

WARN Overview: Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network

Utilities Helping Utilities

IACC
Conference
Wenatchee
October 23, 2019

David Brown
Statewide Chair
WAWARN

Objectives

- 💧 What is a WARN? Why is WARN needed?
- 💧 How do WARN's work?
- 💧 Benefits of a WARN
- 💧 How do WARN's fit within Emergency Response and Recovery?
- 💧 How did WARNs get started?
- 💧 Getting Involved Locally

What Is a WARN?

- 💧 Network of utilities helping utilities
 - 💧 Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)
 - 💧 Not a corporation or a governmental unit
 - 💧 Both public and private utilities
- 💧 For emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities
- 💧 United by a common enemy -
 - 💧 Natural disasters
 - 💧 Human-caused disaster
- 💧 **No cost to join - - - No obligation to respond!**

WARNs in Action

WARNs in Action

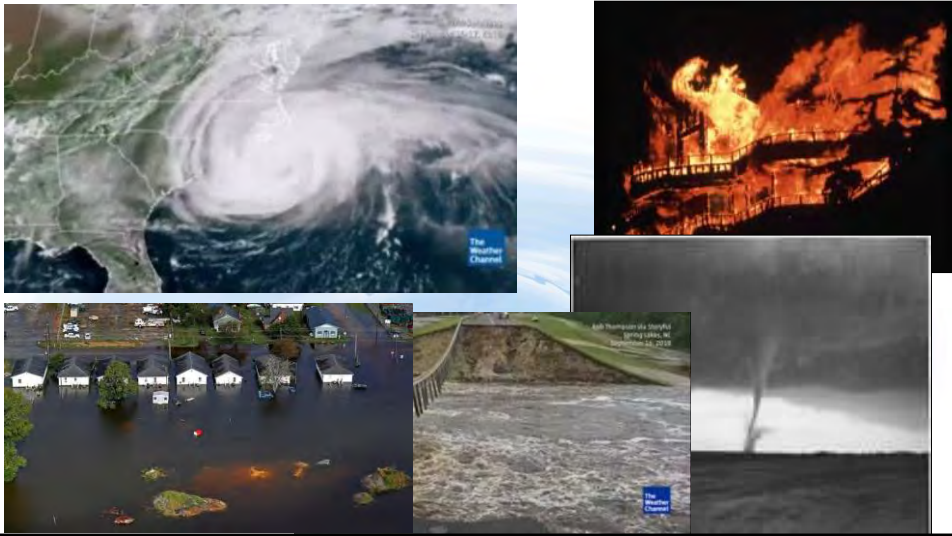


www.epa.gov/mutualaid

What Is a WARN?

- 💧 Utilities organized within a state
 - 💧 By agreement - Intrastate mutual aid agreement
 - 💧 Provides utility-to-utility sharing of resources: personnel, equipment, etc.
- 💧 May be activated with or without any type of disaster declaration
- 💧 Pre-established agreement. Once signed, ready anytime.
- 💧 Meets FEMA requirements for mutual aid
- 💧 Complies with NIMS (National Incident Management System) requirements

Because “stuff” happens utilities will need HELP!



Significant Disasters in the US

- December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor
- April 19, 1995 Oklahoma City
- September 11, 2001 World Trade Center
- August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina
- November 2013 Super Storm Sandy
- September 2018 Hurricane Florence

Regional Disasters 2006-2014

- Washington 44 declared disasters
 - Severe winter storm, flooding, landslides, record snow, fire, tidal surge
- Oregon 22 declared disasters
 - Severe winter storm, flooding, landslides, tsunami wave damage, fire
- Idaho 11 declared disasters
 - Flooding, landslides, fire, severe winter storm

New Orleans 2005 after Katrina



500 utility vehicles
destroyed by flooding – No
way to do repairs

1000's of pipe breaks
and other severe
utility damage



Why WARN?

Lessons learned from Katrina

- 💧 Utilities are on their own until federal and state resources are mobilized (days to weeks)
 - 💧 FEMA is muscular, but not very agile
- 💧 Utility operations are specialized
 - 💧 Industry skill sets and certifications are only available in other utilities – FEMA and Army don't have
- 💧 Water restoration provides hope

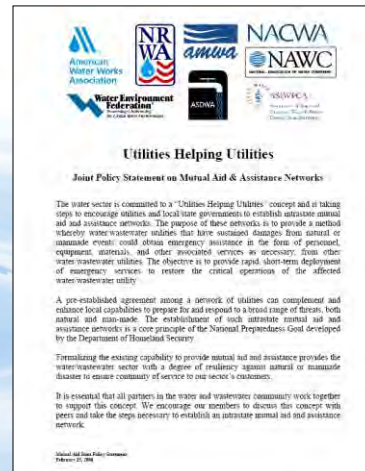
Why WARN?

Lessons learned from Katrina

- 💧 Utilities need pre-disaster preparations
 - 💧 Emergency Response Plan
 - 💧 Staff trained in ICS/NIMS
 - 💧 Establish emergency contacts
 - 💧 Exercises to practice roles and scenarios
 - 💧 Business and operational continuity plan
 - 💧 Mutual Aid Agreements (MAA)

Water Sector Initiative: WARN Policy

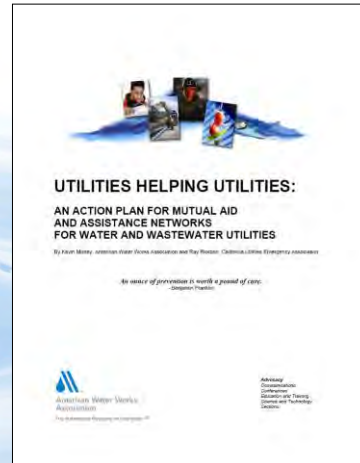
- 💧 Joint policy statement, Feb 2006
 - 💧 8 major water organizations
 - 💧 Encourages the creation of intrastate mutual aid & assistance networks
 - 💧 Provides for greater water sector resiliency against natural or manmade incidents



Water Sector Initiatives: WARN Action Plan

💧 Utilities Helping Utilities, March 2006

- 💧 Outlines 10 key steps in the formation of a WARN
- 💧 Includes sample agreement that satisfies NIMS and has been recognized by DHS NIMS Integration Center as a model agreement



National Preparedness Goal

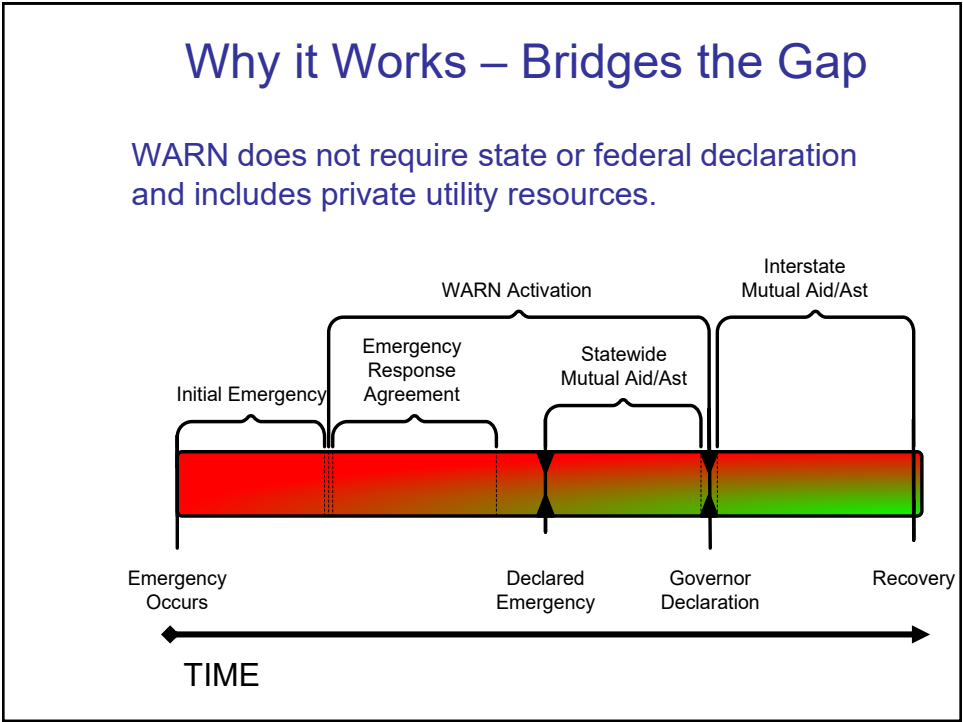
- 💧 Purpose is to help entities at all levels of government develop and maintain the capabilities to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events or incidents of national significance.
- 💧 Key Priority: Expand regional collaboration through mutual aid agreements and assistance compacts

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- Full compliance with NIMS is an eligibility condition for all federal preparedness assistance grants for state, territorial, tribal, & local entities.
 - These criteria include formalizing mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities and states for the purposes of sharing equipment, personnel, and facilities during emergencies.

Who's Involved?

- Utility owner/operators
- Professional association representation
 - (AWWA, NRWA, WEF, sanitation association, etc.)
- State water and wastewater primacy agencies
 - (State health, environmental protection, etc.)
- State emergency management and/or homeland security agency
 - (State EMAC coordinator)
- County EOCs – coordination of response with fire, police, etc.
- US EPA region representation



Benefits of Having a WARN Agreement

- 💧 Increases planning & coordination
- 💧 Provides an emergency contact list & communication tool
- 💧 Enhances access to specialized resources
- 💧 Expedites arrival of aid
 - 💧 Again: FEMA is muscular and provides support, but is not agile
- 💧 Reduces administrative conflict
 - 💧 Signed agreement in place
 - 💧 Workman's comp, indemnification, etc. identified
- 💧 Increases community and customer hope
 - 💧 The right resources with the right skills are available

Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA)

- Links all statewide utilities together
- Addresses member indemnification, workers comp, insurance and reimbursement
- Deploy only resources you have available – never obligated to respond
- Member systems may recall resources as necessary
- Meets federal reimbursement requirements

Myths about Mutual Aid Agreements

- The process is long and complicated
- The type of aid is limited to heavy equipment
- All mutual aid agreements require the State to declare an emergency before aid may be arranged
- Your utility is obligated to provide resources (i.e. equipment, personnel and supplies) to others that request assistance

How to Activate WARN

- Utility identifies the needed resources
- Utility contacts other WARN members for assistance
 - Via Web page or just call
- There is no obligation to respond
 - Deployed resources can be recalled at any time for any reason
- Requesting utility may reimburse the responder at FEMA rates

How to Activate WARN

Active Notices

You may choose to opt out of email notices for 10 days. After 10 days, you will begin receiving notices again.

Status: You are currently receiving notices. [Opt Out Now](#)

[+ Add a New Request](#)

Display: ☒ Active Notices ☐ Closed Notices ☐ All Notices

How to Activate WARN

Emergency Assistance Notice

* = required field

Type of Message*

Emergency Assistance Requ...☐

Title*

Brief description of need, e.g. *Your Utility needs generators*

WAWARN Region*

All☐

Message*

More details about this notice, e.g. *Four lift stations without power, need 4 50kw generators.*

Enter Notice

Clear Form

How to Activate WARN

Emergency Assistance Notice

[Respond to this notice](#)

Valves Needed - Skagit County PUD 1 (Skagit County, Region 3)
Posted by Kurt Van Buren, P.O. on Apr 09 2015, 11:54 AM

Looking for valves as follows: 36-inch Diameter Gate Valves Valve to be flange x flange with 250 psi flanges and Class 125 drilling, conforming to AWWA C515 or C509, ductile iron body only. Valve to be mounted on its side with gear actuator. 36-inch Diameter Butterfly Valves Valve to be flange x flange with 250 psi flanges and Class 125 drilling, conforming to AWWA C504. 24-inch Diameter Butterfly Valves Valve to be flange x flange with 250 si flanges and Class 125 drilling, conforming to AWWA C504.

Responding to a Request

- Any responding-member should contact the requesting-member as soon as possible to confirm needs
- Responding-member should contact the requesting member with:

Responding to a Request

- Details of capabilities of available resource
- Time-frame for delivery
- Personnel and staffing
- Any support needs for resource
 - Food & Housing for crews
 - Fuel
 - Maintenance and operating supplies
 - Repair and mechanical repair
 - Delivery vehicles or method
- Time window of availability (by when must it be returned)
- Costs

Responding to a Request

- 💧 Requesting-member may have multiple offers, they must evaluate based upon their needs
- 💧 Upon choosing the most appropriate resource, the requesting-member contacts the chosen responding-member and confirms
- 💧 They should come to a written agreement (if time allows); or verbal agreement, to be followed up in writing as soon as possible
- 💧 Notify other responding-members...

This is a brief description of the process derived from the MAA and Operational Plan.

Next Steps on National Scale

- 💧 Learn from success/challenges of existing programs
- 💧 Develop interstate aid networks
 - 💧 Tri-state WARN is in progress
- 💧 International WARN agreements (i.e. Canada)
- 💧 WARN representatives at state and federal EOC
- 💧 Develop a national aid network
 - 💧 Incorporation of WARNs into a national preparedness system
 - 💧 Facilitate development of resource typing for the Water Sector (both drinking water and wastewater)
 - 💧 AWWA is working with Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Advisory Council to facilitate interstate aid and assistance

Video Resources

<https://youtu.be/SFE0pcBOILl>

https://youtu.be/fa-d_2dNPCc

<https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/mutual-aid-and-assistance-drinking-water-and-wastewater-utilities>

The Bottom Line - Resiliency

- 💧 All emergencies are local and require a local response capability.
- 💧 A signed mutual aid agreement will enhance local utility's preparedness and overall resiliency against any disaster.
- 💧 In its most basic form, a mutual aid and assistance agreement is a low or no-cost action that helps ensure the continuity of operations of the water infrastructure vital to the well-being of every community.



WAWARN PARTICIPATION

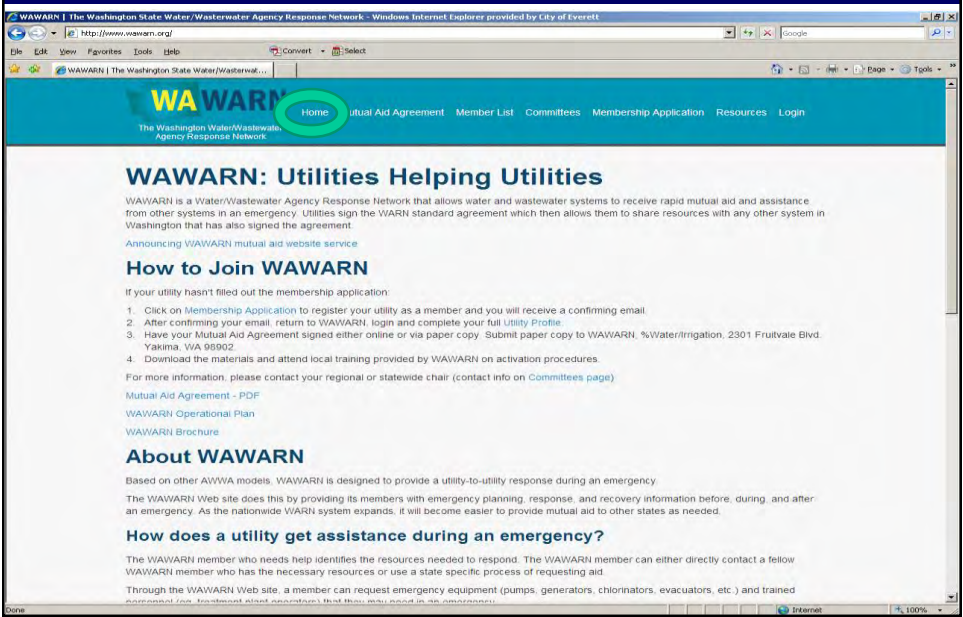


www.wawarn.org

 142 members

 Covers Over 300 systems

WAWARN PARTICIPATION



WAWARN PARTICIPATION

WAWARN | The Washington State Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network - Windows Internet Explorer provided by City of Everett

WAWARN

The Washington Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Home Mutual Aid AgreementMember ListCommitteesMembership ApplicationsResourcesLogin

Member Utilities

All WawARN member utilities, including utilities who have applied for membership but have not signed the MAA.

Utility Name	County	Region
Cedar River Water & Sewer District	King	Northwest
Chelan Co PUD #1	Chelan	Central
City of Bellevue Utilities Department	King	Northwest
City of College Place	Walla Walla	Eastern
City of Mercer Island	King	Northwest
City of Newport	Pend Oreille	Eastern
City of Riverside	Okanogan	Central
City of Yakima	Yakima	Central
City of Yakima	Yakima	Central
Clark Regional Wastewater District	Clark	Southwest
Coal Creek Utility District	King	Northwest
Covington Water District	King	Northwest
Cross Valley Water District	Snohomish	Northwest
East Wenatchee Water District	Douglas	Central
Everett Public Works	Snohomish	Northwest
Firgrove Mutual Water Company	Pierce	Northwest

WAWARN PARTICIPATION

WAWARN

The Washington Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Home Mutual Aid AgreementMember ListCommitteesMembership ApplicationResourcesLogin

Resources, Links and News

AWWA Resources

- AWWA Resource Typing Manual
- AWWA Economic Benefits of WAWN
- Water and Wastewater Agencies Response Network - AWWA
- Water and Wastewater Agency Response Networks - "Utilities Helping Utilities"
- How to Access WAWN

EPA Resources

Water Health and Economic Analysis Tool (WHEAT)

FEMA Resources

The information and templates below are provided as a suggested standard for WAWARN members to use to facilitate reimbursement

- FEMA Public Assistance Program Information (2MB PDF)
- FEMA Disaster Log templates (16KB Excel)
- FEMA Equipment Reimbursement Rates (69KB Excel)
- FEMA Suspicious Activity Guide (PDF)
- Public Assistance Alternative Procedures

Links


- WAWARN Operational Plan
- FEMA Emergency Management Institute
- DHS National Response Framework

Incident Command System Training for Utilities

- <http://www.horsleywitten.com/ICStraining/>

FEMA Independent Study Program Courses:

Join WAWARN



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Membership Applications

Utility Membership Application

Become a member of the WAWARN network. Registration allows you to receive the latest information from WAWARN, it is not a legal commitment to provide services to other utilities.

After you have filled out this application, you will receive an email which you need to verify your address by clicking on the link provided in the email. The WAWARN administrator will then "approve" your membership application and you will be sent an email to remind you to continue and fill out your entire utility profile and complete the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Apply Now!

Associate Membership Application

Become a member of the WAWARN network, help to support emergency preparedness for you members. Registration allows you to receive the latest information from WAWARN, it is not a legal commitment to provide services to other utilities.

After you have filled out this application, you will receive an email which you need to verify your address by clicking on the link provided in the email.

Apply Now!

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WA

WARN

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Home

Mutual Aid Agreement

Member List

Committees

Membership Applications

Resources

Login

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** = required field*

Utility Profile

Utility Name*

Utility Type*

Please Select

Public Water System Number

Wastewater Permit Number

Washington Region/District*

Please Select

Click here to find your district

Water Connections

Population Served

WAWARN PARTICIPATION

WA

WARN

David Brown

City of Yakima


Acting Director of Public Works

509-575-6204

David.brown@yakimawa.gov

19

WAWARN PARTICIPATION



💧 Ned Worcester

💧 Seattle Public Utilities

💧 SPU Emergency Management

206-233-2000

Ned.Worcester@Seattle.Gov

