

Section 1: Emergency Networks

Local Assistance

In the event of a disaster, first contact your local emergency management agency. Check your local telephone directory for the correct listing as official names and duties may vary. Once you know who you would call in the event of various disasters, it is important to cultivate a relationship with those local agencies *before* a disaster strikes.

State Assistance

Governmental and governing entities (e.g., the [Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia](#)) designate an emergency coordinator who deals directly with the [Office of Homeland Security and Georgia Emergency Management Agency](#) (OHS-GEMA). Check OHS-GEMA's website for additional information at <http://www.state.ga.us/GEMA/>. It includes links to other disaster-related websites.

During a disaster, GEMA deals with local emergency management agencies at the county or city level, rather than directly with individual libraries, archives, or other cultural institutions. For the state of Georgia, the main phone line for OHS-GEMA is 404-635-7000 or 1-800-TRY-GEMA. The Public Assistance Office of GEMA can be reached at 404-635-7060. This office can provide information about city and county emergency management agencies. Include this information in your institutional disaster plan.

GEMA is located at:

935 East Confederate Avenue, SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30316

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 18055
Atlanta, Georgia 30316
Fax: 1-404-635-7005

If your institution is located outside of Georgia, you can find the contact information for your state emergency management agency on FEMA's web site:

<http://www.fema.gov/about/contact/statedr.shtm> or by using a search engine of the Internet.

Federal Assistance

The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) was founded in 1979 "to reduce loss of life and property and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards, through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery." FEMA operates under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

For complete information on FEMA services, check out its extensive website at <http://www.fema.gov/>. The website includes a phone number to call to learn if you are eligible for assistance in the event of a presidential-declared major disaster: 1-800-462-9029. Also at the site are sections on [mitigation](#), [preparedness/training](#), [disaster assistance](#), and information on [current disaster areas](#).

Much of the Southeast falls into [FEMA Region IV](#) – FEMA’s largest region. The states of Region IV are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The office is located at:

3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Telephone: 770-220-5200

Other federal agencies that may be involved with disaster preparedness/assistance include or with an organization’s working conditions during or after a disaster include:

- [The Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
- [The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)