

LEVELS OF RESPONSE

When notified that a natural or man-made disaster is impending or the threat of an international crisis or hostile action increases, the AEMA will issue warnings and advisories to appropriate local emergency management offices and State and Federal agencies. The SEOC operational activities, staffing, and notifications will be based on the principles of the NIMS and ICS and the following four levels of response:

LEVEL IV – Involves an event likely to be within the capabilities of local government and results in only limited (does not require involvement beyond the Regional Coordinator and several assistants) need for State assistance. Typical daily activities continue while the event is monitored. Notification is limited to those State agencies that have normal day-to-day emergency responsibilities or regulatory requirements. If the event occurs during non-duty hours, the operations officer may be required to report to the SEOC to monitor the situation and respond to requests for State assistance.

LEVEL III – Involves any event that has the potential to develop into an emergency or disaster and will likely require the assistance of at least two or three State agencies. A limited staff will be in place in the SEOC staffed with AEMA personnel and those agencies essential to the response. Twenty-four hour staffing may be required. Daily activities are altered to accommodate the situation. All applicable State agencies are alerted.

LEVEL II – Involves an event that has become, or is becoming, an emergency or disaster and requires significant State response and possible Federal response and recovery assistance (local government capabilities are clearly exceeded). The Command Staff, Operations Section, Planning Section, Logistics Section, and Finance/Administration Section are at least partially staffed on a 24-hour basis in the SEOC. Support agencies are alerted and most AEMA personnel are assigned to emergency/disaster functions. The Governor may declare a State of Emergency. The Alabama EOP is implemented. DHS/FEMA Federal Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and State Liaison may be requested.

LEVEL I - Involves a declared disaster, which requires an extensive State response, where the State and local governments are clearly overwhelmed. The SEOC is fully staffed for 24-hour operations by the Command Staff, Operations Section, Planning Section, Logistics Section, and the Finance/Administration Section. The State requests assistance from the Federal Government through implementation of the NRF, the presence of the FEMA Region State Liaison and the IMAT, if not previously requested.