

Presentation of the National Waterworks Crisis Support Team ("Nasjonalt vannvakt")

5.05.2017



NASJONAL VANNVAKT

“Crisis support” for waterworks in Norway

- A long-awaited service for waterworks facing difficulties.
- Facilitating a rapid response to prevent situations that could have an impact on health, for example the spread of disease.
- Sweden has had a national group for water catastrophes (VAKA or Nationell vattenkatastrofgrupp) since 2004.



Background

- Norway is party to the WHO/UNECE's "Protocol on water and health" from 1999.
- In the "National targets for water and health" adopted by the Norwegian Government in 2014, crisis support for waterworks was specified as an example of a concrete measure.
- In 2016, the Norwegian Parliament granted funds to establish a national crisis support unit for waterworks.
- The national waterworks crisis support team was launched on 2 March 2017, subsequent to a pilot period in January and February 2017.



About the National Waterworks Crisis Support Team

- This is a 24-hour advisory service for waterworks that require advice and support in the event of acute incidents that may have an impact on water supply and may cause health-related problems.
- The team is made up of professionals with experience from waterworks operations and crisis management.
- Advice targets evaluation of the potential for microbiological contamination and health hazards caused by chemical contamination.
- In special circumstances, the team will provide advice
 - regarding hazardous chemical agents in the event of threats,
 - and how to communicate such situations to the media and public.

Phone number 21 07 88 88



Organisation

- The phone line is manned by persons from the waterworks industry and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.
- The team is part of a network of expertise within drinking water hygiene, water supply, toxicology, epidemiology and microbiology.
- The Norwegian Institute of Public Health is the administrator for the scheme.
- Norsk Vann (Norwegian Water) is a cooperating partner.

How the team can help

- Any enquiries made to the team shall be approved by the waterworks' manager or a delegate.
- The advice provided by the team shall help the waterworks establish a basis for implementation of action in a situation that threatens security of supply or drinking water quality.
- The team will not take over responsibility for the crisis.
- There will be no change in prevailing roles, responsibility and established notification and emergency preparedness routines.

