

Guidebook & Standard Operating Procedures



WEST VIRGINIA STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

May 2012

West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Statewide Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee
West Virginia Emergency Management Council

This document updates and supplants all previous editions.

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INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (WVSMAA) was originally envisioned to replicate the ideas and procedures contained in The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The EMAC has operated very effectively and efficiently between the growing number of member states and territories since its inception in 1996.

There has always been legal authority for local jurisdictions to assist others based on individually developed local mutual aid agreements. This system, based on §15-5-28, WV Code, has served the residents, elected leaders, and first response agencies throughout the state of West Virginia well for many years. However, it has been noted that there are certain variations in the scope and effectiveness of some of these Agreements.

The intent of the West Virginia Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement is to provide a streamlined and effective means for party jurisdictions to request and receive emergency assistance from other party jurisdictions from throughout West Virginia in a timely manner. One important key to the WVSMAA is that it provides a vehicle for documenting and resolving issues concerning liability and reimbursement of costs related to providing these services. The requesting jurisdiction (1) agrees to assume liability for out-of-jurisdiction workers deployed under the WVSMAA and (2) agrees to reimburse Assisting Jurisdictions (once proper WVSMAA specific documentation is provided) for all deployment-related costs.

This Guidebook is published to provide jurisdictions the procedures that will be used by member jurisdictions and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in administering the WVSMAA. Over time, we expect to receive valuable feedback from member jurisdictions on ways to improve the process outlined here. This feedback will result in updated publications, when appropriate, after coordinating with member jurisdictions.

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