



# DEMA

# State Emergency Operations Center Overview

*Fact Sheet*

The Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), Division of Emergency Management coordinates State emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts to reduce the impact of disasters on persons, property and economies in the Whole Community.

## What is the State Emergency Operations Center?

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is a coordination and collaboration facility located at Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix. Depending on State response and recovery objectives, representatives of various government agencies and non-governmental organizations gather at the SEOC to share information and expertise in support of disaster response and recovery efforts. The goals are to meet the unique, immediate response needs and to address long-term consequences presented during an incident.

## What happens at the State Emergency Operations Center?

Agencies share information to develop a common operating picture about the situation and identify gaps in services or resources. Resources requests (personnel or equipment) are prioritized and processed. Response personnel address the immediate response needs and anticipate resource gaps for the next 12, 24, 48 and 72 hours. Personnel also identify and plan for long-term disaster consequences.

The SEOC Policy Section decides the strategic direction of state-level emergency operations and decision making by conducting meetings with key stakeholders to determine what actions to take during an emergency.

During a Palo Verde Generating Station incident, the Policy Chief reviews protective action recommendations from Palo Verde Generating Station and, in consult with the directors of the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management, makes protective action decisions. Protective action decisions to evacuate homes and/or schools, shelter in place, and/or establish a Reception and Care Center are implemented by Maricopa County.

## Who staffs the State Emergency Operations Center?

The type of disaster determines the staffing needs of the SEOC. In a Palo Verde event, the SEOC is typically staffed by representatives of the:

- ⊕ Dept. of Health – Radiological technical response and guidance, hospital availability, Public Health advisories
- ⊕ Dept. of Agriculture – Livestock and farmlands
- ⊕ Dept. of Public Safety – Public safety, areas to avoid
- ⊕ Dept. of Transportation – Road closures, detours
- ⊕ National Weather Service – Weather forecast, wind conditions



- ⊕ American Red Cross – Shelters
- ⊕ Salvation Army – Donations management

## How do the agencies working in the State Emergency Operations Center know what to do?

The State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan outlines agency roles and responsibilities during a disaster ([https://dema.az.gov/sites/default/files/publications/EM-PLN\\_SERRP.pdf](https://dema.az.gov/sites/default/files/publications/EM-PLN_SERRP.pdf)). Emergency Support Functions within the plan identify primary and support agencies. Each position in the SEOC follows a standard operating procedure (or detailed checklist) to maintain consistency and ensure operational objectives are met.

## Is there a specific plan for what to do if an emergency occurs at a nuclear power plant?

Federal regulations require commercial nuclear power plants, such as Palo Verde Generating Station, to have onsite and offsite emergency response plans as a condition of their license. The Palo Verde Emergency Plan details the onsite response. This plan is prepared and maintained by Palo Verde Generating Station.

The Offsite Emergency Response Plan for Palo Verde Generating Station was cooperatively written and is jointly reviewed by the State of Arizona and Maricopa County.

The plan defines the offsite roles and responsibilities of the State of Arizona and Maricopa County, and describes a concept of operations for a Palo Verde response. It also classifies emergencies, reflects agency authorities detailed in the Arizona Revised Statutes, and assigns offsite responsibilities. The plan is evaluated and exercised in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, reviewed annually, and revised as necessary to ensure public health and safety.

## What can Arizonans do to be emergency prepared?

No matter what the hazard, there are four steps to be emergency prepared.

- ⊕ **Make a plan** - Write and rehearse family evacuation and communication plans that identify a family meeting place and include out-of-town contacts.
- ⊕ **Build a kit** - An emergency kit should include enough non-perishable food, drinking water and necessary supplies for at least a 72 hour period. Visit [ein.az.gov](http://ein.az.gov) for a complete list.
- ⊕ **Be informed** – Know the hazards in your community and where you travel. Monitor local news coverage and be aware of weather forecasts.
- ⊕ **Inspire others** – Be a positive preparedness example