



# Fact Sheet

## *Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC)*

The Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC) establishes a system for providing mutual aid to localities in Michigan in the event of a catastrophe or major disaster where existing mutual aid agreements become exhausted. The MEMAC is a voluntary agreement between governmental units in Michigan. The agreement sets forth a system to provide large-scale mutual aid assistance in the event of an emergency of such significance it appears beyond the capability of local resources to handle. The MEMAC was approved by the Governor in 2006 and was issued under the authority of Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended.

### **Who Can Join the MEMAC?**

- Governmental units that may join the MEMAC include: the state of Michigan, counties, municipalities, townships, political subdivisions, federally recognized tribal nations, and “interlocal public agencies.”

### **How Does a Governmental Unit Join the MEMAC?**

Follow five simple steps:

1. The chief executive must sign the compact.
2. A resolution from the governmental unit must be provided.
3. A letter regarding the type of insurance for five defined lines of insurance must be provided to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD).
  - i. Insurance is not required to be part of the MEMAC. Those entities who are self-insured may still join the MEMAC and operate at their own risk per Article VI.
4. A list of authorized contacts must be submitted to the MSP/EMHSD.
5. A copy of the resolution is filed with the County Clerk’s Office.

### **What Type of Hazards can the MEMAC be Activated for?**

- The MEMAC is intended to cover “all hazards” that are of such scope resources of many jurisdictions are required. Incidents that may require a need for large-scale mutual aid include fire, severe weather, chemical spills, explosions, or nuclear incidents.

### **Are There Disadvantages of Joining the MEMAC?**

- There are no disadvantages to joining the MEMAC. Pre-planning is always better than no planning.
- The MEMAC is a way to leverage resources and provide assistance when needed.

**What is the Difference between the MEMAC and the EMAC?**

- The MEMAC is intrastate, jurisdiction helping jurisdiction within the state of Michigan.
- The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is interstate; state helping state.
- By being a MEMAC member, you or your resources are eligible to be deployed out of state as a part of the EMAC with your consent.
- All the benefits of the MEMAC apply to the EMAC.

**Main Benefits of the MEMAC Membership**

- When a significant emergency strikes, a large-scale response can be mobilized in an organized manner allowing jurisdictions to provide assistance, while minimizing the occurrence of “self deploying” resources.
- Reimbursement for assistance provided is set forth in a pre-agreement.
- Liability issues are addressed.
- Command structure and lines of authority are defined before an emergency occurs.

**Main Benefits of the MEMAC in an Emergency**

- It establishes a system for requesting and providing emergency assistance with pre-established reimbursement guidelines.
- It helps contain liability exposure to those who provide assistance.
- It enhances cooperation, pre-planning, and the prompt leverage of essential resources (people and equipment) from areas of availability to areas of need.

**Main Benefits of Mutual Aid**

- Disasters occur at the local level, and most disaster response resources (people, facilities, materials, and equipment) are located at the local level. Mutual aid can provide rapid emergency assistance from surrounding areas to those in need.
- No single entity can afford to maintain all the resources necessary in the case of a large-scale disaster. Mutual aid provides for the leveraging of resources.

**Important Features of MEMAC for State and Local Government**

- The MEMAC is activated upon request by the local government through the compact terms of agreement.
- The MEMAC is not a state mandate to provide assistance. The MEMAC is a mutual aid system, whereby both the requesting and providing parties agree to terms.
- Participation in the MEMAC is voluntary.
- For those jurisdictions who are joining or considering joining Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) for fire/emergency medical services mutual aid, it is a requirement of the MABAS that you be a signatory to the MEMAC prior to joining.

**For Additional Information and to Become a Signatory:**

Contact Andrew Zaccagnini, MSP/EMHSD Logistics Analyst, at [zaccagninia@michigan.gov](mailto:zaccagninia@michigan.gov) or 517-512-4404.