

Section I

General Considerations and Planning Guidelines

A. INTRODUCTION

Delaware County experiences a wide variety of disasters that may cause loss of life, property and income, disrupt normal functions of government, communities and families, businesses and the economy and cause great human suffering.

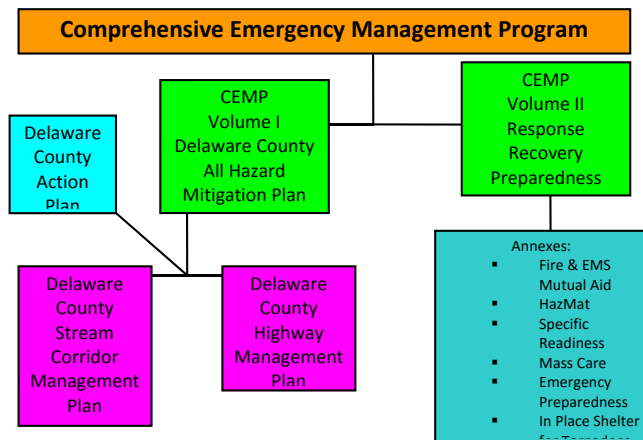
The Delaware County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has been developed in recognition on the part of local governments and state officials that a comprehensive plan is needed to enhance Delaware County's (the County) ability to manage emergency and disaster situations. This plan has been prepared by County officials working as a team in a planning effort recommended by the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. This plan plays an integral part of a statewide emergency management program and contributes to its effectiveness. Authority is given to the County to undertake this planning effort by both Article 2-B of State Executive Law and the New York State Defense Act.

In 2012 Delaware County restructure its plan to encompass all of the emergency planning documents into one centralized comprehensive document. The Delaware County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will consist of two Volumes:

- Volume I – Delaware County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Volume II – Delaware County Response and Recovery Plan

This document shall serve as Volume II of the Delaware County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. In addition this document is supported by functional annexes with regard to specific planning and response topics and situations.

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B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide a structure in which emergencies are managed within Delaware County. In addition this plan will provide concept of operations, lines of coordination and centralized coordination of resources within the county and resources requested into the county.

The objectives of this plan are as follows:

- To identify, assess and prioritize local and regional vulnerabilities to emergencies or disasters and the resources available to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from them.
- To outline short, medium, and long range measures to counties (and the municipalities within it) capabilities to manage hazards.
- To provide the County and Local Governments will take appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate effects of hazards and be prepared to respond to and recover from them when and emergency or disaster occurs.
- To provide for the efficient utilization of all available resources during an emergency situation.
- To provide for the utilization and coordination of local government, state and federal programs to assist disaster victims, and to prioritize the response to the needs of the elderly, disabled, low income and other groups that may be inordinately affected.

C. SCOPE

This document applies to all natural, technological and human-caused emergencies or disasters where local capabilities may be exceeded, necessitating the use of County, State and/or federal agencies and resources.

In addition, County government must provide leadership and direction to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from dangers and problems arising from emergencies in the county.

This plan shall apply to all county agencies and authorities that may be directed to respond to an emergency or disaster, and identifies the response structure for a county multi-agency response.

1. This concept of Comprehensive Emergency Management includes three phases:
 - a) Risk Reduction (Prevention and Mitigation)
 - b) Response
 - c) Recovery

2. Risk Reduction (Prevention and Mitigation):
 - a) Prevention refers to those short or long term activities which eliminate or reduce the number of occurrences of disasters.
 - b) Mitigation refers to all activities which reduce the effects of disasters when they do occur.
 - c) Section II of this Plan, Risk Reduction, describes activities to prevent or minimize the impact of hazards in Delaware County.

3. Response
 - a) Response operations may start before the emergency materializes, for example, on receipt of advisories that floods, blizzards, or ice storms could impact the jurisdiction. This increased readiness response phase may include such pre-impact operations as:
 - Detecting, monitoring, and assessment of the hazard
 - Alerting and warning of endangered populations
 - Protective actions for the public
 - Allocating/distributing of equipment/resources

 - b) Most response activities follow the immediate impact of an emergency. Generally, they are designed to minimize casualties and protect property to the extent possible through emergency assistance. They seek to reduce the probability of secondary damage and speed recovery operations.

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- c) Response operations in the affected area are the responsibility of and controlled by the local municipalities, supported by the county emergency operations as appropriate.
- d) If a municipality is unable to adequately respond, County response operations may be asked to assume a leadership role.

4. Recovery

Recovery activities are those following a disaster to restore the community to its pre-emergency state, to correct adverse conditions that may have led to the damage, and to protect and improve the quality of life in the community. It includes risk reduction actions to prevent or mitigate a recurrence of the emergency.

D. SITUATION

Delaware County is a rural county located in upstate New York. According to the 2010 census Delaware County had a population of 47,980 which represents a 0.2 percent decline from the 2000 census. The 2010 census also provides us key information regarding population based on age group. In 2010 5 percent of the population was under the age five while 19.6 percent was under the age of 18. Persons over the age of 65 accounted for 19.4 percent of the population and it is nearly equal with regards to male versus female. 95.2 percent of the population is white with 6.1 percent speaking a language other than English. The census also provided that 13.3 percent of the Delaware County population is currently living below the poverty level.

There are a variety of emergencies or disaster situations that could occur within the County. Depending on the nature and/or location of the event, the hazard may be relatively routine in nature, or may pose a variety of response issues and concerns that have serious implications. All emergencies begin and end locally and local government serves as the first line of defense and may be able to adequately remedy the situation. Or an event may overwhelm the resources at the local level.

Depending on the event, county response action may occur concurrently with local response. Regardless of the scenario in the county must have a methodology and structure in place to effectively and efficiently interoperate with all levels of government. In doing so, the County will maintain a high degree of commitment to protect and save lives, minimize property damage and assist all citizens who are threatened by an emergency or who become the victims of a disaster. The resources will be coordinated with all other resources responding to the event.

In 2003, by way of Homeland Security Presidential Directive number 5, President Bush directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop the National Incident Management System

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(NIMS). The National Incident Management System integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive framework for incident management. By way of Resolution 164 of 2005 Delaware County adopted the National Incident Management System as its method to managing emergency and disaster situations in Delaware County. NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) enable the County, local governments and all responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage incidents no matter the size or complexity.

Delaware County will coordinate all efforts out of the emergency operations center which is located at 280 Phoebe Lane Delhi, NY 13753. When activated the emergency operations center is managed by the Delaware County Department of Emergency Services.

E. PLANNING TEAM

Delaware County has assembled a comprehensive planning team to develop and update the CEMP. The represents a “whole of community” commitment and the team meets regularly (meetings or virtual) during updates and post disasters to review the plan and assure that it is current.

The plan is published on the Delaware County website where it is available for viewing. Public Comment is solicited during the update process and is encourage by the planning team.

1. Delaware County Emergency Services
2. Delaware County Public Health
3. Delaware County Planning Department
4. Delaware County Department of Public Works
5. Delaware County Sheriffs Office
6. Delaware County Public Safety Committee
7. Delaware County Social Services
8. NYS Office of Emergency Management
9. Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District
10. NYS Police

F. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. Some emergencies or disasters will occur with enough warning that appropriate notification will to ensure some level of preparation. Other situations will occur with little or no advanced warning.
2. Priority of response will be to protect life, public property, critical infrastructure, the economy and the environment.

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3. County residents, businesses, and industries will need to utilize their own resources to be self-sufficient in the aftermath of a disaster.
4. Local governments and the emergency service organizations play an essential role as the first line of defense.
5. When responding to a disaster, local jurisdictions will utilize their own facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel and resources first.
6. The local chief executive has the authority to direct and coordinate disaster operations and may delegate this authority to a local coordinator.
7. The Delaware County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is a living document that will continually evolve as Delaware County reviews responses and recovery activities following incidents and exercises.

G. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The Delaware County Department of Emergency Services is generally responsible for activation of this plan, in consultation with the Chairman of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors. The Director of Emergency Services may receive notification of an emergency or disaster from the Delaware County 9-1-1 Center or directly from local or county officials. The County Emergency Operation Center will be activated by the Director of Emergency Services (or County Chairman) to provide for coordinated management of emergency operations. Emergency operations planning and response will be coordinated with affected local and state officials and agencies.

Delaware County will utilize Incident Command System (ICS) organization and processes to manage emergencies and disasters.

Emergency and disaster response efforts are focused on:

- Recognizing the incident;
- Assessing the magnitude and consequences of the emergency;
- Mobilizing county and out-of-county resources to mitigate the impact of the incident;
- Determining and implementing appropriate protective actions; and
- Notifying the public of actions to be taken and keeping the public informed of response efforts.

Day-to-day functions which do not contribute directly to emergency response activities may be suspended and resources normally assigned to those functions may be diverted to emergency tasks and assignments.

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When local resources are inadequate, the Chief Executive of a town, village or city may obtain assistance from other political subdivisions and the County government.

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors may coordinate responses for requests for assistance for the local governments. The Chairman has the authority to direct and coordinate County disaster operations. The Chairman may obtain assistance from other counties or the State when the emergency disaster is beyond the resources of Delaware County.

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has assigned the Director of the Department of Emergency Services the responsibility to coordinate County emergency management activities. Delaware County will utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage all emergencies requiring multi-agency response. Delaware County recommends and encourages all local governments in Delaware County to utilize ICS.

A request for assistance to the State will be submitted, by the Director of Emergency Services, through the Region IV Office of the New York State Office of Emergency Management (OEM) located in Syracuse, New York and presupposes the utilization and expenditure of personnel and resources at the local level. State assistance is supplemental to local emergency efforts.

Direction and control of State risk reduction, response and recovery actions is exercised by New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC), coordinated by the State Emergency Management Office. Upon the occurrence of an emergency or disaster clearly beyond the management capability and emergency resources of State and local governments, the Governor may find that federal assistance is required and may request assistance from the President by requesting a declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

Any legal issues arising during an emergency response will be assessed by the County Attorney in consultation with officials from the State Office of Emergency Management.

Delaware County agencies in the EOC will work with local, state and not-for-profit officials to identify and address disaster related issues affecting children and people with access and functional needs.

Delaware County agencies in the EOC will work with local and state officials to identify and address disaster related issues affecting pets and service animals.

H. MUTUAL AID

Delaware County maintains and County Fire Mutual Aid Plan and participates in the Statewide Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan. This allows local and regional mutual aid, fire

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department based resources to be requested to support emergency and disaster related missions in Delaware County. Similar arrangements are in place for EMS resources.

Delaware County participates in the Intrastate Mutual-Aid System outlined in Executive Law Article 2-B and will assess the need for, and request mutual aid resources as required.

I. COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

Delaware County will coordinated communications and assistance with the private sector through the Liaison Function as assigned in the County EOC. Coordination will take place across all phases of Delaware County's emergency management program including risk reduction, response and recovery.

J. LEGAL AUTHORITY

This Plan, in whole or in part, may rely upon the following laws for the power necessary for its development and implementation.

1. New York State Executive Law, Article 2-B
2. New York State Defense Emergency Act, as amended
3. Federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
4. Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended
5. CFR Chapter 1 Title 44
6. Homeland Security Act of 2002
7. Delaware County Resolution 164 of 2005
8. New York State General Municipal Law

K. PLAN UPDATE

The Delaware County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis. The plan will be updated annually or at any time the planning committee feels that an immediate change needs to occur. A record of such updates will be kept on file at the Department of Emergency Services and recorded within the plan itself..

The Director of The Department of Emergency Services shall have the responsibility of maintaining, monitoring, evaluating and coordinating the update to the plan. The Director will coordinate submission of the CEMP to the NYS Office of Emergency Management to meet any submission requirements of the NYS Disaster Preparedness Commission.