

A PLAN FOR GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

Why You Need an SSO Contingency Plan

Given that the EPA estimates as many as 75,000 SSOs happen every year,¹ and widespread weather events often trigger SSOs in multiple communities simultaneously, it could be difficult to secure the equipment you need without a plan in place. A Contingency Plan with Xylem, however, ensures that with just one phone call – day or night – you'll be mitigating the problem within hours.

CONTINGENCY PLAN? WHAT'S THAT?

A Contingency Plan is a multi-page document that lists:

- ▶ **Equipment your community needs to mitigate an SSO**
- ▶ **24/7 contact info for your Xylem Emergency Team**
- ▶ **Site conditions and access information**
- ▶ **Directions to your location**

Sure, it sounds simple. But it's an incredibly important document that reduces stress and ensures you get the equipment you need.

WHY WOULD I NEED A CONTINGENCY PLAN?

While you may not have had an SSO in the recent past, changing weather patterns are making them more likely. In fact, about 2/3 of the U.S. is experiencing much greater than average rainfall per event now than just 20 years ago.²

Severe weather - Storms are on the rise. The Northeast, for example, now receives 71% more rainfall per event than a few decades ago.³ And lightning strikes are increasing, too. Every 1°C increase in global temperature causes 12% more strikes,⁴ which lead to SSOs through direct hits to pumping stations, or widespread power outages.



El Niño rains - Periodically, warm water in the Pacific shifts to the east and creates a feedback loop between the atmosphere and the ocean that results in much heavier rainfall.

Hurricanes - While the future frequency of hurricanes is under debate in the scientific community, everyone agrees the severity of these storms will increase in coming years.⁶

Less EPA oversight - SSOs are a significant source of damage to the health and wellbeing of our country, so the EPA likes to know communities are being proactive.

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE IN MY CONTINGENCY PLAN?

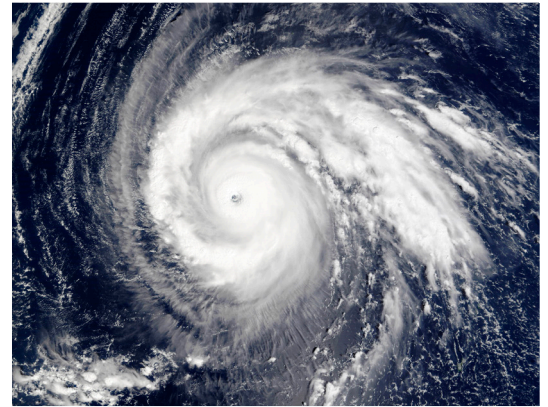
Depending on your situation, it may make sense to have more specific equipment than listed here. But generally, the following assets are required to cover an SSO emergency:

Backup sewage pump stations - If your pump station is taken offline by direct flooding, or by interruption of its power source, an emergency bypass pumping system will keep your wastewater flowing properly.

Emergency flood response for flood-prone areas -

Floodwaters carry the risk of infectious disease, chemical hazards and general injuries, so it's important to remove them as quickly as possible.

Potable water boosting stations - Power failures can easily take water utilities offline. And as many are located in low-lying areas,⁷ they're also vulnerable to flooding. A backup system that can keep clean water flowing to residents is critical.



WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN?

An SSO Contingency Plan is like insurance. You hope you never need it, but when you do it's invaluable. So what are municipalities that skip it risking? A lot.

Reputation damage - If you have an SSO and aren't able to mitigate it quickly, your municipality is likely to receive negative publicity that could impact property values. Your employability could suffer, and your city/town could be hit with fines.

Property damage - While storms can create plenty of damage, flooding takes it to a new level. Wastewater infiltration into homes and businesses can quickly escalate the cost of recovery. South Carolina, for example, is looking at an estimated \$37 million to recover from flooding in the fall of 2015.⁸

Equipment shortages - Since weather events tend to impact multiple communities, waiting until you have an SSO to request help means you are likely to have to wait for other communities to deal with their issues before you get the equipment you need.

More Stress - Let's face it, any SSO is stressful. But a Contingency Plan lets you start dealing with it right away. Putting your solution into action with one simple phone call will create confidence for everyone involved.

The EPA estimates there are at least 23,000 SSOs per year in the U.S., and possibly as many as 75,000.⁹

Xylem will help you create a contingency plan that mitigates your SSO as quickly as possible.

¹ EPA, 2014. Web.

² US Global Change Research Program, 2015. Web.

³ US Global Change Research Program, 2015. Web.

⁴ BBC News, 2014. Web.

⁵ EPA, 2014. Web.

⁶ Climate Central, 2015. Web.

⁷ FOX News (WACH)

⁸ EPA, 2014. Web.



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