

## MEMBERS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION (ERO)

**QUESTION:** Is anyone who responds to an emergency from command and control levels down to the firefighter part of the Emergency Response Organization (ERO)?

**ANSWER:** *ALL* personnel who may be needed to perform duties, beyond those specified by 29 CFR 1910.120 for the first responder awareness level, during a response to any of a broad range of emergencies defined in the Hazards Survey or EPHA are members of the ERO. (Cf. DOE G 151.1-4, Section 1.3)

To focus on additional aspects of ERO membership, general characteristics of the organizational structure of positions and functions associated with ERO members are described in the Emergency Management Guide (EMG), DOE G 151.1-4, Chapter 1, as follows:

- a. The organizational structure of the ERO is based on the results of the facility/site or activity Hazards Surveys and Emergency Planning Hazards Assessment (EPHA), the relationships between the site and facility response capabilities, and the relationships between the onsite and offsite emergency response organizations.
- b. Characteristics of the spectrum of scenarios that constitute the technical planning basis for a facility determine the functions that will be required to respond to emergency events. Specific functions activated in a response will depend on the requirements of the particular emergency.
- c. The distribution of the emergency functions among facility-levels and site-levels is determined primarily by the locations of response facilities and organizations that provide response assets. For a specific site or facility, some emergency response functions can best be organized and performed at the facility-level, while others may be better served by a site-wide organization.
  - Facility-level functions may include control of process operations and implementation of local protective actions (e.g., building evacuations or sheltering, or ventilation manipulation).
  - Functions that are more likely to be common for a site-level include firefighting, medical response, and environmental monitoring.
  - Some response functions, such as firefighting or Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) response, may be performed utilizing offsite support services.
- d. In general, the ERO component formed to manage the response actions during emergencies is the Emergency Management Team (EMT). At each DOE/NNSA response tier (e.g., facility, Field element, Headquarters), the EMT provides for overall management, direction, and control of the emergency response and normally operates from a command center or Emergency Operations Center (EOC).