

Excerpt: Attacks on Drinking Water Systems²⁶

Indicators of possible water contamination:

- ▶ A change in water quality and/or physical parameters (odor, taste, color, chemical change, bacterial counts, Volatile Organic Compounds, etc...).
- ▶ Increased consumer complaints of discoloration, unusual taste, or objectionable odor; burning of the esophagus; and respiratory symptoms.
- ▶ An increase in gastrointestinal symptoms/illnesses at emergency medical care facilities.
- ▶ An unexplained drop or change in water pressure.
- ▶ Signs of forced entry at potential targets/routes of entry, triggering of security alarms, or evidence of tampering.

Possible indicators of action against drinking water systems:

- ▶ Theft of water utility computers or other sensitive information.
- ▶ Theft of radio devices that could be used to jam utility communications or disrupt systems.
- ▶ Suspicious inquiries regarding anticontamination protocols.
- ▶ Persons impersonating water sector inspectors or officials, such as from the EPA.
- ▶ Unauthorized intrusion into water utility Web sites or online SCADA systems.
- ▶ Utility employees being followed or photographed while working, or suspicious photography or videotaping at or around water plants.
- ▶ Stolen, cloned, or missing water utility vehicles or uniforms.