

West Virginia Rural Water Association

ATTENTION:

ALL MEMBER VENDORS / SUPPLIERS

West Virginia Rural Water Association (WVRWA) is proud to announce the formation of an Emergency Response Team (ERT) comprised of member system employees. Their mission will be to respond and assist systems in West Virginia in times of emergency.

Team members will be trained and equipped to operate equipment needed and equipment owned by WVRWA. Each Region will have a “Team Chief” and an “Assistant Team Chief” who will be notified when the Team is needed for an emergency. They will then assemble their Team and report to the site and check in for duty with the appropriate WVRWA personnel. There would be no limit as to the number of Team Members for each region, keeping in mind a diversity of skills would make this ERT even better.

Team members will be recognized for their work, dedication, and skills in WVRWA publications, at the Annual Conference, in media reports, and any other avenue available to WVRWA.

The main purpose of this Team is to promote quick responses, with the best and most qualified people, and to instill pride and self satisfaction in being a Team Member. This “team” will be made up of volunteer members from each of the six WVRWA regions of the State. Responses would be from the nearest ERT to the emergency. Should the emergency be large enough to impact several systems, ERT Members from additional Regions would be called up for assistance. This would continue until enough help was on scene.

We also desire to involve member vendors and suppliers who are the heart of WVRWA. You have always supported WVRWA and, along with dedicated staff, have made our growth possible. We value your opinions and input.

The formation of the ERT and operations and expenses associated with deployment of the Emergency Mobile Water Treatment Plant make it mandatory we establish a special emergency fund to be used just for emergency operations. This will be a critical part of the overall Emergency Response Plan and will require time and effort to build this fund to necessary levels.

To that end, we are also forming a companion Emergency Response Support Group (ERSG) made up of member vendors and suppliers. Your participation would be as a

think tank, advisors, and assistance with fund raisers specifically for emergency response, and on site presence during emergencies to meet supply needs.

We have already had conversations with some vendors and unanimously the consensus has been that they wanted to be involved and help with this much needed Emergency Response Plan.

Several systems have already approved support of personnel and equipment for this ERT concept and many more are expected to sign on. The ERT is now being formed, we must now turn our attention to the planning and support of the Emergency Response Plan. **We are not asking you for a check**, instead we need your input and support to make this happen. ERSG members will also be recognized for their work, dedication, and skills in WVRWA publications, at the Annual Conference, in media reports, avenues available to WVRWA.

Please give this your serious consideration, thought, and attention at your earliest opportunity. We just don't know when the ERT will be needed, we just know it will happen and our desire is to be up and running with this new ERT and ERSG when it does.

We will be conducting meetings very soon to begin making plans for operations of this new Emergency Response Plan. Please reply to this letter expressing your desire to participate and we will be glad to notify you of the dates and location of the meeting.

Should you need additional information, desire to sign on as a member of this group, or would like to speak with a representative, please feel free to contact our office at 304-201-1689 or 1-800-339-4513. We would be very happy to explain this plan and answer any questions you may have.

Remember, if nothing ever happens then we don't need the plan or the ERT. How many of us believe nothing will ever happen???? To be safe, let's be ready!!

Sincerely,

Darrell Wellman, Chairman
Emergency Response Committee
West Virginia Rural Water Association