



CRUDE MOVE

Crude Oil Movement in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Region

Great Lakes Community Emergency Response and Planning

When disasters strike, they are typically felt first locally. First responders come from local communities, where the lasting effects are often felt much longer. State and federal disaster planning and response is important, but local actions can be the difference between a catastrophe and a close call. The following briefly describes the federal (United States and Canada) and local emergency planning structure.



United States

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (commonly referred to as the Stafford Act) lays out the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) disaster response strategy. Under the Stafford Act, to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants from FEMA, local governments must have a mitigation plan. These plans must give an opportunity for the public to comment during drafting and prior to approval. FEMA established the national incident management system (NIMS) to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government to work together seamlessly and manage incidents involving all threats and hazards. Outlined below is how each Great Lakes state structures their local emergency planning.





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Illinois

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Illinois Emergency Management Agency](#)
- Counties form Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) to prepare an emergency response plan.
 - LEPCs consult and coordinate with the State Emergency Planning Committee (SEPC) and such other local organizations as may be necessary to carry out their assigned responsibilities
 - The City of Chicago has its own plan.
 - Some counties have grouped to form multicounty plans to pool resources.

Indiana

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Indiana Department of Homeland Security](#)
- Counties form Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) to prepare an emergency response plans. Homeland Security Districts coordinate LEPC planning and response across multiple counties.
 - LEPCs consult with state and local officials; broadcast and print media; community groups; and owners and operators of facilities that handle hazardous materials; and personnel from the following fields: law enforcement, emergency management, firefighting, emergency medical services, health, local environmental, hospital, transportation.

Michigan

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Emergency Management & Homeland Security](#)
- Each county must develop an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). A municipality with a population over 10,000 may prepare an EOP.
 - All stakeholders involved in response to emergencies and disasters must be involved in the development of the county and municipal EOPs.
 - The county is required to appoint an emergency management coordinator to facilitate the county's EOP. An individual community may prepare their own EOP and appoint a municipal emergency management coordinator to facilitate it.

Minnesota

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#)
- Each political subdivision may establish a local organization for emergency management planning. Regional review committees provide guidance for local emergency management plans and provide planning for communities who do not do planning on their own.
 - Two or more political subdivisions may enter an agreement to provide for a common emergency management planning.



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New York

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Office of Emergency Management](#)
- Each county is authorized to prepare comprehensive emergency management plans.
 - Cooperation, advice and assistance shall be sought from local government officials, regional and local planning agencies, police agencies, fire departments and fire companies, local emergency management agencies, commercial and volunteer ambulance services, health and social services officials, community action agencies, the chief administrator of the courts, organizations for the elderly and the handicapped, other interested groups and the public.

Ohio

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Ohio Emergency Management Agency](#)
- Each county must have an emergency management agency and develop and maintain an emergency operations plan (EOP). Regional resources are available for local use for response and planning that would cost too much for local jurisdictions to maintain.
 - An EOP must include the community's public- and private-sector response organizations, support agencies and service agencies that may be active during an emergency or disaster.

Pennsylvania

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency](#)
- Each municipality must have an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Each county must have an Emergency Management Agency (EMA) that helps coordinate the municipal plans.
 - Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency provides direction and assistance for plans, including a generic county EOP.

Wisconsin

- State Emergency Response Agency: [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#)
- Each county must have a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
 - LEPCs include local elected officials, members of emergency response agencies (fire, law enforcement, EMS, health, etc.), and representatives from transportation, public works, the media, community groups, environmental groups, and owners/operators of facilities.
 - Counties can pool their resources to facilitate better planning and faster response.



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Canada

Public Safety Canada prepared the Emergency Management Framework for Canada to coordinate local, provincial, territorial, and federal emergency response and planning. The Framework builds a shared approach for cooperative emergency management. Below outlines local emergency response and planning for the Great Lakes provinces.

Ontario

- Provincial Emergency Response Agency: [Emergency Management Ontario](#)
- All municipalities are required to have an emergency management program (EMP) and an emergency management program committee (EMPC).
 - EMPCs may consist of local responders and citizens.
 - Emergency Management Ontario supports municipalities and ministries in implementing their programs by providing them with advice, assistance, guidelines, training, and other tools.

Quebec

- Provincial Emergency Response Agency: [Public Security Québec](#)
- Municipal councils are responsible for emergency response and planning.
 - Public Security Québec encourages cooperative planning between municipalities, industries and the educational community.
 - Regional districts of Public Security Québec advise local municipalities in their emergency response and planning efforts.