One week after Hurricane Sandy devastated parts of New Jersey and New York the need for assistance from other states continues to grow. To date, there are 27 states that have deployed more than 1,956 personnel and equipment through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to aid the impacted areas. EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that allows states to share resources across state lines during disasters and emergencies. The compact provides protections for emergency responders in the areas of workers compensation, tort liability, reciprocity of licensure and reimbursement.

As communities continue to assess the damage from Sandy there are law enforcement teams from other states arriving to provide security in hard-hit areas. National Guard units are assisting with the staging and distribution of food and water, providing fuel delivery assistance and supporting communications capabilities. Ongoing areas of support through EMAC include law enforcement strike teams, incident management teams, emergency operations center personnel to assist with planning, logistics and operations, and EMAC Advance Teams to assist impacted states with the coordination of mutual aid assistance.

A National EMAC Liaison Team (NELT) continues to be co-located in the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Response Coordination Center to ensure that assistance provided through interstate mutual aid and the federal government is coordinated.

States providing assistance through EMAC, to date, include Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.