

Policy & Procedure Manual

Water Requirements

Policy:

The facility has a written procedure, which defines the source of water when there is a loss of normal water supply, including provisions for storing both potable and non-potable water and a method for distributing the water. In the event of a loss of utilities, water may be unavailable, or if available, it may be contaminated and in need of purification. In either case, the food and nutrition services department will have an adequate supply of water on hand. This water will be used for cooking, cleaning, drinking and food preparation. Recognizing that suppliers may be unable to deliver immediately, a minimum of a 7 day emergency supply of water on site is recommended. Water should be stored in a cool, dry area away from heat sources.

Procedure:

1. Based on the *All Hazards Analysis*, a minimum of 3 day supply of water, and preferably a 7-14 day supply of water, should be available on site. The quantity of water that is needed can be determined by the following calculations:

Suggested Water Requirements:

Type of Water	Amount Needed	Formula	Example (7 day supply) for 100 People
Drinking and Cooking Water	1.0 gallon per person per day**	# of people* X 1.0** gallons X number of days desired = gallons of drinking/cooking water needed	100 people X 1.0 gallon X 7 days = 700 gallons of drinking/cooking water
All-purpose Water	1.0 gallon per person per day	# of people* X 1 gallon X number of days desired = gallons of all-purpose water needed	100 people X 1.0 gallon X 7 days = 700 gallons of all-purpose water

*Include patients/residents, staff, and surge (visitors, evacuees, and rescue workers) as appropriate in estimate of water needed. Include nursing needs as necessary (medication pass, etc.).

**Hot climates can double the amount of fluid needed for drinking. If located in a hot climate area, increase the amount of drinking water accordingly. Adjust the amount of all purpose water accordingly as well. (Again, add extra as noted above in.*)

Note: Please check state and Joint Commissions regulations for specific quantities of water required.

Use of Stored Water Supplies

1. Bottled or distilled water for emergency purposes should be stored and labeled "FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY."
2. The nursing department may want to designate a specific amount for nursing procedures such as flushes, sterile dressing uses, or any other nursing procedure needing distilled or sterile water.
3. Staff should be instructed not to use the emergency water supply for any purpose other than an emergency situation.
4. During an emergency, staff should be provided with bottled or canned beverages for drinking.