

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

I. Purpose

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are committed to assisting Federal, State, and local governments in reducing the Nation's vulnerability to the effects of geologic and hydrologic hazards by upgrading mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. FEMA and the USGS enjoy a cooperative relationship and agree to continue working together in areas of common concern and capability. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides a framework within which activities of mutual concern can be pursued. Details concerning working relationships on various projects will be appended to this document as they are developed. It is understood that there may be unusual circumstances requiring special negotiations and arrangements not specified in this document.

II. Authorities/Responsibilities

A. FEMA

FEMA was established by Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 and placed into effect by Executive Orders 12127 of March 31, 1979 (44 Federal Register 19367) and 12148 of July 20, 1979 (44 Federal Register 43239) in order to create a single focus of emergency management activities of the Federal Government. FEMA's responsibilities in the areas of emergency management include, but are not limited to, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery functions. Among its principal functions and activities, FEMA establishes policy for and coordinates civil defense and civil emergency and disaster planning of all Executive Agencies; assists State and local governments in the coordination of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities; develops and executes programs and policies for fire prevention and control; manages the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program and the National Flood Insurance Program; and serves as the coordinator of all Federal Agencies and Departments responsible for emergency assistance.

B. USGS

The USGS was established by the Organic Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 394, 43 U.S.C. 3) which provided for "The classification of the public lands and the examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the National Domain." Among its broad responsibilities and efforts are identification, assessment, and monitoring of potentially hazardous areas; development of capabilities to predict the time, place, and the severity of hazardous geologic and hydrologic events; and dissemination of the findings and their implications, including the provision of technical and scientific advice to public officials. The USGS also maintains Bureau-wide efforts intended to educate the public about the nature of geologic and hydrologic hazards.

III. Areas of Coordination

As a result of negotiations between FEMA and USGS, areas of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration have been identified that will contribute to joint mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. Areas of mutual concern identified are categorized as:

A. Areas of Priority Concern: Both agencies agree that existing relationships and procedures should be formalized and supplemented through implementation of this MOU. The following areas are the most critical to insuring appropriate actions by each agency and will be addressed through priority development of annexes that specify the working arrangements between FEMA and USGS in:

1. Operational Response

Develop policies and procedures that establish working relationships to insure an effective, coordinated response to a potential or existing geologic or hydrologic hazard.

2. Prediction/Warning

Develop policies and procedures for early and coordinated dissemination of information to appropriate Federal, State, and local officials related to the potential occurrence of a geologic or hydrologic hazard.

3. Public Information and Education

Develop policies and procedures to produce, disseminate, and implement programs that provide the general public with information to use in making decisions on how to prepare for and respond to a prediction, warning, or occurrence of a geologic or hydrologic hazard.

4. Long-term Mitigation

Develop policies and procedures that support hazard assessments and mitigation techniques. Develop mechanisms for applying and transferring information related to hazard assessments and mitigation techniques; assisting in their implementation and use; evaluating their effectiveness; and, recommending improvements and alternative techniques for implementation of mitigation measures.

B. Areas of Existing Relationships: The areas below may or may not be addressed adequately in development of the annexes identified above. As the need is identified, specific additional annexes will be developed to insure that mutual responsibilities and concerns are addressed. In the meantime, existing arrangements and relationships will continue.

1. Technical Assistance

FEMA and USGS agree to provide technical assistance to each other on a mutually agreeable basis. Guidelines and procedures for requesting and providing technical assistance will be

handled on an informal, case-by-case basis.

2. Training and Education

FEMA and USGS agree, in principle, to exchange and coordinate training and education programs.

IV. Implementation

The FEMA Associate Director for State and Local Programs and Support and the USGS Assistant Director for Engineering Geology are assigned the responsibility to discharge this agreement, identify additional areas of mutual concern, and develop appropriate annexes. Each agency will provide such support as required to implement this agreement. This MOU will become effective upon signing by both parties. It may be terminated by either party upon 90 days written notice.

This agreement formally declares the intent of both agencies to carefully consider and construct the proper FEMA and USGS individual and joint response to geologic conditions that threaten public safety and property.

(Signed Original on File)

(Signed Original on File)

Dave McLoughlin
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State and Local Programs
and Support
Federal Emergency Management
Agency

Dallas L. Peck
Director
U.S. Geological Survey

Date: 11/3/82

Date: 11/10/82