



National Watch Center

The National Watch Center’s mission is to maintain uninterrupted, 24/7 situational awareness of FEMA response capabilities, readiness postures, and all events—natural or man-made—that may require a coordinated federal disaster response. Through a variety of formal presentations and written reports, the National Watch Center provides shared situational understanding aimed at supporting effective decision-making at all levels—from the local emergency manager to the President of the United States. Additionally, the National Watch Center



plays a critical role in coordinating the rapid deployment and management of national-level emergency response teams and resources in response to disasters, special events, field operations, and other events as required.

The National Watch Center links the Regional Watch Centers, Mobile Emergency Response System, Mobile Emergency Response System Operations Centers, Regional Response Coordination Centers, the National Response Coordination Center, national and regional department and agency leads for Emergency Support Functions, Joint Terrorism Task Forces, Department of Defense Operations Centers, and other key Federal partners. The National Watch Center also serves as the backup for the Regional Watch Centers or Mobile Emergency Response System Operations Centers, if they are unable to report.

The National Watch Center consists of five, rotating Watch Teams and a Threat Monitoring Team, working in synch to fuse all available sources of information into one, comprehensive reporting stream. The Watch Teams are responsible for monitoring, collecting, analyzing and disseminating pertinent information throughout FEMA and to other Federal partners. The Threat Monitoring Team coordinates with intelligence and law enforcement communities on threats that occur, or have the potential to occur, in the emergency management environment. The information collected by each of these elements is vital to supporting the Department of Homeland Security’s National Operations Center with developing a national common operating picture and providing sound situational awareness to decision makers during emergency and disaster response operations nationwide.

“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.”