



## National Response Coordination Center

The National Response Coordination Center is a multiagency center that coordinates the overall Federal support for major incidents and emergencies. The National Response Coordination Center coordinates with the affected region(s) and provides resources and policy guidance in support of the incident. The National Response Coordination Center staff consists of FEMA personnel, appropriate Emergency Support Functions from various federal agencies, and other appropriate personnel/agencies. The staff specifically provides emergency management coordination, planning, resource deployment, and collects and disseminates disaster information as it builds and maintains situational awareness—all at the national-level.

The National Response Coordination Center is located inside FEMA headquarters in Washington D.C. The National Watch Center provides the information which initiates activations of National Incident Support Staff at the direction of the FEMA Administrator, and provides continual monitoring of events during activations. Once activated the staff comes together as a whole community to support first responders & disaster survivors.



The National Response Coordination Center has multiple branches of staff; the chief of the National Response Coordination Center, Situation Awareness, Planning & Support, Resource Support, and Center & Staff Support. The chief directs and leads the National Response Coordination Center. Situation Awareness provides information management by collecting analyzing and disseminating all related information. Planning & Support ensures that the interagency effort is anticipating next steps and taking the necessary actions. Resource Support equips the National Response Coordination Center staff with the materials needed to respond effectively to an incident. Center & Staff ensures the National Response Coordination Center facility can remain operational and cares to the staff as necessary. The National Response Coordination Center is prepared to support the response to all potential threats and hazards. The structure of the National Response Coordination Center is able to expand and contract to meet the needs of the incident regardless of type, duration, and complexity.

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*“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.”*

The FEMA Administrator, or delegated official, will activate the National Response Coordination Center to a specified “Activation level” as depicted below:

Activation Level	Conditions	Staffing Guidelines
<b>Level 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on public health, welfare, and infrastructure, the incident requires an extreme amount of direct Federal assistance for response and recovery efforts for which the capabilities to support it do not exist at any</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full staffing,</li> <li>• All Emergency Support Functions and interagency liaisons</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A disaster which, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on public health, welfare, and infrastructure requires a high amount of direct Federal assistance for response and recovery efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-level staffing</li> <li>• Most but not all Emergency Support functions and liaisons</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A disaster which, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on public health, welfare, and infrastructure requires a moderate amount of direct Federal assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate staff</li> <li>• Only Select Emergency Support Functions and inter-agency liaisons</li> </ul>
<b>Enhanced Watch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Watch Center and select members of the National Response Coordination Center Activation team maintains situation awareness. The National Response Coordination Center is not activated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticipation of Federal Assistance and/or immediate response to disaster</li> </ul>
<b>Watch Steady state</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No event or incident anticipated</li> <li>• National Watch Center maintains situation awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal office staff</li> </ul>