

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910969500603321
Titolo	Drinking water distribution systems : assessing and reducing risks // Committee on Public Water Supply Distribution Systems: Assessing and Reducing Risks, Water Science and Technology Board, Division on Earth and Life Studies, National Research Council of the National Academies
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academies Press, c2006
ISBN	9786610742516 9780309133951 0309133955 9781280742514 1280742518 9780309664325 0309664322
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (404 p.)
Disciplina	363.610973
Soggetti	Drinking water - Standards - United States Water quality management - United States Water - Purification - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	""Front matter""; ""Preface""; ""Contents""; ""Summary""; ""1 Introduction""; ""2 Regulations, Non-regulatory Approaches, ""; ""3 Public Health Risk from Distribution System""; ""4 Physical Integrity""; ""5 Hydraulic Integrity""; ""6 Water Quality Integrity""; ""7 Integrating Approaches to Reducing Risk from Distribution Systems""; ""8 Alternatives for Premise Plumbing""; ""Acronyms""; ""Appendix A""; ""Appendix B Committee Biographical Information""
Sommario/riassunto	Protecting and maintaining water distributions systems is crucial to ensuring high quality drinking water. Distribution systems -- consisting of pipes, pumps, valves, storage tanks, reservoirs, meters, fittings, and other hydraulic appurtenances -- carry drinking water from a centralized treatment plant or well supplies to consumers (TM)

taps. Spanning almost 1 million miles in the United States, distribution systems represent the vast majority of physical infrastructure for water supplies, and thus constitute the primary management challenge from both an operational and public health standpoint. Recent data on waterborne disease outbreaks suggest that distribution systems remain a source of contamination that has yet to be fully addressed. This report evaluates approaches for risk characterization and recent data, and it identifies a variety of strategies that could be considered to reduce the risks posed by water-quality deteriorating events in distribution systems. Particular attention is given to backflow events via cross connections, the potential for contamination of the distribution system during construction and repair activities, maintenance of storage facilities, and the role of premise plumbing in public health risk. The report also identifies advances in detection, monitoring and modeling, analytical methods, and research and development opportunities that will enable the water supply industry to further reduce risks associated with drinking water distribution systems.

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