities collected samples and shipped to Fairfax Water for the same analysis. Useful to coordinate this effort early on
- ▶ More robust compilation of lab capabilities

## Protect the Drinking Water

- ▶ Look at the possibility of upstream releases to move the spill along or dilute the contaminants

# Elements of the Plan

## Communications

- ▶ Communications with County/ local Offices of emergency management needs to be added
  - Spill response
  - Other alternate plans - possible water restrictions, in case of extended shutdown of intakes; distribution of bottled water etc.
- ▶ There was very little communication between the Utilities and the ICS structure during the Spill Exercise, even through the local emergency responders
- ▶ Liaison officer was not available during the spill exercise