

Oh WARN BENEFITS

- Increased planning and coordination.
- Enhances access to specialized resources.
- A single agreement provides access to all member utilities statewide.
- Provides access to resources during an emergency without pre-contractual limitations or retainer fees.
- Expedites arrival of aid.



- Signatories have a pre-established relationship under which they are able to share resources during an emergency at the discretion of each participating agency.
- Is consistent with National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Provides a list of emergency contacts and phone numbers.
- Reduces administrative conflict.
- Agreement contains indemnification and workers' compensation provisions to protect participating utilities, and provides for reimbursement of costs, as needed.
- Avoid federal bureaucracy.

SUPPORT

Eight national associations met and agreed to support a WARN program in every state in the nation.

The Joint Policy Statement of Mutual Aid and Assistance Networks included:

- National Rural Water Association
- American Water Works Association
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
- Water Environment Federation
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators
- National Association of Water Companies

Other State WARN Programs

- California WARN (Cal WARN)
www.calwarn.org
- Florida WARN (Fla WARN)
www.flawarn.org
- Texas WARN (TX WARN)
www.txwarn.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ohio

Water/Wastewater

Agency

Response

Network



*Helping Utilities Connect
the Pieces for a Successful
Mutual Aid Agreement*

WHAT IS **WARN**?

A water agency response network (WARN) of utilities helping utilities to:

- Prepare for the next natural or human caused emergency.
- Organize response according to established requirements.
- Share personnel and other resources statewide by agreement.

Past disaster responses and lessons learned tell us:

- Utility operations are specialized.
- Utilities must be self-sufficient and fill the gap between disaster onset and arrival of other government aid.
- Customers can live with power and phone interruptions, but not without water.
- Water restoration provides hope.

WHAT CAN **WARN** DO FOR YOU?

A WARN establishes a standardized mutual aid agreement for statewide use. The standardized agreement decreases the amount of time it takes to provide relief to member utilities during emergencies, and it:

- Enhances access to specialized resources.
- Is consistent with National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Facilitates information exchange.
- Highlights best management practices.

Questions about **WARN**? See American Water Works Association's (AWWA), [Frequently asked questions about WARN](http://www.awwa.org/files/WARN_FAQ.pdf) www.awwa.org/files/WARN_FAQ.pdf or search the AWWA site for the page titled [Water and Wastewater Agency Response Networks \(WARN\)](#) at www.awwa.org.



MISSION

The mission of WARN is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities for natural and human caused events.

PURPOSE

WARN provides water and wastewater utilities with:

- A Mutual Assistance Agreement and process for sharing emergency resources among water and wastewater agencies statewide.
- A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid and assistance programs and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a natural or human caused disaster.
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is voluntary. The WARN Mutual Assistance Agreement is available to all public and private water and wastewater utilities in the state.

OHIO **WARN** (*Oh WARN*)

The Ohio Section of American Water Works Association has formed an ad-hoc steering committee working to make WARN available to water and wastewater utilities in Ohio. The group is currently drafting and obtaining approval of an agreement to be used by all systems, working on development of a website for coordination and sharing of emergency resources, and developing a strategy for releasing information.

Members of the steering committee include large and small water systems, and also:

- Ohio Section of American Water Works Association
- Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA)
- Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA)
- Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Please watch association websites and newsletters for updates and the opening of the **Oh WARN** website.

