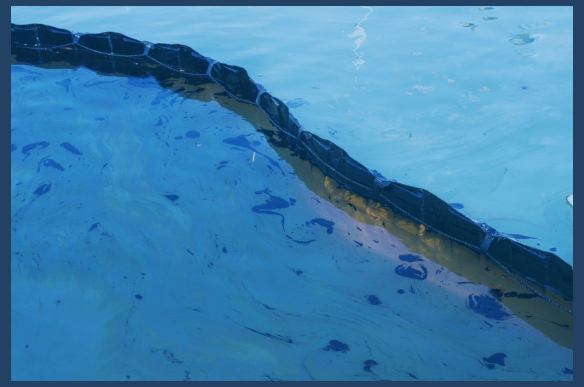


Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

AGENDA

1) WCIT Overview
2) How WCIT supports Emergency Preparedness and Response
3) Gaining Access to WCIT
4) Database Exercises
5) Main Takeaways

Click on a topic name to go directly to that section!

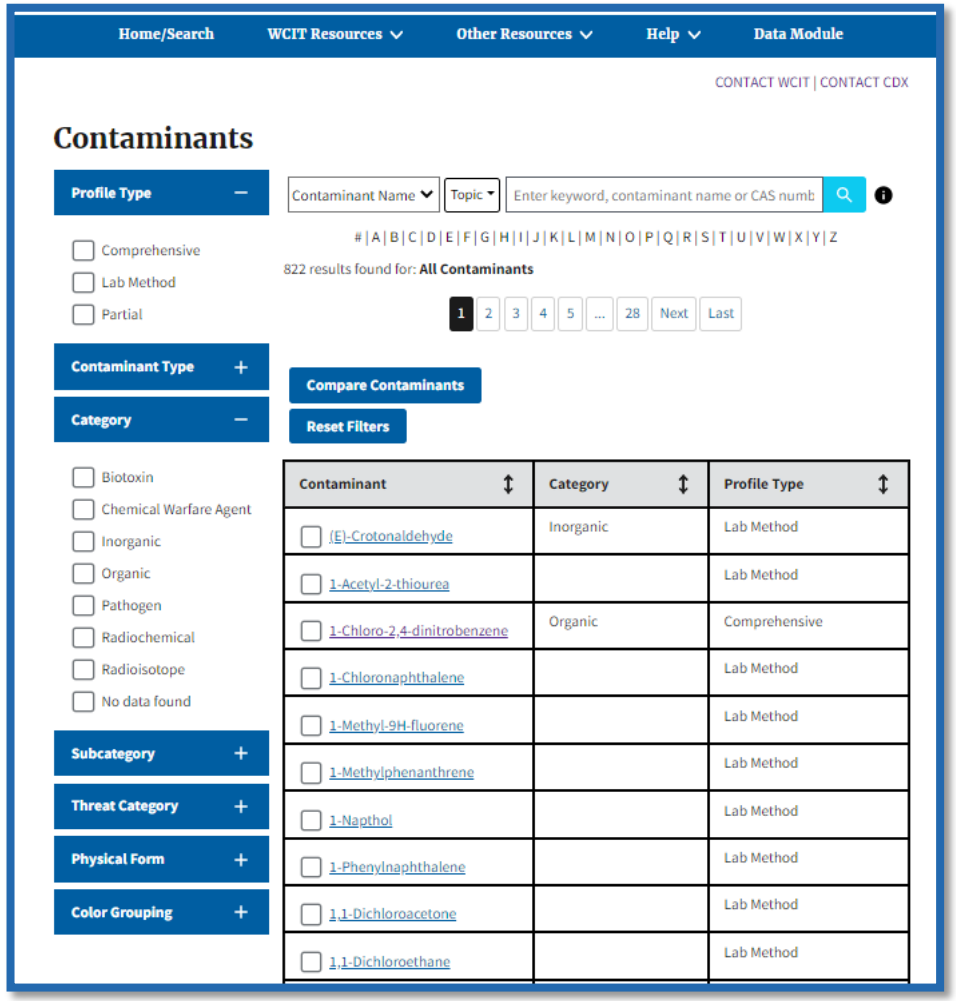
What is WCIT?

EPA's secure online database that contains information about contaminants of concern to the Water Sector.

- The database has been live since 2005.
- Originally, contaminants for WCIT were selected from the perspective of intentional contamination acts.
- However, the tool has since adopted an "all hazards" approach, to include unintentional and natural incidents.

Information provided in WCIT

- WCIT contains information on more than 800 contaminants, all of which are of highest concern if introduced into water systems.
- Types of contaminants included are:
  - pathogens
  - biological toxins
  - industrial chemicals
  - pesticides
  - radiochemicals
  - chemical warfare agents
- Contaminant information is presented in the format of profile (like a fact sheet).



Information provided in WCIT (cont.)

- **Comprehensive Profiles** – provides contaminant information in the following categories:
  - contaminant names (including CAS numbers and synonyms)
  - physical properties
  - contaminant usage and sources
  - fate and transport
  - health effects and toxicity
  - medical information
  - early warning indicators
  - drinking water treatment
  - wastewater treatment
  - sampling and analysis
  - helpful response considerations for utilities
  - infrastructure decontamination.
- **Partial profiles** - profiles that include only a subset of the 13 categories. It will depend on available information for the contaminant.
- **Lab Method Profiles** – provide summary information for only field and laboratory analytical methods.

Data are expert- reviewed and regularly updated

How can the Water Sector Use WCIT?

WCIT includes valuable information that can support preparedness and each phase of an incident response whether it be intentional or unintentional.

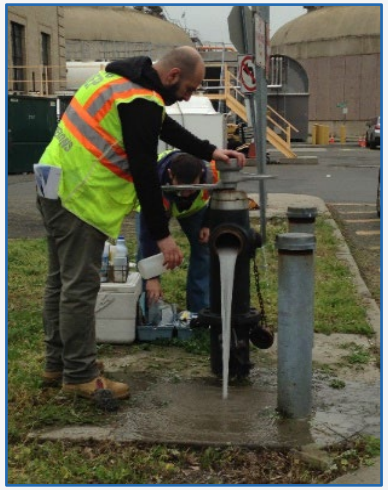
Remediation

- Emergency drills
- Tabletop exercises
- Full-scale exercises

- Characterize contaminant
- Extent of contamination
- Field and Laboratory Methods
- Public Information
- Clearance Goals

- Drinking Water Treatment
- Wastewater Treatment
- Infrastructure Decontamination

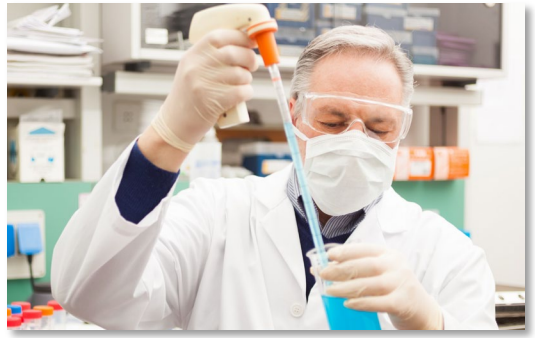
- Monitoring



Become a WCIT Expert

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

How to Access WCIT



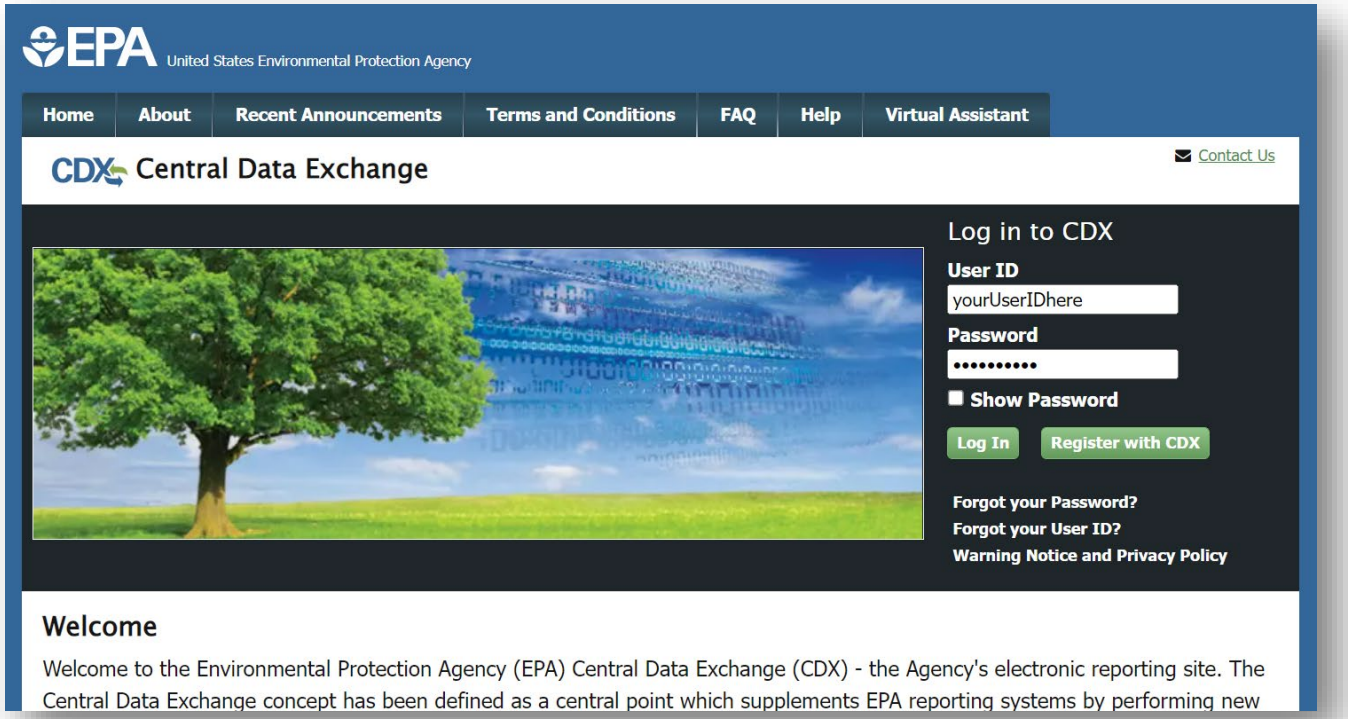
WCIT, due to the compilation of all the data within it, is considered sensitive.

Access is limited to:

- Drinking water and wastewater utilities
- State primacy agencies and their subsidiaries
- Laboratories
- Public health officials
- State and federal emergency responders
- Water associations

Logistics – Obtaining Access to WCIT

- ❑ Go to WCIT Webpage – Get Data/Tool
- ❑ Register at cdx.epa.gov
- ❑ For detail instructions go here



Instructions for WCIT Exercises

1. Gain access to WCIT
2. There isn't always one correct answer
3. Apply your own knowledge and experiences
4. Search for information in the database

Submit your answers using the Contact WCIT link in the database or email them to WCIT@epa.gov!

Source: Raconteur

Exercise #1

A tanker truck capsizes near the lake that supplies your drinking water system. You learn that it was transporting No. 2 fuel oil.

Using WCIT, create a briefing for system managers that summarizes:

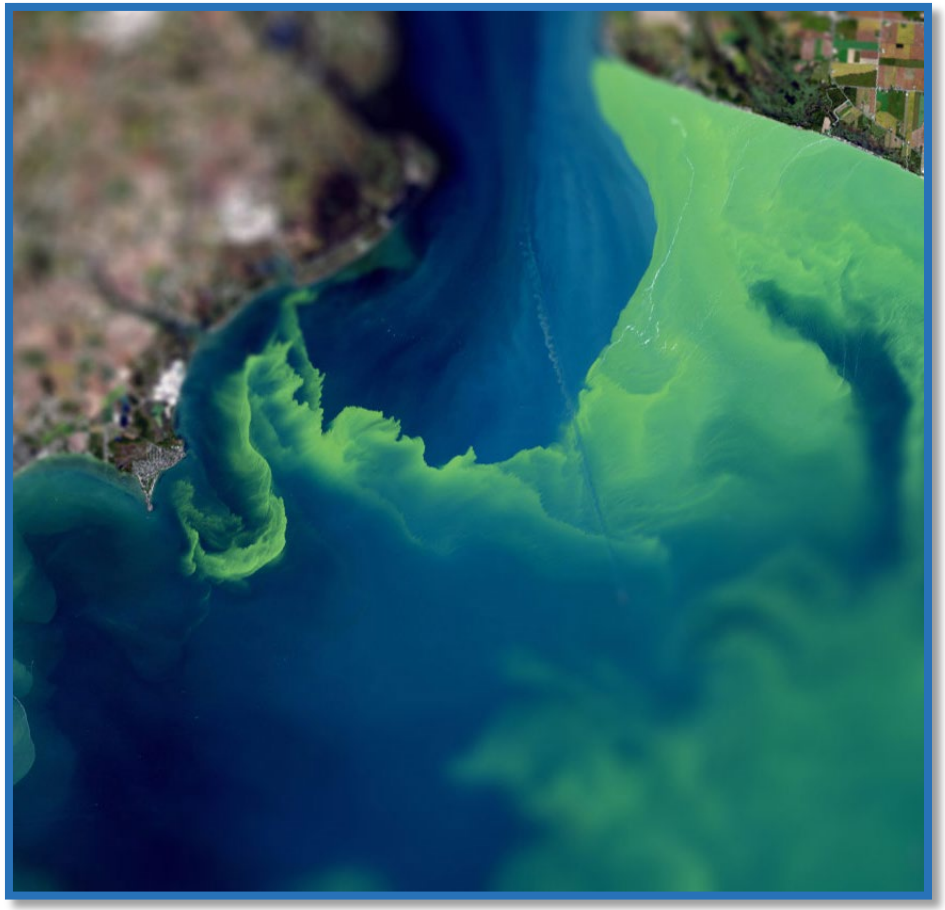
- ✓ Risks posed to the water treatment plant and to customers.
- ✓ Options for monitoring and treating the contamination.
- ✓ Options for decontamination.

Source: The Oregonian

Exercise #2

As the manager of a PWS that relies on a lake as the source of your water, you learn that a potentially Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) has been observed in the lake. You are concerned about the possible presence of the biotoxin cylindrospermopsin.

1. What USEPA-developed analytical methods are available for the analysis of cylindrospermopsin?
2. Are these methods applicable to source water, finished drinking water, or both?
3. Can a laboratory obtain results within a day of initiating the analysis using these methods?

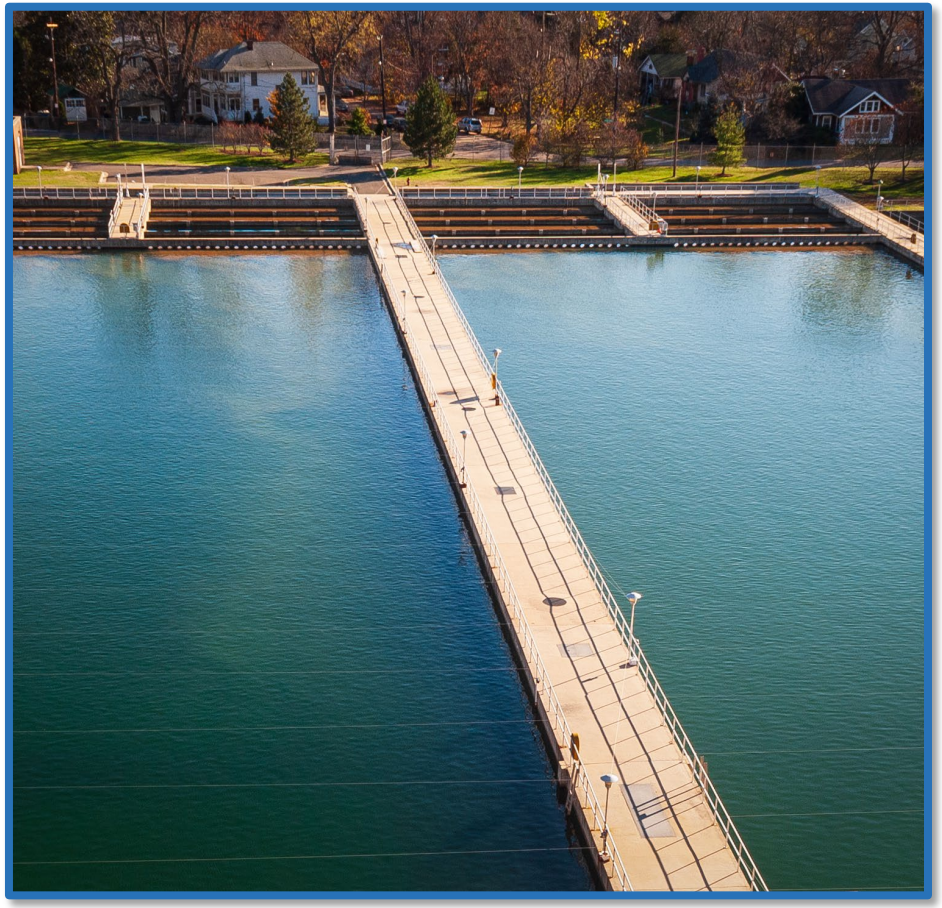


Source: NOAA

Exercise #3

You find out that a 2-gallon container of Dicroto-Pest, an insecticide, has accidentally spilled into a reservoir holding 800,000 gallons of drinking water. There are 5 lbs of the active ingredient, dicrotophos, in every gallon of Dicroto-Pest.

Will dilution in the reservoir bring the concentration of dicrotophos to safe levels?



Source: US EPA

Exercise #4

Your team has collected water samples throughout your water system to identify the extent of dicrotophos contamination. However, you do not have the lab capacity to test these samples.

Using WCIT, where can you identify a lab that can process your samples?

Source: Cumming Utilities

Main Takeaways

WCIT includes valuable information that can support each phase of an incident response.

- Initial response and site characterization
  - Gather information about the contaminant and identify analytical methods for screening and confirmatory analysis.
- Cleanup
  - Identify options for water treatment and infrastructure decontamination

Action Items

- ❑ Obtain access to WCIT
- ❑ Familiarize yourself with the database
- ❑ Attend an Advanced User webinar event
- ❑ Integrate WCIT as a tool in your emergency planning and response
- ❑ Keep up to date with the WCIT community by reading the biannual newsletter

Thanks for your time!

Live training opportunities:

Training Center Website

Contact Us:

WCIT@epa.gov