

**(c) Assistance****(1) In general**

The Administrator may establish any guidelines, standards, or requirements determined appropriate to administer this section and to ensure effective mass evacuation planning for State, local, and tribal areas.

**(2) Requested assistance**

The Administrator shall make assistance available upon request of a State, local, or tribal government to assist hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions that house individuals with special needs to establish, maintain, and exercise mass evacuation plans that are coordinated and integrated into the plans developed by that State, local, or tribal government under this section.

**(d) Multipurpose funds**

Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude a State, local, or tribal government from using grant funds in a manner that enhances preparedness for a natural or man-made disaster unrelated to an act of terrorism, if such use assists such government in building capabilities for terrorism preparedness.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title V, §512, as added Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, §611(13), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1407; amended Pub. L. 110-53, title I, §102(b), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 293.)

## AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (b)(5)(A). Pub. L. 110-53 inserted “, including the elderly” after “needs”.

## CHANGE OF NAME

Any reference to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in title VI of Pub. L. 109-295 or an amendment by title VI to be considered to refer and apply to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency until Mar. 31, 2007, see section 612(f)(2) of Pub. L. 109-295, set out as a note under section 313 of this title.

**§ 321b. Disability Coordinator****(a) In general**

After consultation with organizations representing individuals with disabilities, the National Council on Disabilities, and the Interagency Coordinating Council on Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities, established under Executive Order No. 13347, the Administrator shall appoint a Disability Coordinator. The Disability Coordinator shall report directly to the Administrator, in order to ensure that the needs of individuals with disabilities are being properly addressed in emergency preparedness and disaster relief.

**(b) Responsibilities**

The Disability Coordinator shall be responsible for—

- (1) providing guidance and coordination on matters related to individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;
- (2) interacting with the staff of the Agency, the National Council on Disabilities, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Pre-

paredness and Individuals with Disabilities established under Executive Order No. 13347, other agencies of the Federal Government, and State, local, and tribal government authorities regarding the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

(3) consulting with organizations that represent the interests and rights of individuals with disabilities about the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

(4) ensuring the coordination and dissemination of best practices and model evacuation plans for individuals with disabilities;

(5) ensuring the development of training materials and a curriculum for training of emergency response providers, State, local, and tribal government officials, and others on the needs of individuals with disabilities;

(6) promoting the accessibility of telephone hotlines and websites regarding emergency preparedness, evacuations, and disaster relief;

(7) working to ensure that video programming distributors, including broadcasters, cable operators, and satellite television services, make emergency information accessible to individuals with hearing and vision disabilities;

(8) ensuring the availability of accessible transportation options for individuals with disabilities in the event of an evacuation;

(9) providing guidance and implementing policies to ensure that the rights and wishes of individuals with disabilities regarding post-evacuation residency and relocation are respected;

(10) ensuring that meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities are included in the components of the national preparedness system established under section 744 of this title; and

(11) any other duties as assigned by the Administrator.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title V, §513, as added Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, §611(13), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1408.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Executive Order No. 13347, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b)(2), is set out as a note under section 314 of this title.

## CHANGE OF NAME

Any reference to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in title VI of Pub. L. 109-295 or an amendment by title VI to be considered to refer and apply to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency until Mar. 31, 2007, see section 612(f)(2) of Pub. L. 109-295, set out as a note under section 313 of this title.

**§ 321c. Department and Agency officials****(a) Deputy Administrators**

The President may appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, not more than 4 Deputy Administrators to assist the Administrator in carrying out this subchapter.

**(b) Cybersecurity and communications**

There is in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications.

**(c) United States Fire Administration**

The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall have a rank equivalent to an assistant secretary of the Department.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title V, §514, as added Pub. L. 109–295, title VI, §611(13), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1409.)

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Mar. 31, 2007, see section 614(b)(3) of Pub. L. 109–295, set out as a note under section 701 of this title.

**§ 321d. National Operations Center****(a) Definition**

In this section, the term “situational awareness” means information gathered from a variety of sources that, when communicated to emergency managers, decision makers, and other appropriate officials, can form the basis for incident management decisionmaking and steady-state activity.

**(b) Establishment**

The National Operations Center is the principal operations center for the Department and shall—

(1) provide situational awareness and a common operating picture for the entire Federal Government, and for State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and international partners as appropriate, for events, threats, and incidents involving a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

(2) ensure that critical terrorism and disaster-related information reaches government decision-makers; and

(3) enter into agreements with other Federal operations centers and other homeland security partners, as appropriate, to facilitate the sharing of information.

**(c) State and local emergency responder representation****(1) Establishment of positions**

The Secretary shall establish a position, on a rotating basis, for a representative of State and local emergency responders at the National Operations Center established under subsection (b) to ensure the effective sharing of information between the Federal Government and State and local emergency response services.

**(2) Management**

The Secretary shall manage the position established pursuant to paragraph (1) in accordance with such rules, regulations, and practices as govern other similar rotating positions at the National Operations Center.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title V, §515, as added Pub. L. 109–295, title VI, §611(13), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1409; amended Pub. L. 110–376, §8, Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 4060; Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title XIX, §1909, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2681.)

## AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(1), substituted “emergency managers, decision makers, and other appropriate officials” for “emergency managers and decision makers” and inserted “and steady-state activity” before period at end.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(2)(A), substituted “tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and international partners” for “and tribal governments” and “for events, threats, and incidents involving” for “in the event of” and struck out “and” at end.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(2)(B), substituted “; and” for period at end.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(2)(C), added par. (3).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(4)(A), substituted “emergency responder” for “fire service” in heading.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(4)(B), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, establish a fire service position at the National Operations Center established under subsection (b) to ensure the effective sharing of information between the Federal Government and State and local fire services.”

Subsec. (c)(2), (3). Pub. L. 114–328, §1909(4)(C), (D), redesignated par. (3) as (2) and struck out former par. (2). Prior to amendment, text of par. (2) read as follows: “The Secretary shall designate, on a rotating basis, a State or local fire service official for the position described in paragraph (1).”

2008—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110–376 added subsec. (c).

**§ 321e. Chief Medical Officer****(a) In general**

There is in the Department a Chief Medical Officer, who shall be appointed by the President.

**(b) Qualifications**

The individual appointed as Chief Medical Officer shall possess a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of medicine and public health.

**(c) Responsibilities**

The Chief Medical Officer shall have the primary responsibility within the Department for medical issues related to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, including—

(1) serving as the principal advisor to the Secretary and the Administrator on medical and public health issues;

(2) coordinating the biodefense activities of the Department;

(3) ensuring internal and external coordination of all medical preparedness and response activities of the Department, including training, exercises, and equipment support;

(4) serving as the Department’s primary point of contact with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other Federal departments or agencies, on medical and public health issues;

(5) serving as the Department’s primary point of contact for State, local, and tribal governments, the medical community, and others within and outside the Department, with respect to medical and public health matters;

(6) discharging, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology,