



Emergency Operations Plan Basic Plan

Chatham County, North Carolina

January, 2016
FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

I. FOREWORD

The Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan addresses multiple hazards that could threaten our county and its citizens. The Emergency Operations Plan uses a functional format and employs the National Incident Management System (NIMS) approach to emergencies; and fosters prompt, efficient and coordinated response operations by elements of the emergency organization. NIMS requires a system-wide integration of people, skills and resources. NIMS recognizes that plans developed for one type of emergency are extremely useful for other emergency situations and a significant amount of emergency operational capability can be established by addressing broadly applicable functions.

This Emergency Operations Plan presents a basic guide that serves as a summary document to the functional annexes. These annexes define responsibilities and actions of county government personnel during emergency situations. The definition of the missions of each response agency reduces confusion, chaos and conflict during emergency operations and significantly decreases the vulnerability of the public and their property to hazards that develop in emergency situations.

This Emergency Operations Plan meets the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planning guidance, CPG 1-8 and CPG 1-8A, and the legal responsibilities identified in North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166-A. It provides all the necessary elements to ensure that Chatham County and its municipalities can fulfill its legal responsibilities for emergency preparedness. The plan takes into consideration for all operations associated with it the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. All operations will be compliant with the provisions of the act, where facilities or equipment may be substandard provisions will be made to ensure proper assistance is available.

This is a **basic plan**, which serves as a summary document to the supporting sections of the plan. These supporting sections define the roles of each response agency thereby reducing confusion, chaos and conflict during an emergency

This Emergency Operations Plan, upon approval and adoption of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, replaces and supersedes all previously adopted emergency plans. This plan is in full compliance of the Chatham County NIMS ordinance.

To the County Government and the Residents of Chatham County

By virtue of the powers and authority vested in me as the Chairman, County Board of Commissioners, I hereby promulgate and issue the Chatham County All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan dated August 1, 2005 as regulation and guidance to provide for the protection of the residents of Chatham County

This plan outlines the coordinated actions to be taken by the County Officials and volunteer organizations to protect lives and property in natural or manmade disasters. It identifies forces and resources available for deployment to prevent, minimize and recover from injury, loss of life, and destruction of property which tragically characterizes disasters.

This plan is effective for planning on receipt and for execution when directed. The Emergency Operations Office, in conjunction with the County Manager, has been appointed and is responsible for the maintenance and updating of this plan, as required, in coordination with appropriate participating agencies and units of government. (see signature page)

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

It is intended that this plan, when implemented, be used by the Chatham County response organizations to obtain maximum use of existing resources, organizations, and systems in their response to emergencies and disasters that could and / or have occurred in the county. The format utilized is:

Basic Plan:

This plan will be used by chief executives and policy officials. The plan provides the intent of the county government leaders in responding to emergency situations.

Annexes:

Address the specific functions for use by the operational managers. Appendices provide additional information on selected topics covered in the annex.

Standard Operating Procedures:

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are not contained in this plan, but must be developed by each operational manager and are essential to the implementation of this document. Copies of all County Government Department SOPs will be submitted to the Emergency Management Division and will be kept at the Emergency Operations Center to ensure integration of services when two or more agencies work together.

Each section of the plan contains a purpose statement for that section. All individuals with assigned responsibilities should be familiar with the entire plan; however, added emphasis will be given to those sections for which they are responsible. While all circumstances cannot be addressed, county personnel will use this plan to guide their actions for those things that do occur but are not specifically addressed in the plan.

III. PURPOSE/SCOPE

This plan defines the actions that Chatham County government agencies and selected non-governmental organizations in the county will take to reduce the vulnerability of people

and property to a disaster and establish the ability to respond effectively to any emergency situation.

This will ensure a high order of survivability, preservation of life and property within Chatham County, in the event of manmade threats, natural disaster or terrorist threat affecting the county by ensuring maximum use of all resources at our disposal.

IV. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1.

1. Geography and Economics:

Chatham County is located in the south-central portion of North Carolina. Durham and Wake Counties border it on the east; by Orange and Alamance Counties on the north; by Randolph County on the west; and Moore, Lee, and Harnett Counties on the south.

There are three municipalities within the county; the largest being Siler City, with a population an estimated 8,540 located in the western portion of the county. Pittsboro, the county seat, has a population of 2454. Goldston has a population of 372; Cary has a population of 320 (large share of Cary population is in Wake County); this incorporated town is located in the far southwestern portion of the county. The total population of Chatham County is is approximately 65000 (estimated from 2012 Census).

The following services, which may have expanded duties during disasters, are provided by Chatham County:

- a) Animal Services
- b) Building Inspections
- c) Chatham Transit
- d) Cooperative Extension
- e) Council on Aging
- f) County Manager
- g) Education
- h) Emergency Management
- i) Emergency Medical Services
- j) Finance Office
- k) Fire Departments
- l) Fire Marshal
- m) Health Department
- n) Law Enforcement
- o) Management Information Systems
- p) Mental Health

- q) Planning
- r) Public Works
- s) Social Services
- t) Solid Waste Operations
- u) Tax Office
- v) Volunteer Rescue Squads

2. Major traffic arteries:

Main U.S. highways are 64, 421 and 15-501. N.C. State highways 22, 42, 751, 902 and 87 carry a large amount of traffic.

Public roadways within Chatham County are almost exclusively owned and maintained by the NC DOT, Division of Highways. While most secondary roads are paved, there are still a number of unpaved public roads throughout the county.

Airport:

Siler City Airport (Siler City Municipal Airport Emergency Operations Plan) is a general aviation airport located near Siler City with a 5,000-foot runway. Major commercial air service is available at the Raleigh-Durham International and Greensboro airports. Both of these airports are within an hour driving time from most areas of Chatham County.

The County is exposed to many **hazards**, all of which have the potential to disrupt the community, cause damage, and create casualties. The County has experienced many hazards, all of which have, at some particular time, caused disruption to communities, great amounts of damage and in some cases even created casualties. Potential hazards and historical hazards (natural, technological and national security) for Chatham County are:

- Aircraft Accidents (Civilian/Military)
- Bridge Damage
- Civil Disorder/Rioting/Vandalism
- Drought/Extreme Heat
- Earthquake
- Fixed Nuclear Facility
- Floods/Dam Failure
- Forest Fires
- Hazardous Materials
- Transportation Incidents
- Fixed Facility Incidents
- Unidentified Spills or Dumping Activity
- Hurricanes (latent effects)
- Landfill Fires
- Large Structural Fires

- Livestock Disease
- Mass Casualty
- National Security Emergency
- Pipeline Break/Fuel Shortage
- Power Failure
- Rail Incident (See Hazardous Materials or Mass Casualties)
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Terrorist Activity/Sabotage
- Tornadoes
- Unknown (Biological, disease, etc.)
- Waste/Wastewater spills

B. Assumptions

1. The occurrence of any one or more of the disaster events previously listed could impact Chatham County severely and include several of the following possibilities:

- . Loss of electric power
- . Failure of the water distribution and storage system
- . Loss of part or all of waste treatment systems
- . Severance of road / highway network
- . Evacuation of people from the county
- . Necessity for mass care (shelter) and feeding operations
- . Need for debris clearance and removal
- . Multiple injuries and fatalities
- . Drastic increase in media attention
- . Damage to the communications and telephone networks
- . Economic impact
- . Fuel Shortage
- . Increased number of vermin and vectors (insects)
- . Need for official public information and rumor control
- . Need for State and/or Federal assistance
- . Re-entry of essential personnel and equipment
- . Re-entry of the public
- . Damage to vital records
- . Need for damage assessment
- . Need for auxiliary power
- . Need for coordination of donated goods
- . Contamination of private wells
- . Need for law enforcement support

- . Need for emergency medical and rescue support
 - . Need for fire protection support
 - . Need for additional hospital / medical support
 - . Overtaxing local resources
 - . Depth of staffing problems
 - . Loss of facilities vital to maintaining essential services
 - . Environmental impact to wildlife, natural resources, and agriculture
 - . Management of reconstruction
 - . Coordination of staged resources
 - . Isolation of populations
 - . Presidential Disaster Declaration
2. The occurrence of one or more than one of the previously listed emergency / disaster events could result in a true catastrophic disaster situation which would grossly overwhelm local and state resources.
 3. It is necessary for the county and municipalities to plan for and to carry out *coordinated* disaster response and short-term recovery operations utilizing local resources, however, it is likely that outside assistance would be needed and available in most major disaster situations affecting the county.
 4. Emergency and disaster occurrences could result in disruption of government functions. This necessitates that all levels of local government and departments develop and maintain standard operating procedures to ensure continuity of government. These procedures will address depth of staffing, line of succession, and mode of operation.
 5. Most natural disasters will leave at least some part of the county isolated and on its own for a period of time. Families should be encouraged to train and prepare for these events.
 6. Officials of Chatham County are aware of the possible occurrence of an emergency or major disaster and their responsibilities in the execution of this plan and will fill these responsibilities as needed.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Preparedness

1. As required by General Statutes 166A, it is the responsibility of County / City government to organize and plan for the protection of life and property from the effects of hazardous events or disasters.

2. Facilities vital to the operation of county and local government have been identified. These facilities will receive priority for restoration of service.
3. Planning and training are necessary and integral parts of emergency and disaster preparation and must be a prerequisite to effective emergency operations.
4. Coordination with adjoining jurisdictions is essential when events occur that impact beyond county or jurisdictional borders.
5. It is the responsibility of the elected officials to ensure that all legal documents of both a public and private nature recorded by designated officials be protected and preserved in accordance with existing laws, statutes and ordinances.
6. ICS training documentation for county employees will be maintained by Emergency Management. All other agencies will maintain their own documentation and report annually to emergency management those figures (July of each year). Training and exercise data are maintained in separately from this document. Emergency Management will maintain this data.
7. All emergency personnel contact lists and resource information is maintained within the County Resource Manual.

B. Response

1. In significant emergencies / disasters, direction and control will be managed by the Policy / Administration Group.
2. Emergency Operating Center (EOC) will be staffed and operated as the situation dictates. When activated, operations are supported by ranking representatives from a number of local government, private sector and volunteer organizations to provide information, data, and recommendations to the Policy / Administration Group.
3. When an emergency situation develops, the senior elected official or the designee of the jurisdiction (as defined in GS 14-288.1) may declare a State of Emergency to exist within the jurisdiction (or a part thereof) and begin implementing emergency procedures. (See Authorizations and Authorities Section)
4. The County Manager and County Emergency Services Director/Emergency Management Coordinator will coordinate county resources. The Mayor or his designee will coordinate and control the resources of the municipality and coordinate with the county EOC for state resources.
5. The County Manager will utilize all available media outlets for the dissemination of emergency information to the public.

6. Should local government resources prove to be inadequate during emergency operations, request for assistance will be made to other jurisdictions, higher levels of government, and / or other agencies in accordance with existing mutual-aid agreements and understandings. Requests for State or Federal resources must be made through the Chatham County Emergency Management and forwarded to the State EOC.
7. The National Response Framework established the basis for fulfilling the Federal Government's role in providing response and recovery assistance to a State and its affected local governments impacted by a significant disaster of any kind, which results in a required Federal response.
8. Under the National Response Framework, departments and agencies having authorities and resources have been assigned primary and support agency responsibilities for various Emergency Support Functions. These Emergency Support Functions will work in concert with State agencies to provide the needed resource(s).
9. Under the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, a Federal Coordinating Officer will be appointed as the President's representative to coordinate overall delivery of Federal assistance. Federal departments and agencies have been assigned missions to provide assistance directly to the State, under the overall direction of the Federal Coordinating Officer.

C. Recovery

The authority by which it was proclaimed shall declare termination of a State of Emergency. (See Authorizations and Authorities Section)

D. Mitigation

Following any major emergency / disaster event, a critique will be held to evaluate the jurisdiction's response to the event. A critique will include the following issues related specifically to recovery:

1. Mitigation of potential problems through use of Hazard Mitigation Grants
2. Plans and procedures revision based on lessons learned
3. Unmet needs status
4. Resource Management and Management of Donated Goods
5. Interagency Cooperation
6. Damage Survey Report process and documentation
7. Training needed

VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. Each agency of local government is responsible for the development of standard operating procedures in the support of this plan.
- B. The County Manager mandates the development and annual review of this plan by all officials involved and will coordinate necessary revision efforts through the Emergency Services Agency. That shall include a critique of the actions taken in support of the plan following any event requiring implementation of the plan.
- C. This plan shall be exercised annually in lieu of actual response to real emergency events.