

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, RELATIONSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE

Organizational Background

The function of the Office of Emergency Management is to perform highly complex management duties and provide an integrated Emergency Management (EM) program for Lee County, the City of Sanford, and the Town of Broadway in furtherance of the overall County responsibility of protecting lives and property of Lee County residents, businesses, and visitors. The Emergency Management program is based on the framework of the four phases of emergency management: prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. All phases are highly interconnected and each phase influences the other three phases. The cycle is an ongoing process that requires continuous updating. Furthermore, the Emergency Management program enables emergency personnel to rapidly identify, evaluate, and react to a wide spectrum of emergencies and events, either man-made or natural events, to include, but not limited to, emergency planning, planning/support for mass gathering events, warning and emergency information to responders/public, coordination of emergency shelters, training, exercises, grant management, project management, and coordination of response to threats of life and property that are of a greater than average scope, including a catastrophic radiological release at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. The Office of Emergency Management is also cross-trained to work closely alongside the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Relationships and Performance

The EM Office maintains direct relationships, regularly, with emergency response agencies within Lee County, including Lee County Fire Marshal's Office, the seven (7) volunteer and municipal fire departments, Sanford and Broadway Police Departments, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Central Carolina Advanced Life Support, Sanford Emergency Communications Center, North Carolina Highway Patrol, and the Public Schools Special Police Force. The Office maintains relationships with State and Federal entities as well, such as, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, North Carolina Department of Labor, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Commerce.

The EM Office maintains regular, direct relationships with governmental non-emergency response agencies within Lee County, including Public Health, Social Services, County and City Administration, County Commissioners, City/County Planning/GIS, Cooperative Extension, Senior Services, Animal Control, City of Sanford Water Department, North Carolina Department of Transportation, and Public Schools Administration. The office engages in direct, regular meetings and discussions with County non-governmental and non-profit organizations, such as, United Way, Sandhills Local Management Entity, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Corps of Engineers,

Chamber of Commerce, Central Carolina Hospital, Airport Authority, Central Carolina Community College, Carolina Trace Community Emergency Response Team, Lee County Emergency Planning Committee, and Central Carolina Amateur Radio. The EM Office also interfaces regularly with private, for profit agencies, to include, Duke Progress Energy, Public Service Natural Gas (PSNC), Charter Communications, the NC One Call Center, Windstream Communications, Pfizer, Tyson/Mexican Originals, Static Control Components, Caterpillar, Moen, Coty, various environmental cleanup companies, media outlets, and other companies.

Authorities and References mandating a Local Emergency Management Program and required activities:

- Lee County Emergency Management Ordinance
- Lee County Hazardous Materials Ordinance
- North Carolina General Statue 166a
- North Carolina General Statue 14-288
- 42 United States Code Section 5121
- EPA 400
- FEMA/NRC NUREG 0654
- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Titles II and III)

Objectives

- Ensure that all response equipment is calibrated and ready for use
- Maintain Mobile Command Post basic operation
- Continue update training and planning with Harris Nuclear Power Plant
- Update the Lee County Emergency Resource Book with new identified resources
- Assist Fire Departments and Fire Marshal's Office with US Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application Process
- Provide emergency response capability to support emergency responders within 10 minutes after notification for telephone contact, and within one hour after notification for on-scene response
- Continue service with the NCEM Incident Management Teams and NC County Mutual Aid to assist other jurisdictions following major disasters including training and deployments
- Attend at least two state conferences to ensure our planning and capabilities are at the standard of care
- Enhance capabilities of the Community Emergency Response Team by expanding the number of teams
- Increase capacity for public notification through use of various levels of technology

Future Impacts and Growth Expectations

The Office of Emergency Management is impacted by all segments of growth, including that of business and industry, private residences, transportation, and tourism and work load has increased with the economic downturn. The public is resorting to illegal activities more and more

for profit to the detriment of public safety and the environment. The previous fiscal year resulted in numerous complaints and investigations of illegal disposal of hazardous chemicals, burning of illegal materials to obtain valuable metals for recycling, and illegal dumping of hazardous chemicals. The existence of numerous manufacturing plants in Lee County that use or store Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS chemicals), the increasing impact hydraulic fracturing affecting the region, new transportation routes through the County, and the increase of Non-English speaking populations are examples of these external challenges facing our County and this Office.

Impacts expected include an increase in hazardous materials emergencies due to the economic downturn resulting in improper handling and disposal of hazardous materials, increasing strain on the transportation infrastructure due to BRAC potentially resulting in increased motor vehicle collisions and economic drivers precluding the public's ability to afford stockpiling medication, food and water to be used in the event of an emergency. These situations create new challenges in emergency planning, involving subsets of public education, shelter management, evacuation route establishment, and public warning.

The Non-English speaking population is expected to impact the emergency management program by increasing the expense of providing emergency programs. Examples of expected expenses include such functions as public education due to the legal requirement for publications to be in Spanish (Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act), increase in the cost of sheltering services due to the requirements for translation services, labor expenses to create plans and information dissemination methods to reach these Non-English speaking populations.

Emergency Management also expects future impacts caused by unfunded mandates by the Federal Government as a result of findings from blue ribbon committees that have investigated past catastrophic emergencies. Previous years have seen disaster after-action recommendations transcend into legislation invoking unfunded requirements on local governments. Some examples of the identified mandates by the Federal Government include an expansion of the National Incident Management System to include resource typing, resource identification, standardization of resource ordering and procurement, additional training requirements, and emergency planning requirements. Additionally, the state legislature is considering a bill that will make changes to the state emergency management ordinance which may create unfunded state mandates for our Office. Emergency planning requirements are likely to include sheltering requirements such as special needs, transportation, inland evacuation, emergency communication systems, and disaster recovery planning. While this Office has engaged much of these planning requirements, these plans must be reviewed and exercised throughout the year.