FEMA Region III’s Regional Business Emergency Operations Center (RBEOC)

Do you have a business in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia or Washington, DC? Join the RBEOC today!

Staying connected to the right partners can make a big difference when you’re trying to keep your business operating after a disaster, or you want to prepare your employees and customers for an emergency. In 2015, FEMA Region III created the Regional Business Emergency Operations Center to formally enhance two-way communication and engagement with the private sector throughout the disaster lifecycle, including pre-disaster preparedness, disaster response and post-disaster recovery.

Membership in the RBEOC is virtual, with coordination provided by the FEMA Region III Private Sector Liaison. Participation is free, voluntary and open to all members of the private and public sectors. By becoming a member, you’ll join our network of trusted partners and will receive regular updates, event invitations and preparedness resources from us. We also invite you to share your priorities and concerns, provide feedback on our plans and products, partner on preparedness campaigns and much more with us.

What Happens During an RBEOC Activation?
The RBEOC is activated at the direction of regional leadership. The RBEOC was first activated in September 2015, to support the historic Papal visit to Philadelphia. More recently, the RBEOC was activated during the response to Hurricane Florence in September 2018. During activations, RBEOC members are invited to participate in daily calls to hear incident updates from Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) leadership, Emergency Support Function (ESF) partners, and affected state partners. We also track members’ needs, capabilities, concerns and updates and share them within the RRCC and with appropriate partners.

What Events Do We Host?
Every year FEMA Region III hosts a Private Sector Readiness Day at our office in Philadelphia. This event is an opportunity for businesses within our region to come together with emergency managers to talk through a disaster scenario, each of our priorities and concerns, and opportunities to coordinate. A record-breaking 70+ private sector partners attended Readiness Day in April 2019, including banks, grocery stores, power suppliers and universities. In addition to discussions around a spring flooding scenario, we also invited our state partners to present on their private sector engagement programs and included a panel discussion featuring four private sector partners who are active in emergency preparedness and response.

We also host Ready Business Workshops in communities across our region to educate businesses on hazards common to the area and the simple steps they can take to prepare their facilities, employees and customers for an emergency. To learn more about our events visit https://www.fema.gov/region-iii-rbeoc and click on Upcoming Events.

How Do I Join the RBEOC?
Download and complete the RBEOC membership agreement and return to Melissa Wiehenstroer, FEMA Region III’s Private Sector Liaison at Melissa.Wiehenstroer@fema.dhs.gov.