Developing an Arizona Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (AZ WARN)
The Path to Obtaining Immediate Help and Resources in a Water Sector Emergency

Who and what is a WARN?
Why Mutual Aid for the Water Sector?
National drivers for WARN
The need for written WARN agreements
Why consider an AZ WARN?
Status of WARN nationwide and in Arizona

A Network of Utilities Helping Utilities
WARN organizes utilities within a state through mutual aid agreements
- To provide assistance with personnel and resources in emergencies
  - Natural disasters
  - Human-caused disasters
- Requests and responses are voluntary
- Each responder is reimbursed for labor, materials etc. by the requesting utility
WARN is not a corporation or a governmental unit

Lessons from Past Disasters
Past disaster responses teach us:
- Utilities must be self-sufficient
- Utilities must fill the gap between disaster onset and arrival of other government aid
- Utility operations are specialized
Specialized Operations

Systems and Instrumentation

Certified Personnel

Distribution/Collection System Dynamics

Human Health Ramifications

Toxic/Explosive Ramifications

Federal Initiatives for WARN

Presidential Directives

- HSPD-5: Management of Domestic Incidents
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- National Response Plan (NRP)
- HSPD-8: National Preparedness Goal

In Gulfport, Miss., Joe Dobson, left, and Roderick Stapleton attempt to change a valve on a leaking water line that had burst. AP Photo/washingtonpost.com/afp via Getty Images

In Louisville, Kentucky: In February 1981 an illegal discharge of thousands of gallons of toxic gases from an industrial plant into a 25-foot diameter sewer exploded, destroying two miles of city streets and creating extensive damage to homes and businesses. The damaged sewer and streets took more than two years to repair.
National Drivers for WARN

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- EPA tasked with National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Water Sector oversight
- EPA has funded/participated in the development of WARN background documents

National Infrastructure Protection Plan

NIPP Assignments of Responsibility

EPA tasked with National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Water Sector oversight
- EPA has funded/participated in the development of WARN background documents

National Water Sector Organizations
- Joint Policy Statement endorsing WARN
  - 8 major water/wastewater organizations
  - Encourages the creation of intrastate mutual aid and assistance networks
  - Provides for greater water sector resiliency against natural or human-caused events

Katrina as a Driver for WARN

The Need for Written WARN Agreements

Written WARN agreements are essential when a quick response is needed

Benefits of Written WARN Agreements
- Regulatory benefits
  - Sets terms and conditions for assistance
  - Helps with FEMA reimbursement
  - Establishes emergency contacts and protocols
- Practical benefits
  - Rapid assistance
  - Similar knowledge base
  - Certified personnel

Sources: Wikimedia
AZ WARN is for Arizona
(Example) Without a written agreement – Portland mobilization for Katrina took 40 days

AZ WARN is for Arizona
(Example) Response with WARN Agreement – Florida mobilized assistance to Mississippi in 3 days via WARN & Governor to Governor Agreement

Why Consider an Arizona WARN?

- Is there a need for a WARN Program?
  - Fires?
  - Floods?
  - Earthquakes?
  - Other?

Fires

Contrary to popular belief, the original WARN program (CALWARN) was started due to the huge strain on water systems during wildfires, not due to the threat of earthquakes.

Fire is Arizona’s largest and most frequent natural or human-caused hazard.
Fire and Water

Kinishba Fire, July 16, 2003
Photo by Pat Shannahan, Reuters

Fire Near Whiteriver, AZ
Photos by Matt York, AP

Floods
Pima County
FEMA flood zones (100 year) in Maricopa County

Earthquakes
Damage is likely to older (pre-1965) dwellings or dwellings not built to resist earthquakes

Infrastructure Failures
Sinkhole, Brooklyn, NY, 2006
Emergency repairs to sinkhole, Tucson, 2006

Security Concerns
Terror from the Right? Almost 60 terrorist plots uncovered in the US.

Unexpected Hazards
Major Vandalism
Hazardous damage to the road and culverts near Tonto Slag Rd in Salome-Cargos
Implementation of WARN in Arizona

AZ State Regulations Defining State Mutual Aid Requirements

- 26-309(A) allows each in-state governmental unit to develop an emergency plan that can include agreements for mutual aid with other governmental units.
- Subsection 26-309(B) provides that, once an emergency plan is in place, no other agreement is necessary.

FEMA and Arizona Regulations

- The state has paved the way with mutual aid regulations
- BUT these state regulations don’t meet federal requirements for reimbursement during a FEMA qualified emergency
- Among other reasons, FEMA will only reimburse mutual aid costs provided that:
  “The agreement is written and was in effect prior to the disaster”

Status of WARN Nationwide and in Arizona

- 4  6 states have WARN programs
  - California
  - Florida
  - Texas
  - Louisiana
  - Oregon (new this month)
  - Georgia (new this month)
- 19 states in process
- 13 states making significant progress

States with WARN in Progress

States with WARN in Progress

- Source: Informational Research, PC-CA Office, Charles Wesselhoft
- Source: Wikimedia
- Courtesy of Kevin Morley, AWWA, February 2007
Status of WARN in Arizona

- AWPCA Steering Committee Formed
  - Dave Mansfield - General Manager, City of Scottsdale - Water Resources
  - Don Hawkes - Manager, City of Tempe Water Utilities
  - Lonnie Frost - Director, Town of Gilbert Public Works
  - Mark Stratton - General Manager Metro Water Tucson
  - Michael Gritzuk - Director of Pima County Wastewater
    President of AZ AWWA
  - Bruce Johnson - Deputy Director of Tucson Water
  - Paul Kinshella - Superintendent, City of Phoenix Water Services; President of AZ AWPCA
  - Ron Doba - Director, Flagstaff Water

Tasks
- Meet with ADEQ and other key agencies
- Create vision for AZWARN
- Select "Hands-On" Subcommittee members

Status of AZWARN
Members of the Working Committee include:
- Harlan Agnew - Pima County Attorney's Office
- Linda Bezy-Botma - Peoria Utilities
- Ron Doba - Flagstaff Utilities Department
- Brian Draper - Mesa Water Division
- Madeline Goddard - Phoenix Water Services Department
- Randy Gottler - Phoenix Water Services Department
- Suzanne Grendahl - Scottsdale Water Resources Department
- Christopher Mitchell - Scottsdale Water Resources Department
- Kal Raman - KUV Consultants
- William Reed - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Steve Ruppenthal - Avondale Water Resources Department
- Steve Shepard - Metro Water District
- Eric Staedicke - Tempe Water Utilities
- Allan Tarket - Tucson Water Department
- Jean Voelkel - Pima County Wastewater Management Department

The best reason for WARN...

Contact Information

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