ONTARIO WATER / WASTEWATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (ONWARN)

“Utilities Helping Utilities”
What is a WARN?

• A network of utilities helping other utilities to respond to and recover from emergencies.
• Matches water / wastewater utility resources to specific needs during an emergency to aid in locating emergency equipment and trained personnel.
• Uses a **Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement** to expedite resource sharing.
What is a WARN?

- Participation is voluntary and there is no obligation to respond.
- AWWA and EPA support the development of WARN in the USA by providing resources (see www.nationalWARN.org)
- Municipalities and partners in Ontario are working to further establish OnWARN.
In addition to its members, OnWARN collaborates with the partners listed below:
Why is WARN Important?

- Pre-establishes agreement / protocols to access resources knowledgeable in water and wastewater systems
- Forum for establishing / maintaining emergency contacts
- Facilitates training and testing
- Does not require declaration of emergency
Snapshot: 2008
## Member list: OnWARN April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aurora (Town of)</th>
<th>Guelph/Eramosa (Township)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bayham (Municipality)</td>
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<td>Blue Mountains (Town of)</td>
<td>Kawartha Lakes (City)</td>
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<td>Brockville (City)</td>
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<td>Casselman (Village)</td>
<td>Kingston (Utilities Kingston)</td>
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<td>Centre Wellington (Township of)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission</td>
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<td>Clearview (Township of)</td>
<td>Lakefront Utilities Services Inc.</td>
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<td>Deseronto (Town of)</td>
<td>London (City)</td>
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<td>Dryden (City of)</td>
<td>Malahide (Township)</td>
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<td>Durham (Regional Municipality)</td>
<td>Marmora and Lake (Municipality)</td>
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<td>Dutton Dunwich (Municipality)</td>
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<td>Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System</td>
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<td>Oxford (County)</td>
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<td>Peterborough Utilities Services Inc</td>
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<td>Prescott (Town of)</td>
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<td>Renfrew (Town of)</td>
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<td>Severn (Township)</td>
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<td>Smiths Falls (Town)</td>
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<td>Southgate (Township)</td>
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<td>Trent Hills (Municipality)</td>
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<td>Waterloo (City)</td>
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<td>Whitchurch-Stouffville (Town of)</td>
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Benefits of WARN

• No cost to participate, and significant economic benefit.
• Increases emergency preparedness.
• Collective response capacity.
• Single agreement to access resources across the province.
Benefits of WARN

• Expedites deployment of assistance and resources.
• Assists in response to events which impact large areas when response from adjacent utilities is not possible.
• Responder indemnification and reimbursement.
Obligation of members

• Keep resources ready-state
• Respond when able. No obligation to respond.
• Requesting member provides support to responding members.
• Requesting member responsible for reasonable costs.
• Keep resource list up-to-date.
Examples

- **CalWARN:**
  - Northbridge Earthquake, 1994
  - El Nino Storms, 1998
  - Sonora Fires, 2001
  - Southern California Fires, 2007

- **FlaWARN:**
  - Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita, 2005
  - Tornados, 2007
  - Hurricane Irma, 2017

- **OrWARN:**
  - Detroit Blizzard, 2008
• **TxWARN:**
  - Rain Storms and Hurricane Humberto, 2007
  - Hurricanes Dolly and Ike, 2008
  - Recent storm events
  - Hurricane Harvey, 2017

• **CoWARN:**
  - Salmonella outbreak, City of Alamosa 2008

• **TnWARN, InWARN and KyWARN:**
  - Ice Storm, 2009
• Extensive Ontario flooding (Apr. 2013)
  – Request to identify who has portable wastewater pumps (aka trash pumps) available to assist in flooded areas, if requested.

• Guelph (Dec. 2013)
  – Request for information: list of contractors who could assist with a 20”-diameter ductile iron watermain break and 20’ deep excavation.

• Durham Region (Mar. 2014)
  – Request for portable odour masking unit (aka foggers or misters) for tank take down or digester clean-outs.

• Centre Wellington / Erin (Aug. 2014)
  – Contingency plan between two municipalities in anticipation of staff-shortage in emergency, plan to use OnWARN agreement.
OnWARN Examples

• London (Sep. 2014)
  – Request for replacement of a 36” gate valve that failed closed (or near closed).

• Greater Sudbury (Feb. 2015)
  – Request for DBH electrical thawing or another certified thawing unit to address large influx of frozen water services.

• Smiths Falls (Oct. 2016)
  – Request for Bristol Babcock communication cards (existing cards failed at the wastewater treatment plant with no replacements in stock).

• Peterborough (Apr. 2017)
  – Request for Allen Bradley 5/04 CPU card (located resource within 1 hour of request).
OnWARN Recommends IMS

EOC Director
- Risk Management
- Liaison
- Information
  - Operations Section
  - Planning Section
  - Logistics Section
  - Finance / Admin Section
- Deputy Director
Level 2 Activation

EOC Director

Deputy Director

Risk Management

Information

Operations Section

Planning Section (if needed)

Logistics Section (if needed)

Finance / Admin Section (if needed)
# Managing Information

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<tr>
<td>Resource Request</td>
<td>OPS / LOG</td>
<td>Expenditure Tracking Report</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Emergency Response Plans:

- Operationally focused
- Issue/task specific
- Activity/sector specific

✓ Draw upon OnWARN for specific resources/tasks
Incident Management System:

- Systemic scalable management
- Multiple resources and issues
- Multiple sectors

✓ Draw upon OnWARN for taskforce deployment of resources/staff
Emergency Preparedness & Business Continuity:

• Advanced preparedness & testing
• Resiliency and recovery focused

✔ Incorporate OnWARN into contingencies & tests
OnWARN Steering Committee continues to work on adding OnWARN members across the province, especially in the north.

- Inter-provincial agreements (future)
- Inter-provincial / state agreements (future)
Steering Committee Contacts:

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Vice-Chair
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