



# Arizona Qualification System

## ELEVATING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE

### WHAT IS AQS?

The Arizona Qualification System is a program that creates a deployable workforce of qualified, certified and credentialed personnel to support incidents of all types and sizes.

### WHAT IS A PTB?

Position Task Book (PTB) is a document that tracks completion of requirements that fall within each specific position and must be observed by a qualified evaluator.

### WHAT IS A GOLD CARD?

A Gold Card is the state credential issued by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA).

### AQS RESOURCES

Frequently Asked Questions  
AQS Base Plan



ARIZONA  
QUALIFICATION  
SYSTEM

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### INTENT

The development and administration of programs to provide emergency management support, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support personnel and on-scene Incident Command System personnel are critical to Arizona's preparedness to respond and recover from disasters. The Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) is tasked with the coordination of mobilizing emergency management forces; implementation of continuous training; and the creation and administration of programs to facilitate the preparedness for and response to emergencies and disasters.

DEMA has developed the Arizona Qualification System (AQS) program to facilitate the accomplishment of these tasks. The AQS program creates a deployable workforce of qualified, certified, and credentialed personnel to manage and support incidents of all types and sizes.

### SITUATION

The state of Arizona does not have a standardized system that certifies and credentials personnel that meet a minimum baseline capability to respond to All-Hazards events, incidents, emergencies, and disasters that occur intra-state and inter-state. This gap creates a shortfall in response across the state to All-Hazard situations. FEMA made implementation of the National Qualification System a requirement for award of Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) funding..

### SOLUTION

DEMA has created a program that will address this need through the AQS. The AQS aligns with the National Qualification System (NQS) which is a performance-based evaluation system to qualify, certify and credential personnel to respond to emergencies that meet a minimum baseline capability. AQS credential personnel can operate in Emergency Operations Centers or on-scene Incident Command System Organizations. AQS credentialed personnel will have baseline training that will meet and exceed NQS standards.

### ADMINISTRATION

DEMA will provide the administrative staff to maintain the AQS program. A state Qualification Review Board (QRB) consisting of personnel from multiple agencies throughout the state will make credentialing decisions. The QRB will be multi-discipline, multi-agency and will include representatives from state, tribal, county, and local jurisdictions..

### BENEFITS TO USER ORGANIZATIONS:

This is a voluntary program that organizations can use to:

1. Qualify, Certify, and Credential personnel to operate in an EOC or ICS organization.
2. Meet EMPG program requirements.
3. Access additional qualified, certified, and credentialed personnel to assist during events, emergencies, and disasters. The Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) does not delegate authority utilizing the AQS.
4. There is no fee to participate in this program.

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