



WATERSC *Water Security Channel*

A Service of WATERISAC

From the Editor

Welcome to the e-newsletter of WaterSC, the Water Security Channel, a free alert service provided by WaterISAC at www.WaterSC.org. WaterISAC is funded partially by the U.S. Congress through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. www.WaterSC.org.

THIS MONTH: As hurricane season kicks off in June, this month we highlight important emergency response information about mutual aid networks, the National Response Plan and National Incident Management System.

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What Water Utilities Should Know About NIMS

Established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), the National Incident Management System (NIMS) helps responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines coordinate response efforts after both natural and man-made disasters. NIMS is a unified approach to incident management that emphasizes preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

Drinking water and wastewater utilities should be aware of NIMS since city and county governments will be following this protocol in the event of an emergency.

Beginning in FY07, which begins October 1, 2006, all federal preparedness funding will be conditioned upon full NIMS compliance. States can become fully compliant by completing the FY05 and FY06 NIMS activities. Local and tribal jurisdictions only need complete the FY06 activities. Both FY05 and FY06 activities can be completed online through the NIMS training page at www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm.

Under NIMS, the water sector falls under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 3, Public Works and Engineering. Under the National Response Plan (NRP) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees the federal response to national incidents, with assistance from U.S. EPA.

For more information, visit the NIMS homepage at www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/.

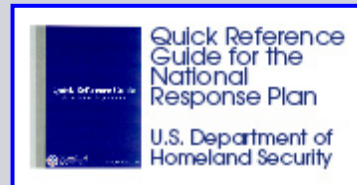
WaterSC Provides Central Location For WARN Resources

WaterSC has a new webpage aimed at providing tools to water utilities about Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) systems. By establishing mutual aid agreements before a crisis occurs, WARN participants pave the way for member utilities within (and outside) of their respective states to send valuable aid in a quick and efficient manner.

The webpage www.watersc.org/warn.html links to established WARN programs, hosts a statement of support from the major water and wastewater associations and lists resources that include a sample mutual aid agreement.

DHS Makes Changes To National Response Plan

The Department of Homeland Security has announced changes to the National Response Plan (NRP). The NRP establishes a single, comprehensive approach that the federal government



follows for domestic incident management to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. Most of the changes are designed to give the government more flexibility in coordinating responses across agencies and within affected areas. The NRP is an all-hazards plan built on the template of NIMS (described in the article above).

A revised version of the complete NRP will be released later this year. However, a *Quick Reference Guide to the National Response Plan* was published this month and is available by clicking the Quick Reference Guide button above.

The Water Security Channel ([WaterSC](#)), a service of the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), electronically disseminates bulletins and advisories issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

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