



Tapping into Water Security: Practical Solutions for Water Suppliers (Part II)

Shondra M. Neumeister

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following excerpt is Part 2 in a three-part series from, "Tapping into Water Security: Practical Solutions for Water Suppliers," presented at November's FSAWWA Conference. Part 1 on distribution-systems protection is available for viewing on the Journal's Web site, www.fwrj.com.

Treatment Facility Protection

Protecting treatment facilities is typically much easier than protecting water-supply sources and equipment and distribution systems because of the presence of utility personnel on-site. However, water suppliers should not rely solely on per-

sonnel to deter terrorist attacks on facilities. Because treatment facilities are usually the most visible representation of water systems, combination of all three security strategies is suggested. The following possible security measures are grouped according to strategy:

ACCESS CONTROL

- Fence the treatment facilities. Chain-link fences should be a minimum of eight feet high, and barbed or razor wire may be attached to the top of the fence.
- Install gates at all entrances to the treatment facility. Gate access for employees should be controlled by a padlock, access card, or keypad.

Shondra M. Neumeister, P.E., is a client service manager for LBFH Inc., a consulting civil engineering firm headquartered in Palm City.

- Keep buildings and rooms containing chemicals and chemical supply and feed equipment locked at all times.
- Provide well-defined and restricted routes for vehicular traffic and parking.
- Limit visitor and delivery access to the facility to a single main entrance gate.

SURVEILLANCE

- Record the arrival of all visitors and deliveries at the main entrance gate. Visitors should be directed from the entrance gate to the main office. Delivery trucks should be met at the gate by a utility staff member and escorted to the point of delivery drop-off. An example log form is shown in **Figure 1**.
- Install motion-sensor activated lighting and video cameras to monitor critical areas such as chemical storage and feed rooms and high-service pumping buildings.
- Install windows in offices, laboratories, control rooms, and break rooms to allow staff to observe activities outside of buildings.
- Request local law enforcement to patrol the area around the treatment facilities during hours that the facilities are not staffed.

Figure 1: Sample Visitor/Delivery Log Form

Date	Time	Name	Company	Delivery		To See	Vehicle Tag/ Identification Number
				Yes	No		

TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT

- Post "Employees Only" and/or "Restricted Area" signs throughout the treatment facilities.
- Encourage the formation of a "Neighborhood Crime Watch" zone which includes the treatment facilities.
- Install a sign at the main entrance gate noting the owner and name of the treatment facilities.
- If the main operations building is located at the front of the treatment facilities, encourage parking at the front of the building. The cars provide a symbolic territorial barrier and increase the perception that an unwanted visitor might be caught by an employee going to his vehicle.

Examples of signs for territorial reinforcement are shown at the top of the page.

Next month: Source-water protection. 