

Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

Frequently asked questions:

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

A: The Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact, ORC 5502.41, is an intrastate mutual aid agreement for local government mutual aid. It was enacted into law on December 23, 2002. All local political subdivisions in the state are participants unless they have formally opted out.

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

A: IMAC provides a mechanism and accompanying Operations Manual 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 general liability during deployment?

A: The political subdivision requesting aid from another political subdivision assumes the liability for resources entering their political subdivision while on approved IMAC deployment.

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.

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 that have reached agreement using the Assistance Request Form.

Q #8: What is the trigger for IMAC?

A: ORC 5502.41 and the Operations Manual require a declaration of emergency by the chief elected official of the impacted political subdivision.

Q #9: Who can declare an emergency?

A: Any political subdivision's chief elected official or that person's authorized designee may declare an emergency. When a political subdivision smaller than a county declares an emergency, that political subdivision is encouraged to notify their county emergency management agency and the Ohio EMA duty officer in case the disaster grows.

Q #10: What is the process for requesting resources?

A: 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 #11: Are there any specific forms required for IMAC deployment?

A: Yes. The procedures require an Assistance Request Form to be completed by the Providing and the Assisting Entities prior to deployment. IMAC does allow the necessary forms to be completed within 72 hours of deployment on verbal approval of the authorized representatives of the two entities. The signed Assistance Request Form constitutes a legal agreement between the Assisting and Providing Entities.

Q #12: Who is an Authorized Representative?

A: County commissioners, township trustees, and Mayors or their designees are considered authorized representatives. Some counties, townships, cities and villages may have other persons designated to sign legal documents.

Q #13: Is reimbursement available for the assisting departments?

A: Yes. Reimbursement requests are based on the cost estimates provided by the Assisting Entity in the Assistance Request Form and which were agreed upon by the Requesting Entity. Only those costs identified on the Assistance Request Form (and which are in the eligible categories identified in the IMAC Operations Manual) will be eligible.

1. Estimates (and reimbursement) 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 can be utilized. Rates to be utilized should be identified in the Assistance Request Form.
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 used. Rates to be utilized should be identified in the Assistance Request Form.
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. The estimated costs should be detailed on the Assistance Request Form.
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 Entity.

Q #14: Are any specific forms required for reimbursement through IMAC?

A: Yes. The IMAC Reimbursement Form should be used when submitting the reimbursement packet. This form is located on Ohio EMA's IMAC web page.

Q #15: 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 #16: Does IMAC cover pre- or post deployment costs?

A: No.

Q #17: Can resources responding to an event through other mutual aid systems be part of an IMAC mission?

A: Yes. When the disaster escalates and there is a declaration of emergency by the chief executive officer of the impacted political subdivision **AND** the Requesting Entity and Assisting Entity agree through an executed Assistance Request Form.

Q #18: 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 #19: Where can I go for more information on IMAC?

A: Additional information on the IMAC program may be found on the Ohio EMA IMAC web site: <http://www.ema.ohio.gov/plansimac.asp>.