

INWARN **INDIANA** **WATER/WASTEWATER** **AGENCY RESPONSE** **NETWORK**

Steering Committee

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For additional information please log on to www.inwarn.org or contact any Steering Committee Member listed above.

How to Join InWARN

Who should I contact if my organization is interested in joining InWARN?

Utilities interested in joining InWARN should contact any of the Steering Committee members or Jaimie Foreman, at 317.379.3115, or jforeman@carmel.in.gov.

An **InWARN Web site** is also available for utilities to obtain the information needed to join the Network. Access the webpage at www.inwarn.org.

What is required to join InWARN?

Indiana utilities interested in joining InWARN should obtain a copy of the Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) from the www.inwarn.org webpage, have it signed and mail it with the completed emergency contact information form to IDEM's Security & Counter Terrorism Coordinator at the address on the last page of the MAA. Membership is granted upon receipt of the signed MAA and the required emergency contact information.

Supporting Agencies



INDIANA **WATER/WASTEWATER** **AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK**

Utilities Helping Utilities

InWARN - Frequently Asked Questions

What is InWARN?

Indiana's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network is the formalized system of "utilities helping utilities" deliver mutual aid following major emergencies. The project's infrastructure will consist of a network of public and private utilities, a steering committee, a Web-based communication system and a practical mutual aid agreement designed to reduce bureaucratic red tape in times of emergency. The goal of InWARN is to provide aid to member utilities during times of emergencies. The means will be to allocate utility personnel with the appropriate expertise, equipment and tools where needed to assess and assist the impacted water and wastewater systems in getting their systems operational as quickly as possible.

How does InWARN work during an emergency?

After a disaster, Member Utilities are able to request assistance through the InWARN's Regional Emergency Operations Coordinators (REOC's) or through the Network's Web site indicating the specific assistance needed. Member Utilities can respond if they have the personnel and equipment to do so. Since power and communication systems are often damaged during major emergencies, InWARN REOC's will work through State Emergency Management officials to communicate with Member Utilities in the affected areas. Their needs will then be posted on the InWARN Web site.



Background

How did InWARN get started?

InWARN is modeled after existing networks in Florida (FlaWARN) and California (CalWARN) which have demonstrated that a network of "utilities helping utilities" can improve significantly the Industry's emergency response capabilities when water and wastewater utilities are damaged during natural disasters. Most notably, FlaWARN helped utilities in Mississippi and Alabama after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

InWARN was launched on August 29, 2007, the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall on the Gulf Coast. While it is very unlikely that utilities in Indiana will ever be damaged by a major hurricane like Katrina, the state's water and wastewater systems can and have been damaged by tornados, floods, ice storms and earthquakes. By proactively establishing partnerships and response plans, utilities and other associations are doing their part to protect the well-being of Hoosiers.

What is the Network organizational structure?

The Network is composed of public and private water and wastewater utilities that have joined the Network by signing the Mutual Aid Agreement.

A steering committee provides leadership for InWARN, meeting via phone or in-person conferences as needed. The committee is composed of representatives of:

- Three state water/wastewater professional organizations, including Indiana Section American Water Works Association (AWWA), Alliance of Indiana Rural Water (AIRW) and Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA).
- Two government agencies: Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS);
- One municipal officials association, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM).

AIM administered the program during its first two years, developed and maintained the network's Web site, processed the mutual aid agreements, managed the member database, and continues to support the mutual aid initiative.

The Steering Committee has designated three Regional Emergency Operations Coordinators, one each in the northern, central and southern portions of the state. The REOC's have agreed to serve as the primary contact for utilities in the event of a disaster and to coordinate the Network's emergency response.

What organizations are supporting the formation of InWARN?

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is leading the initiative to establish WARN networks throughout the United States. The USEPA is actively supporting the initiative by providing resources and some funding. In Indiana, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) and the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) have been supportive of the Networks formation.

How is InWARN funded?

Public and private water and wastewater utilities and members of the water and wastewater associations that have collaborated to create InWARN have volunteered their time to create the Network and man the Steering Committee. Funding for the InWARN WebPage and for the administration of the Network has been provided by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Why not just use the available mutual aid agreements already in place through the state EOC and FEMA?

During the hurricanes of 2004, utilities in Florida found it difficult to get the needed assistance without a formalized agreement for the responding utility to get reimbursed for their efforts. FlaWARN resolved this issue by offering member utilities a standardized mutual aid agreement outlining terms and conditions of reimbursement prior to requesting and receiving assistance. InWARN has modeled its program after this system.