

**National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services**

**Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
Environmental Health Assistance Project**



What Is EMAC?

Ratified by Congress and signed into law in 1996, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is an interstate mutual aid agreement that provides a mechanism for sharing personnel, resources, equipment, and assets among states during emergencies and disasters. EMAC has traditionally been used by states for National Guard and emergency management assistance. More recently, it was used to provide public health and environmental health assistance during the 2005 hurricane season with much success. All 50 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation to become members of EMAC.

Benefits of Using EMAC

Some benefits of using EMAC for public health and environmental health emergency response include

- Increased collaboration among states during emergency planning, preparedness, and response;
- Better awareness and understanding of state and local needs and interests;
- Increased access to personnel, equipment, and resources;
- Consideration of legal issues related to worker compensation, liability, credentialing, and reimbursement.



To use EMAC in the most effective manner possible, public health and environmental health departments are encouraged to collaborate with their emergency management agencies (EMAs) and other response partners to increase their awareness and understanding of the EMAC system, organization, components, and principles. These departments are also encouraged to participate in education and training on EMAC whenever possible.

CDC/NCEH Support for EMAC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) has initiated the EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project. In support of that, NCEH has established a working group composed of federal, state, and local agencies,

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EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project, Continued

associations, and organizations to explore how public health and environmental health departments can use EMAC during emergencies and disasters. The objectives of the project are to

- Encourage the increased use of EMAC among states in the provision of public health and environmental health assistance and resources during emergencies and disasters;
- Define and establish the roles of NCEH in providing consultation, technical expertise, and support to public health and environmental health departments during emergencies and disasters when EMAC is being used to provide state-to-state assistance and resources.



CDC/NCEH facilitates and supports efforts to provide education, awareness, and training on EMAC to local, state, and federal public health and environmental health professionals.

Additional Information

For more information on the EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project, contact Martin A. Kalis at 770-488-4568 or emac@cdc.gov. For more information on CDC support for EMAC and applicable resources, visit the CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response Web site at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/emac>.

July 2006