

## Why Should My Agency Join SDWARN?

- *Increased planning and coordination.*
- *Enhanced access to specialized resources.*
- *A single agreement provides access to all member utilities statewide.*
- *Expedites arrival of aid.*
- *Is consistent with the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS).*
- *Reduces administrative conflict.*
- *Agreement contains indemnification and worker's comp provisions to protect participating utilities, and provisions for reimbursement of costs, as needed.*
- *Provides list of emergency contacts and available resources.*
- *Response to any incident is voluntary.*
- *Improves probability for quick recovery.*

For Additional Information on SDWARN contact one of the following:

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## SDWARN

South Dakota  
Water/Wastewater  
Agency  
Response  
Network

Utilities Helping Utilities

### SDWARN Goal:

Promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for public and private water/wastewater utilities

# SDWARN South Dakota Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Events such as 9/11, the 2005 Ice Storm, the 2007 Aberdeen and Hermosa floods, identified a need for water and wastewater utilities to create intra-state mutual aid and assistance programs because:

- Utilities require specialized resources to sustain operations.
- Government response agencies and other critical infrastructure rely on water supplies.
- Utilities must provide their own support until state and federal resources become available.
- Large events impact regional areas, making assistance from nearby utilities impractical.
- Disasters impact utility employees and their families, creating greater need for relief.
- Agreements must be established pre-event for federal reimbursement.
- Promoting mutual aid/assistance meets FY06 Department of Homeland Security requirements.

The “Utilities Helping Utilities” concept is about creating an opportunity to enhance water and wastewater utility resiliency in response to disasters during the response and recovery phases.

Emergencies transcend political jurisdictional boundaries, and multi-utility coordination is essential for protecting lives and property and for facilitating the efficient use of available assets, both public and private.

SDWARN is designed to provide quick and professional assistance in any situation that overwhelms the capabilities of a water or wastewater utility. No formal declaration of emergency is needed, and assistance can take the form of personnel,



equipment, material, or services. Member utilities may request mutual-aid deployment of emergency support to restore critical operations at the affected water/wastewater utility. Member agencies are never obligated to respond.



## WARN Initiative Encouraged By:

American Water Works Association

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators

National Rural Water Association

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Water Companies

SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources

SD Office of Emergency Management

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Water Environment Federation