

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

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Ohio Senate Bill 2

Asset Management Provisions

- INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF ALL ASSETS.
- OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS.
- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & CONTINGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM.
- CRITERIA AND TIMELINES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REHAB AND REPLACEMENT.
- APPROVED CAPACITY PROJECTIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING.
- LONG TERM FUNDING STRATEGY TO SUPPORT ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.



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Ohio EPA Website

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

CLICK ON CONTINGENCY PLAN

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Emergency Preparedness Guides

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDES FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

- Emergency Preparedness
- Contingency Plan Template
- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Ohio WARN
- Practicing and Updating Response Plans
- Communication Strategies
- Pandemic Influenza



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MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

- A mechanism for assisting nearby communities.
- A rapid, short-term support in response to natural or man-made emergencies.
- Emergencies that threaten and/or cause damage to the critical operations of a particular service.
- Providing continuous treatment plant operation.



MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

- Support may be in the form of personnel, equipment, material and other associated services needed to restore critical operations.



MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

- When updating your emergency preparedness plan, remember these three key word:

ANTICIPATE – PREPARE – PRACTICE



Mutual Aid Agreements

ANTICIPATE

- Different types of emergencies that could affect the operations of the system.



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PREPARE

- Create a flexible plan that will help personnel and first responders to take appropriate action.



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PRACTICE

- Practice the plan and improve it as you discover weaknesses.



Mutual Aid Agreements

WHAT IS OHIO WARN?

- **Ohio Water Agency Response Network (OH WARN)**
- It's a committee of professional organizations.
- Purpose
 - The mission of Ohio WARN is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response and mutual aid assistance for public and private water and wastewater utilities for natural and human caused events in the State.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Ohio WARN



Mutual Aid Agreements

- Municipal and private water/wastewater systems.
- Working together to provide systems statewide.
- A standard mutual aid assistance agreement.
- Processes for sharing emergency resources



Mutual Aid Agreements

Why do we need Ohio WARN?

- Water/wastewater Systems Provide;
 - Our communities with a life sustaining resource,
 - It's of vital importance to maintaining public health, sanitation and safety,



Mutual Aid Agreements

Why do we need Ohio WARN?

- Water/wastewater Systems Provide;
 - When water/wastewater services are interrupted for extended periods of time, a community's well being quickly deteriorates, as with Katrina
 - Without an adequate water supply, our communities are vulnerable to fires.



Mutual Aid Agreements

Why do we need Ohio WARN?

- Restoring water/wastewater services in the most efficient manner possible,
- Ohio WARN provides renewed hope for fast recovery from such disasters,



Mutual Aid Agreements

Why do we need Ohio WARN?

- Ohio WARN is also available to use in non-disaster emergencies,
- When you may be in need of help or assistance.



Mutual Aid Agreements

Ohio WARN provides water and wastewater utilities with:

- A mutual agreement and process sharing emergency resources among water/wastewater agencies statewide.
- A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid and assistance programs and the national incident management systems.



Mutual Aid Agreements

- ▶ **Ohio WARN provides water and wastewater utilities with:**
 - ▶ The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a natural or human caused disaster.
 - ▶ A forum developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.



Mutual Aid Agreements

WHY SHOULD YOUR SYSTEM INCORPORATE MUTUAL AID?

- A mutual aid agreement enhances a system's ability to quickly recover from an emergency event.
- Systems may already have a verbal agreement to provide skilled personnel, required materials and equipment to peers in surrounding communities.
- It is important that these agreements are written into emergency plans in order for each system to realize mutual aid benefits.



Mutual Aid Agreements

WHY SHOULD YOUR SYSTEM INCORPORATE MUTUAL AID?

- **Increased Access** to critical resources during an emergency event.
- **Quick delivery** resources, such as chemical supplies, pipe and analytical services needed to return to normal operation.
- **Solidarity** as professionals in the service of providing a safe, desirable and necessary resource to your communities.



Mutual Aid Agreements

WHY SHOULD YOUR SYSTEM INCORPORATE MUTUAL AID?

- **Reduced** administrative conflict because procedures for notification, response, and reimbursement are already in place.
- **Reliability** that an agreement to volunteer aid exists and is updated when there is a change in employees and employers.
- **Increased assurance** for the public that their essential service will return more quickly.



Mutual Aid Agreements

WHAT SHOULD BE IN THE AID AGREEMENT?

- Mutual aid agreements can vary from system to system, and require some thought about community needs, logistics of the system, and legality of the agreement.
- One way to begin deciding what is important to your system is to review examples of existing aid agreements.



Mutual Aid Agreements

COMMON COMPONENTS OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS;

- Language in the agreement that participation is strictly voluntary; however, with assurance that employees are willing to participate.
- Uniform procedures for notifying the participating systems, what resources can be used, and updating the agreement annually.



Mutual Aid Agreements

COMMON COMPONENTS OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS;

- A release of liability for participating systems and agreement that all equipment is provided “as is.”
- A method to account for the cost of resources used and reimbursement arrangements.



Mutual Aid Agreements

COMMON COMPONENTS OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS;

- A requirement that all participating systems are willing to comply with statutory requirements.
- An agreement to update inventory information between systems, including changes in supplies (for example, change in chemical product), equipment and personnel.



Mutual Aid Agreements

COMMON COMPONENTS OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS;

- A statement confirming that requests for aid take priority, so long as the lending system does not violate compliance standards and thereby jeopardize their facility.
- A hierarchy of needs in case the lending system is responding to more than one aid request.



Mutual Aid Agreements

EXAMPLES OF MUTUAL AID PLANS

- Rural Water Mutual Aid Agreement (pages 8-13)
www.ruralwater.org/emergencynetwork.pdf
- Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement,
“Utilities Helping Utilities” (AWWA)

www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/security/sec_UtilitiesHelpingUtilitiesActionPlan.pdf



Mutual Aid Agreements

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MUTUAL AID FROM OHIO WARN ON ASSOCIATION WEBSITES AND NEWSLETTERS, INCLUDING OHIO SECTION OF AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION (AWWA) AND OHIO EPA.



Mutual Aid Agreements

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

OHIO EPA'S DIVISION OF DRINKING
AND GROUND WATERS AT
(614) 644-2752

VISIT OUR SECURITY WEB SITE:

WWW.EPA.OHIO.GOV/DDAGW/SECURITY.ASP



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