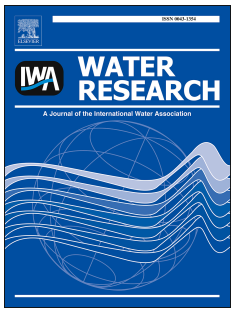
Accepted Manuscript



Hypothetical scenario exercises to improve planning and readiness for drinking water quality management during extreme weather events

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PII: S0043-1354(16)30968-X

DOI: 10.1016/j.watres.2016.12.028

Reference: WR 12578

To appear in: *Water Research*

Received Date: 15 June 2016

Revised Date: 31 October 2016

Accepted Date: 18 December 2016

Please cite this article as: Deere, D., Leusch, F.D.L., Humpage, A., Cunliffe, D., Khan, S.J., Hypothetical scenario exercises to improve planning and readiness for drinking water quality management during extreme weather events, *Water Research* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.watres.2016.12.028.

Hypothetical scenario exercises to improve planning and readiness for drinking water quality management during extreme weather events.

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Abstract

Two hypothetical scenario exercises were designed and conducted to reflect the increasingly extreme weather-related challenges faced by water utilities as the global climate changes. The first event was based on an extreme flood scenario. The second scenario involved a combination of weather events, including a wild forest fire ('bushfire') followed by runoff due to significant rainfall. For each scenario, a panel of diverse personnel from water utilities and relevant agencies (e.g. health departments) formed a hypothetical water utility and associated regulatory body to manage water quality following the simulated extreme weather event. A larger audience participated by asking questions and contributing key insights. Participants were confronted with unanticipated developments as the simulated scenarios unfolded, introduced by a facilitator. Participants were presented with information that may have challenged their conventional experiences regarding operational procedures in order to identify