

Water/wastewater emergency response network survey

For the last several months KRWA has been working with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management (KDEM) in the development of the Kansas Water/Wastewater Emergency Response Network or KWERN. The Resource Survey has been completed but still in development is the mutual aid agreement. KRWA will continue to work on the mutual aid agreement with KDEM with a goal of having an agreement finalized by the KRWA Annual Conference on March 27.

When writing this article western Kansas had just experienced the brutal winter ice and snow storm that has caused widespread power outages and

made it nearly impossible to check wells and lift stations for several days if not weeks. During and immediately after the storm, KRWA placed several calls to the KDEM, one of which was made to try to help locate a generator for a system that was in need.



Jim Jackson
Source Water Tech

The storm has truly emphasized the need to complete the resource survey and make sure the mutual aid agreement is finished as well. These vital tools need to be online in order to be of service during these weather emergencies. The Resource Survey is divided into two parts, a needs survey and a donation survey.

Resource Survey

Part 1. Needs Survey –

In the event of a disaster or other emergency KWERN will respond by matching a system's water/wastewater needs with

The needs survey will determine what type of system is in need of help: surface water, groundwater, purchased water, wastewater and the capacity of the water and wastewater treatment plants. It

In the event of a disaster or other emergency KWERN will respond by matching a system's water/wastewater needs with potential donors. The more detailed the information a system can provide will help KWERN better assist the system in time of need.

potential donors. Detailed information provided by a system will help KWERN better assist the system in time of need.

will identify the number of connections and the population served by the system in need. It will also be helpful to know how



This Kansas Army National Guard generator is hard at work in Park, Kansas. It is one of nearly 100 generators brought in to assist utilities in keeping services up and running during the area's recent severe ice and snow storm. Generators were taken back to the Hays armory for repairs when needed.

many wells and lift stations the system has.

Types of disinfection: gas chlorine, liquid chlorine or other type of disinfection will help locate needed types of

disinfectants. The type of disinfection equipment will play an important role as to how disinfectants will be added. The needs survey also will identify size and type of pipe material the

system under emergency conditions with minimal electrical demand. In any emergency an operator will not need to simultaneously power all pumps and equipment. Power sources in



Above: A line crew is making its way down a road studded with toppled power poles. They are working on a line heading to Quinter and Park. **Center:** Jon Showalter, city of Eudora water operator, goes over procedures for the monthly city generator test to ensure its readiness in case of a power failure. Automatic timers allow for generator start-up if power is lost for a set period of time. **Right:** High winds showed no mercy to steel high voltage power lines, they crumpled as easily as wooden poles snapped.



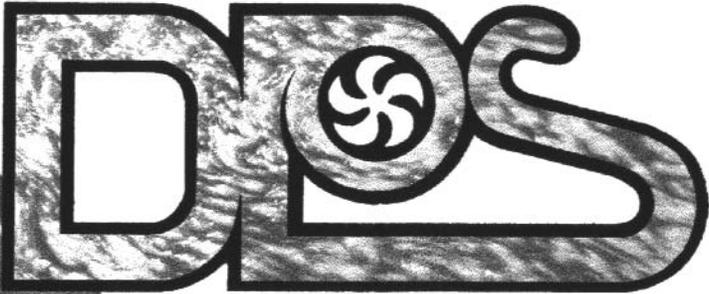
system has in the distribution and collection system. Water storage information will also need to be identified.

Power needs: An electrician or other qualified person should help determine generator size and needs based on operation of a



an emergency are very important. Please take the time to provide accurate information when completing the Resource Survey. Does the system have a generator? How many kilowatt, phase, and volts? Is it portable? Where is it located? What type of fuel does it

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require? Is there a disconnect from normal power? Does the system have a connection for a generator? Who is the electrical service provider? All these questions are very important. Getting a

generator to a site in need won't help if it can't be put to use.

Part 2. Donations Survey

In the event of a disaster or other emergency, a water/wastewater system will be asked to

respond to those in need. The operator/ manager will be asked to indicate the type of resources that the system will be able to donate or loan to KWERN. This does not obligate a system to provide any services. KWERN will make contact prior to making any commitments on the system's behalf.

The items that will be asked about on the

donation survey will cover treatment/pumps, generators, fuel, heavy equipment, and mobile equipment. A system may not be able to donate any of the items that are in need. But is your system willing to make available any personnel? Your system personnel may have expertise that is in need. Your system may be able to provide support services, supplies or facilities.

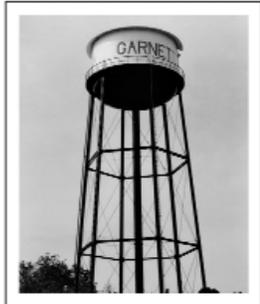
The success of KWERN relies on the participation of all systems in Kansas. Get started today; if someone from your system has not completed a Resource Survey Form please do so today. If you need a form please call KRWA at 785-336-3760.

To learn more about portable generators, make plans to attend the Precision System's Ed Dunn session, "Portable and Stationary Power Generation," at the KRWA Annual Conference on Wednesday March 28.



Above: This lift station is equipped with a generator connection. If power is lost a portable generator can be used to bring the lift station back into service. The generator can be used at more than one lift station. (Note blue adapter for quick connection.) **Above right:** This disconnect switch will disconnect normal electric power and switch to back up power automatically. It is good to make sure a system is ready to switch if the need arises.

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