

2021 Safety Benchmarking: National Association of Water Companies Releases Report



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

04/16/2021

The National Association of Water Companies (“NAWC”) released in April a document titled:

2021 Safety Benchmarking Report (“Report”)

The *Report* is described as being focused on the activities being undertaken by regulated water systems addressing worker safety and water security.

A survey was circulated to NAWC members addressing topics such as:

- Health
- Safety
- Security Programs
- 2020 Accident Incident Rates

The survey was conducted from February to March of 2021 utilizing 2020 data.

A snapshot of results provided in the Executive Summary indicated the following results:

- 90.9% of respondents stated they have a specific health and safety policy already in place (95.7% noted that they have a health and safety program)
- 91.3% of respondents have a policy defining employees’ accountability for workplace safety
- Approximately two-thirds of respondents have an internal health and safety audit inspection program (a similar percentage are stated to conduct external safety audits)
- The majority of respondents communicate safety messages through routinely scheduled safety meetings
- Three-quarters of respondents use tailgate-type talks
- Three-quarters of respondents use email messaging
- 91.3% of respondents have a cybersecurity program/plan in place
- 81.8% of respondents have implemented elements of the NIST cybersecurity framework
- The DART Incidence Rate average for operations reported in 2020 was 1.4 (lower than the government rate of 1.6)
- The Recordable Incidence Rate average was 2.2 for all operations (lower than the government rate of 3.0 for 2020)
- The Lost Time Incidence Rate average reported by respondents was 0.6 (lower than the government rate of 0.9)

NAWC describes its members as including ownership of state-regulated drinking water and wastewater utilities and many forms of public-private partnerships.

A copy of the *Report* can be downloaded [here](#).