



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 located at Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix. DEMA coordinates the State response to and recovery from emergencies from this facility. 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.

Who is in charge at the State Emergency Operations Center?

The Policy Chief, usually the Director of the Division of Emergency Management, directs the SEOC during most exercises and disasters. The Policy Chief reports to The Adjutant General, the Director of DEMA. The Adjutant General, in turn, reports to the Governor.

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

During a Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station exercise, the Policy Chief reviews protective action recommendations from Palo Verde and, in consult with the directors of the Arizona Radiological Regulatory Agency 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 helps determine the staffing needs of the SEOC. In a Palo Verde event, the SEOC is typically staffed by representatives of the:

- ⊕ Dept. of Health – Hospital availability, Public Health advisories
- ⊕ Dept. of Agriculture – Livestock and farm lands
- ⊕ Dept. of Public Safety – Public safety, areas to avoid
- ⊕ Dept. of Transportation – Road closures, detours
- ⊕ Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency – Technical response and guidance
- ⊕ National Weather Service – Weather forecast, wind conditions
- ⊕ American Red Cross – Shelters
- ⊕ Salvation Army – Donations management



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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-2016-FINAL-Jan10-2017.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 insure consistency at the position and 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 like Palo Verde to have onsite and offsite emergency response plans as a condition of their license. The Palo Verde Emergency Plan details the onsite response; it was prepared and is maintained by Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

The Offsite Emergency Response Plan for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station was cooperatively written and is jointly reviewed by 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 assure public health and safety.

Arizona Department of Emergency & Military Affairs (DEMA)

5636 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85008 | (602) 267-2700 | dema.az.gov | ein.az.gov