

Intrastate Mutual Aid Legislation

A NEMA resource for building statewide preparedness through agreements that share resources, personnel, and expertise before disaster strikes.

Model Intrastate Legislation

The model Intrastate mutual aid legislation was originally developed by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) in partnership with National Public Safety Organizations in 2004. Recognizing how the aid landscape has evolved — and that state and local resources remain critical to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters — NEMA has updated the template to provide practical guidance for developing a statewide mutual aid agreement.

What Is Intrastate Mutual Aid?

- *Agreements or legislation that enable participating political subdivisions to share resources or personnel.*
- *Often coordinated with assistance from the state.*
- *Allows for license reciprocity for emergency responders during an event or disaster.*
- *Enables public, volunteer, or private sector resources or personnel to assist in other jurisdictions.*

Agreements & Legislation

Intrastate mutual aid legislation increases a state's preparedness. Establishing agreements before a disaster ensures resources are accessible for any event at any time.

Key considerations include outlining the process by which political subdivisions can become parties, defining the types of resources included, and articulating how workers' compensation, licensing, and liability will be handled.

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Best Practices for Developing Legislation

Use an opt-out structure. *Automatically enroll jurisdictions so that, in disasters, they can immediately request resources or personnel.*

Outline parties' responsibilities. *Articulate expectations and how parties coordinate with the State Emergency Management Agency.*

Clearly outline reimbursement and liability. *Legislation should state potential liability concerns, how they will be addressed, and benefits such as workers' compensation and immunity.*

For more information, visit EMAC's website: emacweb.org/index.php/learn/model-intrastate-legislation

Clearly define an emergency responder. *Provide clear language for the types of resources assisting jurisdictions may send.*

Allow license, certificate, and permit portability. *Deployed personnel shall be deemed licensed in the requesting subdivision.*