



OFFICE OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COORDINATION

The Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC) was established by Public Law 107-296, Sec. 882, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to coordinate homeland security activities relating to the National Capital Region (NCR). The Office was created in response to the unique coordination challenges facing the NCR because of the region's large federal presence, including Congress, the Judiciary, numerous federal departments and agencies, and the intersection between Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Office of National Capital Region Coordination Mission:

- Oversee and coordinate the relationship between the federal government and state, local, and regional authorities in the National Capital Region (NCR);
- Coordinate the activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relating to the NCR;
- Provide state, local, and regional authorities in the NCR with information, research and technical support to assist in efforts to secure the homeland; coordinate with authorities and members of the private sector on terrorism preparedness efforts; and ensure adequate planning, information sharing, training, and execution of domestic preparedness activities;
- Develop a process for receiving meaningful input from state, local, and regional authorities and private sector entities in the NCR, to assist in the development of homeland security plans and activities of the federal government; and
- Serve as a liaison between the federal government and state, local, and regional authorities and the private sector in the NCR, to facilitate access to federal grants such as the Urban Area Security Initiative federal grants .

In May 2014, FEMA submitted a *Mission Review and Recommendations Report* to Congress outlining the following recommendations for transforming the ONCRC into a more effective and efficient organization:

- Reposition the ONCRC as a direct report to the Office of the FEMA Administrator;
- Assign a Director who is qualified and pre-designate the Director as a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for the NCR;
- Provide ONCRC with the capacity and capability to provide federal incident management assistance to state and local jurisdictions;
- Strengthen ONCRC's connection to Region III;
- Restructure and refocus the Joint Federal Committee (JFC) to provide a more defined organizational structure and improved processes; and
- Co-locate the NCR Watch Desk to the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Joint All-Hazards Operations Center.

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."

Congress approved the proposed recommendations in July 2014.

The Four Primary Goals of Our Mission

The mission of ONCRC is to conduct preparedness, planning, and operational activities, and provide leadership and coordination within the NCR. Working with Region III, ONCRC synchronizes and integrates the whole community in executing homeland security and emergency management activities within the five mission areas of the National Preparedness Goal to achieve readiness against all-hazards threats. To accomplish our mission, ONCRC identified four main goals that are being pursued through our extensive interaction with representatives of federal, state, local, and regional authorities and private and non-profit sectors:

- **Goal 1: Enhance Whole Community Preparedness**
Inform, educate, and empower the whole community to improve personal and organizational preparedness.
- **Goal 2: Coordinate Planning and Preparedness Activities**
Enhance federal interagency coordination with respect to the National Preparedness Goal and integrate efforts with NCR partners.
- **Goal 3: Provide Comprehensive Actionable Situational Awareness**
Provide timely, accurate, comprehensive, and operationally relevant information for NCR decision makers.
- **Goal 4: Respond to Incidents**
Provide a tiered response capability, organized and functioning as an Incident Management Assistance Team.

Actively Coordinating with Our Valued National Capital Region Partners

The ONCRC regularly participates in NCR homeland security and emergency planning at all levels. The Office works closely with its federal partners and FEMA Region III, serving as a liaison between federal, NCR jurisdictional and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) components. It is an active member of the NCR governance providing guidance, oversight and collaborative decision-making on NCR homeland security and emergency management matters.

The ONCRC also helps coordinate and support regional training, and exercise planning and execution in the NCR. Through its NCR Watch Desk, the federal component of the Regional Information Collection and Collaboration Center (IC3), the ONCRC provides continuous situational awareness for the Region, disseminating daily Situation Reports and incident-specific spot reports to its NCR partners and stakeholders.