

Water Systems: A Twofold Look Into Physical Security And Cyber Security

Presenter(s):

David Ganje, Ganje Law Office

Abstract: A security threat to a water system may include the deliberate elimination/destruction of the safe water supply or the disruption of the delivery of the safe water supply for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes. System threats can come from within a water systems organization or from the outside. External threats include terrorist activities and civil disobedience. Threats may range from trespassing, tampering and vandalism to sabotage, theft and terrorism; these threats may be of a physical nature or they could be non-physical such as a cyber attack. Terrorist threats have been made against water systems. In most instances, the specifics of such attacks will be unknown to most systems operators. Hazards from these threats include loss of power and communications, SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) cyber attack, explosions, intentional fires, chlorine release, broken water mains, chemical or biological contamination, pump failure, dam failure or storage tower failure. The focus of this presentation will address: conducting an on-site security audit using recommended national systems as well as local public and private resources.