

Ohio Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC)

§ 5502.41 Intrastate mutual aid compact.

(A) As used in this section:

- (1) “Countywide emergency management agency” means a countywide emergency management agency established under section 5502.26 of the Revised Code.
- (2) “Participating political subdivision” means each political subdivision in this state except a political subdivision that enacts, by appropriate legislation signed by its chief executive, a declaration not to participate in the intrastate mutual aid program created by this section and that provides a copy of the legislation to the emergency management agency and to the countywide emergency management agency, regional authority for emergency management, or program for emergency management within the political subdivision, which is responsible for emergency management in the political subdivision.
- (3) “Program for emergency management within a political subdivision” means a program for emergency management created by a political subdivision under section 5502.271 [5502.27.1] of the Revised Code.
- (4) “Regional authority for emergency management” means a regional authority for emergency management established under section 5502.27 of the Revised Code.

(B) There is hereby created the intrastate mutual aid program to be known as “the intrastate mutual aid compact” to complement existing mutual aid agreements in the event of a disaster that results in a formal declaration of emergency by a participating political subdivision. The program shall provide for mutual assistance among the participating political subdivisions in response to and recovery from any disaster that results in a formal declaration of emergency by a participating political subdivision; shall provide for mutual cooperation among the participating political subdivisions in conducting disaster-related exercises, testing, or other training activities using the services, equipment, supplies, materials, personnel, and other resources of the participating political subdivisions to simulate the provision of mutual aid; and shall embody a method by which a participating political subdivision may seek assistance in the event of a formally declared emergency, which resolves many of the common issues facing political subdivisions at the time of a formally declared emergency and will ensure, to the extent possible, eligibility for available state and federal disaster funding.

(C) Each countywide emergency management agency, regional authority for emergency management, and program for emergency management within a political subdivision, which is responsible for emergency management in a participating political subdivision shall, as part of its program for emergency management under sections 5502.22, 5502.26, 5502.27, and 5502.271 [5502.27.1] of the Revised Code, as applicable, and in coordination with all departments, divisions, boards, commissions, agencies, and other instrumentalities of, and having emergency response functions within, each participating political subdivision served by that agency,

authority, or program, establish procedures or plans that, to the extent possible, accomplish both of the following:

- (1) Identify hazards that potentially could affect the participating political subdivisions served by that agency, authority, or program;
- (2) Identify and inventory the current services, equipment, supplies, personnel, and other resources related to response and recovery activities of the participating political subdivisions served by that agency, authority, or program.

(D)(1) Within one year after the effective date of this section, the executive director of the emergency management agency shall coordinate with the countywide emergency management agencies, regional authorities for emergency management, and programs for emergency management within a political subdivision, which are responsible for emergency management in participating political subdivisions, in identifying and formulating appropriate procedures or plans to resolve resource shortfalls, as part of their respective programs for emergency management under sections 5502.22, 5502.26, 5502.27, and 5502.271 [5502.27.1] of the Revised Code, as applicable.

(2) During and after the formulation of the procedures or plans to resolve resource shortfalls, there shall be ongoing consultation and coordination among the executive director of the emergency management agency; the countywide emergency management agencies, regional authorities for emergency management, and programs for emergency management within a political subdivision, which are responsible for emergency management in participating political subdivisions; and all departments, divisions, boards, commissions, agencies, and other instrumentalities of, and having emergency response functions within, each participating political subdivision, regarding this section, local procedures and plans, and the resolution of the resource shortfalls.

(E) Participating political subdivisions may request assistance of other participating political subdivisions in response to and recovery from a disaster during formally declared emergencies or in disaster-related exercises, testing, or other training activities. Requests for assistance shall be made through the emergency management agency or an official designated by the chief executive of the participating political subdivision from which the assistance is requested. Requests may be verbal or in writing. If verbal, the request shall be confirmed in writing within seventy-two hours after the verbal request is made. Requests shall provide the following information:

- (1) A description of the disaster;
- (2) A description of the assistance needed;
- (3) An estimate of the length of time the assistance will be needed;
- (4) The specific place and time for staging of the assistance and a point of contact at that location.

(F) A participating political subdivision's obligation to provide assistance in response to and recovery from a disaster or in disaster-related exercises, testing, or other training activities under this section is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) A participating political subdivision requesting assistance must have either declared a state of emergency by resolution of its chief executive or scheduled disaster-related exercises, testing, or other training activities.
- (2) A responding participating political subdivision may withhold resources necessary to provide for its own protection.
- (3) Personnel of a responding participating political subdivision shall continue under their local command and control structure, but shall be under the operational control of the appropriate officials within the incident management system of the participating political subdivision receiving assistance.

(G)(1) Nothing in this section alters the duties and responsibilities of emergency response personnel.

(2) This section does not preclude a participating political subdivision from entering into a mutual aid or other agreement with another political subdivision, and does not affect any other agreement to which a participating political subdivision may be a party, or any request for assistance that may be made, under any other section of the Revised Code, including, but not limited to, any mutual aid arrangement under this chapter, any fire protection or emergency medical services contract under section 9.60 of the Revised Code, sheriffs' requests for assistance to preserve the public peace and protect persons and property under section 311.07 of the Revised Code, agreements for mutual aid in police protection under section 737.04 of the Revised Code, and mutual aid agreements among emergency planning districts for hazardous substances or chemicals response under sections 3750.02 and 3750.03 of the Revised Code.

(H)(1) Personnel of a responding participating political subdivision who suffer injury or death in the course of, and arising out of, their employment while rendering assistance to another participating political subdivision under this section are entitled to all applicable benefits under Chapters 4121. and 4123. of the Revised Code.

(2) Personnel of a responding participating political subdivision shall be considered, while rendering assistance in another participating political subdivision under this section, to be agents of the participating political subdivision receiving the assistance for purposes of tort liability and immunity from tort liability under the law of this state.

(3)(a) A responding participating political subdivision and the personnel of that political subdivision, while rendering assistance, or while in route to or from rendering assistance, in another participating political subdivision under this section, shall be deemed to be exercising governmental functions as defined in section 2744.01 of the Revised Code, shall have the defenses to and immunities from civil liability provided in sections 2744.02 and 2744.03 of the Revised Code, and shall be entitled to all applicable limitations on recoverable damages under section 2744.05 of the Revised Code.

(b) A participating political subdivision requesting assistance and the personnel of that political subdivision, while requesting or receiving assistance from any other participating political subdivisions under this section, shall be deemed to be exercising governmental functions as defined in section 2744.01 of the Revised Code, shall have the defenses to and immunities from civil liability provided in sections 2744.02 and 2744.03 of the Revised Code,

and shall be entitled to all applicable limitations on recoverable damages under section 2744.05 of the Revised Code.

(I) If a person holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by a participating political subdivision evidencing qualification in a professional, mechanical, or other skill, and if the assistance of that person is asked for by a participating political subdivision receiving assistance under this section, the person shall be deemed to be licensed or certified in or permitted by the participating political subdivision receiving the assistance to render the assistance, subject to any limitations and conditions the chief executive of the participating political subdivision receiving the assistance may prescribe by executive order or otherwise.

(J) Except as otherwise provided in this division, any participating political subdivision rendering assistance in another participating political subdivision under this section shall be reimbursed by the participating political subdivision receiving the assistance for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of, any equipment used in rendering the assistance, for any expense incurred in the provision of any service used in rendering the assistance, and for all other costs incurred in responding to the request for assistance. However, a participating political subdivision rendering assistance may assume in whole or in part the loss, damage, expense, or costs, or may loan the equipment or donate the service to the participating political subdivision receiving the assistance without charge or cost; any two or more participating political subdivisions may enter into agreements establishing a different allocation of loss, damage, expense, or costs among themselves; and expenses incurred under division (H)(1) of this section are not reimbursable under this division. To avoid duplication of payments, insurance proceeds available to cover any loss or damage to equipment of a participating political subdivision rendering assistance shall be considered in the reimbursement by the participating political subdivision receiving the assistance.

HISTORY: 149 v H 605. Eff 12-23-2002.