

Compendium of U.S. - Canada Emergency Management Assistance Mechanisms

National-level acts, agreements, frameworks, guidance, plans, and procedures for response operations, communication and coordination, preparedness, and recovery

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Message from the Co-Chairs of the Federal-to-Federal Assistance and Information Exchange Working Group

On October 20, 2009, the United States and Canada held the first meeting of the Consultative Group established under the *U.S.-Canada Agreement on Emergency Management Cooperation*. This agreement provides a framework for the U.S. and Canada to cooperate in planning for and responding to natural and man-made incidents, emergencies, and disasters. At the meeting, the Consultative Group established four working groups, including one on Federal-to-Federal assistance and information exchange.

As a deliverable, the working group proposed to develop this *Compendium of U.S.-Canada Emergency Assistance Mechanisms* summarizing national-level acts, agreements, frameworks, guidance, plans, and procedures for emergency response operations, communication and coordination, preparedness, and recovery.

The purpose of this *Compendium* is:

- To raise awareness of national-level acts, agreements, frameworks, guidance, plans, and procedures to facilitate communication, coordination, and the movement of Federal to Federal assistance resources, in coordination with diplomatic and customs and border officials, once a decision has been made to provide and receive emergency assistance;
- To help Consultative Group members and others better understand each country's policies on providing and receiving emergency assistance.

The Co-Chairs would like to thank the Consultative Group members and other colleagues who have contributed to the development of this *Compendium*. In particular, the Co-Chairs express their gratitude to Candice Abinanti of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Lisa Khouri of Public Safety Canada for their work and dedication in drafting this document.

Information contained herein may not account for more detailed operating plans, procedures, etc. under the mechanisms identified, and the Federal-to-Federal Assistance and Information Exchange Working Group welcomes suggestions for additions and improvements to this *Compendium*. This *Compendium* should be regarded as a work in progress, and suggestions may be sent to fema-international@dhs.gov or emcg-gcgu@ps-sp.gc.ca.

Federal-to-Federal Assistance and Information Exchange Working Group
U.S.-Canada Consultative Group for Emergency Management Cooperation

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National-level Acts, Agreements, Frameworks, Guidance, Plans, and Procedures

Summaries of the following national-level acts, agreements, frameworks, guidance, plans, and procedures for response operations, communication and coordination, preparedness, and recovery were compiled primarily through online and archival research and discussions with international and interagency colleagues. Fields of information captured for each are explained below.

- **Name** – formal and any informal name or title of the act, authority, agreement, framework, plan, policy, procedure, or program
- **Date Established** – date or timeframe established, in effect, etc.
- **Type** – e.g., act, authority, agreement, framework, plan, policy, procedure, or program
- **Hazard Type** – e.g., all-hazards, forest fire, HAZMAT, etc.
- **Scope/Function(s)** – description of what the act, authority, agreement, framework, plan, policy, procedure, or program does, or provides for.
- **Web Link** – the posted location on the Internet, if applicable
- **Lead Organization(s) and Contact(s)** – the Ministry, Department, Agency, etc. responsible for overseeing or implementing the act, authority, agreement, framework, plan, policy, procedure, or program and general organizational unit contact information, if available.
- **Activation and Implementation** – a description, where applicable, on how an act, authority, agreement, framework, plan, policy, procedure, or program would become “activated” or initiated and then implemented, resources requested, commanded, controlled, and de-activated, for the purpose of Canada-U.S. emergency assistance.
- **Communication and Coordination** – e.g., How are border authorities notified? How is a common operating picture achieved and maintained? Do resource typing standards and credentials, standard equipment lists, standard operating procedures exist to ensure that needs are communicated and met appropriately?
- **Administration and Liability** – e.g., What powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities is the mutual assistance afforded? How is the assistance insured? What financial compensation arrangements exist? Are resource qualifications and certifications, licenses, and permits addressed.

Name	<i>Canada – U.S. Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP) (the “Marine” Plan)</i>
Date Established	1983, with updates in 1984, 1986, 1990, and 2003
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	Marine pollution incidents threatening the inland or coastal waters of both countries
Scope/Function(s)	<p>Provides a framework for Canada-U.S. cooperation in response to marine pollution incidents threatening the inland or coastal waters of both countries, or major incidents in one country where the assistance of the neighboring country is required. Implementation of the plan is the joint responsibility of the CCG and the USCG. The Plan is tested every two years through exercises. This plan divides the international boundary into five Regional planning areas and includes Regional Annexes that define the jurisdiction, roles and response procedures of regulatory and support agencies within each. Each Regional Annex also covers such topics as communications, reporting systems and points of contact.</p> <p>Provisions and procedures referenced in the plan and its geographic annexes are intended to supplement each country’s national response system and provide a “bridge” between the two systems. The plan addresses planning and preparedness, including exercises and training, operational concepts, including notification and coordinated response, funding, and reporting (Environment Canada, 2010).</p>
Web Link	http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/folios/00025/docs/canadaus_pub-eng.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	CCG (Canadian Coast Guard) USCG (United States Coast Guard)
Activation & Implementation	<p>Section 403 of the Marine Plan indicates that “In the event of a harmful substance incident, a coordinated response may be activated or deactivated by verbal agreement between the CCG On-scene Commander and USCG On-scene Coordinator.” Activation and deactivation are followed by written confirmation for which a sample form is provided. Geographic Annexes to the Marine Plan must include specific notification, activation and deactivation procedures.</p> <p>Geographic annexes to the Marine Plan must also include specific information on the response inventory available, a logistics plan, the integration of volunteers, a salvage and rescue resources inventory, and acceptable methods for disposal and decontamination.</p>

**Communication
& Coordination**

Liaison officers may be designated to facilitate information flow and support direct communications. Appendices to the Marine Plan provide national, geographic, and regional contacts. Geographic annexes to the Marine Plan must include specific procedures for customs and immigration clearances, a communications plan, a joint response team contact list, and public information coordination procedures.

**Administration
& Liability**

Funding is the responsibility of each Party and addressed in section 800 of the Marine Plan.

Name	<i>Canada – U.S. Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan (the “Inland” Plan)</i>
Date Established	1985, with updates in 1994 and 2009
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	Polluting incidents threatening 15.5 miles (25 kilometers) of the inland boundary on either side.
Scope/Function(s)	<p>Provides for a cooperative mechanism for preparedness for and response to polluting incidents that cause, or may cause, damage to the environment along the inland boundary or may constitute a threat to public safety, security, health, welfare, or property. The Inland Plan may also facilitate the provision of assistance when only one country is affected, but the polluting incident is of such magnitude to justify a request for assistance from the other country.</p> <p>The Inland Plan divides the international boundary into five Regional planning areas and includes Regional Annexes that include, among other matters, the definition of the jurisdiction, roles, and response procedures of regulatory and support agencies within specific regions of each country. Each Regional Annex may also cover such topics as notification procedures, response operations and coordination with all levels of government, industry, non-governmental organizations, customs and immigration, health and safety, and updating and exercising schedule among other topics. The current five Regional planning areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The combined inland boundary of the Yukon Territory and British Columbia with Montana, Alaska, Washington, Idaho -- CANUSWEST; 2. The combined inland boundary of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota -- CANUSPLAIN; 3. The combined inland boundary of Ontario with New York, Minnesota, Michigan -- CANUSCENT; 4. The combined inland boundary of Quebec with Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York -- CANUSQUE; and 5. The combined inland boundary of New Brunswick with Maine -- CANUSEAST.
Web Link	http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/er/us_can_jcp_eng.pdf http://www.ec.gc.ca/ee-ue/default.asp?lang=en&n=deb16a21

Lead Organization(s)	EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) EC (Environment Canada)
Activation & Implementation	Section 501 of the Inland Plan may be activated by the Regional Joint Response Team (RJRT) Co-chair from the country of origin of the significant polluting incident, after consultation with and consent from the RJRT Co-chair from the other country and both International Joint Advisory Team (IJAT) Co-chairs. This activation would take place if the polluting incident is accompanied by a substantial threat of the spread of a pollutant into the inland boundary of the other country or such spreading has already occurred, or if the polluting incident is of sufficient magnitude to justify a request for assistance from the other country. The appropriate RJRT Co-chair may activate the Inland Plan through a telephone message. The telephone message is to be followed by a written activation message (fax or email). The standard format for the written activation message as well as the activation diagram can be found in Appendix F.
Communication & Coordination	Upon receipt of an Inland Plan activation message, the IJAT Co-chairs are to notify their respective foreign relations departments that a significant polluting incident has occurred or has the potential to occur. The Inland Plan applies to all polluting incidents along the inland boundary that have the potential for transboundary effects, and provides for a bi-national coordination mechanism to ensure appropriate and effective cooperative preparedness and response measures between Canada and the United States with respect to significant polluting incidents along the inland boundary. In addition, it addresses notification, activation, and deactivation procedures. Sections 600 and 700 address situation reports and public information. A diagram of the Binational Concept of Operations can be found in Appendix B.
Administration & Liability	Procedures for customs and immigration clearances for response resources are outlined in each Inland Plan Regional Annex.

Name	<i>Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement (Public Law 101-11 (HR 829) and accompanying operating plan</i>
Date Established	May 7, 1982
Type	Arrangement in the form of an exchange of notes and accompanying operating plan
Hazard Type	Wildland fire
Scope/Function(s)	To facilitate mutual assistance in wildland fire between Canada and the U.S.
Web Link	http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/ , see <i>National Mobilization Guide, Chapter 40: Cooperation</i>
Lead Organization(s)	<p>U.S. Coordinating Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NICC (National Interagency Coordinating Center) • NIFC (National Interagency Fire Center) <p>Canadian Coordinating Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIFFC (Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre)
Activation & Implementation	Requests for assistance under the operating plan are carried out through the countries respective Coordinating Authorities, the NICC and CIFFC.
Communication & Coordination	The operating plan addresses requests for assistance, designating officials, information to supply to Customs & Immigration Points of Entry (POE), and information to include in situation reporting. The operating plan also includes a “Directory of Designated Officials,” updated annually.
Administration & Liability	The operating plan provides specific guidance on invoicing, payment, and reimbursement. The arrangement’s diplomatic notes explicitly identify responsible parties for damages, losses, injury compensation and death benefits. Sec. 3.(2)(B) of the U.S. <i>Wildfire Suppression Assistance Act</i> requires agreements “include waiver by each party to the agreement of all claims against every other party to the agreement for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring in consequence of the performance of such agreement.”
Authority	In the U.S., Pub. L. 101-11, the <i>Wildfire Suppression Assistance Act</i> , permanently authorized the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements with foreign fire organizations for assistance in wildfire protection.

Name	<i>Canada-U.S. Civil Assistance Plan (CAP)</i>
Date Established	February 14, 2008 (renewed January 26, 2012)
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	Section 1.a. of the CAP states its purpose “is to provide a framework for the military of one nation to provide support to the military of the other nation while in the performance of civil support operations to the primary agency (e.g., floods, forest fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and effects of a terrorist attack).” Furthermore, “When approved, military forces from one nation augment the other nation’s forces in civil support operations...”
Web Link	http://www.northcom.mil/news/2008/CAP%20-%20For%20Public%20Posting%20-%2028%20May%2008.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	Canada Command U.S. Northern Command
Activation & Implementation	The CAP would be activated and implemented upon direction by the Government of Canada and the U.S. President or Secretary of Defense. Annex A addresses requests for assistance and task organization. Annex C provides a concept of operations detailing phases and triggers and major actions for the phases. Annex D addresses the concept of logistics support, including levels of supplies.
Communication & Coordination	Section 1.b. of the CAP identifies “The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), acting on behalf of the Government of Canada (GoC), and the US Department of State (DOS), acting on behalf of the United States Government (USG), will, upon receipt of a formal request for, or offer of mutual assistance, coordinate an agreed upon bilateral response that may include military support.” Annex F provides a public affairs concept of operation, while annex J describes command relationships and lines. Annex K addresses communications and information systems. Geospatial information and services are addressed in annex M.
Administration & Liability	Annex A addresses task organization including tactical control of supporting forces. Annex C addresses operations.

Name	<i>Canada-United States Joint Radiological Emergency Response Plan (JRERP)</i>
Date Established	July 27, 1996 The plan was developed under the umbrella of the 1986 <i>Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Cooperation in Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management</i>
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	Radiological emergency
Scope/Function(s)	Establishes the basis for cooperative measures to deal with a potential or actual peacetime radiological event involving Canada, the United States, or both countries. The plan is to be utilized should a potential or actual radiological event occur that can affect both countries, or occurs in one country and the magnitude requires the affected country to request assistance from the other.
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	DHS/FEMA (Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency) PS Canada (Public Safety Canada)
Activation & Implementation	Activated by mutual agreement through the exchange of Activation Messages when a radiological event presents an actual or potential threat, there is a likelihood that support resources will be required from the neighboring country, or a coordinated response and joint public messaging is needed. Appendices contain alerting, activation, and de-activation templates.
Communication & Coordination	Establishes alerting procedures, a framework of cooperative measures to reduce the threat posed to public health and safety, property, and the environment, and facilitate coordination between the Federal governments of each country to provide support to affected States and Provinces. Appendix D of the plan identifies joint procedures between the two countries for radioactive plume trajectory and dispersion modeling.
Administration & Liability	Lead organizations are responsible for ensuring the plan is kept current.

Name	<i>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Co-Operation Among the Department of National Defence Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Air Force, the United Kingdom Maritime and Coast Guard Agency, the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, and the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence Concerning Search and Rescue</i>
Date Established	Various dates, 1999
Type	Agreement
Hazard Type	Maritime or aeronautical incidents
Scope/Function(s)	The MOU establishes a framework for cooperation among the Participants for the provision of search and rescue (SAR) services in response to a maritime or aeronautical incident within the Participant's search and rescue region. A Participant may enter onto or over the territory of another Participant country for the purpose of rendering emergency rescue assistance to persons, vessels, or aircraft. Notification of such entry must be made as soon as practicable.
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	<i>USCG U.S. Air Force Department of National Defence Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada U.K. Maritime and Coast Guard Agency U.K. Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions U.K. Ministry of Defence</i>
Activation & Implementation	Operational MOUs and procedures among the Participants exist under this MOU. SAR operations are carried out in accordance with relevant SAR manuals and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation.
Communication & Coordination	Cooperation is addressed in section six of the MOU and includes providing services in support of SAR operations, developing procedures, techniques, equipment, facilities, and information systems, and joint training and exercising.

**Administration
& Liability**

Each Participant funds its own expenses for activities pertinent to this MOU.

Assistance to save lives and reduce suffering is provided regardless of the nationality or immigration status of persons requiring rescue.

Name	<i>Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Vital Civil Cross Border Transport under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and approved by the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC)</i>
Date Established	The MOU came into effect for Canada on the date of signature, June 18, 2009, and for the U.S. on June 17, 2009.
Type	Agreement
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	Participants agree to facilitate vital civil cross border transport and transit in accordance with the MOU. The MOU is a multilateral tool that creates the general framework for the transport and transit of relief personnel and material from a sending Participant to a requesting Participant by water, land, or air to cope with the consequences of a disaster (e.g., a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear [CBRN] event, accidental or other, natural or technical catastrophes).
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) is the overarching framework for consultation among Participants.
Activation & Implementation	Activated through a request from one Participant to another, Annex 1 provides agreed-upon application, notification and coordination, logistics, border crossing, additional arrangements, etc. procedures and principles for the implementation of the MOU. It is understood that Participants may further conclude additional separate arrangements to identify practical and technical details for the facilitation of vital civil cross border transport.
Communication & Coordination	The MOU calls for each Participant to designate a national contact. Basic notification procedures are also identified for sending, requesting, and transiting Participants.
Administration & Liability	The MOU includes a “Principle of territoriality” stating “Relief personnel will respect the laws of the requesting Participant or the Participants providing for the transit, and will abstain from any activity inconsistent with the present MOU. The Sending Participant will take necessary measures to that end.”

Name	<i>Emergency Management Act</i>
Date Established	August 2007
Type	Act
Hazard Type	All Hazard
Scope/Function(s)	<p>The <i>Emergency Management Act</i> (EMA) sets out clear roles and responsibilities for all federal ministers across the full spectrum of emergency management. This includes prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and critical infrastructure protection.</p> <p>The Act reinforces efforts to ensure that Canada is well-prepared to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and human-induced risks to the safety and security of Canadians.</p> <p>The Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives responsibility to the Minister of Public Safety to provide national leadership and set a clear direction for emergency management and critical infrastructure protection for the Government of Canada; • Clearly establishes the roles and responsibilities of federal Ministers and enhances the Government of Canada’s readiness to respond to all types of emergencies; • Improves information sharing and enhances collaborative emergency management planning with other levels of government as well as the private sector; and • Gives authority to the Minister of Public Safety, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to coordinate Canada’s response to an emergency in the United States. <p>In consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister may develop joint emergency management plans with the relevant United States’ authorities and, in accordance with those plans, coordinate Canada’s response to emergencies in the United States and provide assistance in response to those emergencies.</p>
Web Link	http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/ShowTdm/cs/E-4.56/

Lead Organization(s)	Public Safety Canada
Activation & Implementation	Not Applicable
Communication & Coordination	<p>The Minister of Public Safety Canada is responsible for exercising leadership at the national level relating to public safety and emergency preparedness.</p> <p>In exercising the powers and in performing the duties and functions as describe in the EMA the Minister of Public Safety may cooperate with any province, foreign state, international organization or any other entity.</p>

Name	<i>Federal Emergency Response Plan (FERP)</i>
Date Established	December 2009
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	All Hazard
Scope/Function(s)	<p>The <i>Emergency Management Act</i> defines emergency management as the prevention and mitigation of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from emergencies. Under the <i>Emergency Management Act</i>, the Minister of Public Safety is responsible for coordinating the Government of Canada’s response to an emergency. The Federal Emergency Response Plan (FERP) is the Government of Canada’s “all-hazards” response plan.</p> <p>Public Safety Canada developed FERP in consultation with other government departments. FERP outlines the processes and mechanisms to facilitate an integrated Government of Canada response to an emergency and to eliminate the need for departments to coordinate a wider Government of Canada response.</p>
Web Link	http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/ferp-eng.aspx
Lead Organization(s)	Public Safety Canada
Activation & Implementation	The Government Operations Centre (GOC) serves as the coordination centre for the federal response, and provides regular situation reports as well as briefing and decision-making support materials for ministers and senior officials. As requests for information and assistance are received, they are assigned to those departments, agencies or other organizations with the applicable mandate and response capabilities to action in support of the integrated federal response.
Communication & Coordination	Public Safety Canada Communications coordinates emergency public communications activities for the Government of Canada; between federal departments; and with provincial/territorial partners, international partners, and non-government organizations. Communications also provides support and strategic public communications advice on issues relating to the public and media environment as part of each of the primary functions of the Federal Emergency Response Management System (FERMS).

Name	<i>U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, Chapter 9 – International Disaster Assistance</i>
Date Established	1961
Type	Act
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	<p>Chapter 9, Sec. 491-493 indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The President is authorized to furnish assistance [for the relief and rehabilitation of people and countries affected by such disasters] to any foreign country, international organization, or private voluntary organization” ○ “The President is authorized to appoint a Special Coordinator for Inter-national Disaster Assistance whose responsibility shall be to pro-mote maximum effectiveness and coordination in responses to foreign disasters by United States agencies and between the United States and other donors.” ○ Sec. 607 authorizes an agency of the United States Government to furnish services and commodities to foreign government international organizations and registered non-voluntary non-profit relief agencies on a reimbursable basis. The statute requires a determination that the activity is in furtherance of the purposes outlined in Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA). Agencies that seek section 607 determinations from the U.S. Agency for International Development may also use the section 627-630 authorities in providing services to foreign governments and international organizations. <p>The following members of the EMCG typically maintain section 607 authority with United States Agency for International Development (USAID):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DHS/FEMA
Web Link	http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/faa.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	Department of State, United States Agency for International Development) /Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

Name	<i>United States Agency of International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance Guidance for Disaster Planning and Response</i>
Date Established	Issued annually
Type	Guidance
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	Provides guidance to all U.S. posts on support from USAID/ OFDA before, during, and after the occurrence of natural disasters and complex emergencies abroad to ensure timely, appropriate, and effective U.S. Government emergency and humanitarian assistance.
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	USAID/OFDA is the U.S. Government’s lead agency for providing international disaster and humanitarian assistance and coordinating the U.S. Government response to declared disasters in foreign countries. At each post, the Mission Disaster Relief Officer (MDRO) is the focal point for disaster-related information, planning, and activities affecting the host country.
Activation & Implementation	<p>Humanitarian assistance from USAID/OFDA must be requested by the Chief of Mission through a disaster declaration cable after the Chief of Mission determines the disaster satisfies the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the disaster is of such magnitude that it is beyond the host country’s ability to respond adequately; 2. the host country has requested or will accept U.S. Government assistance; and 3. it is in the interest of the U.S. Government to provide assistance. <p>The Chief of Mission can request from USAID/OFDA up to USD \$50,000 for immediate disaster relief or rehabilitation. Deployment of USAID/OFDA regional advisors, an assessment team, or a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART); provision of relief commodities from USAID/OFDA stockpiles; and additional disaster funding are supplementary USAID/OFDA capabilities that may be requested.</p>
Communication & Coordination	Guidance on U.S. Government and host country communications and coordination are provided, as well as listings of USAID/OFDA contacts. A recommended public message concerning donations is also provided to posts in the guidance.

Name	<i>U.S. National Response Framework's (NRF) International Coordination Support Annex (ICSA)</i>
Date Established	January 2008
Type	Framework
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	A supplement to the NRF, the ICSA provides guidance on carrying out responsibilities for international coordination in support of the U.S. Federal Government's response to a domestic incident with international and diplomatic impacts and implications that call for coordination and consultations with foreign governments and international organizations.
Web Link	http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-support-internatl.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	The coordinating agency is Department of State
Activation & Implementation	Responds to requests for information or support from foreign missions or U.S. federal agencies; when a U.S. domestic incident of any sort has major international implications or the potential for them. Department of States Executive Secretariat and its Operations Center establish a DOS Task Force to communicate with the U.S. National Operations Center (NOC) and other U.S. Government Agencies, as appropriate. The DOS Task Force also provides U.S. Embassies/Consulates with instruction on advising other governments and organizations on the domestic incident, and provides support to foreign missions and foreign nationals in the United States. DOS also serves as an intermediary for foreign requests/offers of assistance through the International Assistance System/Concept of Operations Plans CONOPS.
Communication & Coordination	DOS develops incident-related public affairs strategies according to the NRF Incident Communications Emergency Policy and Procedures described in the Public Affairs Support Annex and the ESF #15 – External Affairs Annex.
Administration & Liability	Not applicable

Name	<i>U.S. International Assistance System Concept of Operations (IAS/CONOPS)</i>
Date Established	November 23, 2009
Type	Procedures
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	<p>Identifies internal U.S. operating procedures for addressing foreign assistance offers for a catastrophic U.S. domestic disaster declared under the Stafford Act, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepting or declining formal offers of foreign assistance for a domestic incident, • procuring resources not available domestically, and • receiving and distributing resources. <p>The IAS does not address foreign offers of cash, offers to State, Tribal, or local governments, or offers from private sources. It also does not replace any bilateral agreements.</p> <p>Although designed to support FEMA in a Stafford Act response, the principles and procedures described in the IAS may be used as a guide to other U.S. federal response agencies for non-Stafford Act events.</p>
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	Involves DOS, FEMA, USAID/OFDA, Regulatory Agencies, and the U.S. Department of Defense.
Activation & Implementation	Activated by FEMA in extraordinary cases when the U.S. Government determines it is necessary to request or accept international offers of assistance for a catastrophic disaster response and if FEMA needs help managing the offers of assistance. The IAS is not automatically activated for every large domestic disaster. Upon activation, FEMA mission assigns DOS, USAID/OFDA, and DOD for further support.
Communication & Coordination	The IAS CONOPS addresses roles and responsibilities among U.S. departments and agencies, and identifies policies and procedures for communication and coordination.
Administration & Liability	FEMA is authorized to accept international assistance through the IAS using its gift acceptance authority under the Stafford Act. The IAS CONOPS identifies workers' compensation, liability, and credentials, licensing, and certifications as issues that must be addressed before service personnel may be accepted.

Communication and Coordination

Name	<i>Joint Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)/U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Business Resumption Communication & Coordination Plan (BR CCP)</i>
Date Established	July 2007
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	<p>Provides the framework for communication between the two agencies to facilitate legitimate trade and travelers during a trade disruption or increase in security threat level in either country.</p> <p>The BR CCP is not intended as a communication plan for crisis management, incident management, or business contingency. It is intended for the coordination of communications to facilitate the resumption of trade at POEs. Communication topics may include: reporting issues, external messaging to the trade community, statements to the media, updates to and from other government agencies, and joint information sharing.</p>
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	CBP CBSA
Activation & Implementation	May be activated and used by mutual agreement at a local, regional, or national level.
Communication & Coordination	The BR CCP details roles and responsibilities and key information to share among designated points of contact at the Headquarters, Regional, and Field Offices levels. It also addresses communications continuity, infrastructure, and joint communications to external stakeholders for consistency in messaging.

Name	<i>Memorandum of Cooperation between Public Safety Canada and the United States Department of Homeland Security (to promote joint efforts by the respective public affairs organizations) and Canada-US Incident Management Framework for Public Communications</i>
Date Established	June 24, 2008
Type	Agreement and Framework
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	Documents partnership between the DHS Office of Public Affairs and PS Canada. The two have developed a <i>Canada-US Incident Management Framework for Public Communications</i> with best practices for sharing public affairs communications materials and contact lists for use during exercises, national security incidents involving the U.S. and Canada, large-scale incidents, and international incidents involving international allies. This framework is tested annually through exercises and reviewed routinely.
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	DHS Office of Public Affairs and PS Canada
Activation & Implementation	Utilized during exercises, national security incidents involving the U.S. and Canada, large-scale incidents, and international incidents involving international allies.
Communication & Coordination	Addressed in the <i>Canada-US Incident Management Framework for Public Communications</i>
Administration & Liability	DHS Office of Public Affairs and Public Safety Canada are each responsible for designating a first point of contact for the <i>Memorandum</i> , and are each further responsible for all costs of activities undertaken to support it.

Emergency Preparedness

Name	<i>Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Emergency Management Cooperation</i>
Date Established	Entered into force July 7, 2009. Supersedes the 1986 <i>Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Cooperation in Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management</i> , which superseded the <i>Canada-United States Agreement concerning Civil Emergency Planning</i> from 1967.
Type	Agreement
Hazard Type	All hazards
Scope/Function(s)	<p>This agreement establishes a Consultative Group on Emergency Cooperation between Canada and the U.S. This Group is provided broad authority to work on emergency management topics affecting both the U.S. and Canada including those involving mutual aid.</p> <p>The agreement also identifies general principles of cooperation, subject to domestic laws, as a guide for civil emergency authorities. These principles include using best efforts to facilitate the movement of evacuees and emergency personnel and equipment, avoiding levying Federal taxes on services, equipment and supplies engaged in emergency activities in the territory of the other, etc.</p>
Web Link	http://www.treaty-accord.gc.ca/text-texte.asp?id=105173
Lead Organization(s)	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFAIT • PS Canada <p>United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOS, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs • DHS, Office of Policy
Activation & Implementation	This is a standing agreement that does not identify any specific activators. Principles to support the implementation of emergency activities are identified.
Communication & Coordination	The agreement contains no specific procedures for communicating and coordinating among the parties for Federal level mutual assistance.

**Administration
& Liability**

The agreement does not address administration or liability for Federal level mutual assistance.

Name	<i>North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza</i>
Date Established	August 2007
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	Avian and Pandemic Influenza
Scope/Function(s)	Outlines how Canada, Mexico and the U.S. intend to work together to combat an outbreak of avian influenza or an influenza pandemic in North America. The Plan is intended to complement existing national emergency management plans and build on international principles.
Web Link	http://www.spp-ppsp.gc.ca/eic/site/spp-ppsp.nsf/vwapj/pandemic-influenza.pdf/\$FILE/pandemic-influenza.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are the lead Federal organizations for avian and pandemic influenza preparedness and response.
Activation & Implementation	The plan provides principles for cooperation and indicates “Each country intends to use existing emergency management structures for decision making at the national level.”
Communication & Coordination	The plan identifies key Federal organizations within each country. The plan also identifies basic structure and mechanisms for trilateral emergency coordination and communication.
Administration & Liability	The plan discusses the international legal framework for coordination to protect against and control the spread of disease.

Name	<i>Canada-United States Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure</i>
Date Established	2010
Type	Plan
Hazard Type	All-hazards, specific to Critical Infrastructure
Scope/Function(s)	Establishes, given the interconnectedness of U.S. and Canada critical infrastructure, a comprehensive cross-border approach to critical infrastructure resilience. It identifies specific deliverables, provides a framework for managing risks, and supports regional cross-border relations.
Web Link	http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/ci/cnus-ct-pln-eng.aspx
Lead Organization(s)	DHS PS Canada
Activation & Implementation	The Action Plan is based on three objectives, building partnerships, improved information sharing, and risk management. A variety of specific actions are identified to support each.
Communication & Coordination	Specific communication and coordination actions include working together to improve sector-specific cross-border collaboration, establishing a virtual Canada-U.S. Infrastructure Risk Analysis Cell, developing compatible mechanisms and protocols to protect and share sensitive critical infrastructure information, collaborating to ensure effective information sharing during and following an incident, among others.

Name	<p><i>Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation in Science and Technology for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Border Security and related Cooperative Activity Arrangements</i></p> <p><i>Cooperative Activity Arrangement No. 08-01 2007-05 between DHS / DNDO and Department of National Defence of Canada Concerning Radiological and Nuclear Detection</i></p> <p><i>Cooperative Activity Arrangement No. 014-2009 between DHS and Defence Research and Development Canada Concerning Risk Assessment and Risk Related Domains</i></p>
Date Established	June 1, 2004
Type	Agreement
Hazard Type	Physical and cyber-based critical infrastructures and border security
Scope/Function(s)	Establishes a vehicle for the conduct of cooperative scientific and technological research and development in the fields of critical infrastructure protection and border security. Areas of cooperative activity include threat, vulnerability, and risk assessments, interdependency analyses, detection and monitoring, training, emergency management, etc. through such means as joint research projects, task forces, studies, seminars, etc.
Web Link	http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/agreement_us_canada_sciencetech_cooperation_2004-06-01.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	USG, DHS/Science and Technology GoC
Activation & Implementation	Specific joint activities are activated and implemented through Cooperative Activity Arrangements
Communication & Coordination	Agreement addresses management, contracting, finance, intellectual property, entry of personnel and equipment and material, and security. Further communication and coordination procedures are established in specific Cooperative Activity Arrangements.
Administration & Liability	Umbrella agreement creates no standing financial commitments. Parties to Cooperative Activity Arrangements bear or share costs of implementing activities.

Name	<i>Transport Canada's Cross-Border Emergency Response Guide, 3rd Edition</i>
Date Established	First edition published in 2007, third and current edition published July 2007
Type	Planning guide
Hazard Type	Transportation accidents or spills involving dangerous goods (e.g., chemicals) or hazardous materials
Scope/Function(s)	<p>A guide to aid pre-incident planning for both public and private emergency response planners involved in cross-border emergency response services for transportation accidents or spills involving dangerous goods or hazardous materials. (While the title is similar, this guide is not the Emergency Response Guidebook, which is for use by firefighters, police, and other emergency services personnel who may be the first to arrive at the scene of a transportation incident involving a hazardous material.)</p> <p>Provides matrices listing immigration and customs agreements in place and training and liability requirements for declared, not declared, and non-emergencies for responding from the U.S. into Canada and from Canada into the U.S.</p>
Web Link	
Lead Organization(s)	Transport Canada
Activation & Implementation	Not applicable. It is a planning guide, not a response operations guide.
Communication & Coordination	Provides guidance for notification and reporting to local, provincial, and Federal authorities.
Administration & Liability	<p>Discusses the waiver of customs and taxes, under Canadian law, for goods and equipment being brought from the U.S. into Canada for emergency response for actual or imminent emergencies and registration of these goods and equipment with border authorities.</p> <p>Also discusses planning for responder training requirements and liability and insurance issues. Liability for American teams responding to an incident in Canada is discussed at length, citing important details from Canada Common Law, Federal and provincial law. Steps to reduce liability are provided.</p>

Name	<i>Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-707 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)</i>
Date Established	Signed into U.S. law November 23, 1988
Type	Act
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	<p>The Stafford Act constitutes the primary general statutory authority for most U.S. Federal preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities for domestic disasters, especially as they pertain to FEMA activities.</p> <p>The Stafford Act makes the following references to “neighboring countries” defined as Canada and Mexico, in Title VI – Emergency Preparedness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pursuant to Sec. 611 of the Stafford Act, “With the approval of the President, the Director [now Administrator of FEMA] may delegate to other departments and agencies of the Federal Government appropriate emergency preparedness responsibilities and review and coordinate the emergency preparedness activities of the departments and agencies with each other and with the activities of the States and neighboring countries.” In the Stafford Act, the term “neighboring countries” refers to Canada and Mexico. ○ Pursuant to Sec. 612 of the Stafford Act, which discusses mutual aid pacts between States and neighboring countries, the Administrator of FEMA “shall give all practicable assistance to States in arranging, through the Department of State, mutual emergency preparedness aid between the States and neighboring countries.” ○ Pursuant to Sec. 621 of the Stafford Act, which describes administrative authority, the Administrator of FEMA “may employ not more than 100 part-time or temporary advisory personnel (including not to exceed 25 subjects of the United Kingdom or citizens of Canada) as the Director considers to be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this title.
Web Link	http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/stafford_act.pdf
Lead Organization(s)	DHS/FEMA

**Activation
& Implementation**

The Stafford Act is a U.S. domestic authority covering the fifty (50) U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Hence, the Stafford Act cannot be activated to provide U.S. Federal Government level emergency assistance to Canada.

Recovery

Name	<p><i>Canada-United States Framework for the Movement of Goods and People Across the Border During and Following an Emergency and annex</i></p> <p><i>Maritime Annex To The Canada-United States Framework For The Movement Of Goods And People Across The Border During And Following An Emergency</i></p>
Date Established	2009
Type	Framework
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	<p>Commits the United States and Canada to work together to manage the movement of goods and people across the border during and following an incident that contributes to significant border disruption and requires national level engagement (i.e., a terrorist attack, an incident that impacts Critical Resources and Key Infrastructure [CIKR] of national interest, a request for national-level assistance).</p> <p>The Maritime Annex is for managing the movement of vessels carrying goods and people between Canada and the United States during and following emergencies.</p>
Web Link	<p><i>Framework:</i> http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/border_management_framework_2009-05-27.pdf</p> <p><i>Maritime Annex:</i> http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/ns/ci/marann-eng.aspx</p>
Lead Organization(s)	<p><i>Framework:</i> DHS PS Canada</p> <p><i>Maritime Annex:</i> DHS/USCG Transport Canada</p>
Activation & Implementation	Activated in the event of an incident that contributes to significant border disruption, requires national level engagement, and is one or more of the following scenarios: a terrorist attack or threat, an incident that impacts CIRKR of national interest, a request for national-level assistance.

**Communication
& Coordination**

The Framework identifies the Deputy Secretary of DHS and Deputy Minister of PS Canada and their officials as leads for sharing incident information, communicating national priorities, and facilitating joint messaging, liaising with DOS and DFAIT.

It complements the *Joint CBP / CBSA Business Resumption Communication & Coordination Plan* and annexes, a framework for communication between the two during a trade disruption or increase in security threat level in either country.

Name	<i>U.S. Border Crossing Process for Voluntary Agency Groups/Individuals</i>
Date Established	2007
Type	Procedures
Hazard Type	All-hazards
Scope/Function(s)	A process between FEMA and CBP to facilitate the secondary “parole” entry of groups and individuals from Canada and other countries affiliated with the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) into the United States to provide voluntary services to non-governmental organizations in support of U.S. declared disaster recovery operations.
Web Link	Not available online
Lead Organization(s)	FEMA and CBP
Activation & Implementation	Voluntary organization activates the process by providing a list of volunteers and other information to FEMA no later than one week prior to U.S. entry.
Communication & Coordination	FEMA verifies the information provided by the voluntary organization on the groups and individuals and sends a request letter to CBP. CBP reviews the information and forwards to the Point of Entry (POE) for consideration.
Administration & Liability	Groups and individuals must be “credentialed” by the voluntary organization they represent. Tools and equipment being transported must be registered with CBP to ensure return to its country of origin. CBP vetting includes verification of proper travel documents, and submission of fingerprints and a photograph.

Other

Immigration

- The *U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act* provides CBP authority to parole aliens into the country on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

Personnel should submit to the Point of Entry (POE) the following information in advance:

- name
 - occupation
 - date of birth
 - citizenship
 - passport number
 - employee identification number
 - description of services to be provided
 - mobile phone number
 - emergency contact information
- Paragraph 186(t) of Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* provides for the entry into Canada without a work permit of persons who are providing emergency medical or other services to preserve life and property. To facilitate this, U.S. citizens should notify the specific border crossing prior to arriving for entry into Canada and arrange for an official from a Canadian agency involved in the emergency to contact CBSA and confirm the need for their entry into Canada. It is advised that personnel carry a passport or proof of citizenship.
 - Participation of public and private responders in the joint NEXUS program could expedite the cross-border provision of mutual assistance. NEXUS cardholders are pre-screened and approved for faster processing using trusted traveler lanes at airports, waterways, and land crossings.

Customs

- *United States Code*, § 1322(b), subsections 2, 3 of Title 19, provides that:

(b) The Secretary of the Treasury may provide by regulation or instruction for the admission, without entry and without the payment of duty or tax imposed upon or by reason of importation of:

...

(2) *fire-fighting and rescue and relief equipment and supplies for emergent temporary use in connection with conflagrations [great and destructive fires];*

(3) *rescue and relief equipment and supplies for emergent temporary use in connection with floods and other disasters.*

The following equipment information should be provided to the POE in advance:

- make
 - model
 - components
 - license plate number
 - vehicle identification number
 - purpose
- In Canada, the Customs *D-Memorandum D8-1-1, Temporary Importation* (Tariff Item No. 9993.00.00) *Regulation* provides full relief from the payment of the customs duties, and the *Goods for Emergency Use Remission Order* (OIC 73-2529), provides full relief from GST/HST that would otherwise be payable on these goods. When time permits, a Temporary Admission Permit Form E29B will be issued covering all equipment and supplies.

Operators of vehicles, vessels, trains, and aircrafts transporting goods to Canada should:

- Carry two copies of the equipment list including serial numbers and monetary value.
- Stop at U.S. CBP prior to departure to get the equipment list stamped to assist in the re-importation of the goods back into the U.S. upon return.
- Present the list to CBSA for clearance approval.
- Stop and report to CBSA when leaving Canada so that temporary admission permits can be cancelled.

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

- The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), a United Nations network of more than 80 countries and disaster response organizations was established in 1991 for USAR issues, including standards and methodologies for international coordination in earthquake response. INSARAG Guidelines, endorsed in the dedicated United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/150 on December 16, 2002 define coordination and cooperation procedures for international and national responders in major disasters and cover the following phases: preparedness, activation, operation, reassignment/stand-down, and return to home base. For more information, see:

<http://ochaonline.un.org/OCHAHome/AboutUs/Coordination/INSARAG/tabid/6016/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Acronyms

BR CCP	<i>Joint CBP/CBSA Business Resumption Communication & Coordination Plan</i>
CAP	<i>Canada-U.S. Civil Assistance Plan</i>
CBP	<i>U.S. Customs and Border Protection</i>
CBSA	<i>Canada Border Services Agency</i>
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard
CIFFC	Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc.
CIKR	Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources
DFAIT	Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOS	U.S. Department of State
EC	Environment Canada
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	<i>U.S. Foreign Assistance Act</i>
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERMS	Federal Emergency Response Management System
FERP	Federal Emergency Response Plan
GoC	Government of Canada
GOC	Government Operations Center
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
IAS/CONOPS	<i>International Assistance System Concept of Operations</i>
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
JRERP	Canada-United States Joint Radiological Emergency Response Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NICC, NIFC	National Interagency Coordination Center, National Interagency Fire Center
NOC	U.S. National Operations Center
NRF/ICSA	U.S. National Response Framework's International Coordination Support Annex
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
POE	Point of Entry
PS Canada	Public Safety Canada
SAR	Search and Rescue
USAID/OFDA	U.S. Agency for International Development/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USG	United States Government