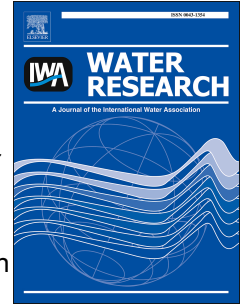


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Hypothetical scenario exercises to improve planning and readiness for drinking water quality management during extreme weather events

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1 **Hypothetical scenario exercises to improve planning and readiness**  
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14 **Abstract**

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

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