

JOIN WisWARN!!!

By Dan Lynch, Janesville Utility Director and WisWARN Committee Chair

Wisconsin has formed a statewide mutual aid response and assistance network for water and wastewater. The Wisconsin Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network, known as WisWARN, was created to provide a statewide network to allow utilities from one community to help utilities in another community with personnel and resources following natural and manmade disasters. This network will extend across the entire state allowing any participating Wisconsin utility to receive aid or respond to a disaster in another Wisconsin community.

Do you want to become a part WisWARN? It's easy to join WisWARN. All you need is:

- 1) to be a municipal water or wastewater organization or utility; and
- 2) to get your governing board or council adopt a resolution.

For more information about WisWARN in general or joining WisWARN go to its website:

WWW.WisWARN.org

The establishment of a mutual aid network of Wisconsin water and wastewater utilities will help ensure that vital community services remain operational following a disaster (such as the recent flooding in many parts of our state). Using WisWARN, you can see what resources are available and directly contact the utilities with those resources. There are no administrative delays, no government declarations are needed. The process is as simple as sending an email or picking up your phone. The contacted utility will determine if it can respond. (No WisWARN member is required to respond.) Not only is there a quick response, but the local utility stays in charge and gets what it asks for. The website is still being developed, but we want you to look at it because it will explain how WisWARN works.

Some of the benefits of joining WisWARN

- WisWARN will use a single statewide mutual aid agreement which will help reduce administrative conflict over such things as: insurance, workers compensation, equipment rental rates, and other cost related issues.
- There is no cost to join or annual cost to belong to WisWARN.
- There is no commitment or obligation to respond to a request from another utility
- It allows the local utility to remain in control of all response activities.
- Specialized operations, such as water and wastewater utilities, are assisted by other Utilities until the disaster is over or other aid is provided.
- It doesn't need to be an emergency, you can use WisWARN simply for finding parts or equipment to make repairs.

WisWARN has been endorsed by: CSWEA, MEG-Wastewater, MEG-Water, WRWA, WWA and WWOA as well as the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, the WDNR, and the Wisconsin Department of Emergency Management.

WisWARN will be a good thing for your utility, for your community and for all of Wisconsin, so check it out at WWW.WisWARN.org

Please email or fax any questions or comments to:

Daniel L. Lynch, P.E.

WisWARN Committee Chair

Janesville Water & Wastewater Utilities

Ph (608) 755-3115

Fax (608) 755-3125

lynchd@ci.janesville.wi.us