In 2007, a small group of Nevada water and wastewater utilities, with the support from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) joined together to create the NvWARN. The group developed a secure website, adopted a set of administrative procedures, a memorandum of understanding, and suggested ordinances for local board approval for future members. Since that initial meeting, the organization has grown to include 20 utilities statewide.

How is NvWARN funded?
NvWARN was originally funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered by NDEP. Today the program is self-sufficient through in-kind services. There are no membership fees.

How does NvWARN work if there is an emergency?
The program is designed to assist NvWARN members respond to a local emergency when they, themselves, do not have the necessary resources. Each member of NvWARN is asked to provide a list of all the emergency response equipment in their inventory. The NvWARN member in need then contacts the member agency by e-mail or by telephone for the equipment and/or people needed to respond to their particular emergency. This innovative process allows member utilities to match the available resources to the request for assistance quickly, when time is critical for a response.

Another emerging use of the NvWARN is support for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This organization, formed in 1996, allows individual states to request aid from other states. Most recently the system was used when two hurricanes wreaked havoc in the southeastern part of the United States two years ago. Various coastal states activated their state agencies to include the WARN groups.

Member agencies are encouraged to update their list of resources periodically so the membership will have available an updated comprehensive list of equipment and personnel if and when it’s needed.

NvWARN benefits
The goal of NvWARN is to provide services to member utilities and encourage more participation by utilities across the state. The advantages of belonging to the organization are many.

• Increased planning and coordination
• Enhanced access to specialized resources
• Information exchange
• Expedited arrival of aid and personnel in an emergency
• Reduced administrative conflicts
• Resource inventory and availability status
• Identification of AWWA professional crew listings
• Access to water and wastewater professionals with training and experience to help solve emergency situations