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.

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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.

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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