Who Takes Action?

Compare local and state responses to a public safety emergency

USG.C.3.5.B "Compare specific functions, organizations, and purposes of local and state governments, such as ensuring personal security and health regulations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions taken by city organizations and circle two actions taken by state organizations. Write 1 beside a sentence explaining why local action matters and 2 beside a sentence explaining why statewide action matters.

When the Heat Reaches Riverton

1. On a July afternoon, temperatures in Riverton stay above 100 degrees. The city government opens a cooling center at the public library and extends pool hours. Its public works department checks water pumps so neighborhoods keep running water. City police officers visit residents who call for help and direct traffic near the crowded library. These organizations work close to residents and respond to needs within city limits. The city council decides how much local money to spend on extra library hours. The goal is immediate safety: people need cool places, water, and a clear route to help.

2. The heat also covers towns far beyond Riverton. The state health department issues heat-safety guidance to local agencies and collects reports of heat illness from across the state. Under state law, it can set rules for licensed facilities, such as nursing homes, to protect residents. The state emergency management agency coordinates supplies when several counties ask for help at once. State government can compare needs across communities and move resources where they are most needed. State legislators fund these agencies and make laws that set their authority. This wider reach matters when one city's resources cannot meet a regional emergency.

3. Some jobs overlap, but the organizations are not interchangeable. Riverton's city staff can decide where to place a local cooling center; the state health department does not run that library. State officials can share illness trends that help Riverton decide whether to keep the center open longer. If calls for help rise in several towns, state emergency managers can coordinate support across county lines, while city police continue helping people on Riverton streets. Both levels aim to protect health and personal safety. Their different areas of authority and responsibility shape which actions each can take.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the city government and state health department take different actions to protect people from the heat?

2. Compare the city council's role with the state legislators' role in supporting the response.

3. How do city police and the state emergency management agency differ in where they work and what they do?

4. Why can city staff choose a cooling center location while the state health department can set rules for nursing homes? Compare their areas of authority.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

After heavy rain floods roads in several towns, write four or five sentences proposing actions by a city organization and a state organization. Compare their areas of responsibility and explain how working together would protect people.

ANSWER KEY

Who Takes Action?

HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.3.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions taken by city organizations and circle two actions taken by state organizations. Write 1 beside a sentence explaining why local action matters and 2 beside a sentence explaining why statewide action matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the city government and state health department take different actions to protect people from the heat?	**The city opens a local cooling center and extends pool hours. The state health department gives guidance to local agencies and collects heat-illness reports from across the state.**
2	Compare the city council's role with the state legislators' role in supporting the response.	**The city council decides how much local money to spend on extra library hours. State legislators fund state agencies and make laws that set their authority.**
3	How do city police and the state emergency management agency differ in where they work and what they do?	**City police help residents and direct traffic in Riverton. The state emergency management agency coordinates supplies when several counties need help.**
4	Why can city staff choose a cooling center location while the state health department can set rules for nursing homes? Compare their areas of authority.	**City staff make decisions about a local facility within Riverton. State law gives the health department authority to set rules for licensed facilities, such as nursing homes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

City public works crews should close flooded streets and clear blocked drains in their city. The state emergency management agency should coordinate supplies if several towns need help. City crews know which nearby streets are dangerous, while the state agency can compare needs across communities. By sharing information, they can direct help to places where people face the greatest risk.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that accurately distinguish local action from statewide authority or coordination. For the open task, accept reasonable city and state actions if the response names an organization at each level and explains how coordination protects people.