



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

ESF # 8 – Public Health and Medical Services Annex - as defined in the National Response Framework

ESF Coordinator: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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: January 14, 2009

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for emergency medical services during natural and technological emergencies.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Vance County is served by Maria Parham Hospital located in Henderson, N.C.
2. One volunteer rescue squad and eight EMS units are located in Vance County. A number of firefighters are trained as EMT's / First Responders. Eight volunteer Fire Departments operate First Responder units that have primary coverage responsibility within the borders of Vance County.
3. The Vance County Fire and Ambulance Service provides convalescent service and inter-hospital transports for Vance County.
4. Vance County is served by Life Flight air medical services from Duke University Medical Center in Durham and by Carolina Air Care air medical services from N.C. Memorial Hospital, in Chapel Hill, N.C.
5. The nearest trauma center is Duke Medical Center in Durham, N.C., approximately thirty minutes by road and fifteen minutes by air.
6. Wake Medical Center in Raleigh, Durham Regional Medical Center and Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, Franklin Regional Medical Center in Louisburg and Granville Medical Center in Oxford, routinely receive patients transported by EMS units from Vance County.
7. A mass casualty event has the potential to quickly overwhelm the limited existing

emergency medical resources in Vance County.

8. Five nursing homes and six rest homes operate within the county.
9. At present all paid EMS units operate with Paramedics.
10. All EMS units rely on the Vance County Communications system for paging and dispatching.

B. Assumptions

1. A large-scale emergency will result in increased demands on volunteer first responders and medical personnel. A mass casualty event in Vance County will quickly overwhelm limited response capabilities.
2. Following a disaster many of the injured will be transported to medical facilities by persons other than trained medical personnel.
3. Disruption of the County's communications system would severely impede delivery of emergency medical service.
4. Debris on roadways will hamper EMS unit response.
5. Catastrophic disasters may affect large areas of the County and surrounding counties, and medical resources may be damaged, destroyed or unavailable.
6. Following a disaster occurrence, field emergency medical facilities may have to be established; this may include a temporary morgue.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. EMS units will provide field medical care as needed during emergency situations and coordinate necessary medical transportation.
- B. EMS capabilities will be expanded by incorporating volunteer fire personnel serving the respective response areas. Fire personnel will assist rescue in performing rescue of trapped victims.
- C. During mass casualty incidents, EMS will establish patient triage, holding, treatment and transportation areas.
- D. When necessary an EMS official will be located at an established command post to coordinate responding medical units and establish communication links with hospitals and the County Communications Center (or EOC).
- E. Duke Life Flight, Carolina Air Care air ambulances could be utilized for patient evacuations. Military helicopters from Fort Bragg or the N.C. National Guard could also assist in evacuation of victims.
- F. When additional EMS resources are needed, the Vance County Emergency Operations Director will request those resources through the Division of Emergency Management, Central Branch , or the State EOC.
- G. Local industry, construction companies, and/or farming operations, may be called upon to provide specialized equipment such as refrigerated trucks, backhoes and heavy equipment for extrication of victims.