



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mission:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency improves and preserves the quality of the environment, both national and global. EPA works to protect human health and the productivity of natural resources on which all human activity depends. EPA ensures that Federal environmental laws are implemented and enforced effectively.

Major Activities to Reduce Effects of Natural Disasters



EPA emergency response team collecting floating drums during the great Midwest floods of 1993.

- Implement environmental research in standards for bioremediation, debris burning, water quality, and soil toxicity after chemical and oil spills
- Develop computer models and programs for management of chemical releases including plume and dispersion models
- Perform systematic risk assessments of chemical industries, particularly in areas at risk for earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods
- Maintain a cadre of highly trained specialists in chemical response and environmental disasters
- Promote international coordination and cooperation between the industrial and industrializing countries to improve chemical safety practices and regulation; and provide training, technical assistance, and response for chemical emergencies

Contact:

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U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th and Independence, SW
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Mission:

The Forest Service Branch of Fire and Aviation Management provides fire protection for life, property, and natural resources. The Forest Service maintains a protection organization consisting of lookouts, aerial detection and fire prevention patrols, engines, crews, helicopters, dispatchers, fire suppression overhead, and fire fighting equipment. The Forest Service provides technical assistance in fire behavior, smoke management, fuels management, prescribed fire, fire research, infrared systems, equipment development, fire training, and prevention. The Forest Service also provides cooperative fire protection assistance to the 50 States, 6 Territories and Commonwealths, and the other Federal agencies through cooperative agreements.



Forest Service air tanker dropping fire retardant on a wildfire.

Major Activities to Reduce Effects of Natural Hazards

- Maintain National Interagency Coordination Center in Boise, Idaho, for rapid deployment and logistical support of personnel, aircraft, and equipment for wildfires and other disasters
- Maintain 12 strategic geographic area coordination centers to provide the equipment, personnel, and aircraft mobilization needs for rapid deployment and logistical support to wildfires and other disasters
- Develop national training standards and qualifications programs in the Incident Command System to assure an inter-agency approach with Federal, State, and local partners using the same standards and qualifications for wildfire suppression and disaster response
- Develop and maintain national incident management teams to respond to wildfires or other natural disasters and provide skills in operations, planning, finance, logistics, and command functions as needed
- Develop prescribed fire programs as a tool to accomplish mission objectives such as reduction of hazardous fuels. This management ignited fire program is used in wilderness and national forest areas under strict guidelines and management approved burning plans

Contact:

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U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Department of the Interior
Reston, Virginia 22092

Mission:

The U.S. Geological Survey conducts research, transfers technology to end users, and fosters the adoption and implementation of public policies and professional practices to reduce losses from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and hydrologic hazards in the United States and abroad.



San Francisco, one of 30,000 local jurisdictions at risk from natural hazards.

Major Activities to Reduce Effects of Natural Hazards

- Conduct basic research on geologic (earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides) and hydrologic hazards
- Perform hazard and risk assessments on national, international, regional, urban, and local scales
- Develop monitoring networks and geographic information systems
- Transfer technology needed to enhance professional skills and expand technical capacity for mitigation, preparedness, emergency response, and recovery
- Organize and conduct post-disaster investigations

Contacts:

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