



AWWA WEBCAST PROGRAM

**Utilities Helping Utilities: Developing a Mutual Aid
Response Network for Water and Wastewater
Systems**

March 29, 2007

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

This webcast is made possible by a grant from the USEPA

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Ask the Experts...



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E-mail your question with your first name, city and state, to online@awwa.org. Please specify to whom you are addressing the question.

Utilities Helping Utilities: An Action Plan for Mutual Aid and Assistance Networks for Water and Wastewater Utilities

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Objectives

- ◆ What is a WARN
- ◆ Why consider WARN
- ◆ Linkage to national homeland security strategy
- ◆ Supporting water sector Initiatives
- ◆ What is involved in creating a WARN
- ◆ Benefits of a WARN
- ◆ Next steps and status of WARN nationally

What Is A WARN?

- ◆ Network of utilities helping utilities
 - Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)
- ◆ United by a common enemy
 - Natural disasters
 - Human-caused disaster
 - Not a corporation or a governmental unit
- ◆ Utilities organized within a state
 - By agreement
 - To help each other with personnel and resources

So Why Consider WARN?



Because Things Will Happen!



And Utilities Will Need Help



and Recovering from



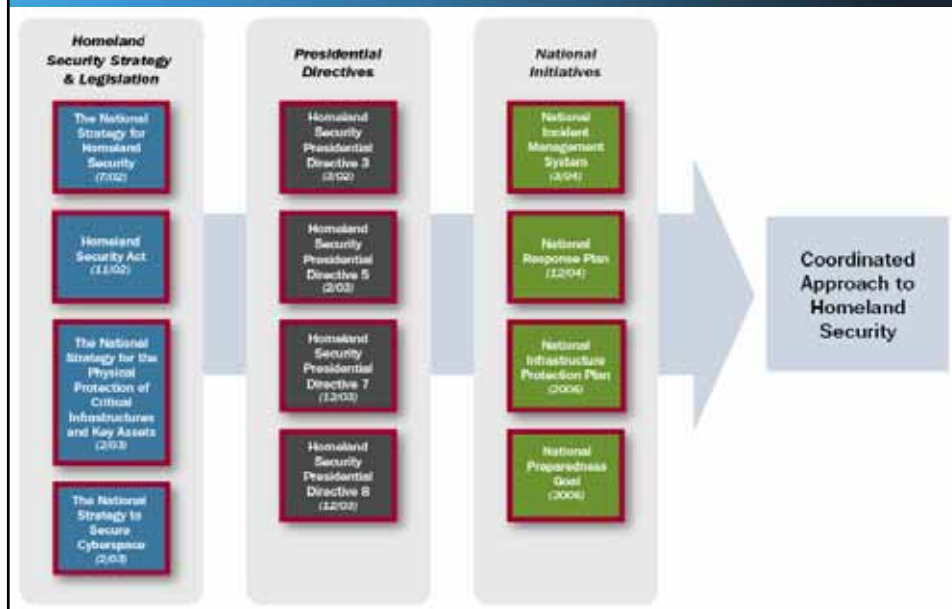
All Hazards



Why WARN?

- ♦ Past disaster response and lessons learned tell us:
 - Utility operations are specialized
 - Utilities must be self-sufficient
 - Utilities must fill the gap between disaster onset and arrival of other government aid
 - FEMA is muscular, but not very agile
 - Water restoration provides hope

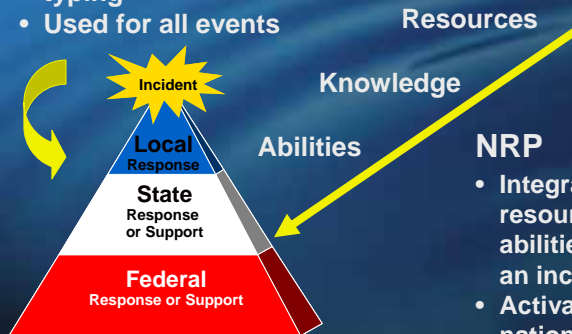
Linkage to the Federal Strategy



Relationship of NIMS & NRP

NIMS

- Aligns command, control, organization structure, terminology, communication protocols, and resources/resource-typing
- Used for all events



NRP

- Integrates & applies Federal resources, knowledge, and abilities before, during, and after an incident
- Activated only for incidents of national significance

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- ◆ Full compliance with NIMS is an eligibility condition for all federal preparedness assistance grants for state, territorial, tribal, and local entities in FY 2007.
 - These criteria include formalizing mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities and states for the purposes of sharing equipment, personnel, and facilities during emergencies.
- ◆ NIMS training available @ www.fema.gov/nims
 - This training is available free of charge online

The Nation Response Plan (NRP)

- ◆ The purpose of the NRP is to organize the Federal response and how it will engage state and local entities
- ◆ Emergency Support Function #3
 - USACE is lead with support from EPA
 - Prescribed mission assignments under development to improve response
- ◆ Final in December 2004, challenged by Katrina in August 2005, currently under revision
- ◆ All incident response begins at the local level

National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)

- ◆ NIPP released July 7, 2006
- ◆ Risk management framework uses an all-hazards approach
- ◆ Resiliency is a key overarching goal
- ◆ 17 CI/KR Sectors – Water & Wastewater
- ◆ Sector-Specific Plan
 - Under White House review



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

Water Sector Initiatives

- ◆ Joint policy statement
 - 8 major water organizations
 - Encourages the creation of intrastate mutual aid and assistance networks
 - Provides for greater water sector resiliency against natural or manmade incidents



Water Sector Initiatives

♦ Utilities Helping Utilities

- 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
- Example outreach materials



What's Involved – 10 Steps to Success

1. Identify interest in starting a program
2. Form an initial leadership team
3. Prepare a kick-off session
4. **Establish a steering committee**
5. Identify a mission for the program and steering committee goals
6. Review use of state regions
7. Identify mutual aid and assistance activation criteria
8. **Draft an agreement**
9. Create facilitation tools
10. Maintain the program

Who's Involved?

- ◆ Utility owner/operators
- ◆ Professional association representation
 - (AWWA, NRWA, WEF, sanitation association, etc.)
- ◆ State water and wastewater primacy agency
 - (State health, environmental protection, etc.)
- ◆ State emergency management and/or homeland security agency
 - (State EMAC coordinator)
- ◆ US EPA region representation

Benefits of Having an Agreement

- ◆ Increases planning & coordination
- ◆ Provides an emergency contact list
- ◆ Enhances access to specialized resources
- ◆ Expedites arrival of aid
 - 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

Examples of WARN in Action *

- ◆ Electrical components cleaned and replaced
- ◆ Control panels rebuilt
- ◆ Electrical motors replaced and rebuilt
- ◆ By-pass pumps installed
- ◆ Lift stations cleaned with vector jet trucks
- ◆ Water main leaks located and repaired
- ◆ Valves located and isolated
- ◆ Chlorination equipment rebuilt
- ◆ Portable standby generators connected
- ◆ Any other work that required bailing wire, rubber bands, duct tape, bubble gum or anything else lying around

* Excerpted from FlaWARN experiences during Katrina, Rita and Wilma (2006)

Next Steps on National Scale

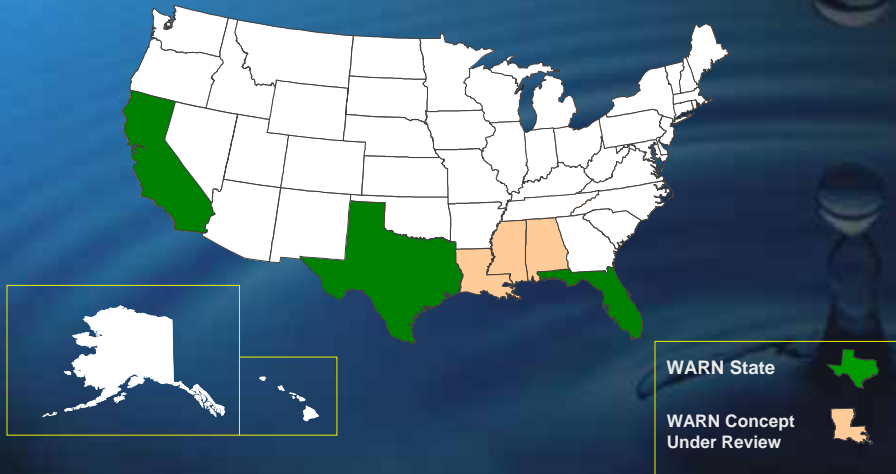
- ◆ Learn from success/challenges of existing programs
- ◆ Conduct state and regional workshops
 - Share key steps for organization, support, and management of a mutual aid network
- ◆ Increase number of intrastate aid networks
 - Initially targeted states on the Gulf and Atlantic seaboard
- ◆ Develop 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

Utilities Helping Utilities Workshop Series

- ◆ Since May 2006, 26 states & the District of Columbia have participated in seven workshops
 - May 11 - WA, OR, UT, NV, ID, AZ (Oakland)
 - July 6 - KY, TN, GA (Chattanooga)
 - Aug 6 - SC, NC (Charlotte)
 - Nov 1 – VA, MD, DE, PA, DC (Baltimore)
 - Dec 5 – AR, MO, IL, IN (St. Louis)
 - Feb 23 – AL, MS (Meridian)
 - Mar 15 – OH, MI, WV, NY, CT (Cleveland)
- ◆ 2007 – 4 additional workshops planned

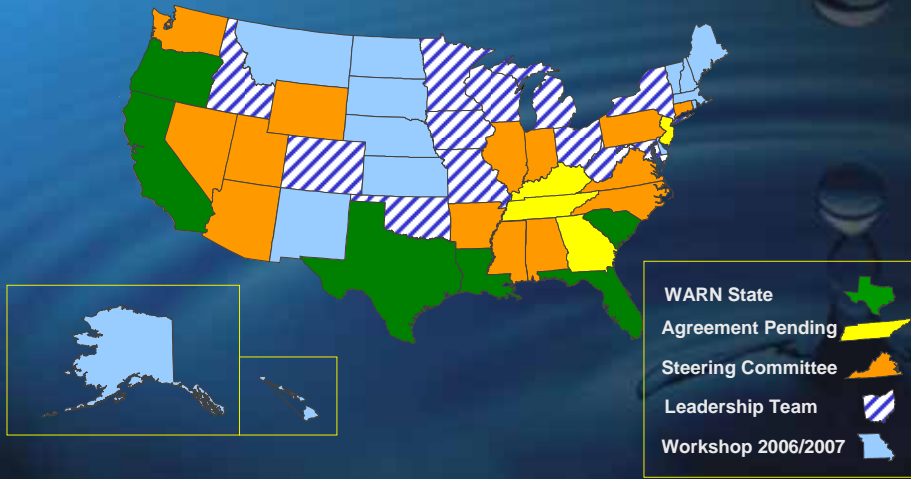
Status of WARN Nationally before Workshop Series

(March 2006)



Utilities Helping Utilities Workshop Series

(as of 3/22/07)



The Bottom Line – Resiliency

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.

