



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Southern Maine Utilities Sign Mutual Aid Agreement**

Southern Maine water utilities are better prepared for a major disaster or emergency with the recent signing of a Mutual Aid Agreement. These utilities have pledged to lend a hand to their fellow Council members in case of a significant emergency. Assistance can come in the form of water, equipment, supplies, and personnel.

"This Agreement is an important step towards improving our cooperation and regionalism efforts. It creates a framework and process," states SMRWC President Michael Nadeau.

Often times, inclement or severe weather can tax a water system. Hurricanes, torrential downpours, and freezing weather can snap pipes and choke facilities. Water utilities are equipped to handle emergencies but would benefit from relief crews and extra equipment during severe and prolonged emergencies.

Maine regional water councils. The Southern Maine Regional Water Council (*Biddeford-Saco Water Company, Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Wells Water District, Kittery Water District, Portland Water District, Sanford Water District, South Berwick Water District, and York Water District*) has been examining ways to reduce costs and improve contingency plans for providing water services. Combined, these seven utilities serve 23 communities, roughly 375,000 people.

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