

### Is This Water Safe to Drink? Is This Food Safe to Eat?

Environmental health practitioners have many occasions to speak with the public about concerns regarding clean water, safe food, and a healthy environment. These occasions could happen during an unexpected event or disaster—a chemical spill in the local water supply, a foodborne illness outbreak, or a hurricane with power outages. Or, it could happen in the course of a normal workday, like during a routine inspection.

Our ability to explain a situation and the risk someone is facing clearly, succinctly, and with empathy can make the difference of whether or not they are able to make the best choices for themselves and their family. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has communications resources and trainings (Figure 1) that can help environ-

mental health practitioners with these sometimes tricky conversations:

- CDC's Drinking Water Advisory Communication Toolbox provides tools and templates to help plan for, develop, implement, and evaluate communication activi-

