

Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

Frequently asked questions:

Q #1: What is the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC)?

A: The Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact, ORC Section 5502.41, is an intrastate mutual aid agreement for all political subdivisions in the state. It was updated on July 3, 2012. The definition of political subdivision includes all those identified in ORC 2744.01 and 3345.042.

Q #2: What does this do for public employees?

A: IMAC provides a mechanism for requesting and providing mutual aid that defines reimbursement, liability protection, license reciprocity, and workers compensation coverage for public employees, prior to deployment and without the need for separate mutual aid agreements.

Q #3: Is my political subdivision required to provide assistance when requested?

A: No. Political subdivisions contacted to provide assistance may withhold resources necessary to provide for their own protection and response needs.

Q #4: Who is responsible for liability during deployment?

A: The home political subdivision providing assistance during an approved IMAC mission retains responsibility for liability for its employees.

Q #5: Who is responsible for workers compensation during deployment?

A: The political subdivision providing assistance during an approved IMAC deployment retains responsibility for any potential workers compensation claims by its own employees.

Q #6: Does IMAC prevent a political subdivision from entering into other mutual aid agreements?

A: No. Political subdivisions may enter into other mutual aid agreements with other entities.

Q #7: Who can be deployed through IMAC?

A: Employees of political subdivisions identified in IMAC. In addition, regional response teams may now be deployed through IMAC. Private entities that are under contract with a political subdivision may also respond, with the permission of their political subdivision.

Q #8: What is the trigger for IMAC?

A: There is no formal trigger other than a request being made for assistance. A declaration of emergency by the chief elected official is no longer required.

Q #9: What is the process for requesting resources?

A: It is as identified in ORC Section 5502.41. IMAC is not a dispatching system for resources. The locally accepted system(s) of requesting resources continues. Accessing/requesting resources through local emergency operations centers is recommended.

Q #10: Are there any specific forms required for IMAC deployment?

A: No. IMAC forms have been utilized in the past and may work for an IMAC mission as well.

Q #11: Is reimbursement available for the assisting departments?

A: Yes, other than the first eight (8) hours, which are free. Reimbursement requests are based on the cost estimates provided by the assisting political subdivision and which were agreed upon by the requesting political subdivision, such as:

1. Equipment estimates should be based on locally adopted-equipment rates. In the event the political subdivision has not adopted standard equipment rates, the current FEMA Equipment Rates may be acceptable.
2. Travel related costs should be based on locally-adopted travel regulations. In the event the political subdivision has not adopted travel regulations, the State of Ohio policy or the current federal per diem rate may be acceptable. Rates to be utilized should be identified in the estimate
3. Wage reimbursement should be documented by time and attendance/labor records and should represent only those hours worked, whether regular time or overtime. Fringe benefits can be reimbursed as well.
4. Reimbursement is required by the compact, but entities providing assistance may forgive/donate some costs, such as overtime or regular time, equipment, gasoline, etc. to the Requesting Entity. A letter so stating should be sent to the requesting political subdivision.

Q #12: Does IMAC cover backfill costs?

A: No. (Backfill is the compensation used to pay a person to fill in for a member that has deployed.)

Q #13: Does IMAC cover pre- or post-deployment costs?

A: No.

Q #14: Does IMAC guarantee a political subdivision FEMA Public Assistance or State Disaster Relief Program funds?

A: No. The Requesting Entity MAY be eligible for public assistance funds after following the declaration process as defined by the Ohio EMA. In the event a disaster is declared at the state or federal level, the Requesting Entity will be the applicant for state or federal funds.

Q #15: Where can I go for more information on IMAC?

A: Additional information on the IMAC program may be found on the Ohio EMA Mutual Aid website at [ADD WEBSITE LINK HERE].