**Who and What is AKWARN?**

AKWARN is a network where water, wastewater, and public work agencies can receive emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services. The objective is to provide rapid, short-term deployment of emergency services to recover from natural and manmade disasters.

**Resiliency**

The concept of WARN is a network of “Utilities Helping Utilities” united by the common threat of natural and manmade disasters. Both private and public utilities may participate.

**Not a Corporation or a Governmental Unit**

It is an intrastate program organizing utilities via a non-binding agreement to help each other with personnel and resources. AKWARN is developed and managed by AK water and wastewater systems.

**AKWARN IS FREE, AND THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO RESPOND OR TO PROVIDE AID**

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**What is in it For You?**

**Enhanced Access to Specialized Resources**

Utility operations are specialized – the best possible aid originates from knowledgeable peers.

**Expedites Arrival of Aid**

Lighten the burden associated with filling the gap of time between disaster onset and the arrival of government aid. FEMA is muscular but not agile.

**Federal Reimbursement Eligibility**

In case of a federally declared emergency, FEMA reimbursement for received services is contingent upon a pre-existing, signed mutual aid and assistance agreement.

**Increased Hope**

Expediting the restoration of water/wastewater systems following a traumatic incident provides hope to a community as it signifies a return to normalcy.

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**47 States in Five Years**

In 2005 California and Florida were the only states with an active WARN Program. Today, 47 states have established a WARN, and 3 states have an agreement pending.

**What is All the Fuss About?**

Events such as Hurricane Katrina, the Northridge Earthquake, and 9/11 identified a need for water and wastewater utilities to create an intrastate mutual aid and assistance program.

It is no secret Alaska faces a unique and diverse set of potential disasters -- earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, freezing, and flooding to name a few. These challenges combined with Alaska’s separation from the lower 48 make a clear case for strengthening intrastate mutual aid.

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**If you would like to learn how you can participate in AKWARN, please contact:**

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