

KSMAP – Kansas Mutual Aid Program accepting members

The Kansas Mutual Aid Program (KSMAP) was recently agreed to by all major stakeholders. KSMAP, the program's acronym, is the statewide program for water, wastewater, gas and electric utilities; it is a voluntary program open to all utilities in the state. There are no fees or dues to become a member.

Here are a few questions you may have:

Why should systems belong?
In a major disaster your local resources can be extinguished quickly and your personnel may also be victims of the disaster. Neighbors can and will help but there needs to be a process for others to help.

What does becoming a member mean? By becoming a member you are part of a statewide utility helping utility network of resources and personnel.

Will a city or RWD be obligated to help out when there's an emergency? No, there is no obligation to help. Some requests for help may be out of your area of expertise. Water system employees should not be involved in restoring power, unless they are qualified to do so.

Will there be reimbursement? If so, what expenses are reimbursable? The reimbursable expenses are covered in the program agreement.

If a system needs help, is it necessary for the damaged system to be a member to obtain help? No, a city or RWD does not need to be a member to ask for assistance. But it is better to have an agreement in place to expedite assistance.

To become involved with KSMAP, a participating utility will need to complete the following:

- Adopt a resolution approving the program agreement;
- Compile and update a listing of personnel, inventory, and equipment available for assisting other utilities;
- Agree to assist other utilities when your utility has the capability to do so;
- Be prepared to reimburse assisting utilities for personnel costs and FEMA equipment rates;
- Submit information to the KSMAP program.
- Provide appropriate training to personnel.

responses to natural disasters. The focus was on the hurricanes, Katrina and Rita. The presentation covered how the Gulf Coast states (Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida) had used the WARN (Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network) mutual aid program to help restore the water and wastewater systems in those areas. Upon returning home, Jim thought that Kansas systems could sure benefit from such a program. The concept was discussed with other KRWA staff and it was agreed that it would be a goal to establish a Kansas mutual aid program to involve as many systems as possible. At a subsequent meeting of the Association board of directors, approval to develop a "WARN"



This photo shows what remained of a 50,000-gallon elevated water storage tank that supplied the city of Jewell in north-central Kansas. A tornado on Thursday, May 29, 2008 demolished the tank. Jewell purchases water from Mitchell RWD 3 which was able to supply the city directly.

Some history on KSMAP

How did KSMAP develop? In the summer of 2006 at a National Rural Water in-service training in Milwaukee, KRWA training director Jim Jackson attended several sessions that explained

program in Kansas was given. Beginning in July 2006 Kansas Rural Water, namely Jim Jackson, worked with Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) on resource surveys and wording for a mutual aid program

http://ksmap.org/ ksmap.org kswarn.org

KS MAP
Kansas Water, Wastewater, Gas & Electric Mutual Aid Program

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant,"
— Anne Bradstreet

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Kansas has experienced numerous **disasters** and other **emergencies** that have caused significant damage to utility infrastructure of many communities. When disasters or emergencies strike there must be an effective and coordinated response so that utility services are restored. One of Kansas' strengths is that its citizens have a strong **neighbor helping neighbor** ethic.

The mission of the Kansas Water/Wastewater, Gas & Electric Agency Response Network is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response and mutual assistance for utility systems in Kansas. Through Kansas Warn, municipalities and rural water districts can access a **network of resources** and assistance including emergency and other maintenance equipment, materials, communication devices and most important, other people who know utility operations.



Bringing the Pieces Together

SPONSORS OF THE PROGRAM
This program is sponsored by non-profit organizations whose missions are designed to assist the utility industries, environment, health and safety of all Kansans: Kansas Rural Water Association | Kansas Municipal Utilities | Kansas Section American Water Works Association | Kansas Water Environmental Association. In addition, several State Agencies combine their efforts towards the program: Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Kansas Corporation Commission, and Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

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sponsored by
Kansas Rural Water Association | Kansas Municipal Utilities
Kansas Section American Water Works Association | Kansas Water Environmental Association
and State Agencies: KDHE, KCC and KDEM

Kansas Rural Water Association has sponsored development and hosting of the KSMAP Web site: www.ksmap.org.

Check it out; all necessary information can be found on the site. KRWA, as well as other organizations, will be providing additional training sessions and information about KSMAP.

The screen shot on this page and at the top of the next page give a viewer a look at the KSMAP program.

agreement that would put together the first statewide mutual aid program for water and wastewater systems. On May 4, 2007, after nearly a year of review, meetings and many phone conversations, KDEM liked what had been presented to them at a meeting in Topeka that ended around noon. Plans were to begin getting systems involved with the program. Just a little more than



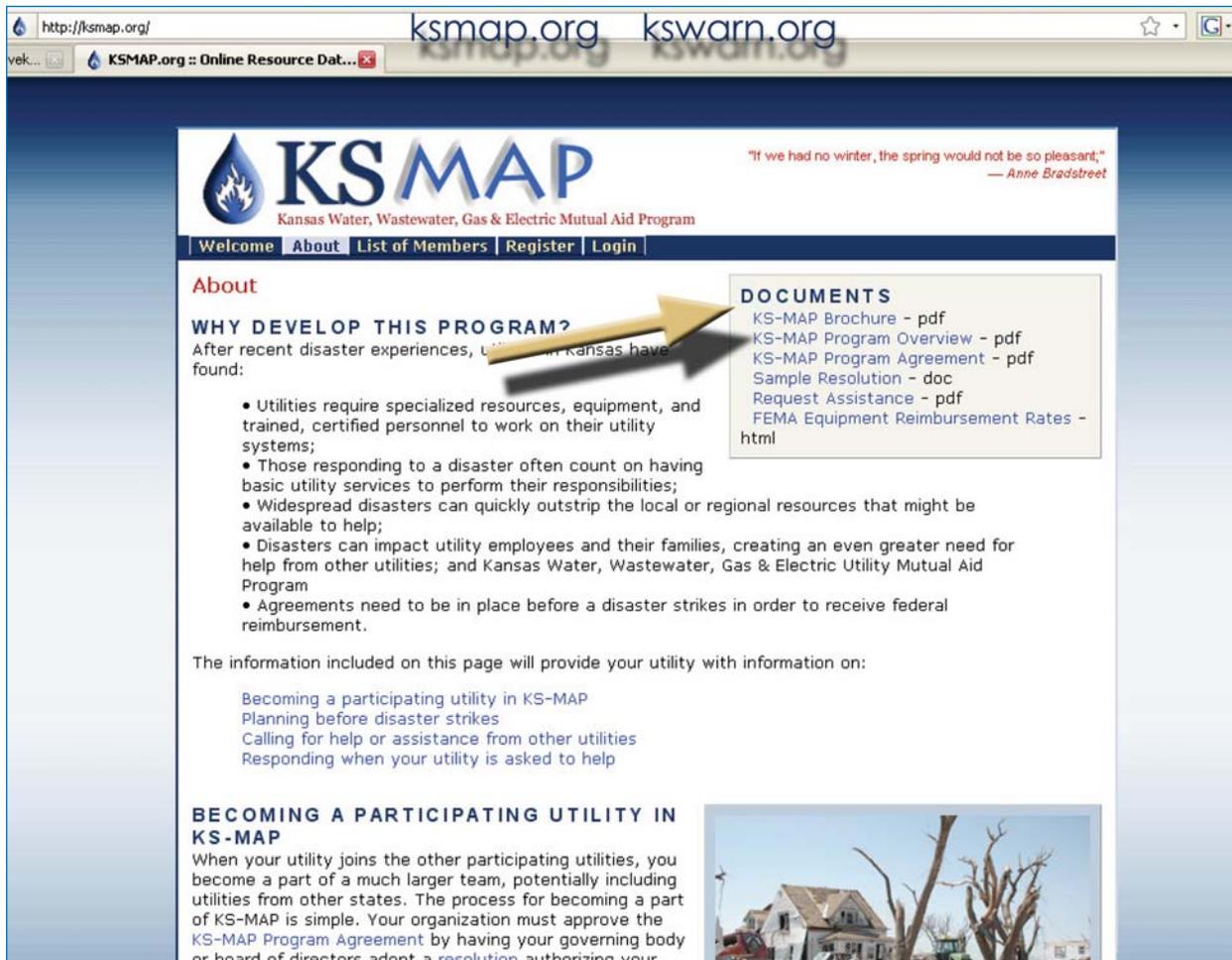
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nine hours after that meeting a disaster struck as an EF5 tornado ripped into Greensburg, Kan.

Lessons from Greensburg

The Greensburg tornado taught an important lesson. It was that all utilities should be included in a mutual aid program. All utilities should work together for a rapid recovery. KRWA and Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) began visiting on the development of a statewide mutual aid program for water, wastewater, gas and electric. A coordinated effort was developed by KRWA, KMU, Kansas Section American Water Works Association (KsAWWA), Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA), Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), and Kansas Dept. of Health and

Environment (KDHE). The group began meeting in the Fall of 2007 to begin developing the Kansas Mutual Aid Program (KSMAP). All the necessary paperwork was recently finalized.



This photo shows a damaged residential area after a tornado ripped through Chapman, Kan., Wednesday evening, June 11, 2008. The tornado was reported to be six blocks wide; it destroyed many homes and buildings. Chapman is located approximately 70 miles west of Topeka.

The 2009 KRWA conference will be one place to learn more about KSMAP. The conference dates are March 24 - 26; the conference will be held at Century II Convention Center in Wichita.