



**American Water Works  
Association**

## Utility Alert

6666 West Quincy Avenue  
Denver, CO 80235-3098  
T (303) 794-7711  
F (303) 795-1989  
www.awwa.org

The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

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## **UTILITY ALERT**

**TO:** AWWA Leadership  
All Utilities

**FROM:** Jack W. Hoffbuhr

**DATE:** March 6, 2007

<b>Who:</b>	<b>AWWA</b>
<b>What:</b>	<b>Free Webcast -“Utilities Helping Utilities: Developing a Mutual Aid Response Network for Water and Wastewater Systems”</b>
<b>When:</b>	<b>March 29, 2007, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Eastern</b>

AWWA will be holding a free webcast March 29 designed to help utilities understand the fundamentals and benefits of Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARNs).

Developing a state-wide mutual aid and assistance network, or a WARN, is a low-cost, highly effective, all-hazards approach to preparing your utility for a local, regional, state-wide, or national disaster. This webcast will provide water systems with:

- The fundamentals of WARN, including what it is and why it has recently become a “hot” topic;
- The benefits and importance of having a WARN,
- Testimony of the effectiveness of mutual aid networks from someone who has used them, and
- How WARN fits in with the various federal initiatives, how to move from intrastate to interstate mutual aid and how interstate mutual aid works, and the nexus of WARN with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The webcast expert panel will consist of:

- Kevin Morley, AWWA regulatory and security analyst, Washington, D.C.,
- Raymond Riordan, , emergency manager, City of San Ramon, CA, CalWARN chair,
- John Whitler, threat specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, Water Security Division.
- Patrick Credeur, Louisiana Rural Water Association, co-chair of LaWARN

Events such as 9/11, the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the 1997 Red River flood, and more recently Hurricanes Katrina and Rita underscored a need for water and wastewater utilities to create intrastate

mutual aid and assistance programs. Mutual aid is important to the water sector for many reasons:

- Utilities require specialized resources to sustain operations.
- Government response agencies and other critical infrastructure rely on water supplies, and utilities must provide their own support until state and federal resources are available.
- Large events impact regional areas can make response from nearby utilities impractical.
- Promoting mutual aid/assistance meets FY07 Department of Homeland Security requirements.

Safe drinking water is the lifeblood of any community. For your utility to lose service, even briefly, could significantly impact local fire departments, hospitals, and the local economy. Furthermore, without safe drinking water or the ability to flush wastewater, any community could face a public health crisis.

More information about the webcast and registration can be found at <http://www.awwa.org/education/webcasts/>, or via e-mail to [online@awwa.org](mailto:online@awwa.org) or phone at 1.800.926.7337.

The deadline to register online for this AWWA webcast is by 2 p.m. ET on Wednesday, March 28, 2007.

The deadline to register by phone through Customer Service is 11:30 a.m. ET, Thursday, March 29, 2007.

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