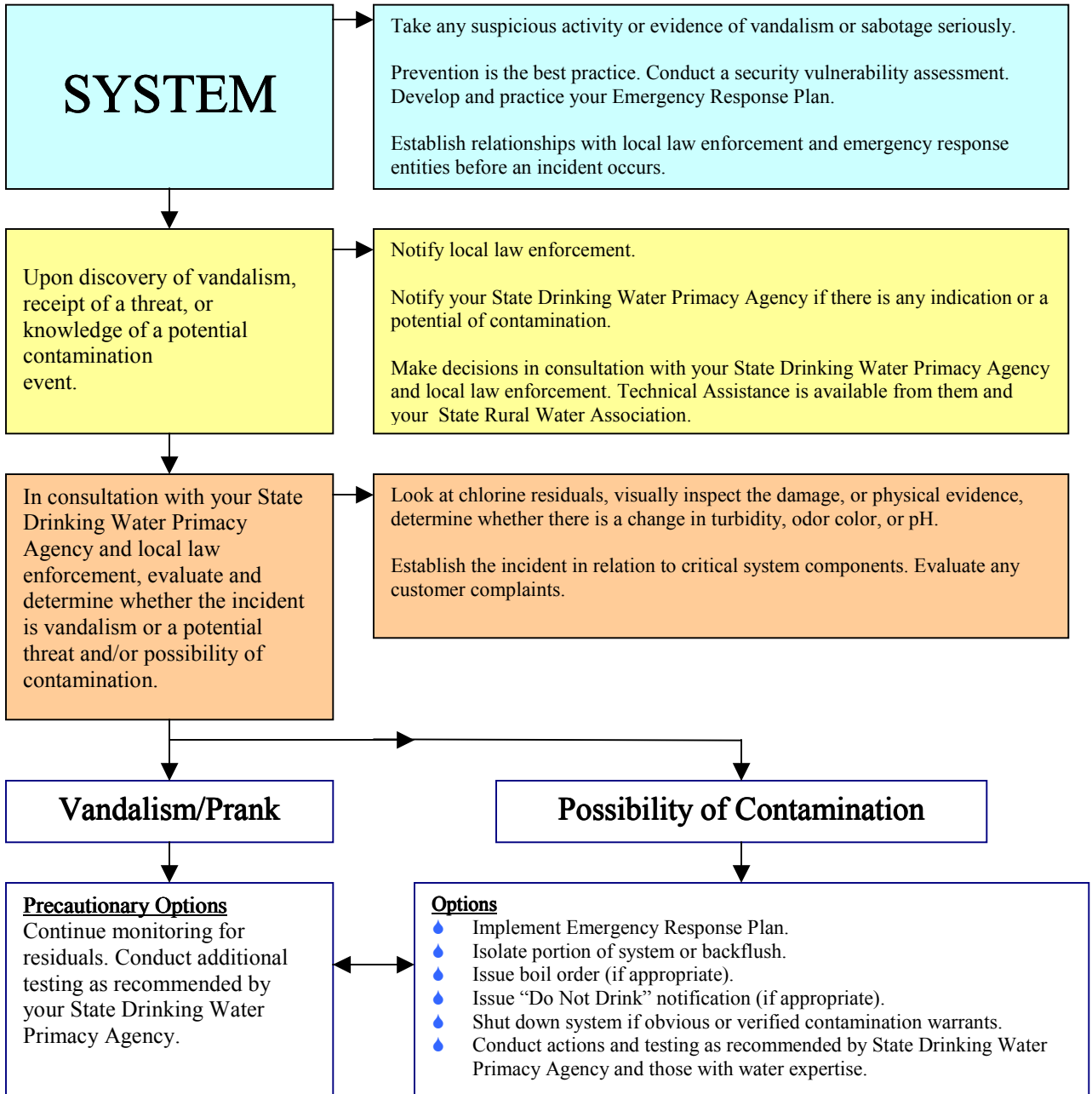




A Utility Guide For Security Decision Making

These guidelines are designed to assist utilities in determining the level of security concern if a break-in or threat occurs at the water system and to assist the utility in appropriate decision making and response actions. These various steps and actions can be adjusted to meet the needs of specific situations and to comply with individual state requirements. **Specific actions should be undertaken in consultation with your State Drinking Water Primacy Agency.** Technical assistance is available from your state drinking water primacy agency and state rural water association for prevention initiatives such as vulnerability assessments, emergency response planning, and security enhancements.



- Do not disturb evidence and document what you see. Keep notes and take photos as you go.
- Collect samples for future analysis and store them appropriately.
- Alert other officials as appropriate and keep the public informed (designate one spokesperson).
- Use the expertise in public drinking water supplies and public health in the decision making process.
- Preventative measures are the best practice to prevent such an incident.
- Prior communication with the local law enforcement authorities and local emergency response entities prevents confusion and defines who has responsibility for what, when an incident occurs.