



DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INITIAL IMPACT

ESF # 14 Long Term Community Recovery Annex - as defined in the National Response Framework

ESF Coordinator - U.S. Department of Homeland Security / Federal Emergency Management Agency

Note: This section of the plan contains no specific tactical information and simply outlines the procedures that could potentially be followed during a disaster or critical incident. All actions outlined in this plan may not necessarily be followed in every situation.

VANCE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Last Updated: September 19, 2008

I. PURPOSE

This section presents a system to coordinate damage assessment and reporting functions, estimate the nature and extent of the damage and provide disaster recovery assistance.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Most hazardous events, which may affect Vance County, have the potential for causing damage. A planned damage assessment program is essential for effective response and recovery operations.
2. If a significant emergency/disaster occurs, a series of damage assessment activities will be required in the following order:
 - a. The County Immediate Situation Report results in notification to the State EOC, information on the severity of the problems and the determination of need for further assistance.
 - b. The State supported Impact Assessment result in the identification of immediate life support and life sustaining needs.
 - c. Federal/State supported Damage Assessment precedes the delivery of a Presidential Disaster Declaration and defines the specific needs for long term recovery.
3. Following a significant disaster/emergency occurrence, a multitude of independent damage assessment activities will be conducted by a variety of organizations including

County Damage Assessment Teams, American Red Cross, Insurance Companies, Utility Companies, Federal Agencies (National Park Services, Fish and Wildlife, Coast Guard), etc.

4. Recovery from a significant disaster will be managed in two identifiable phases as follows:
 - a. **Phase One** is the emergency reaction phase and the implementation of emergency plans. Actions under this phases include emergency security, debris removal, mass care, and restoration of essential services. The County Emergency Management Agency will assume the lead role in coordination of this phase.
 - b. **Phase Two** is the long term reconstruction phase. Actions under this phase include: rebuilding of damaged public buildings, rebuilding of roadways and bridges, rebuilding of private homes and private businesses, etc. The County Manager, and the County Finance Officer will assume the lead role in this phase.
5. If the magnitude and severity of the emergency/disaster warrants it, a Presidential Disaster Declaration could be granted, thus making Federal Government Assistance available to Vance County.

B. Assumptions

1. The County will continue to be exposed to various hazards resulting in damage to both public and private property.
2. A significant response of both solicited and unsolicited resources from outside the impacted area can be expected and preparations must be made in order to manage this assistance.
3. Emergency public information is a critical tool in immediate post disaster response for informing the public about actions being taken, and for requesting help from outside the area of impact.
4. Damage to the utility systems and to the communications systems may hamper the recovery process.
5. Routine government agency operations such as delivery of social programs, legal processes, elections and cultural events may be postponed as a result of the disaster.
6. A major disaster could have a significant long term economic impact on the County.
7. A major disaster affecting the County could result in the severance of a main transportation artery resulting in a significant alteration of lifestyle in the County.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

Responsibility for the Immediate Situation Reports/Phase One of recovery operations lies with local government.

B. Specific

1. Emergency and recovery operations will initially be coordinated from the County Emergency Operations Center. Each municipality affected will maintain a presence in

the Vance County EOC.

2. Accurate emergency logs and expenditure records must be kept from the onset of the disaster by each response agency/organization.
3. The Damage Assessment Officer from the County Planning and Development Office will coordinate the compilation of damage survey data, prepare damage assessment reports for the Emergency Operations Director, and plot damaged area on local map.
4. The Emergency Operations Director (EOD) will review, with other appropriate local officials, the damage assessment reports to determine if any outside assistance will be necessary to recover from the disaster.
5. The EOD will forward damage assessment reports and any requests for assistance to the N.C. Division of Emergency Management, Central Branch Office by the quickest means available. Through Executive Order, the Secretary, N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety is authorized to commit any state resources to assist with the emergency/recovery efforts have exhausted after all local resources.
6. Based upon the local damage assessment reports, the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), will determine what recovery capabilities are available to meet the anticipated requirements.
7. The Governor may request a Presidential Declaration of a "major disaster", "major emergency", or a specific federal agency disaster declaration (Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Corps of Engineers, etc.) to augment state/local/private disaster relief efforts.
8. The President, under a "major emergency" declaration may authorize the utilization of any federal equipment, personnel and other resources.
9. The President, under a "major disaster" declaration may authorize two basic types of disaster relief assistance:
 - a. Individual Assistance (IA)
 - i. temporary housing (100% federal dollars)
 - ii. individual and family grants (IFG) [75% federal, 25% state/local funds]
 - iii. disaster unemployment assistance
 - iv. disaster loans to individuals, businesses, and farmers
 - v. agricultural assistance
 - vi. legal services to low-income families and individuals
 - vii. consumer counseling and assistance in obtaining insurance benefits
 - viii. social security assistance
 - ix. veteran's assistance
 - x. casualty loss tax assistance
 - b. Public Assistance (PA) [75% federal, 25% state/applicant funds]
 - i. debris removal
 - ii. emergency protective measures
 - ii. permanent work to repair, restore or replace road systems, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, public utilities, public recreational facilities, etc.
10. In the event a major disaster or emergency is declared:
 - a. A Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will be appointed by the President to coordinate the federal efforts.
 - b. A State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) will be appointed by the Governor to coordinate the state efforts.

- c. A Disaster Field Office (DFO) will be established within the state (central to the damaged areas) from which the disaster assistance programs will be administered.
- d. For IA only, Disaster Application Centers (DACs) will be established central to the affected areas where individuals may apply for assistance.
- e. If the area is declared eligible for Public Assistance Programs, and Applicant's Briefing will be conducted for officials of the county, cities, and private nonprofit organizations to explain eligibility criteria. The Emergency Operations Director will be requested to assist with identifying and notifying eligible applicants.
- f. At the applicant's briefing, each eligible entity will submit a Notice of Interest (NOI).
- g. Each PA applicant (including local government entities) will appoint an "Applicant's Agent" to coordinate the collection of documentation and submission of information to the DFO.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. The Municipal Mayor's / County Commissioners have ultimate responsibility for recovery activities and to restore City and County functions to normal.
2. The Emergency Operations Director is responsible for the overall organization of damage assessment for the County and its municipalities.
3. A Damage Assessment Officer will be appointed to coordinate damage assessment operations.
4. Damage Assessment Teams will be selected and trained for damage survey.

B. Responsibilities

1. Emergency Operations Director (EOD)

- a. Ensure the appointment of a Damage Assessment Officer.
- b. Recruit and assemble a Damage Assessment Team (code enforcement, appraisers, contractors, utilities, etc.) and support agencies.
- c. Provide for damage assessment workshops.
- d. Identify resources to support and assist with damage assessment activities. (maps, tax data, cameras, identification, etc.)
- e. Develop public information and education programs relating to damage assessment.

2. Damage Assessment Officer

- a. Report to EOC upon activation and coordinate damage assessment operations in conjunction with the EOD.
- b. Begin collection of data and record keeping at onset of the event.
- c. Assign Damage Assessment Teams and deploy, as feasible.
- d. Coordinate Disaster Assessment teams conducting field surveys.
- e. Inform officials of hazardous facilities, bridges, roads, etc.
- f. Compile damage reports for appropriate agencies.
- g. Assist the EOD and other County or municipal agency representatives who are conducting recovery operations in establishing a sequence of repairs and priorities for restoration of affected areas.
- h. Collect and compile incoming damage reports from teams in the field to include City and County and private agencies such as ARC, utility companies, etc.
- i. Provide supporting documentation for damage assessment reporting, including appropriate photographs.
- j. Provide for submission of accurate, detailed and timely preliminary Damage Assessment Reports.

- k. Correlate and consolidate all expenditures and damage assessment reports for transmittal to the State Office of Emergency Management.

3. Damage Assessment Teams

- a. Assist the Damage Assessment Officer and EOD in maintaining readiness by, attending training sessions and reporting any changes to personnel rosters.
- b. Upon official notification, report to EOC as soon as conditions permit, receive assignments; pick up equipment, supplies and forms.
- c. Survey areas, record damage on damage assessment worksheets and transmit general damage assessment information, by the fastest means available, to the EOC.
- d. Return to the EOC, when directed, and provide damage assessments worksheets.

4. City/County Finance Officers

- a. Establish and maintain a separate account of expenditures for the disaster, to included municipal expenditures.
- b. Submit expenditure reports as requested or required.

5. Public Works

- a. Maintain maps and other documents relating to water and sewerage lines and other utilities.
- b. Assist in damage assessment operations, as directed.
- c. Post unsafe and unusable buildings, roads, or bridges.
- d. Monitor restoration activities.

6. Utilities Liaison

- a. Provide information about locations of power, natural gas, telephone facilities and lines.
- b. Provide information about damage to utilities, facilities, and power lines

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The Emergency Operations Director will direct and control Damage Assessment activities from the EOC.
- B. The Damage Assessment Officer is a member of the EOC staff and is responsible for the coordination of Damage Assessment teams.
- C. All County and Municipal departments will provide personnel and resources to support the Damage Assessment effort, as requested. Personnel from operating departments assigned to Damage Assessment responsibilities, will remain under the control of their own departments, but will function under the technical supervision of the Damage Assessment Officer.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. The line of succession for Damage Assessment is:

1. Emergency Operations Director
2. Damage Assessment Officer
3. Assistant Damage Assessment Officer

- B. Lines of succession for agencies supporting damage assessment are in accordance with the agency's established policies.

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. **Field reporting forms** and all necessary federal disaster reporting forms and guidance will be made available for distribution, when necessary, by the Office of Emergency Management and **are contained within the E-Plan itself**. Copies of all documentation are retained for record purposes.
- B. Survey teams for damage assessment will consist primarily of local government employees. When necessary, non-profit organizations and nongovernmental personnel will supplement the teams.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The Emergency Operations Director and Damage Assessment Officer will develop and maintain the Damage Assessment Annex and provide training for Damage Assessment Teams.

VIII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

A. Authorities

1. N. C. General Statutes, 166-A.
2. City and County Emergency Management Ordinances.
3. Public Law 93-228, as amended by Public Law 100-707.
4. CFR 44-206, CFR 44-9, CFR 44-10, and CFR 44.

B. References

1. Handbook for Applicants Pursuant to P.L. 93-288, DR & R1 FEMA, 3-81.
2. Digest of Federal Disaster Assistance Programs: DR & R21, FEMA, June, 1985.
3. Federal Disaster Assistance Program, DR & R 18, Jan., 1987.
4. Federal Aid Highway Program Manual Volume 6, Chapter 9, Section 16, Subsections 1 and 2, Relief Program Procedures for Federal Aid-Highway.
5. Department of Defense – Emergency Employment of Army, Disaster Relief, AR500-60. Also Emergency Employment of Army and Other Resources, Natural Disaster Procedures, Corps of Engineers, ER500-1-1, Public Law 84-99.