

# South Dakota Division of Emergency Management

## Mission

To reduce loss of life and property and protect our state's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards, through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

## Preparedness

As a community leader you are an important part of the preparedness process. Exercising is a key element of preparedness and tests those plans, policies, and guides developed within your community for response to an actual situation. The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) requires annual exercises that allow community leaders to work together under conditions similar to a real disaster. Survival and quick recovery from any disaster depends on preparedness.



## Response and Recovery

Whenever an emergency or disaster strikes with such force that local resources are overwhelmed, a local jurisdiction may ask the Governor for assistance. It is at this point that DEM supports local jurisdiction by:

1. Assessing the damage and determining immediate needs.
2. Coordinating response of state resources.
3. Performing liaison with federal agencies as the situation warrants.
4. On occasion and at the direction of the Governor or the State Director of Emergency Management, a Regional Coordinator or other DEM representative may be dispatched to a lesser or developing situation in a 'stand-by' support or information gathering role.



## Mitigation

Perhaps one of the most important elements of emergency management is mitigation. It is the on-going effort to reduce disaster risk to people and property. Reducing the effects of a disaster makes common economic sense and is a good public policy because it protects our citizens and our future.

## The Emergency Management Team

The South Dakota Division of Emergency Management has full-time employees in Aberdeen, Pierre, Sioux Falls, and Rapid City. An integral part of the Emergency Management Team is your County Emergency Manager, who works closely with our staff in support of a mutual mission and goals. Just as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) looks to the State Division of Emergency Management for liaison with the individual counties, we depend on your County Emergency Manager for liaison with the varied government jurisdictions within your county.

## Your Role

The success of Emergency Management within South Dakota depends on partnership. Federal, state, and local officials, leaders, voluntary organizations, civic groups, and private businesses must work in unison toward a common goal of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Key officials within any community can help by supporting the Emergency Management program, personnel and efforts.

## Goals

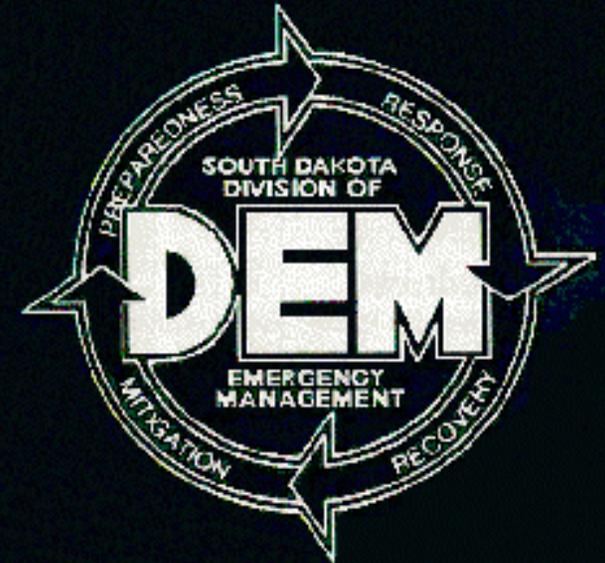
- ◆ A knowledgeable public able to protect themselves, their families, homes, businesses, and quality of life.
- ◆ Structures located out of harms way and built to withstand the worst.
- ◆ Governments and private organizations with plans in place and the resources and training they need.
- ◆ Communities capable of recovering and rebuilding after disaster has passed.



## For More Information Contact:

- ◆ Your County Emergency Manager or
- ◆ The South Dakota Division of Emergency Management (DEM)

# An Introduction to Emergency Management for Community Leaders



**Provided by:**  
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[www.sd.gov/military/sdem.html](http://www.sd.gov/military/sdem.html)

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