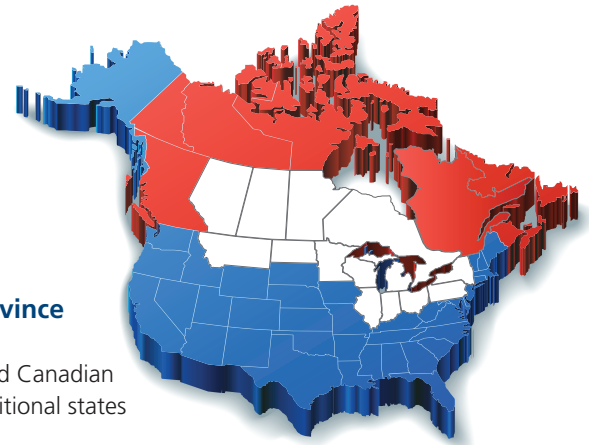


State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Agreement

Frequently Asked Questions



→ Who are the proposed participating jurisdictions in the State-Province Agreement?

The proposed participating jurisdictions initially will represent the U.S. states and Canadian provinces located in the Central and Prairie Regions. The agreement allows additional states and provinces to join upon execution or adoption.

Eligible participating jurisdictions may include any or all of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Also any or all of the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

→ What types of emergencies can use State-Province Agreement?

The Agreement can be used for any capability and capacity that one member state or province has that can be shared with another. This spans natural disasters from floods and tornados to human-induced emergencies such as chemical spills and terrorist events. The Agreement comprises specialized resources as well as assets that can be brought to bear on any given incident.

→ Cross border mutual aid happens regularly. Why should my state or province join the State-Province Agreement?

The cross border mutual aid that exists today occurs between local jurisdictions. The State-Province Agreement is a U.S. state to Canadian province agreement which better aligns state/provincial emergency management mandates.

Although states and provinces are capable of managing most emergencies, there are times when disasters exceed the state or provincial resources and therefore require outside assistance. Even when federal assistance is merited, cross border mutual aid assistance may be more readily available, less expensive, and/or operationally expedient.

The State-Province Agreement also encourages/allows cooperative planning and exercises so that both sides are better prepared regardless of what actions they decide to take during an actual emergency.

Most important, the Agreement allow for a quick response to disasters using the unique resources and expertise possessed by member states and provinces.

→ Do other regions have cross border agreements in place?

Yes. The International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) includes Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland-Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement (PNEMA) includes British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington State.

→ How does my state or province join?

To join the Agreement, some states are required to pass legislation approving the compact as written and some states have statutory authority for the governor to enter into cross border agreements with Canada. The U.S. Congress must ratify the Agreement language in order for it to be recognized by the federal government.

The Canadian federal government is not required to approve compact language; however, each province has its own internal approval processes.

→ Who supports the concept of the State-Province Agreement?

- National Emergency Management Association
- The Council of State Governments
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Canadian Council of Emergency Management Organizations
- Public Safety Canada

→ **Will membership cost anything?**

No. There is no fee to become a signatory to the agreement.

→ **Will my state or province be reimbursed for assistance?**

Yes. By agreeing to a standard legal process, member states and provinces are guaranteed reimbursement for all eligible assistance provided through the Agreement. Standardized and agreed upon reimbursement forms streamline the reimbursement process.

Under the Agreement, it is the responsibility of states or provinces requesting assistance to pay back the states or provinces that provide it. This legal standard also helps to speed the process and reduce the paperwork required. Member states and provinces can be confident that they will be reimbursed.

→ **Will my state or province be liable for assistance?**

Not necessarily. Under the terms of the State-Province Agreement, requesting states or provinces are responsible for the actions of workers from assisting states or provinces. This means that without the Agreement, emergency workers from assisting states or provinces might be sued in the courts of requesting states or provinces, costing millions of dollars. Under the Agreement however, requesting states or provinces assume tort responsibility for out-of-state/provincial workers.

→ **Does my state or province have to provide assistance when requested?**

No. It is understood that the signatory rendering aid may withhold or recall resources to the extent necessary to provide reasonable protection for itself.

→ **What is the command and control structure for personnel and assets deployed?**

Assisting personnel and assets remain under the command and control of the assisting state/province. Overall operational control rests with the requesting state/province.

→ **Does the State-Province Agreement supersede or conflict with other agreements of which my state or province is a member?**

No. Neither agreement will supersede any existing agreements nor preclude any signatory from entering into supplementary agreements. In fact, the State-Province Agreement is complementary to the following agreements:

- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC)
- Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement (PNEMA)
- Canadian Council of Emergency Management Organizations (CCEMO) Memorandum of Understanding Interjurisdictional Emergency Management Assistance

For more information, contact the National Emergency Management Association at 859-244-8233.