

International Mutual Aid Agreements: Foundations of Health Security in North America

Narrative: Canada and the US have implemented many international mutual aid agreements over the past twenty years. Many of these have implications for supporting disaster response. The Cooperation and Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management Act of 1986 focused specifically on emergency response across the border. These advancements were furthered by the development of the Civil Action Program between the DOD and DND. The Early Warning and Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) also enhanced these binational mutual aid efforts through support to the development of cross-boarder collaborations. This session will provide a historical perspective and a current update of the status of mutual aid between Canada and the US for civil emergencies.

Objectives:

1. Discuss the current status of the Cooperation and Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management Act.
2. Provide an update of the activities of the regional EMAC
 - a. IEMA
 - b. CREMA
 - c. PREMA
 - d. WREMA
3. Discuss the respective roles of FEMA and PSC in supporting this international mutual aid.