



**ILWARN**

Illinois Water and Wastewater Agencies  
Response Network

# Disasters of all kinds....

- Floods are the number 1 most common natural disaster in all 50 states
- In 2006 - EVERY state had a flood catastrophe
- Illinois ranks #4 in total thunderstorms
- The next tornado - the big earthquake - are coming...
- ILWARN is designed to assist...
- **UTILITY TO UTILITY**

*Photo: Iowa City, Iowa  
Water Treatment Plant - June 2008*





# What is the Warn Program Status in Illinois?

We are Established,  
Operational,  
and accepting registrations  
for ILWARN Membership!!

# What is ILWARN?

- ILWARN is a network of utilities
- Mutual Aid Agreement
- Voluntary



Main break in Ravenswood - photo MSNBC

# Why ILWARN?

- Fast response
- Emergency contacts
- Up-front agreement and protocols
- Designed to fill needs before the arrival of other government aid



# ILWARN Benefits

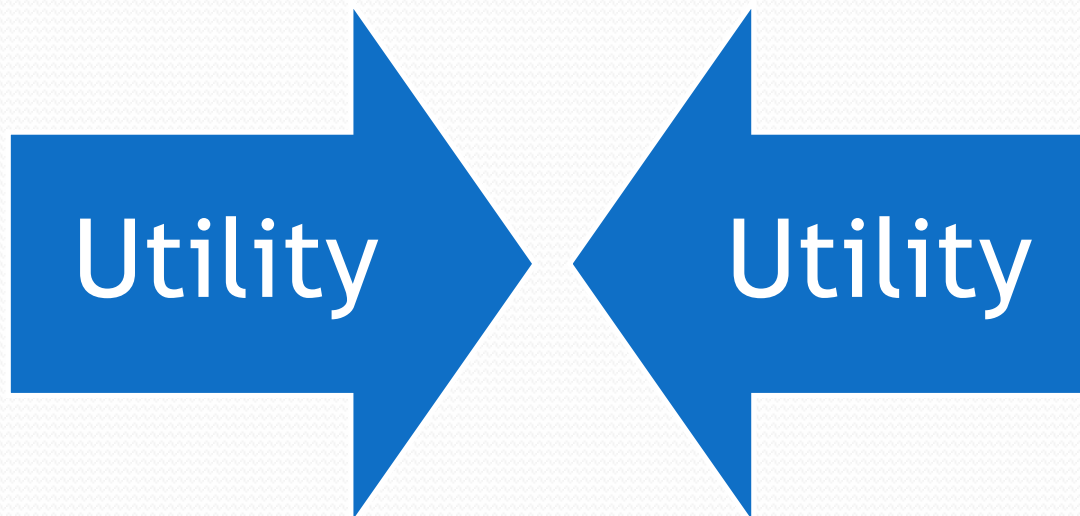
- Includes public and private utility members
- Access to specialized resources
- Single agreement
- No fee to sign up



*Water quality testing is a specialized service*

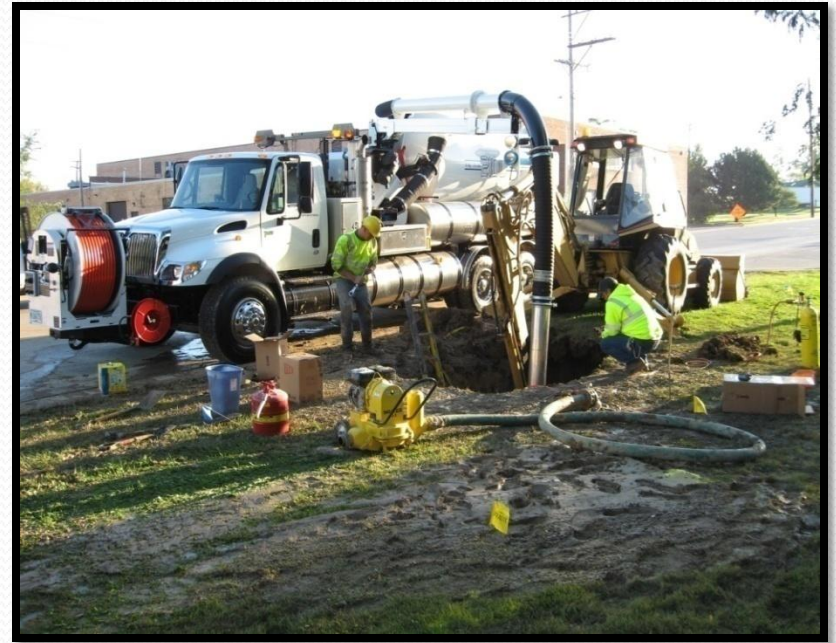
# How Does a Utility Get Assistance During an Emergency?

- Identify the resources you need
- Post a need online or....
- Call a designated person to post for you



# Do You Have to Respond?

- NO
- If you can...
- Send what you can...
- For as long as you can...
- You may have your own emergency



# Reimbursement

- The Mutual Aid Agreement defines:
  - Reimbursement shall be made for:
    - Personnel and Services
    - Equipment
    - Materials and Supplies
  - Responding utility sends invoice within 90 days

# What Happens if a Utility Sends Resources and Needs Them Back?

- A utility should not send resources if it impacts their ability to manage daily operations or manage a response to its own emergency.
- Resources remain under the authority of the sending utility and can be recalled at any time.

# Who Can Be Members?

- Members - Utilities that sign the Agreement
  - Authorized utility official can sign the agreement
- Associate Members - do not sign the Agreement
  - Professional association representation
  - Illinois EPA and Illinois Dept. of Public Health
  - State emergency management and/or homeland security agency
  - USEPA region representation

# How Does a Utility Sign Up?

- Step 1 - Register on the ILWARN website
- Step 2 - Sign the Mutual Aid Agreement

# Step 1 - Register online

- Sign up either online [www.ilwarn.org](http://www.ilwarn.org)
- or via paper, utility information including:
  - Primary Contact
  - Type of Utility - water or wastewater
  - Size of Utility
  - County and IEMA Region
  - Phone numbers
  - E-mail addresses
  - Additional contacts

# Step 2 - Mutual Aid Agreement

- Download the Mutual Aid Agreement
- Have the Mutual Aid Agreement signed
- Return the signed Mutual Aid Agreement
- Your information on your ILWARN website profile will be updated to reflect you have a signed MAA

# More Questions....

- Can a utility “register” on the website without having a signed Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA)?
  - Yes - They can sign up and complete their “profile” while getting the MAA signed.
  - MAA would need to be signed prior to requesting or responding to assistance.

# Steering Committee Members from:

- IEPA, IDPH, USEPA Region 5
- IRWA, ISAWWA, IAWA, IWEA
- Villages of Mundelein and Gurnee
- Town of Normal
- Cities of Waukegan, Rochelle, Elgin, Naperville, Springfield, Chicago Water Dept.
- Baxter and Woodman Engineers
- Illinois American Water Company
- MWRDGC, Rock River WRD


# Check Out the ILWARN Website ilwarn.org

The website is up and running, but it will always be a work in progress. The initial design is being provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) at no cost to ILWARN.



# A Few More Questions....

- How does an ILWARN member get help?
  - The member utility can:
    - Go online and post an email message to be broadcast
    - Call another ILWARN member and ask them to post it
    - Call 888-ILWARN1 and a committee member will post it for you.
- What if it is after hours?
  - IRIS System is providing at no charge a reverse 911 system
  - If you list your text pager as an email option you will receive a text message



What is the  
Water and Wastewater  
Mutual Aid and Assistance  
Resource Typing Manual?

# Categorizing and Describing

- Definitions that insure that a utility requests and receives the appropriate resources during an incident.
- The typing protocol follows NIMS definitions:
  - Resource
  - Category
  - Kind
  - Type
- Copies of the WARN Resource Typing Manual will be available on the ILWARN website.

# How Does a Utility Respond to a Request for Assistance if it Chooses to Respond?

- The fastest way possible:
  - Phone
  - Text message
  - E-mail
  - Horseback (maybe???)
- During events, to enhance communications, responses to resource requests should be communicated to the local and state emergency management agencies by the requesting utility.



What's next?

# Training and More Training

- **Steering Committee follow-up:**
  - Approve further improvements and design changes to the website.
  - Develop an operational best practices guide on how to activate and respond via ILWARN requests.
  - Deliver training throughout the state including tabletop exercises on how real emergencies will be handled.

# Practice!

- Learn more...
- Become NIMS compliant
- Conduct table top exercises *tabletop exercise model*
- Visit the website [www.nationalwarn.org](http://www.nationalwarn.org)



# For More Information

Contact any of the  
steering committee members  
or send an email to:

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*Thank  
You*

