

Why Statewide Public Works Mutual Aid?

- IPWMAN is one of the only agencies of its kind in the United States.
- Following the events of 9/11, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 expanded the definition of first responders to include public works personnel.
- Disasters are typically beyond the capabilities of most public works agencies.
- Local equipment may be damaged by the disaster and rendering it out of service.
- Following a disaster, local public works staff may be affected both emotionally and physically by the event, affecting their ability to safely perform work.
- Relying on neighboring communities as the only source of assistance is dangerous because they too can be impacted by the same disaster.
- Routine work such as water shut-offs, treatment plant operations, and sign installation will still need to be completed.
- As first responders, public works agencies are involved with the disaster from the onset to the end of the recovery phase.
- During a disaster, public works equipment and manpower will be limited. No community is too large to need help.
- No community is too small to provide assistance. If you can spare one truck and one person, you can help.
- Because of the diversity of IPWMAN member agencies, there are many types of public works equipment available for mutual aid.

Benefits of IPWMAN

- Any government/public agency that provides functions of public works can be a member.
- The membership sets priorities and controls the organization through the Board of Directors, elected from and by member agencies.
- IPWMAN maintains an up-to-date and readily accessible listing of available statewide resources.
- IPWMAN partners with IEMA-OHS and other statewide mutual aid organizations as well as some non-governmental organizations.
- Comprehensive, public works driven and led training is made available to its members at no cost during the annual conference.

- Because of the defined operations plan, IPWMAN can expedite the coordination and arrival of mutual aid.
- Member agencies have access to assets from all over Illinois.
- There is no charge to the requesting member agency for the first five days of the response.
- By standardizing operating procedures, disaster response is safer and more efficient.
- Member agencies have quick and direct access to assets through an IPWMAN Duty Officer.
- IPWMAN not only coordinates equipment and manpower but also leadership support from member agencies who have experienced similar disasters.
- Each member agency signed the same agreement no matter their location or size.
- Being a member of IPWMAN will provide you with added peace of mind knowing that your community has access to mutual aid during times of need when local resources are overwhelmed.

Available Resources Through IPWMAN:

- General Labor Crews
- Debris Loading Equipment
- Forestry
 - Aerial Lift Truck
 - Brush Chippers
 - Labor Crews with a Forestry Background
 - Grapple Truck Operations
- Engineering/Technician Assistance
- Hauling of materials or debris
- Equipment Transport
- Pumping Operations
- Vac Truck Operations
- Material Loading equipment (not debris)
- Vehicle Maintenance/Service Truck
- Sign Fabrication
- Task Force/Strike Team Leaders
- Command Staff
- IPWMAN can also support other "outside the box" tasks

Does an agency have to respond to a request for assistance?

No, they do not. The mutual aid agreement does not obligate any agency to respond, nor does it require an explanation as to why it chose not to respond. The idea behind IPWMAN is that member agencies can assist each other when they are available when an unusual situation needs an immediate response beyond the available local resources.

What if an agency responds and needs its resources back?

Resources remain under the authority of the responding agency and can be recalled at any time. IPWMAN asks that coordination occur between the Duty Officer and the requesting agency. A member agency is not expected to provide mutual aid if it impacts the ability to effectively manage daily operations or respond to its own emergencies.

What happens if an agency's employees get hurt while rendering aid to another agency?

The employee's member agency remains fully responsible for all of the employees that are sent as part of an IPWMAN activation. This means that each member agency will pay its employees' salaries, benefits, and insurance and provide liability coverage. Should a disaster become eligible for IEMA or FEMA reimbursement, some of these costs may be subject to reimbursement.

How long must I provide assistance if deployed?

If your agency agrees to provide mutual aid to another member agency, IPWMAN asks that you commit to one full workday. Typically, these days are between 8 and 10 hours, which includes drive time to and from the requesting agency location. If an incident were to occur at your agency,

and you needed to recall your personnel and equipment, you have the full right to do so under the IPWMAN Agreement. IPWMAN does ask that you coordinate this through the Duty Officer and the requesting agency.

Will an agency receive reimbursement after providing assistance?

By signing the IPWMAN Mutual Aid Agreement, your agency agrees to provide up to five days of mutual aid at no cost to the requesting agency. There are two situations where reimbursement may become available. Continue reading the next FAQ for a better explanation.

What happens after the first five days?

Under the IPWMAN agreement, the responding member agency will provide personnel, equipment, and materials for the first five days of the deployment without reimbursement. Suppose the requesting member agency requires assistance for longer than five days. In that case, the responding member agency may bill the requesting member agency for the provided mutual aid beyond the first five days.

The value of donated assistance helps the community requesting help in a second way: The value of the unpaid assistance may be credited to the requesting agency as part of the non-federal cost share of the requesting agency's emergency work under the provisions of the Disaster Assistance Policy #9525.2., entitled "Donated Resources."

FEMA reimbursement may be available only after a Presidential Declaration is signed by the President.

IEMA-OHS reimbursement may be available only after a Disaster Declaration has been signed by the Governor.

Can the responding party be forced to work at a location?

No. Although there may be times when a responding party may be relocated to better utilize the resource, the responding agency may refuse to go there.