



Acronym: FEMA
Full Name: Federal Emergency Management Agency
Website: www.fema.gov
Established: 1979
Location: Washington D.C, United States

Areas of expertise: Coordination of the response to a disaster occurred in the United States of America

Main Partners and collaborations: State Emergency Management Offices, National Emergency Management Organizations, Federal Communications Commission and the Commerce Department's National Weather, American Red Cross, National Disaster Medical System, Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defence, the Veterans Administration.

Short Description:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was established by Presidential Order in 1979 and is part of the United States Department of Homeland Security since 2003. The work of FEMA takes place in its headquarter in Washington D.C., at regional and area offices in the United States, the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center, and the National Emergency Training Centre in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The mission of FEMA is "to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards." (<http://www.fema.gov/about/index.shtm> - 04.03.2010)

Main activities:

FEMA coordinates the response of local and national authorities in case of disaster. In addition, FEMA offers financial resources to the victims and to local and state administrations for the reconstruction of houses, buildings and public institutions. This agency also supports financially training activities for firemen and medical doctors as well as catastrophe plans in the United States*.

One of FEMA's important contributions in the prevention of disasters is HAZUS, FEMA's Methodology for Estimating Potential Losses from Disasters. This software was developed to analyse potential losses from floods, hurricane winds and earthquakes. In HAZUS-MH, current scientific and engineering knowledge is coupled with the latest geographic information systems (GIS) technology to produce estimates of hazard-related damage before, or after, a disaster occurs*.

Contact:

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Source: * Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov – 04.03/2010)