EMAC

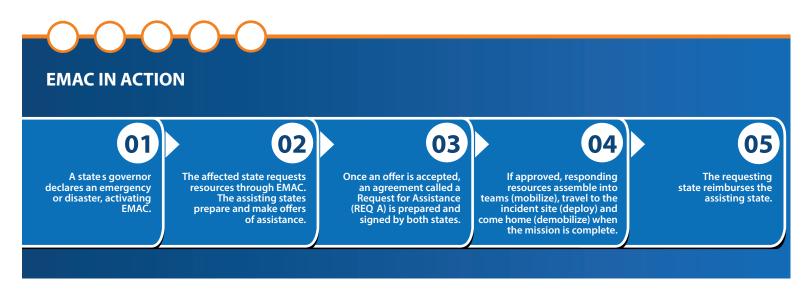## WATER UTILITIES & THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

EPA

What is EMAC?

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or EMAC, allows states to send personnel, equipment, and commodities to other states to help disaster relief during governor-declared states of emergency. All 50 states plus the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam have enacted legislation to become EMAC members. This means that as a drinking water or wastewater utility, you are already covered by EMAC legislation, and you too can benefit from this state-to-state mutual aid system. However, to use EMAC to your full advantage during a statewide emergency, you should be familiar with EMAC and how it works. To learn more, visit the EMAC website.

How Does EMAC Support my Utility?

- Provides the means to deploy utility assets across state lines quickly and effectively during a declared emergency
- Provides liability and other legal protections for deployed utility staff and equipment
- Provides reciprocity for licenses and certifications during deployment

EMAC IN ACTION

01 A state s governor declares an emergency or disaster, activating EMAC.

02 The affected state requests resources through EMAC. The assisting states prepare and make offers of assistance.

03 Once an offer is accepted, an agreement called a Request for Assistance (REQ A) is prepared and signed by both states.

04 If approved, responding resources assemble into teams (mobilize), travel to the incident site (deploy) and come home (demobilize) when the mission is complete.

05 The requesting state reimburses the assisting state.

EMAC
Emergency Management Assistance Compact

CASE STUDY:

During large-scale events, representatives from the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) participate in daily WARN situational awareness briefings hosted by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). This coordination benefited the water sector during Superstorm Sandy. For that event, NEMA and state emergency management agency personnel were able to make directed inquiries regarding water sector emergency generator requests. Multiple requests were fulfilled within 12 hours notice. This included a WARN-driven EMAC deployment of generator assets from a mid-Atlantic utility to support utility requests in New Jersey. Please see AWWAs Superstorm Sandy After Action Report for more details.

Water Utilities and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact

How can my Utility Prepare to Use EMAC?

1. Get to know your local emergency manager, who will have a direct line of communication with your state emergency management agency during a disaster.

2. Join your state's Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) for statewide access to utility resources.

3. Assess your resources and determine what type of response team your utility could deploy or may need during an incident. Inventory and type your resources. By doing this, you are creating a catalog of personnel and equipment that will expedite your utility's ability to request resources or fulfill a resource request. Use AWWA's Water & Wastewater Mutual Aid & Assistance Resource Typing Manual, which is based on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Tier I resources.

4. Gather information needed to prepare cost estimates for personnel, equipment and other expenses that will be incurred if you deploy resources on an EMAC mission.

5. Visit the EMAC website to become familiar with Mission Ready Packages (MRPs). Work with your state EMA to assemble MRPs that can facilitate the rapid deployment of resources in an emergency.

6. Train your staff so that they are ready to participate in EMAC and deploy during emergencies. Develop information on topics such as what personal items to take, what to expect during deployment, what health and safety risks might exist, and what legal protections they will have. Do not deploy without an EMAC Mission Order Authorization Form!

7. Participate in exercises that incorporate EMAC. These may already be hosted by your local and state emergency management agencies, and will help you to stay familiar with EMAC procedures and forms. Stay in touch with your local emergency manager to be notified of these exercises.

For further information, NEMA maintains an EMAC eLearning portal that provides instruction in a self-paced, independent atmosphere. NEMA also offers training, workshops, and webinars upon reasonable request, if staffing allows.