



QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Question: What should be included in my Water Outage Policy?

Answer: The answer can be found at:

F466

The facility must:

§483.70(h)(1) Establish procedures to ensure that water is available to essential areas when there is a loss of normal water supply;

Interpretive Guidelines: §483.70(h)(1)

The facility should have a written protocol which defines the source of water, provisions for storing the water, both potable and non-potable, a method for distributing water, and a method for estimating the volume of water required.

Dave's Memo: Make sure your "Water Outage Policy" includes these elements:

1. Who is supplying the water?
2. Where will you store both potable and non-potable water?
3. Who and how will the water be distributed?
4. What quantity of water is needed for both your residents and your staff?

Potable water is considered safe drinking water. Non-potable water is water that is not of drinking water quality, but which may still be used for many other purposes, depending on its quality.

The **Emergency Water Supply Planning Guide for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities** is great resource with tools to help you develop an Emergency Water Supply Plan. This booklet also includes tools to help you estimate your water usage needs. It can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/emergency/emergency-water-supply-planning-guide.pdf>