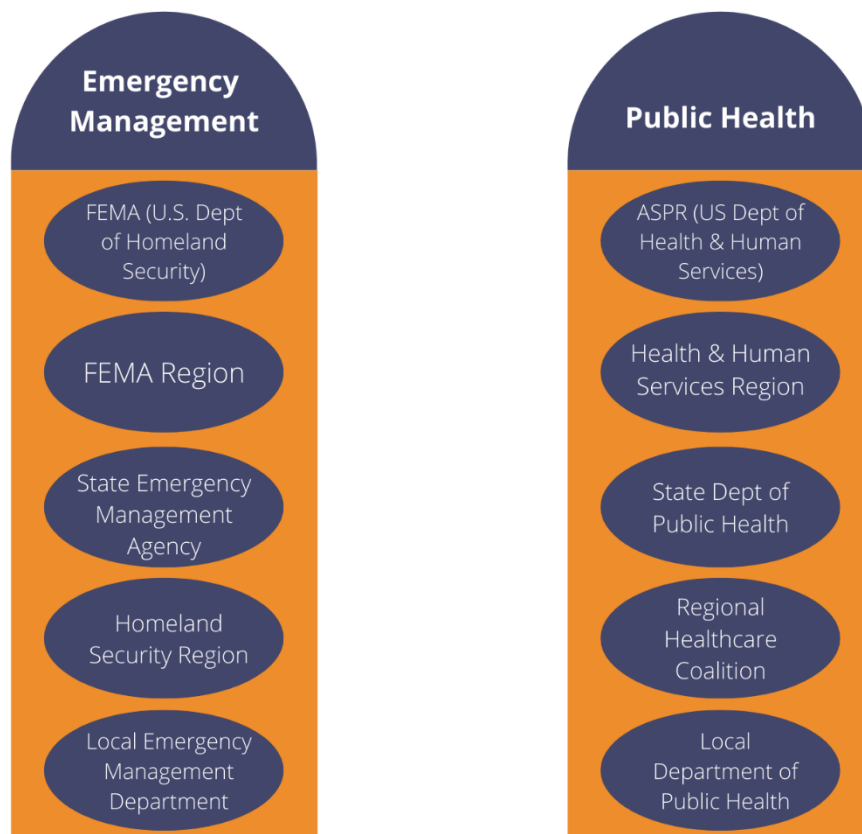




## Finding Your Local Emergency Management and Public Health Agencies and Your Local Emergency Plan(s)

### Understanding the Emergency Management System Structure

- In most states, every county has an emergency management *and* public health department
- One size does not fit all - every state, region, and local community level operates differently
  - Some large cities have their own emergency management and public health department
  - In a small number of states emergency management and public health departments exist at the town or small city level
  - Both emergency management and public health may be part of larger departments and may be divided into sub-departments or sections



This example shows that the emergency management and public health systems are operated not only separately at every level but are also governed by different agencies. Although not every state, county, city, or town has all of these levels, they will all operate in their own unique way. Understanding the basics of the way your local emergency efforts are organized is important in reaching the appropriate people to make effective connections.

### Finding your Local Contacts

Finding your local emergency management and public health offices:

- Look at the county government website, or if your state does not have a strong county system, look at the local city or town websites
- Contact the county commissioner's office, city or town hall
- Visit the National Association for City and County Officials (NACCHO) online local health department directory: <https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory>

### Finding your Local Emergency Plan

- Your city, town or county may have more than one emergency plan
  - May be one or more plans written by the public health department *and* one or more plans written by the emergency management department
  - Other departments may have also written community wide plans
  - Ask for both an emergency plan and a public health preparedness plan
- Local emergency plans may be available on the local government (city, town, county) website. If not, you can ask for a copy from your local emergency or public health departments