



JOINT POLICY WORK GROUP

The NEMA-ASTHO-GHSAC Joint Policy Work Group is the force multiplier of **collaboration between state emergency management, public health, and homeland security officials**. The group promotes increased communication, coordination, and integrated planning not only for public health emergencies but all disasters.



*Disasters and emergencies require coordination between leaders in emergency management, public health, and homeland security for government to be successful in saving lives. The joint policy work group identifies methods to **heighten coordination, solve problems, and share exemplary practices** between states.*

The need for close working relationships between state decision makers is critical, especially during a response that affects the health and safety of citizens. The importance of partnerships has been clearly demonstrated time and again through events like the anthrax attacks after 9/11, the Ebola outbreak in 2014, the disastrous hurricane and wildfire season of 2017, Route 91 Harvest Concert active shooter event in Las Vegas, and the most recent national pandemic COVID-19.

The NEMA-ASTHO-GHSAC Joint Policy Work Group meets up to twice annually and communicates regularly. Each association names its state representatives as well as one individual to serve as a Tri-Chair.

The group is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), administered by the National Emergency Management Association, and coordinated with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council.