

Annex D Evacuation

I. PURPOSE

This Annex describes the provisions that have been made to assist the safe and orderly evacuation of people threatened by hazards in Delaware County.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

This annex focuses on hazards that provide sufficient warning time to implement a planned evacuation for people identified as being at risk in the County.

B. Assumptions

1. Spontaneous evacuation will occur when there is sufficient warning of the threat.
2. Some people will refuse to evacuate no matter what the threat. Evacuation will be primarily in family groups using private vehicles.
3. Roughly 20 percent of the population at risk will require shelter in a mass care facility. Many evacuees will seek shelter with relatives, friends, or motels rather than use government mass care facilities.
4. Evacuation in emergency situations that occur with little or no warning will be implemented on an as needed basis. The individual responsible for implementing evacuation in this situation is the incident commander at the scene of the emergency, with support arranged through the EOC as necessary. Evacuation instructions will be based on known or assumed health risks associated with the hazard.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. The nature of the threat, the time available, adequacy of in place sheltering, the possibility of escalation, and the number of people affected will be considered when deciding if evacuation should be ordered.

B. Evacuation Zones will be established by local officials in coordination with the County EOC as

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required.

C. Orders to evacuate will typically be made by the village mayors and town supervisors. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has the authority to order evacuation as necessary.

D. In an emergency situation, with little or no warning, authority to order an evacuation to save lives and protect property rests with the incident commander.

E. Evacuation notices and recommended protective actions will be broadcast over the EAS, NY-Alert, NOAA radios, as well as local radio and TV stations.

F. Depending upon the situation, door to door notification and or announcements via public address systems on law enforcement/fire department vehicles may be made.

G. Delaware County allows individuals, who will need special assistance in the event of an evacuation, to register with the Department of Emergency Services.

H. Schools, nursing homes, hospitals, jails, and other institutions are responsible for evacuation of their populations.

I. Persons residing within the affected area will be directed to evacuate via designated highways. County roads will be used as evacuation routes, as necessary.

J. Security of evacuated areas will be provided by law enforcement and, in situations where local resources are exceeded, mutual aid, State Police or National Guard forces will be requested.

K. The decision to allow the evacuated population to return will be made by the local chief elected officials of the communities affected. The County EOC will assist in these decisions where multiple jurisdictions have been impacted by the disaster.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors will:

- Issue evacuation orders when appropriate.
- Determine the County's policy for dealing with people that do not comply with evacuation instructions.
- Authorize return to evacuated areas when appropriate.

B. The Sheriff's Department will coordinate with other law enforcement agencies and will:

- When notified, report to the EOC.
- Review current information about the emergency situation and make recommendations on the appropriate evacuation options to implement.
- Determine if the incident commander has already evacuated any areas; if so, identify perimeters and verify extent of evacuation and need for security.

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In support of evacuation:

- Estimate traffic capacity of each designated evacuation route.
- Select evacuation routes from risk area to designated mass care facilities.
- Examine access to evacuation routes from each part of the risk area.
- Coordinate with law enforcement officials in the field.
- Identify assembly areas for pick up of people that require transportation.
- Coordinate with animal care and control officers to evacuate animals at risk during catastrophic emergency situations.

C. The Delaware County Director of Emergency Services will:

- Make evacuation recommendations to the Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors and local officials as necessary.
- Work with human services agencies to identify the location of mass care facilities that will be used to house evacuees.
- Coordinate County assistance requirements with the State Office of Emergency Management.
- Develop and maintain a situational information of status of evacuation efforts.

D. The County Department of Public Works will:

- Verify the structural safety of routes (roads, bridges, etc.) that will be used to evacuate people.
- During regional emergencies, coordinate County and State highway use with neighboring county and State DOT officials.

E. The County Public Information Officer will disseminate information to the public to include:

- Identification of areas to be evacuated.
- Evacuation routes.
- Departure times.
- Pick-up points for people requiring transportation assistance.
- Location of mass care facilities outside of the evacuation area.
- Keep evacuees and the general public informed on evacuation activities and any actions they should take.
- Disseminate information on appropriate actions to protect and care for pets and farm animals that are to be evacuated or left behind.

F. Human Services agencies will:

- Activate staff and open mass care facilities outside the evacuation area, when directed to do so by appropriate authority.
- Keep the EOC informed of conditions at mass care facilities.

G. The County Public Health department will:

- Coordinate with hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities that are to be evacuated.

H. School Superintendents will:

- Evacuate students from school buildings when necessary.
- Close school facilities and release students from school when directed by appropriate authority.

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- Coordinate with local officials or the County EOC, when needed, the use of school buses and drivers to support the overall evacuation effort.