

CHAPTER 2
MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM
(MACS)

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MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM (MACS)

A Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system with responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support to agency emergency operations.

MACS FUNCTIONS

- a. Evaluate new incidents.
- b. Prioritize incidents:
 - Life threatening situation
 - Real property threatened
 - High damage potential
 - Incident complexity
- c. Ensure agency resource situation status is current.
- d. Determine specific incident and agency resource requirements.
- e. Determine agency resource availability for out-of-jurisdiction assignment at this time.
- f. Determine need and designate regional mobilization centers.
- g. Allocate resources to incidents based on priorities.
- h. Anticipate future agency/regional resource needs.
- i. Communicate MACS "decisions" back to agencies/incidents.
- j. Review policies/agreements for regional resource allocations.
- k. Review need for other agencies involvement in MACS.
- l. Provide necessary liaison with other coordinating facilities and agencies as appropriate.

POSITION CHECKLISTS

MAC GROUP COORDINATOR - The MCCO serves as a facilitator in organizing and accomplishing the mission, goals and direction of the MAC Group. The Coordinator will:

- a. Facilitate the MAC Group decision process by obtaining, developing and displaying situation information.
- b. Activate and supervise necessary unit and support positions within the MAC Group.
- c. Acquire and manage facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the MAC Group functions.
- d. Implement the decisions made by the MAC Group.

MAC GROUP AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES - The MAC Group is made up of top management personnel from responsible agencies/jurisdictions, those organizations heavily supporting the effort or those that are significantly impacted by use of local resources. MACS Agency Representatives involved in a MAC Group must be fully authorized to represent their agency. Their functions can include the following:

- a. Ensure that current situation and resource status is provided by their agency.
- b. Prioritize incidents by an agreed upon set of criteria.
- c. Determine specific resource requirements by agency.

- d. Determine resource availability for out-of-jurisdiction assignments and the need to provide resources in Mobilization Centers.
- e. As needed, designate area or regional mobilization and demobilization centers within their jurisdictions.
- f. Collectively allocate scarce, limited resources to incidents based on priorities.
- g. Anticipate and identify future resource needs.
- h. Review and coordinate policies, procedures and agreements as necessary.
- i. Consider legal/fiscal implications.
- j. Review need for participation by other agencies.
- k. Provide liaison with other coordinating facilities and agencies as appropriate.
- l. Critique and recommend improvements to MACS and MAC Group operations.
- m. Provide personnel cadre and transition to emergency or disaster recovery as necessary.

SITUATION ASSESSMENT UNIT - The Situation Assessment Unit (this is also referred to in some agencies and EOC's as the Intelligence Unit) in a Multi-Agency Coordination Center is responsible for the collection and organization of incident status and situation information. They evaluate, analyze and display information for use by the MAC Group. Functions include the following:

- a. Maintain incident situation status including locations, kinds and sizes of incidents, potential for damage, control problems, and any other significant information regarding each incident.
- b. Maintain information on environmental issues, status of cultural and historic resources, and condition of sensitive populations and areas.
- c. Maintain information on meteorological conditions and forecast conditions that may have an effect on incident operations.
- d. Request/obtain resource status information from the Resources Unit or agency dispatch sources.
- e. Combine, summarize and display data for all incidents according to established criteria.
- f. Collect information on accidents, injuries, deaths and any other significant occurrences.
- g. Develop projections of future incident activity.

RESOURCES UNIT - The Resources Unit, if activated in a Multi-Agency Coordination Center, maintains summary information by agency on critical equipment and personnel committed and available within the MACS area of responsibility. Status is kept on the overall numbers of critical resources rather than on individual units:

- a. Maintain current information on the numbers of personnel and major items of equipment committed and/or available for assignment.
- b. Identify both essential and excess resources.
- c. Provide resource summary information to the Situation Assessment Unit as requested.

INFORMATION UNIT - The Information Unit is designed to provide information regarding the MACS function. The unit will operate an information center to serve the print and broadcast media and other governmental agencies. It may provide summary information from agency/incident information officers and identify local agency sources for additional information to the media and other government agencies. Functions include:

- a. Prepare and release summary information to the news media and participating agencies.
- b. Assist news media visiting the MACS facility and provide information on its function.
Promote inter-agency involvement.
- c. Assist in scheduling press conferences and media briefings.
- d. Assist in preparing information, materials, etc., when requested by the MAC Group Coordinator.
- e. Coordinate with Joint Information Center (JIC) if established.
- f. Coordinate all matters related to public affairs (VIP tours, etc.).
- g. Act as escort for facilitated agency tours of incident areas, as appropriate.