



**Shelter & Mass Care**  
**ESF – 6 – Mass Care / Housing / Human Services**  
**As defined in the National Response Framework**  
**ESF Coordinator – US 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**

**Updated: April 4, 2019**

**I. PURPOSE**

This section provides for the care of the population following the effects of hazards through the identification of shelters and provisions of mass care.

**II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

**A. Situation**

1. Based upon the County's hazard analysis, there are several emergencies for which shelters may be required including severe storms, tornadoes, floods, hazardous material accidents, fires and hurricanes.
2. There are five identified shelters for use in Vance County. These shelters are all located in County Schools and are centrally located in the County and are on the City's Municipal Water System.
  - a. Vance County High School – 400 Person Capacity
  - b. Vance County Middle School – 400 Person Capacity
  - c. Clarke Elementary School – 400 Person Capacity
  - d. E.M. Rollins Elementary School – 300 Person Capacity

Additional shelters of a temporary or extended duration may be opened at other locations as necessary dependent upon the need and staffing availability.

3. Sheltering for Vance County evacuees will be coordinated with the North Carolina State EOC.
4. A written agreement exists between the American Red Cross, County Department of Social Services and the County Board of Education for the coordination of shelter and mass care.
5. Two of the affore mentioned shelters are equipped with a pre-installed quick connects to allow for a matched pull behind generator to be utilized. Northern Vance High School has this capability as does Eaton Johnson's Middle School. Eaton Johnson's is also setup to serve as a winter weather shelter during

extreme conditions as it is able to provide heat to the shelter area while operating on generator power.

B. Assumptions

1. Local grocery stores, restaurants and other business will support initial shelter/mass care operations with donations of emergency supplies.
2. For out-of-county evacuation, sufficient shelter capacity exists in adjacent counties and shelter locations can be arranged and made available.
3. A high percentage of evacuees will seek shelter with friends or relatives rather than go to public shelter.
4. Evacuees will be provided with public information in the shelter concerning the emergency event.
5. Following a major disaster there will be an overabundance of unsolicited goods delivered to the disaster area by well-intended citizens outside the impacted area.

**III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. If additional shelter support is needed following a disaster event, requests for assistance should be made through the North Carolina State EOC.
- B. The County Emergency Operations Director, DSS, the American Red Cross and Vance County Schools Maintenance will coordinate shelter location and operation, and will mutually support shelter operations with shared personnel and support services whenever possible. These agreements will be included in the local written plan.
- C. Public and private providers of institutional care (medical and residential) remain responsible for having shelter plans for their populations.
- D. **VANCE COUNTY WILL ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY/LIABILITY FOR UNAUTHORIZED SHELTER OPENINGS DURING EMERGENCY EVENTS.**
- E. The American Red Cross, the County Department of Social Services, and the County Schools, in coordination with the County Policy/Administration Group will decide when shelters should be opened and closed.
- F. Crisis information and mental health counseling should be provided at shelters.

**Appendix 1**

**Specific to Special Needs Sheltering and Mass Care**

**I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. Situation
  1. Vance County has, within the general population, special needs individuals and special needs groups that will require individual and/or special assistance in the event an evacuation is required.
  2. Some persons with special needs may, with minimal assistance, be able to function in a mass care shelter, while those persons with special health needs requiring constant care and/or life support systems, will require a caregiver be continually present at the shelter facility for the duration of their stay.

B. Assumptions

1. Any person with special needs for whom care can be provided by that person or by family members should be accepted in the shelter serving his/her family and community.
2. Sheltering for special needs, though taking place in the general population shelter will require a caregiver provided by the person with special needs to be present for their needs throughout the length of their stay in the shelter.
3. Private and government operated residential facilities caring for special needs groups, such as nursing homes, rest homes, group homes for the mentally ill or developmentally disabled, etc., are responsible for their clients continual care during and after the time an evacuation is required. This includes financial responsibility.
4. Private and government operated facilities caring for special needs groups for less than 24 hours, such as day care, pre-school, day health, are responsible for their clients continual care during and after an evacuation is required, until or unless the client is released to a parent or a responsible adult and within the agreements for such release already in place by the care giver.

**II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. Sheltering for all Vance County residents will be accomplished through the coordinated efforts of private facilities, governmental agencies, and county-to-county mutual aid agreements.
- B. The Vance County Health Department, supported by the Vance County Department of Social Services is designated as the agency to ensure that shelter care is provided for all shelter residents.
- C. The Vance County Emergency Operations Director will assist the Health Department as well as D.S.S. and other local agencies with issues related to special needs sheltering, including coordination of the operation of special needs shelters when a publicly operated special needs shelter is necessary.
- D. Divisions under the Department of Human Resources that operate residential facilities are required to have current plans in place for the evacuation and sheltering of special needs populations. These plans shall be shared with the Vance County Health Department.
- E. Private facilities will be responsible for the evacuation and sheltering of their patients, to include transport to and from shelters, as well as financial responsibility for their clients.
- F. Sheltering needs of special needs groups may be met in the county if an appropriate facility is available; in adjoining counties with prior approval from DHR; in certain DHR state operated facilities; or, in shelters administered by county departments of social services or health.