



# THE 6 PRINCIPLES OF DRINKING WATER SAFETY

## PRINCIPLE 1: A HIGH STANDARD OF CARE

All those involved in supplying drinking water, from operators to elected decision-makers, must embrace a high standard of care. Consequences of failure can cause sickness, injury and death - as in medicine and aviation - so similar diligence and competence should apply as in these fields.

## PRINCIPLE 2: PROTECT SOURCE WATER

As the first and most significant barrier against contamination, it is vital to understand and manage the risks to source water.

## PRINCIPLE 3: MULTIPLE BARRIERS

Because no single barrier is effective against all sources of contamination at all times, multiple barriers must be working to protect the water from "catchment to tap".

## PRINCIPLE 4: WATCH FOR CHANGE

Contamination is almost always preceded by some kind of change and change must never be ignored. Baseline conditions must be known so a change of any kind can be monitored and responded to. Changes can be environmental (rainfall, etc), equipment, governance, operational (flow rates, etc), or organisational.

## PRINCIPLE 5: PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

Knowledgeable, experienced, committed and responsive personnel provide the best assurance of safe drinking water. There must be commitment from the highest level of the organisation with responsibility for drinking water.

## PRINCIPLE 6: PREVENTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT

The focus must always be on preventing contamination, not detecting and responding to contaminated water. A systematic assessment of risks from the catchment to tap, and identifying the ways these risks can be managed and monitored is the the best approach to protecting against waterborne illness.

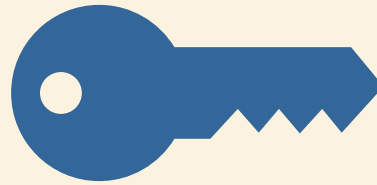


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**High  
Standard of Care**



**Protect the  
Source Water**



**Multiple Barriers**



**Watch  
for Change**



**Personal  
Ownership**



**Preventive Risk  
Management**

