

# Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) is a partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the Portland Metropolitan Region collaborating to increase the region's resiliency to disasters. The metropolitan region spans Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington.



The RDPO formed out of a desire to build upon and unify various regional preparedness efforts in the Portland Metropolitan Region, including the Regional Emergency Management Group established in 1993, the Urban Areas Security Initiative Program originally funded in 2003, and several discipline-specific coordination groups. The RDPO was formalized in January 2015 through an intergovernmental agreement.

## Mission of the RDPO

The mission of the RDPO is to build and maintain regional disaster prevention, protection, response, mitigation, and recovery capabilities in the Portland Metropolitan Region through strategic and coordinated planning, training and exercising, and investment in technology and specialized equipment.

## Vision of the RDPO

The vision of the RDPO is to create a secure and disaster-resilient region in which local agencies, organizations, and communities are coordinated and prepared to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats and hazards of great risk to the Portland Metropolitan Region.



# RDPO

**Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization**

Unified. Prepared. Resilient.

9911 SE Bush Street, Portland, OR 97266  
Phone (503) 823-5386, Fax (503) 823-3903

[rdpo@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:rdpo@portlandoregon.gov)

[www.RDPO.org](http://www.RDPO.org)



## Effective Regional Coordination

Natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other emergency incidents can affect multiple jurisdictions simultaneously. Major disasters such as earthquakes create large-scale impacts that require outside assistance even for the most prepared local public safety organization.

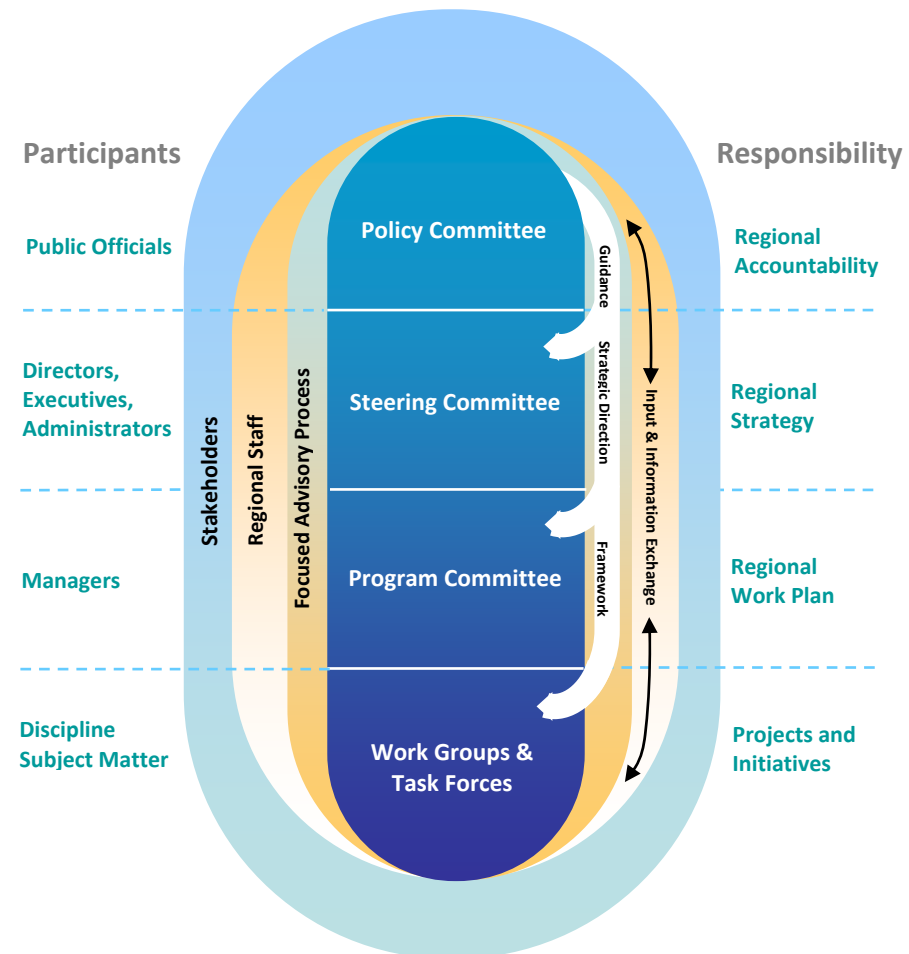
The cities, counties, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the region recognize that they all can more effectively respond to emergencies and facilitate recovery of communities if they prepare together. Regional collaboration in building disaster preparedness capabilities is more cost-effective for taxpayers, develops roles and relationships needed for efficient disaster response and recovery, and increases the ability to involve the whole community in preparedness initiatives.

## Guiding Principles

- Provide opportunities for all jurisdictions and disaster preparedness organizations in the five-county region to participate
- Strive for a holistic regional perspective while honoring and respecting each partner's autonomy
- Demonstrate organizational value to all members
- Practice transparency, accountability, and financial stewardship
- Ensure equity and fairness in adopting regional policies
- Make decisions by consensus whenever possible
- Use a whole community approach in which all stakeholder groups are integrated and considered
- Build upon existing strengths and ensure capability investments are maintained
- Use the National Preparedness Goal as a guide for enhancing regional preparedness across all mission areas

## Membership and Organizational Structure

RDPO membership is open to all jurisdictions, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector businesses that have a role in building disaster preparedness capabilities in the Portland Metropolitan Region. There are two types of membership in the RDPO (contributing and non-contributing), which is spelled out in the RDPO Intergovernmental Agreement. The work of the RDPO is conducted and coordinated through a well-defined structure of committees and work groups, including Policy, Steering and Program Committees, discipline-specific work groups, standing committees, and cross-discipline task forces.



### Policy Committee

The Policy Committee (PC) is the governing body of the RDPO and is comprised of elected officials and chief executive officers from Participating Jurisdictions and other member organizations. This committee is responsible for providing political leadership to develop and promote a unified regional vision and strategy for disaster preparedness and to establish and operate a sustainable regional disaster preparedness organization.

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) is comprised of senior executives from Participating Jurisdictions and other member organizations and includes both organizational and discipline-specific representatives. The SC is responsible for developing and updating the regional strategy and associated priorities for regional disaster preparedness. The SC also endorses the RDPO work plan and funding plan developed by the Program Committee and provides oversight to the Program Committee in the implementation of the plans. The RDPO Manager reports to and is guided by the SC.

### Program Committee

The Program Committee (PrC) is comprised of the chairs of the RDPO's Discipline Work Groups (DWGs), and a separate chair and vice chair drawn from the DWGs and elected by the Committee. The PrC's primary responsibility is to develop and monitor the performance of the annual work plan and associated funding plan that operationalizes the regional strategy.

### Grants and Finance Committee

The Grants and Finance Committee (GFC) oversees use of grants and other funding sources

in implementing regional projects to ensure transparency, accountability, and financial stewardship. The Grants and Finance Committee (GFC) is comprised of financial staff from Participating Jurisdictions and other member organizations.

### Work Groups and Task Forces

The Work Groups bring together local agency, private-sector, and non-governmental organization representatives from the region who work in discipline areas that are highly involved in disaster preparedness. Each Work Group focuses on a discipline or functional area, determines its own members, and works to implement a self-produced annual Work Plan that supports the goals of the regional strategy.

Task Forces are created by the Program Committee (and sometimes the PC or SC) when there are projects that require collaboration among several of the Work Groups, e.g. disaster debris management planning. Task Forces are time limited and membership is determined based on specific project needs.

### RDPO Staff

The RDPO is supported by a small team of staff managed by the RDPO Managing Director. Based at the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, they provide administrative and technical assistance for organizational development and planning, project implementation, and grant management.

### Lead Administrative Agency (LAA)

The LAA supports the organization's personnel, administrative, and fiscal operations. The City of Portland currently serves as the RDPO LAA.

## Work Groups, Standing Committees and Task Forces:

- Animal MAC Group
- Citizen Corps Work Group
- Disaster Messaging Work Group
- Emergency Alert & Warning Work Group
- Emergency Management Work Group (REMTEC) and the following Standing Committees:
  - Regional EOC Training & Exercises
  - Regional Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Planning
  - Resource Management
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services Work Group
- Law Enforcement Work Group
- NW Oregon Health Preparedness Organization (Health System WG)
- Public Health Work Group
- Public Information Officers Work Group
- Public Safety Communications WG / Portland Dispatch Center Consortium
- Public Works Work Group
- Regional Disaster Debris Management Planning Task Force (*inactive*)
- Regional Multi-Agency Coordination System (RMACS) Advisors Group