

EOC

Emergency Operations Center



The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provides a central location for interagency and interjurisdictional coordination and executive decision-making in support of an incident response. Additional responsibilities are to provide and prioritize resources, manage information, and track and authorize expenditures.

Facility

The primary location of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's EOC is at Technical Area (TA) 69, Building 33.

- The building rests on 30 inches of concrete; in an unlikely seismic event, the EOC might move off center, but it will remain intact.
- The EOC runs on natural gas, but a backup diesel generator can kick on in less than nine seconds to supply all power to the building for 14 days.
- Sufficient food supplies, potable water (20,000 gallons), sanitary sewer holding (20,000 gallons), diesel fuel for the backup generator (50,000 gallons) and other services are on-site for 100 people to occupy the building for 14 days.
- The outside of the building is made up of large concrete masonry units. Beneath that is an interlayer or "skin" of three layers: polyethylene, aluminum, polyethylene. The building is reasonably air tight and equipped with three layers of filtration to prevent events such as a nearby fire from affecting those inside. The three layers include a roughing layer filter to remove larger particulates, activated charcoal beds, and a HEPA filter.

EOC Activation

Each time Emergency Management responds to the field, other personnel from the group provide communications, notifications, and assistance, as needed, in the EOC Radio Room. This level of response is considered the first step of a potentially larger activation.

The decision for enhanced or a more robust activation of the EOC is made under the following circumstances

- when an incident or potential incident affecting the Laboratory will require resources beyond the capability provided by field response,
- when the capacity or capability of available resources is insufficient to meet the requirements of the incident,
- when support actions are needed in response to a heightened SECON level,
- when intense media and/or public interest is expected in response to a situation, or
- when an Operational Emergency (OE) classified as a General Emergency is declared.

The decision to activate the EOC is made by the Emergency Manager (EM), the LANL Incident Commander (IC), members of the EO-EM Group, or Security management in the case of a security posture escalation.

The EOC will be activated to the level necessary to meet the needs of the incident.

