

# Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks “Utilities Helping Utilities”

## **Benefits**

- Intrastate WARNs are volunteer-based, utility-to-utility networks that prepare for disasters, then help member-utilities respond and recover by getting specialized utility resources — personnel and equipment — when and where they’re needed.
- In times of reduced budgets, revenue interruption can be limited by quickly locating specialized resources to reduce costs associated with restoration and returning service in the shortest time possible. WARNs provide a tool to access and share limited and specialized resources.
- Without water, wastewater and power services residents cannot reoccupy their residences due to public health laws. Early WARN pioneers understood the criticality of restoring water and wastewater service as part of local government disaster recovery. Without water, fire suppression was compromised. Without potable water and wastewater systems, hospitals could not heal.

## **Formal Agreement and Operational Plan**

- Memberships and involvement in WARNs are managed through a utility-based volunteer organization, formalized by a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement, and mobilization is governed by an Operational Plan. The agreement and plan provide for:
  - Inclusion of public and private utilities and associated resources.
  - Formalizing existing capabilities to provide mutual aid and assistance to enhance the water and wastewater sector resiliency against natural and human-made disaster to ensure continuity of service to our sectors customers.
  - Deployed resources remain under the authority of the sending utility and can be recalled at any time.
  - Indemnification and worker compensation to protect participating utilities.
  - Maintaining voluntary response. There is no obligation to respond.
  - Coordination with other agreements or statewide programs. The agreement does not supersede existing systems.
- WARN compliments existing state and local emergency management programs and works within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) structure. Interstate aid is facilitated by the nationally adopted Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in coordination with the National Response Framework.

## **Successes**

- The WARN program has earned multiple emergency management recognitions for innovation and practicality in managing small, local and large disaster conditions:
  - 2007, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Advisory Board Member, National Emergency Management Association
  - 2007, Partners in Preparedness Award, International Emergency Managers Association
  - 2006, Best Practice, National Incident Management System Integration Center
- WARN was used successfully in response to these recent events:
  - 2005 Hurricane Katrina (FlaWARN)
  - 2008 Detroit, Oregon Blizzard (ORWARN)
  - 2008 Waterborne *Salmonella* outbreak Alamosa, CO (CoWARN)
  - 2008 Hurricane Ike (TxWARN)
  - 2009 Ice Storm (ARWARN, TNWARN, KYWARN)

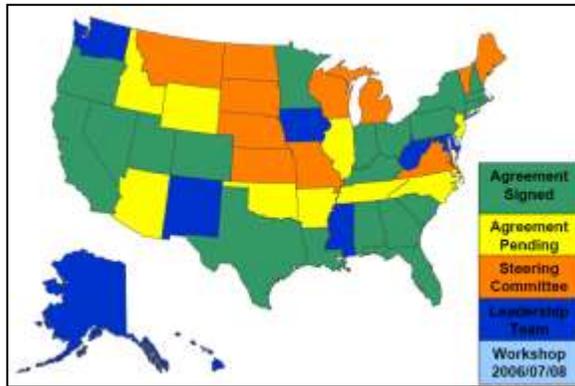
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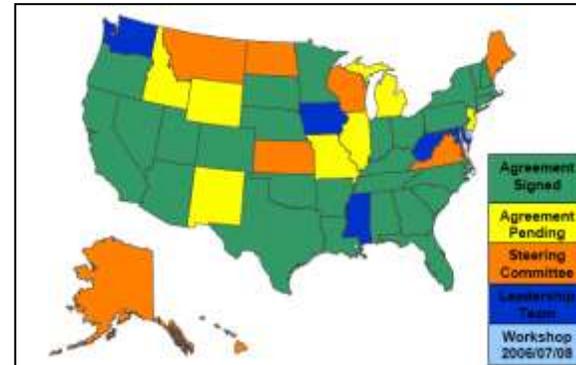
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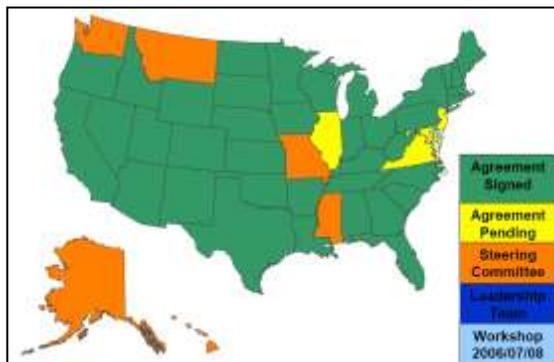
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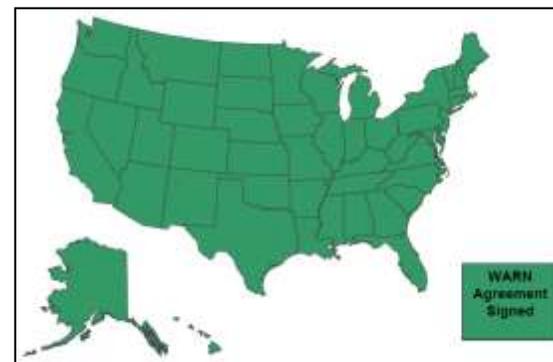
June 2008



April 2009



“The WARN Ultimatum”



www.NationalWARN.org