



Public Health
ESF – 8 – Public Health Segment
As defined in the National Response Framework
ESF Coordinator – US 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

Updated: April 4, 2019

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to provide for the public health and welfare of the population of Vance County during emergency/disaster.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. The Vance County Health Department's main office is located at 100 Charles Rollins Drive, Henderson, N.C.
2. Over half of Vance County is served by the regional water system and municipal sewage treatment system. The remaining portion of the population is served by private wells and private septic systems.
3. In cooperation with Social Services, the Health Department will maintain a current list of persons requiring special needs.

B. Assumptions

1. A large-scale emergency will result in increased demands on Public Health and medical personnel.
2. Emergency operations for Public Health personnel will primarily be an extension of normal agency duties.
3. Following an emergency/disaster, the Health Department will take action to prevent the spread of communicable disease resulting from contaminated water supplies, malfunctioning septic systems, increased numbers of vectors, spoiled or contaminated food supplies and lack of functional sanitary facilities.
4. A catastrophic disaster could result in multiple fatalities necessitating extraordinary measures, including establishing a temporary morgue.
5. When local resources can no longer meet the demand of the situation, additional resource requirements will be requested through the local Emergency Operations Director who will in turn contact the Division of Emergency Management Central Branch Office and State EOC.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. The primary concern of Public Health is disease control. The County Health Department will implement effective environmental health, nursing and health education practices to minimize the incidence of disease.
2. The Health Department will coordinate health care in approved shelters.
3. Frequent inspections of damaged areas and emergency shelters will be necessary to determine the need for pest control, sanitation or other protective measures.
4. The Health Director will establish temporary morgues and coordinate with Medical Examiners in the identification and proper recovery of human remains.
5. The Health Director will oversee the expeditious testing of emergency water supplies to ensure potability.
6. The Health Director must coordinate with the County Manager concerning distribution of information to the general public on disaster related health matters.
7. The Health Department will coordinate the movement of special needs populations; for example, the homebound patients normally attended by the Home Health nurses.