



## **UTILITIES HELPING UTILITIES**

FlaWARN.PWD.AA.UFL.EDU

### **WHAT IS FlaWARN?**

- The formalized system of “utilities helping utilities” with mutual aid during emergency situations.
- Provide immediate relief for member utilities during times of emergencies.
- Quickly connect impacted water and wastewater systems with personnel, tools, and equipment.
- Restore services through temporary measures if necessary until a permanent solution may be implemented.

### **WHAT IS A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT?**

Mutual aid agreements (MAAs) codify how agencies share resources. The MAA is a legal covenant, a promise between neighbors, a community's pledge to another that says, “We will be there for you.”

Mutual aid agreements are very important to have and signed before any emergencies as it establishes the terms under which one party provides resources, such as personnel teams, facilities, equipment, supplies, etc. to another party and how that party will be reimbursed for the help that is supplied.

### **BENEFITS OF A MAA**

- Reduce response time
- Restore services to customers with minimal disruptions
- Safe guard public health and safety
- Reduce frustration
- Increase participation
- Maximize the value of the assistance being provided



Print a copy of the Mutual Aid Agreement, sign it and upload it on the WATER Tracker website ([flwatertracker.com](http://flwatertracker.com))



PRINT



SIGN



UPLOAD

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## How is FlaWARN funded?

FDEP funds FlaWARN using a portion from their EPA Water Protection Grant.

## What is the organizational structure?

A steering committee provides leadership for FlaWARN. It is composed of representatives of five state water/wastewater professional organizations including: AWWA, FWEA, FWPCOA, FRWA, SEDA; three at large members and a representative of FDEP. The University of Florida Center for Training, Research and Education for Environmental Occupations (UF/TREEO) is responsible for implementing the program.

## What organizations are involved in FlaWARN?

FlaWARN is made up of Water and Wastewater Utilities across Florida, assisted by regulatory, technical, and law enforcement agencies. In addition to over 250 member utilities, FlaWARN collaborates with:



## FlaWARN HISTORY

FlaWARN was created in April 2005 as a result of the devastating impact that hurricanes Charlie, Frances, Jeanne, and Ivan had on Florida during the 2004 hurricane season.

Prior to the establishment of FlaWARN, utilities throughout the state found it difficult to get the needed assistance without a formalized agreement for the responding utility to get reimbursed for their efforts. FlaWARN resolved this issue by offering member utilities a standardized mutual aid agreement outlining terms and conditions of reimbursement prior to requesting and receiving assistance.

FlaWARN member utilities have successfully responded to events every year since its launch, most recently including Irma, Matthew, Michael, and Ian.