How the WARN Program Facilitates Rapid Response and Recovery of Water Systems
Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)

- WARN Agreement
  - Voluntary
  - No Obligation
  - No cost
  - Liability/Workmans Comp
  - Reimbursement process
  - Element of NIMS
  - All-Hazards

www.NationalWARN.org
May 2007 (6)
Rule one: Never work without a net. Rule two: Be sure to specify the type of net.
Resource Typing Manual

- 24 standardized resource teams per FEMA Guidance
- Cost development spreadsheet
- Mutual Aid Accommodations Checklist
Why it Works – Bridges the Gap

WARN does not require state or federal declaration and includes private utility resources.
EMAC & WARN

- Resource Typing
- Operations Plan
- Exercises

State EOC

Partners

Utilities Assoc.

WARN MAA

Partners

Utilities Assoc.
Successful Uses of WARN

- **CalWARN**
  - Northridge Earthquake, 1994
  - El Nino Storms, 1998
  - Sonora Fires, 2001
  - Southern California Fires, 2007
  - Baja Earthquake, 2010

- **FlaWARN**
  - Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita, 2005
  - Tornadoes, 2007

- **OrWARN**
  - Detroit, Blizzard 2008

- **TxWARN**
  - Rain Storms and Hurricane Humberto, 2007
  - Hurricane Dolly and Ike, 2008

- **CoWARN**
  - Salmonella outbreak, 2008

- **TNWARN, INWARN, KYWARN**
  - Ice Storm February 2009

- **IAWARN, MNWARN**
  - Floods 2010, 2011

- **ALWARN**
  - Tornado, April 2011

- **NCWaterWARN, PAWARN**
  - Hurricane Irene, 2011

- **NYWARN, NJWARN, PAWARN, MAWARN**
  - Hurricane Sandy, 2012
WARN & Hurricane Sandy

- NYWARN
  - Chlorination equipment
  - Chainsaw crews
  - Motor dryer
  - Generators

- NJWARN
  - EMAC deployments
  - Generators

- PAWARN
  - Generators

- MAWARN
  - Generators

Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team
How Valuable is Participation?

Benefits from reduced revenue loss: High

The value of public confidence in the utility providing service: Priceless

Average cost of participating in WARN: Low

Bottom Line:
You can’t afford not to participate or be a partner!
?? Questions ??

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EPA’s Support for WARN and Other Water Sector Preparedness Resources
Presentation Overview

WARN
- Tabletop Exercises
- Operational Plan Guidance
- WARN Videos

Coordination between Water Utilities and Emergency Management Agencies

FedFUNDS
WARN Work Products: The Big Picture

**WARN Agreement**
- Integrates/Activates
- Follow
- Respond
- Practice
- Evaluate
- Response
- Improve/Update

**Mutual Aid/Ast Operational Plan**
- Training
- Resource Typing
- Job Aids*
- After Action Report

*Job aids include forms, checklists and other support tools used during response.
• Discussion-based exercises that bring WARN members together to address key issues and foster relationships between WARN members and other emergency responders

• Participants
  – WARN Utility owners and operators
  – Non-WARN Utility owners and operators
  – Associations
  – Emergency management
  – Local, State, and Federal Government
EPA Supported WARN TTXs

• Objectives
  – To improve the readiness of WARN programs
  – To develop and update Operational Plans
  – To integrate WARN into State Emergency Management Agencies
  – To market to non-WARN utilities including small drinking water and wastewater utilities
WARN Operational Plan

- How to activate and implement the MAA

- The Operational Plan is the operational extension of the WARN agreement

- It is based on the NIMS IS 706 course materials and recommended procedures
Operational Plan Overview

- Concept of Emergency Operations
- WARN Activation
- WARN Member Mobilization
- WARN Coordination
- WARN Documentation
- After Action Report and Improvement Plan
- Supporting Documents, Checklists, and Forms

“Reader Notes” boxes provide hints and suggestions to assist in creating a MAAOP
Video 1
- Educate and promote the WARN program to the water sector

Video 2
- Promote benefits of conducting WARN TTXs

Videos 3 & 4 (Under Development)
- Highlight WARN responses
- Coordination of WARN with Emergency Management Agencies
Coordination of the Water and Emergency Services Sectors

Fact Sheet Overview

• How Does Being Better Prepared Benefit Me?
• Why Are Local Emergency Management Agencies Important?
• What Should I Talk About with My EMA?
• What Benefits Have Other Utilities Realized by Establishing Relationships with their EMA, LEPC, or other First Responders?
• How Can I Build a Partnership with My Local EMA?
Checklist of Actions to Conduct with EMA

- Exchange emergency contact information
- Provide location information for critical assets
- Sign up for EMA notifications/alerts
- Participate in local credentialing efforts
- Integrate water into EOC
- Discuss and jointly plan for Alternative Water Supplies
- Ensure water is adequately addressed in EMA plans
- Check consistency of EMA and utility plans
- Provide a tour of facilities
- Participate in LEPC
Coordination Benefits

• Funding security improvements
• Funding training
• Locating resources
• Building relationships
• Helping their community
Disaster Funding And Emergency Recovery For Water/Wastewater Utilities
• Developed brochure targeted to water sector on FEMA’s Public Assistance Program

• Covers eligible work, eligible reimbursements, and FAQs
FedFUNDS

Federal Funding for Utilities – Water/Wastewater- in National Disasters (Fed FUNDS)

• Guides utilities to appropriate disaster funding opportunities
• Provides example funding applications from utilities that successfully received funds
• Provides funding mentors for advice and to answer questions
• Provides forms to document damage, costs, repairs if in a disaster
FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program

Click on the accordions to expand/collapse content about different topics presented below.

- FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program – What is it?
- Categories of Eligible Work
- Application Process, Forms, Checklist of Activities
- Identifying and Assessing Damage
- Planning for Repairs – Project Formulation
- Mitigation Funding
- Keys to Participating and Getting Funding Faster
Lessons Learned from Water/Wastewater Utilities that Participated in FEMA’s Public Assistance Grant Program

Many drinking water and wastewater utilities have received funding for repair and replacement work through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program. The PA Program provides grants to eligible applicants after Presidentially-declared disasters. In this brochure, water and wastewater utilities provide lessons learned from working with FEMA and participating in the PA Program.


DISCLAIMER: These lessons learned are provided to help water and wastewater utilities better understand use of the FEMA PA Program, but do not assure or guarantee any funding from FEMA.

Learn about the PA Program prior to a disaster so the process goes more smoothly – To help maximize your potential for reimbursement, learn about the PA process and key deadlines for applying for funds and reach out to state officials who administer the grant program with
– Dozens of successful utility applications for disaster and mitigation funding
  o Portland Water Bureau FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation for Conduit
  o Metro Water Services (Nashville), FEMA Public Assistance Project Worksheets and Mitigation Proposal from 2010 Flooding
  o East Valley Water District: FEMA Public Assistance Worksheets and Mitigation Applications for Flood Damage in 2010

– Training from FEMA and EPA on federal disaster funding

– Funding mentors including utilities and federal officials
Tabletop Exercise Tool for Water Systems: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Climate Resiliency

- Water Specific ICS and NIMS Training
- Water Laboratory Alliance
- Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)
- Water Health and Economic Analysis Tool (WHEAT)
The Bottom-line

- All emergencies are local and require a local response capability.
- A signed mutual aid agreement will enhance your utility’s preparedness and overall resiliency against any disaster.
- Low or no-cost action.
- Helps ensure the continuity of operations.
- Water infrastructure is vital to the wellbeing of every community.
http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/

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