



# Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division Informational Letter



4000 Collins Road  
Lansing, MI 48910  
[www.michigan.gov/emd](http://www.michigan.gov/emd)

Volume: 06-23

June 22, 2006

**TO: Local and District Emergency Management Coordinators and Other Interested Parties**  
**SUBJECT: Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC) – Governor Granholm Approves for the State's Participation in the Compact**

The Michigan State Police (MSP), Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD), is pleased to announce that the final draft of the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC) was approved by the Governor's office on March 2, 2006. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm gave her approval for the Department of State Police to become a signatory to the agreement and to continue to develop and refine the operational policies for the MEMAC.

EMHSD is encouraging all jurisdictions to review and sign the MEMAC agreement and consider it a supplement to their existing local mutual aid agreements. The MEMAC is designed to help Michigan's 1,859 local political subdivisions share vital public safety services and resources more effectively and efficiently. Sixty-three jurisdictions have previously signed an authorizing resolution to become members of the MEMAC.

At this time, MEMAC is the only method to deploy local assets out of state, in the event of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) activation, such as in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In cases where the State of Michigan has received and agreed to provide assistance to another state under EMAC, but lacks particular personnel, equipment or other necessary resources, the State Director of Emergency Management may invoke the MEMAC, with the State as the requesting party. Personnel, equipment and other resources of assisting parties responding outside of Michigan, through the activation of MEMAC and EMAC will be considered state assets.

MEMAC creates an organized process and structure spelled out in advance for jurisdictions large and small across the state to render or receive assistance in times of crisis. It addresses problematic issues concerning workers' compensation insurance, expense reimbursement and liability coverage, prior to the need and request for assistance. Designed to be flexible, MEMAC is also intended to supplement rather than replace existing, local mutual aid agreements already in place to handle smaller scale public safety services among neighboring jurisdictions and fire departments. It is important to note that the implementation of the MEMAC assists in facilitating the receipt of state or federal disaster funds through the Public Assistance Program.

With lessons learned during the Hurricane Katrina response, Michigan residents now realize how important it is to have resources available to respond to a large scale incident. No state or local jurisdiction can predict, acquire or maintain the personnel, equipment and other resources that would be necessary to respond to every possible emergency or major disaster, including acts of terrorism.

MEMAC is designed for jurisdictions, not individual agencies to sign. Fire, police, and other first responders that wish to participate must have their jurisdictions sign a resolution to become MEMAC members on their behalf.

Several requests have been made for "MEMAC Talking Points" to be issued in assisting the local emergency managers when speaking to their respective jurisdictions about the MEMAC. These talking points are in the process of being developed.

The MEMAC agreement is available for local government jurisdictions to review and to consider their participation in the MEMAC. For information regarding becoming a signatory to the MEMAC, please contact Sgt. Shelley Heindel, Field Support Section, (517) 333-4624 or email [HeindelS@michigan.gov](mailto:HeindelS@michigan.gov). To obtain more information and a copy of the compact online, go to [http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593\\_3507---.00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_3507---.00.html) and click the MEMAC link at the bottom of the page.

Sincerely,



KRISTE ETUE, CAPTAIN

Deputy State Director of Emergency Management  
and Homeland Security

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