



FEMA

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Fact Sheet

REGIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT-A)

ERT-As are disaster response teams located in each of FEMA's ten Regions that can be deployed in the early phases of an incident to work directly with states to assess disaster impact, gain situational awareness, help coordinate the disaster response, and respond to specific requests for state and local assistance. The ERT-As consist of approximately 25 individuals from the FEMA Regions, who also have day-to-day responsibilities beyond their team assignments, and representatives from the Emergency Support Function departments and agencies. The ERT-A initially establishes its presence in a state Emergency Operations Center and later helps to staff the Joint Field Office (JFO) to support the disaster response. The ERT-As deploy with basic communications capabilities including cell phones, wireless laptop computers, and a limited number of satellite cell phones. As needed, they can also be supported by FEMA's Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) detachments and their emergency communications capabilities.

Currently, a new generation of emergency response teams, known as Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT), are being established that will eventually subsume the existing mission of the ERT-As and expand their capabilities. The IMATs will incorporate similar leadership concepts, emergency management doctrine, and operational communications concepts; however, they will be staffed with a core of permanent full-time employees dedicated to team responsibilities, unlike the ERTs, which are staffed on a collateral duty basis; will be fully compliant with NIMS and ICS; and will train and exercise as a unit.

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