

## Why do we need WYOWARN?

Water and wastewater systems provide for public health, sanitation and safety. When water and wastewater systems fail, the well-being of communities quickly deteriorates. Without clean water and ways to remove and treat wastewater, communities become susceptible to disease and illness. The lack of water constrains emergency services such as medical response and fire fighting. In these conditions, people become frustrated and fearful.

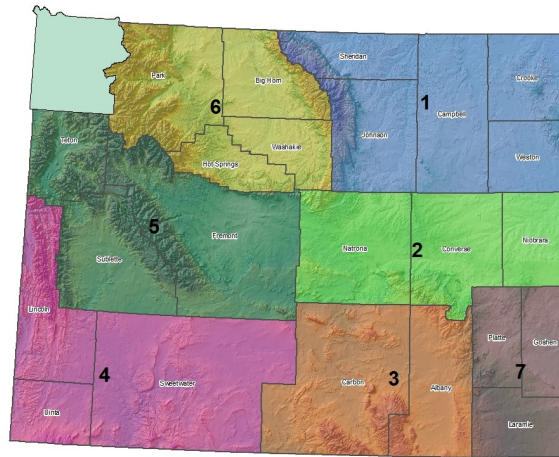
Restoring water service restores hope and the ability of a community to respond to natural or man-made disasters. Neighboring utilities already have the trained staff familiar with Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations. They are familiar with western water systems and already prepared for and accustomed to Wyoming weather. They already have the specialized equipment needed for testing, pumping or repairs and may have backup supplies of pipe, valves, chemicals, generators, etc. readily available.

WYOWARN (Wyoming Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network) is a group of Wyoming water and wastewater utilities that cooperatively prepare for the next natural or man-made disaster by bridging political and jurisdictional boundaries through training, protocols and agreements so that utilities can respond to disasters by sharing personnel, tools and equipment.

Wyoming utilities are susceptible to floods, tornadoes, fires, blizzards, earthquakes, drought, etc. While it is already the Wyoming way to lend a hand to our neighbors when they need it, having procedures and responsibilities spelled out ahead of time means we can dedicate full attention to the situations at hand. That is what WYOWARN is about, preparing utilities to help each other in the event of an emergency.



Phosphorus Spill  
West of  
Cheyenne, 1979



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## Wyoming Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network

A network of Wyoming water and wastewater utilities that cooperatively prepare for the next natural or man-made disaster by bridging political and jurisdictional boundaries through training, protocols and mutual aid agreements so that the utilities can respond to events by sharing personnel, tools and equipment.



# WYOWARN



## Benefits of WYOWARN:

- A single mutual assistance agreement provides access to all member utilities statewide
- Expedites the arrival of aid following an event beyond the capability of a utility to respond.
- Provides a list of emergency contacts and phone numbers.
- Is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Is consistent with other WARN agencies nationwide and could participate in a national WARN network.
- Reduces administrative conflict that can occur following an event.



Flood, Kaycee (2002)

## Disasters nationwide teach us that:

- Utility operations are specialized and require personnel familiar with local regulations and accustomed to local weather conditions.
- Utilities must be self sufficient and fill the gap between event onset and arrival of other government aid.
- Customers can live with power and phone interruptions, but conditions degrade rapidly without water service.
- Restoring water service following a disaster restores hope to a community struggling with the aftermath and assists emergency response.



Above:  
Forest Fire  
Casper, (2006)

Right:  
Tornado  
Wright (2005)



## The WYOWARN network provides utilities with:

- A mutual assistance agreement and process for sharing emergency resources among water and wastewater agencies statewide.
- A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid and assistance programs and consistent with the National Incident Management System.
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a natural or man-made disaster.
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships

## Not a member yet? Join WYOWARN!

1. Visit the WYOWARN website at [www.WYOWARN.org](http://www.WYOWARN.org) and click on the icon displayed on the right.
2. Download the mutual aid agreement, example resolution and brochure.
3. Provide the information to appropriate governing bodies and obtain necessary permissions.  
Committee members and regional coordinators can answer questions or assist you. Call us using one of the numbers on the back of this brochure.
4. Sign and return the agreement to Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems.

