



FEMA

Office of National Capital Region Coordination



Our Story



In 2002, Congress established the Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC) in response to the unique coordination challenges facing the National Capital Region (NCR) due to the region's large federal presence, including all three branches; the intersection of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia; and a number of other complexities.

In accordance with Public Law 107- 296, Sec. 882, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the ONCRC mission is to conduct preparedness, planning, and operational activities, and provide leadership and coordination for more than 200 NCR partners to achieve readiness against all-hazards threats. Working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III, the ONCRC synchronizes and integrates efforts of the whole community in executing homeland security and emergency management activities to meet the National Preparedness Goal. To accomplish this, the ONCRC identified four principal goals involving extensive interaction with NCR representatives:

Four Goals Supporting Our Mission:

- 1: **Enhance Whole Community Preparedness:** Inform, educate, and empower the whole community to improve personal and organizational preparedness.
- 2: **Coordinate Planning and Preparedness Activities:** Enhance federal interagency coordination with respect to the National Preparedness Goal and integrate efforts with NCR partners.
- 3: **Provide Comprehensive Actionable Situational Awareness:** Provide timely, accurate, comprehensive, and operationally relevant information for NCR decision makers.
- 4: **Respond to Incidents:** Provide a tiered response capability, organized and functioning as an Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT).

Our Transformation

In July 2014, Congress approved proposed recommendations from the ONCRC Mission Review and Recommendations Report to Congress. The following recommendations transformed the ONCRC into a more effective and efficient organization, supporting mission requirements and partner expectations across all five mission areas in the National Preparedness Goal:

- Reposition the ONCRC as a direct report within the Office of the FEMA Administrator;
- Assign a permanent Director, pre-designated as a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for the NCR;
- Provide the ONCRC with the capacity and capability to provide federal incident management assistance to state and local jurisdictions;
- Strengthen the ONCRC's connection to FEMA Region III;
- Restructure and refocus the Joint Federal Committee (JFC) to provide a more defined organizational structure and improved processes; and
- Co-locate the NCR Watch Desk to the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Joint All-Hazards Operations Center.



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Our value to the Region

The ONCRC regularly participates in NCR homeland security and emergency management planning and operations at the federal, state and local levels. It is an active member of the NCR homeland security governance structure, that provides guidance, oversight, and collaborative decision-making on NCR homeland security and emergency management matters. The ONCRC serves as the principal federal integrator and chairs the Joint Federal Committee.

The ONCRC also assists in coordinating the supporting regional training and exercise planning and execution in the NCR. Through its NCR Watch Desk, the federal component of the Regional Information Collection and Collaboration Center (IC3), the ONCRC provides continuous situational awareness for the Region, disseminating daily situation reports and incident-specific spot reports to the NCR partners and stakeholders.

ONCRC has a pivotal role in synchronizing and integrating efforts across the entire NCR



The ONCRC served as co-chair of the 2017 Presidential Inauguration Executive Steering Committee with FBI and US Secret Service (USSS) (overall lead) to coordinate the efforts of more than 35 federal, state, and local partners in providing security and response capability. The ONCRC also co-chaired with FEMA Region III, the District of Columbia, and USSS the Consequence Management Sub-Committee to conduct deliberate planning and coordinate response capability, in the event that an emergency would occur. This was the seventh of eight NSSE's in a 37 month period.

Increased NCR Situational Awareness 24 hours a day/7 days a week

The ONCRC maintains a 7 person team comprised of a Situation Unit Lead and six Watch Desk Analysts that serve as the federal component of the Regional Information Collection and Collaboration Center at DCHSEMA. Together they provide daily situation and incident-specific spot reports to assist regional partners with decision making and information sharing. This partnership supports the collaboration and integration requirements of the Homeland Security Act.

Conduit for federal integrated and strategic planning for the NCR

The ONCRC supports the NCR homeland security governance structure through its participation in multiple intergovernmental bodies, including the NCR Senior Policy Group (SPG), and the NCR Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC), which provide forums for coordination, information sharing, and issue resolution among federal, state, local and regional homeland security and emergency management partners in the NCR. ONCRC planners have the lead for integrated planning in support of NSSE's and actively contribute to all regional planning efforts, providing integration and synchronization of federal activities and assets.

NCR Exercises

Since January 2014 the ONCRC, in concert with federal, state and local NCR partners has successfully led planning and correlating exercises in support of NSSEs and against potential hazards. Through both functional and tabletop exercise platforms, the ONCRC assists the region in validating plans, enhancing whole community preparedness, and building relationships to improve overall resiliency.





Our Team

Director, Office of National Capital Region Coordination
Deputy Director, Office of National Capital Region Coordination
Planning and Preparedness Section Chief
Operations Section Chief
Logistics Section Chief
Finance and Admin Section Chief
External Affairs Officer
Situation Unit Lead

Kim Kadesch
Kenneth Wall
Joe Burchette
Woodrow Goins
Nelson Torres
Christopher Jones
Adoratia Purdy
Paul Sension

Our Stakeholders

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG): COG is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in DC, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia, in an effort to create a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable NCR.

NCR Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC): The NCR EPC is an advisory body which reports to the COG Board of Directors. It makes policy and procedural recommendations to the COG Board or through the COG Board, to various regional agencies with emergency preparedness responsibilities or operational response authority.

DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DC HSEMA) / Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) / Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA): These agencies lead the planning and coordination of homeland security and emergency management efforts to ensure that their respective jurisdictions are prepared to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate, and recover from all threats and hazards.

Regional Emergency Support Functions (RESFs) / Regional Programmatic Working Groups (RPWGs): These committees/groups provide necessary support to the planning and coordination of NCR homeland security and emergency management efforts.

Federal departments and agencies: The ONCRC coordinates regularly with its federal partners including the United States Secret Service (USSS), United States Capital Police (USCP), United States Park Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Joint Forces Headquarters – National Capital Region (JFHQ-NCR)

Contact Us



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