



**Evacuation & Re-Entry**  
**ESF – 1 – Transportation Annex**  
**As defined in the National Response Framework**  
**ESF Coordinator – US Department of Transportation**



**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**

**Updated: April 4, 2019**

**I. PURPOSE**

This section provides for a coordinated evacuation and re-entry of the County population if necessary during emergencies and or disasters.

**II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

**A. Situation**

1. A hazard analysis and a vulnerability assessment has been completed which identifies the types of threats as well as the areas and population in the County that are most vulnerable to these threats.
2. Efforts are being made and have been made to identify special evacuation problems.
3. There are several highway routes allowing evacuation from various parts of the County. These include I-85, U.S. #1 Bypass, U.S. #1 Business, Highway 158 Business and Bypass, and Highway 39.
4. There is one commercial/private transportation service serving Vance County. There are also several public transportation agencies within Vance County. In addition, the Vance County Schools Transportation Department and Henderson-Vance Recreation Department have a fleet of school buses and vans that could be used if the need arose.

**B. Assumptions**

1. Emergency situations may require evacuation of all or part of the County. Small-scale, localized evacuations may be needed as a result of a hazardous materials incident, major fire, or other localized weather event (i.e. tornado). Large-scale evacuations may be needed in the event of an impending hurricane or other potential countywide disaster.
2. Sufficient warning time will normally be available to evacuate the threatened population (recommended 48 hours' notice).
3. Traffic control resources will be in place prior to the public release of an evacuation order.

4. Evacuation and reentry information will be made available to the public by all available means
5. If there is significant potential threat, some residents will evacuate prior to being advised to do so by public officials.
6. Most evacuees will seek shelter with relatives or friends rather than accept public shelter.
7. Some residents may refuse to evacuate regardless of warnings.
8. Some people will lack transportation. Others who are ill or disabled may require vehicles with special transportation capabilities.
9. Debris or damage to the roadway could hamper reentry.
10. Effective evacuation should begin during daylight hours.
11. A delayed evacuation order could endanger lives and result in civil disorder.
12. Evacuation from Vance County will impact adjacent counties.
13. Some residents may refuse to evacuate for fear of losing their pets.
14. Stranded motorists could present significant problems during an evacuation situation.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

#### **A. General**

1. The ultimate responsibility for ordering a county-wide evacuation or reentry rests with the City and County Policy/Administration Group. If a municipality is to be evacuated, the mayor will issue the order. If the evacuation or reentry involves more than one jurisdiction, or an area outside of a municipality, the order will be issued on a County level by the Chairperson of the County Commissioners, or his/her designated representative. The Emergency Operations Director will implement and coordinate the evacuation and re-entry effort in conjunction with other public safety and local government agencies as appropriate.
2. Public information concerning the Policy/Administration Group's evacuation or reentry orders will be released through all available media.
3. The Incident Commander at the scene of an emergency in Vance County has the authority to order an evacuation of the impacted area.
4. Regional coordination of traffic control, shelter/mass care and public information will enhance the total evacuation and reentry process. The State Division of Emergency Management will coordinate regional evacuation activities.
5. Law Enforcement will implement and bear the responsibility for traffic control as it pertains to evacuation and for re-entry.

#### **B. Specific**

1. Movement Control and Guidance
  - a. Traffic control points to support a county-wide evacuation have been pre-determined by law enforcement personnel.

- b. The size of the threatened area to be evacuated will be determined by conditions at the time of the emergency.

2. Staging Areas and Pick-up Points and Routes

- a. Identified stranded motorists will be assisted by law enforcement officers in reaching a pre-determined rally point for mass transportation to a location for best available shelter. The Incident Commander or his or her designee will determine the location of the best available shelter.
- b. The City and County law enforcement agencies have determined pre-designated staging areas and mobilization points to organize the emergency response personnel and equipment entering from areas outside the County.

3. Evacuation of Special Populations (Institutions / Facilities / Special Needs Individuals)

- a. Individual residents within the County must develop personal plans for their evacuation.
- b. Schools will assist in the development of evacuation procedures. Pre-designated buses will be utilized for students without their own vehicles. Schools within the danger zone for hazardous materials spills will develop procedures for in-place sheltering and "walk-away" evacuations. Parents will be advised of location of reception centers.
- c. An ongoing effort is underway to identify the special needs population of Vance County.
- d. Law enforcement officers in the field will observe and report emergency activity to the Vance County EOC.
- e. Law enforcement officers will enforce the provision outlined in the Proclamation of a State of Emergency.

4. Re-Entry

- a. The decision to allow reentry to Vance County will be made by the Policy/Administration Group and executed through the Emergency Operations Director, based on considerations of public safety.
- b. The Policy/Administration Group may recommend a priority reentry system for the public to the Emergency Operations Director.
- c. Staging areas will be established, personnel reporting to Vance County will be routed to one of those.
- d. Sections of Vance County may remain isolated or closed to the public even after reentry begins.
- e. Reentry to the affected area will be coordinated with the Vance County/City of Henderson Policy/Administration Group.
- f. Shelter/mass care operations may need to be implemented depending upon the degree of destruction in Vance County.