



Idaho disasters such as the 1983 Challis earthquake and the 1976 Teton Dam flood, along with recent events such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, have highlighted the need for water and wastewater utilities to create intrastate mutual aid and assistance programs. Mutual aid programs are critical to utility systems for many reasons:

- Utilities require specialized resources to sustain operations during disasters.
- Government response agencies and critical infrastructure rely on water supplies.
- Utilities must provide their own support until state and federal resources become available.
- Large events impact regional areas, making assistance from nearby utilities impractical.
- Disasters impact utility employees and their families, as well as customers.
- Agreements must be established before disasters occur to be eligible for federal reimbursement.
- Promotion of mutual aid and assistance meets Department of Homeland Security requirements.

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## **Idaho Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network**

*Utilities Helping Utilities*



**IDWARN Network Mission**  
 To promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for public and private water/wastewater utilities.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.  
 – Benjamin Franklin

## Why Should My Agency Join IDWARN?

- A single agreement provides access to all member utilities statewide.
- Access to specialized resources is enhanced.
- Increased planning and coordination become available.
- Arrival of aid is expedited.
- IDWARN is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Administrative conflict is reduced.
- An agreement is provided containing indemnification and workers' compensation provisions to protect participating utilities. Provisions for cost reimbursement are also included.
- A list of emergency contacts and available resources is provided.
- Response to any incident is voluntary.
- Probability of quick recovery increases.



## Idaho Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

The *Utilities Helping Utilities* concept gives water/wastewater utilities the opportunity to be more resilient during disaster response and recovery.

Because disasters transcend political jurisdictional boundaries, multi-utility coordination is crucial to protect lives and property and to facilitate the efficient use of available assets, both public and private.



U.S. Geological Survey

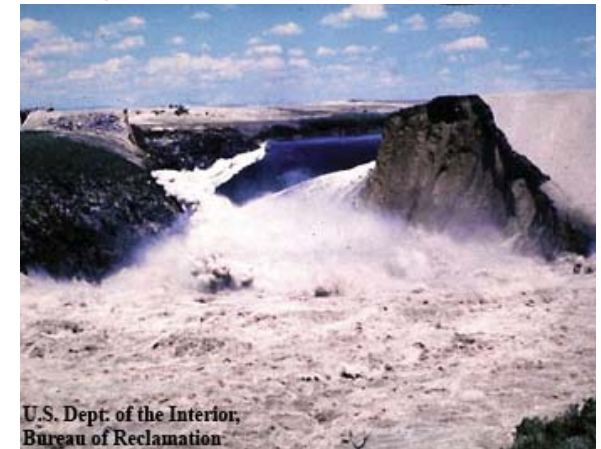
Challis earthquake damage, 1983

IDWARN is designed to provide quick and professional assistance in any situation that overwhelms the capabilities of a water/wastewater utility.

No formal declaration of emergency is needed, and assistance can take the form of personnel, equipment, materials, or services.

A member utility may request deployment of emergency support to restore critical operations at the affected water/wastewater utility.

Member agencies are never obligated to respond.



U.S. Dept. of the Interior,  
Bureau of Reclamation

Teton Dam flood, 1976

## IDWARN Supporters

American Water Works Association  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators  
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators

National Association of Water Companies  
National Rural Water Association  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water Environment Federation