How water utilities can prepare and plan for climate change impacts

For water utilities, the effects of climate change can lead to heavier and more frequent rainfall, increased surface runoff and higher water temperatures. These factors can affect the timing, predictability and intensity of precipitation, leading to extreme floods and droughts, which will affect water resources and increase waterborne contamination. Higher temperatures can create water scarcity and reduced supply, while drought conditions can lead to increased waterborne contamination and reduced water availability for different uses. Climate change is altering weather patterns, which has a direct effect on available freshwater resources for utilities as it affects the flow of water in watersheds as well as its quality.

Implementing a robust Water Safety Plan will deliver more impactful interventions as water utilities better prepare to address hazards that could threaten their operations. Water Safety Planning is a comprehensive risk assessment and management approach across each step in the water supply system from catchment to tap. Water Safety Plans are recognised by the WHO and IWA as the most effective means of ensuring the safety and acceptability of drinking water supply.

Understanding how to use and integrate climate information can help water utilities better prepare for water source-related risks by integrating information on flood and drought events and environmental impacts. The Portal provides tools which can help utilities access and analyse climate information, select indicators related risks by integrating information on flood and drought events and environmental impacts. The Portal provides tools which can help utilities access and analyse climate information, select indicators related risks by integrating information on flood and drought events and environmental impacts.

To get started with the tools right now, register for free by visiting www.flooddroughtmonitor.com. For more information, contact DHI, Oluf Zeilund Jessen, IWA, Katharine Cross, or learn more at www.chris-wells.com.

The Portal provides access to a user-friendly and web-based application which allows utilities, water utilities, land, water and urban area managers can better prepare for water-related risks by integrating information on flood and drought events and environmental impacts. The Portal provides access to a user-friendly and web-based application which allows utilities, water utilities, land, water and urban area managers can better prepare for water-related risks by integrating information on flood and drought events and environmental impacts.

**For more information, visit**

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