



Fact Sheet

Emergency or Disaster Declaration Process

The Michigan Emergency Management Act (Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended) outlines the emergency management process for the state of Michigan. If an incident exhausts state resources, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 USC §§ 5121-5207) establishes the process for requesting and obtaining a presidential disaster declaration and assistance from the federal government.

STEP BY STEP: Emergency or Disaster Declaration Process

1. Disasters are first and foremost local events. Most disasters are handled by local government with minimal or no state assistance. At the onset of a disaster or emergency, local emergency responders, joined by volunteers and the private sector, are the first to be involved.
2. A local jurisdiction may declare a "Local State of Emergency" exists when they have sustained widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property. A local declaration ensures the response and recovery aspects of the emergency operations plan have been activated, and local resources are being utilized to the fullest extent possible. Authorities may authorize local aid and assistance.
3. If recovery efforts are beyond the ability of local government, the community may turn to the state to request assistance. All requests for assistance are channeled through the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division.
4. The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division reviews specific requests for state assistance and makes recommendations to the Governor's Office. The Governor's authority, granted by the Michigan Emergency Management Act, may include mobilizing state government agencies to provide necessary support and assistance to local authorities under a "State of Emergency" or "State of Disaster" declaration.
5. If state and local government resources are unable to cope with the emergency or disaster, the Governor may request assistance through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region V Office in Chicago.
6. At the request of the Governor, FEMA may conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) in cooperation with state and local emergency management officials. The results of the PDA will be reviewed by state officials and the Governor's Office and used as a basis for determining whether to request federal financial assistance.
7. Should the state request federal disaster assistance, FEMA will review the request and make a recommendation to the president, who will make the final determination on any disaster aid to be provided to the state. The goal of disaster assistance is not to make individuals, businesses or government entities whole again, but to restore the community to a level that meets expected health and safety considerations.



Fact Sheet

Emergency Management System

Emergency Management System Description

The general nature of most emergencies and disasters requires prompt response and effective action. This can best be obtained from existing departments / agencies of federal, state, tribal and local government. For this reason, such governmental entities constitute the basic framework of the emergency management system in Michigan. However, many departments / agencies do not normally operate in a manner directly suitable to emergency operations and must realign their structure and activities to meet emergency requirements. Special purpose units may be formed to perform activities related to incident response and recovery. Individuals designated to serve in such units are detached from their regular assignment when these units are mobilized. In those situations where government cannot accomplish all necessary emergency functions, NGOs and/or the private sector will augment existing forces.

State Framework

The Director of the Michigan (Department of) State Police (MSP) is the State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (SDEMHS). The MSP Director maintains within the MSP the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD). The Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DSDEMHS) commands the MSP/EMHSD, which consists of headquarters staff and field District Coordinators. The MSP/EMHSD coordinates the emergency management and homeland security activities of state and local government. Each department of state government appoints an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) – also commonly known as an Emergency Manager – to act as liaison between the department and the matters pertaining to emergency management and homeland security.

Local Framework

Each county has an appointed EMC (a.k.a. Emergency Manager) and enabling legislation creating an emergency management program. In accordance with the provisions of 1976 PA 390, as amended, some municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more have also elected to appoint an EMC. A jurisdiction must have an appointed EMC and meet certain MSP/EMHSD requirements to be recognized as an emergency management program. Coordination between the MSP/EMHSD and local emergency management programs is accomplished through a District Coordinator assigned to each of the seven MSP/EMHSD districts (a.k.a., regions) in the state (see map on following page). The MSP/EMHSD District Coordinator provides day-to-day administrative and technical support to local emergency management programs. The emergency management system is based on coordination between local emergency management programs, appointed state department EMCs, and the MSP/EMHSD. Hazard mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities are accomplished through these recognized single points of contact channels.

Response Procedures

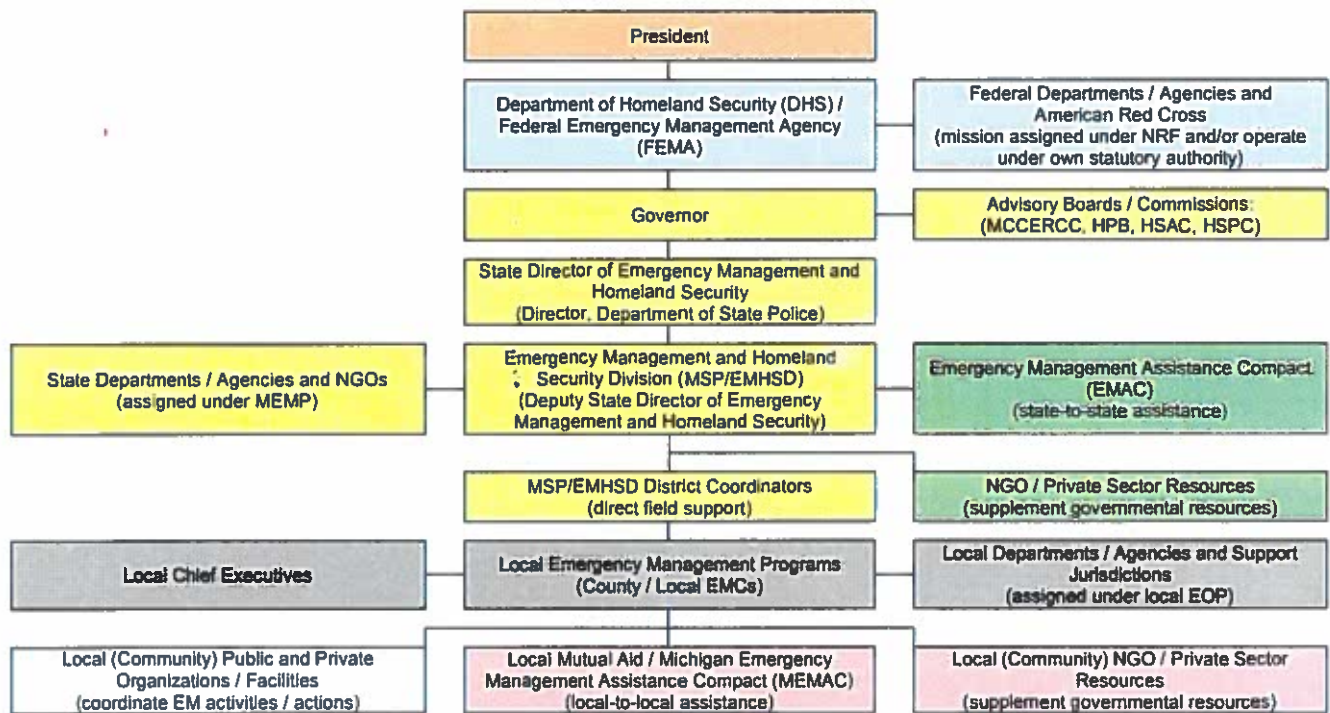
Local Response. When an incident occurs, local police, fire and emergency medical services, and public works crews are typically the first to respond. They initially assess the situation, determine its nature, scope, magnitude and anticipated duration, and determine if additional assistance is required. Additional departments / agencies may become involved depending on incident conditions. The local EMC is notified and monitors the situation. If the incident escalates to the point where coordination among several departments / agencies is required, the EMC will activate the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and notify key personnel. The EMC may also recommend that the chief executive of the county

or municipality declare a local "state of emergency" under 1976 PA 390, as amended, thereby activating appropriate response and recovery aspects of the local government. Local response procedures will be followed as stated in local emergency plans and guidelines. If conditions warrant, the MSP/EMHSD District Coordinator will be notified and in conjunction with the local EMC, will assess the situation and recommend the personnel, services, and equipment needed.

Request for State Assistance. If the chief executive determines that the incident is beyond the control of the local government, he/she may request that the Governor declare a "state of emergency" or "state of disaster" under 1976 PA 390, as amended, and activate state assistance in accordance with the provisions set forth in the act. This request is made through the MSP/EMHSD District Coordinator and forwarded to the MSP/EMHSD, who in turn will notify the Governor of the nature, scope, magnitude, and anticipated duration of the situation.

Generally, before state assistance is requested, local emergency management programs must ensure that local disaster relief forces are utilized to the maximum extent possible, including the use of local contractors, activation of mutual aid under the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC) and other standing agreements, and use of nearby resources. The MSP/EMHSD District Coordinator will help verify that local resources are exhausted. State disaster assistance is used to supplement local efforts and resources, and to help relieve extraordinary burden. It is not to be used for simple budgetary relief or to relieve hardship.

Michigan's Emergency Management System





Fact Sheet

State Emergency Operations Center

Michigan's State Emergency Operations Center

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is responsible for facilitating the coordination of all state agency activities and resources during an emergency ensuring an effective and efficient state response. During activation of the SEOC, personnel monitor ongoing incidents, communicate with affected jurisdictions and government agencies, as well as assess and coordinate any requests for state resources or assistance. The SEOC is typically staffed by state agency personnel, nonprofit organizations, as well as members of the private sector affected by the incident. The governor is kept informed of state response and recovery activities from the SEOC. The SEOC is overseen and maintained by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD).

SEOC Structure

In accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the SEOC is organized into five sections, including incident management, operations, planning, logistics, and finance. The SEOC is designed to be both scalable and flexible to reflect the needed functions and resources for all types of hazards. In the event the SEOC public information function is overwhelmed, the state can activate the Joint Information Center (JIC) to provide critical information to the media and public regarding response efforts of all state agencies involved in the incident.

Capabilities

The SEOC has a wide-range of capabilities available, including broadcasting Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages to the public, accessing Michigan's Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) for first responders, as well as access to satellite telephones, radio communications with federal agencies, mapping capabilities, satellite television to access media markets statewide, and back-up generators. To help enhance communications among all involved agencies and facilities, Michigan uses a web-based Critical Incident Management System (MI CIMS) called WebEOC. WebEOC is a critical tool for sharing and documenting activities throughout an ongoing incident. Some of the available functions include alert notification, mapping, and requesting resources.

Facility

Located in the State Secondary Complex in Dimondale, the SEOC is permanently set-up with the necessary equipment, materials, and security to be activated immediately in response to an incident and to remain operational 24-hours per day, as needed. Each state agency and other key functions have a designated workstation in the SEOC with procedures and resources in place specific to their role and responsibilities. Built in accordance with FEMA guidelines, the SEOC is a state of the art hardened facility that can withstand 250 mph winds, including an EF-5 tornado, and some earthquakes. Power, mechanical, communications and fire suppression systems have been designed with backup and redundant systems to provide uninterrupted transitions. In the office part of the facility, there is a 20-person PIO working room, media monitoring room and media hotline area.

Key SEOC Responsibilities

- ❖ **Governor of Michigan:** The governor is responsible for directing the state's response and recovery efforts to protect public health and safety during an emergency. The governor can activate the SEOC to coordinate the state's response and recovery efforts. During activation of the SEOC, the

governor and/or governor's representative serves in the incident management section, responsible for overall direction and control of the SEOC, policy, and public information.

- ❖ **Director of the MSP:** The director of the MSP is responsible for implementing the orders and directives of the governor in the event of a disaster or emergency, as well as coordinating all local, state, and federal disaster prevention, mitigation, relief, and recovery operations within the state. The director also provides recommendations to the governor for the state's response and recovery efforts. The director of the MSP also serves as the State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as well as the State Homeland Security Advisor.
- ❖ **MSP/EMHSD:** The MSP/EMHSD is responsible for maintaining, activating, and operating the SEOC. During activation of the SEOC, the commander of the MSP/EMHSD typically serves as the SEOC State Director within the incident management section. The commander of the MSP/EMHSD also serves as the Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as well as the Deputy Homeland Security Advisor.
- ❖ **State Agencies:** During an emergency, the SEOC is staffed by personnel representing each state agency involved in responding to and recovering from the incident. Each state agency has multiple personnel trained to serve in the SEOC, who are commonly known as the agency's emergency management coordinator (EMC). State EMCs are responsible for representing their respective agency to ensure a coordinated state response, including deploying available state resources to protect public health and safety.

Local/State/Federal EOC Integration:

