

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SWMAA) FAQs

Why do I need to do this?

Pre-existing agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies help to ensure the timely provision of mutual aid assistance and reimbursement of costs incurred by those parties who render such assistance. This agreement also provides the framework to support mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster occurring within any political subdivision that is a Participating Party, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, human caused disaster, civil emergency, community disorders, insurgency, enemy attack, acts of terrorism, or other significant events or homeland security activities.

What other jurisdictions are involved?

Participating Party means a county or municipality of the State of Georgia that has become party to this Agreement by its approval and execution of this agreement. Your GEMA/HS EM Field Coordinator can assist you with this.

What kind of assistance are we talking about?

"Assistance" includes personnel, equipment, facilities, services, supplies and other resources furnished to a Requesting Party pursuant to this Agreement during an emergency or disaster.

Who will our resources be working for?

The Assisting Party's mutual aid resources will continue under the command and control of their own supervisors, but the organizational units will be under the operational control of the emergency services authorities of the Requesting Party unless the Assisting Party approves an alternative.

What if my jurisdiction doesn't want to send resources?

A jurisdiction may withhold resources to the extent necessary to meet the current or anticipated needs of the jurisdiction's own political subdivision.

What about liability and reimbursement?

Those issues are covered in Article VI Liability and Immunity, and Article VIII Reimbursement in the Agreement.

What if my jurisdiction wants to withdraw from this agreement?

Any Participating Party may withdraw from this Agreement by mailing notice of withdrawal, approved by the governing authority of such political subdivision, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the governing authority of the withdrawing political subdivision has given notice in writing of such withdrawal to the governing authorities of all other Participating Parties. Such action shall not relieve the withdrawing political subdivision from obligations assumed hereunder prior to the effective date of withdrawal.