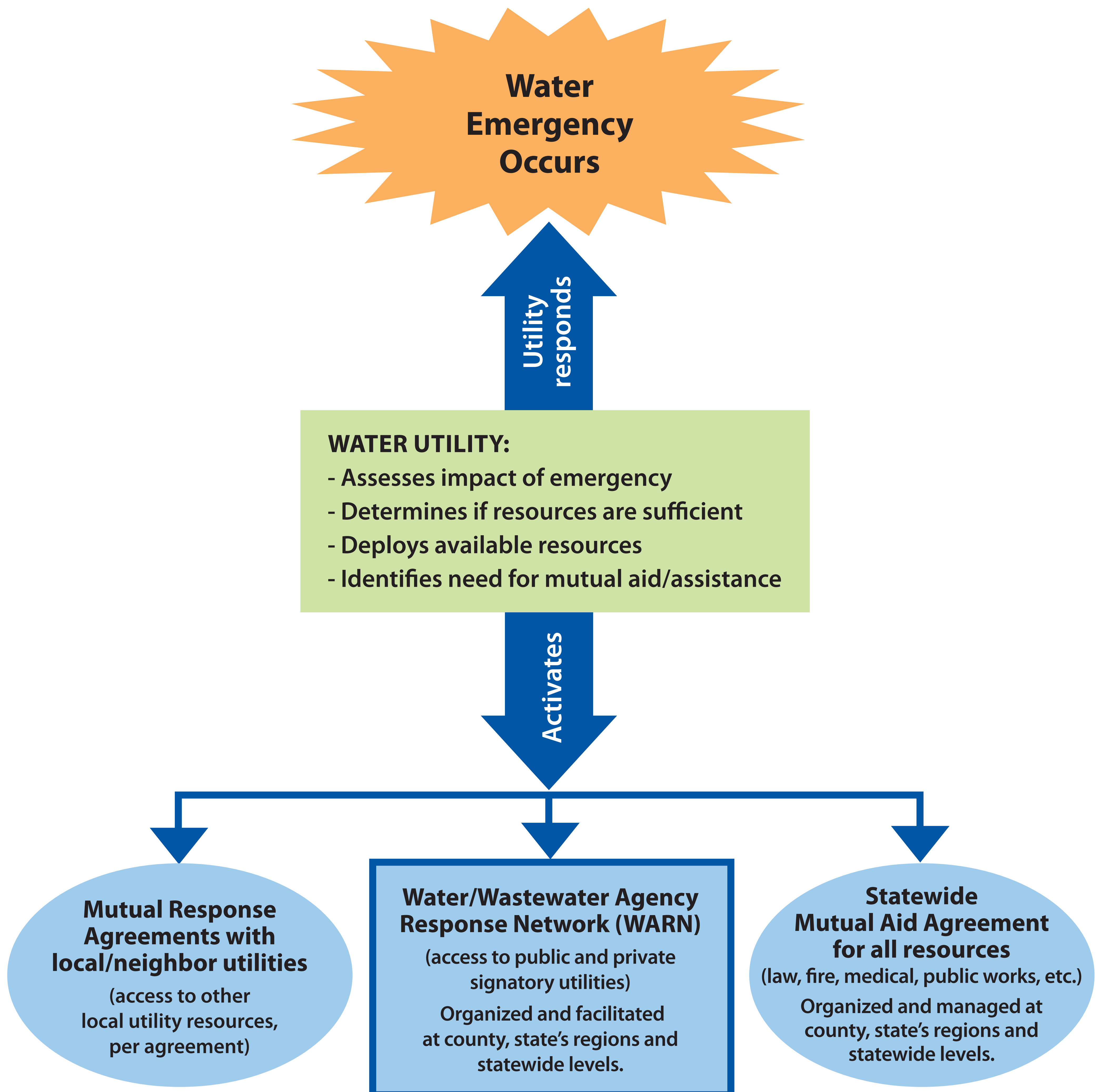


Mutual Aid and Assistance in the Water Sector

WARN is one of three possible mutual aid/assistance mechanisms



WARN does not require a declaration and includes both public and private utilities.

Mutual Aid and Assistance Alternatives

During an emergency, a utility needs to determine the best alternatives to address its response needs. Alternatives could include three possible mutual aid or assistance mechanisms: contacting neighboring utilities with whom they have pre-written and established agreements; using public agency statewide mutual aid and assistance programs; or accessing the water/wastewater mutual aid and assistance program formally known as WARN.

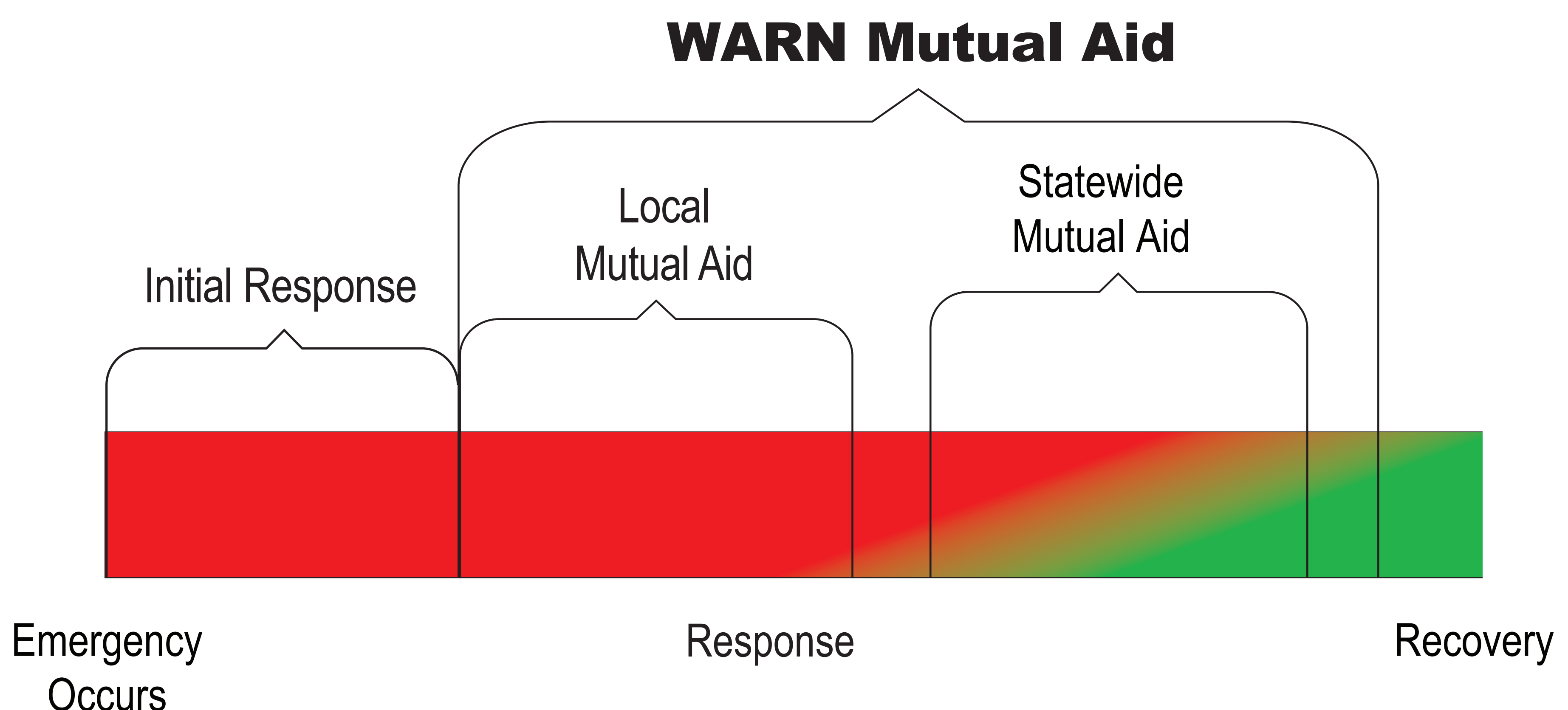
Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN): Utilities Helping Utilities



Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorist threats.

Drinking water and wastewater utilities are taking action to ensure continuity of operations and fast response when disaster strikes. Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks are being formed in states across the U.S., enabling public and private utilities to share personnel, resources, and equipment during emergencies.

Emergency Timeline and Mutual Aid



WARN reduces the response “gap” between local and statewide mutual aid.

Why WARN Works

- Expedites arrival of aid and access to specialized resources
- Improves planning and coordination
- Can be activated prior to an emergency declaration
- A single agreement links all statewide utilities together
- Agreement addresses member indemnification, workers’ compensation, and reimbursement
- Membership includes private and public utilities
- Member utilities can recall their resources as needed
- Participation is voluntary, there is no cost to participate
- Meets federal reimbursement requirements to have a pre-disaster agreement in place
- Consistent with National Incident Management System (NIMS)

10 Steps to Develop a WARN

Follow these broad steps to establish a WARN in your state.

1. Identify interest in starting a program
2. Form an Initial Leadership Team
3. Prepare a kickoff session
4. Establish a Steering Committee
5. Identify a mission for the program and goals for the Steering Committee
6. Determine need to use state's regions
7. Identify mutual aid and assistance activation criteria
8. Draft an agreement (includes information on steps 4, 6, and 7)
9. Create facilitation tools
10. Maintain the program



Full Support from Water Sector

Groups supporting WARN include:

American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)
Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
National Rural Water Association (NRWA)
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)

**This poster was developed by EPA in cooperation with water sector stakeholders.
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