
BASIC PLAN

I. Purpose

The White County Emergency Operations Guide (EOG) provides a written framework for local government that analyzes threats to the citizens of the county, allocates responsibility for guidance and response to these threats, and determines resources available to cope with identified threats in order to conserve life and property after the disaster.

This guide is organized with a basic guide, functional annexes, hazard-specific appendices, and attachments. To best achieve the purpose, this guide will utilize the phases of preparedness and response. This guide will describe what hazards the county could face and who is responsible for the differing areas within emergency management. This guide, and all revisions, will be distributed to all agencies assigned responsibility for implementation.

We must remember that emergency preparedness is existing government in action. The duty of each designated agency is to coordinate emergency assistance actions with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to prevent duplication of effort and best utilize available resources.

II. Situation

- A. White County has a population of 71,332 (2005) and is the second largest county in Arkansas with an area of 2,700 km² (1,042 mi²). The Office of Emergency Management is located in the county seat of Searcy. White County has experienced numerous disasters in the past and will surely suffer a variety of disasters in the future. These disasters may be due to natural hazards such as tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, droughts, wildfires, and winter storms; man-caused peacetime events such as radiological accidents, hazardous material spills, and acts of terrorism.
- B. White County has several vulnerable critical facilities including White County Medical Center, nursing homes, public schools, Harding University and Arkansas State University Campuses located at Searcy and Beebe, large businesses such as two Wal-Mart Distribution Centers, and the Searcy Municipal Airport. White County is not considered to be at risk from direct weapons effects as a result of a nuclear attack. Although White County could receive high levels of radiation from ground bursts from Arkansas Nuclear One located in Russellville.

- C. Other areas of concern for the county include; the Greer's Ferry Dam, located in Cleburne County; the ability to communicate with the diverse population, the White and Little Red Rivers; Union Pacific railways; Highways 67/167 and US 64, transporting hazardous materials; gas wells and pipelines. Also, White County is located near the New Madrid Fault System which extends 120 miles southward from the area of Charleston, Missouri, and Cairo, Illinois, through New Madrid and Caruthersville, Missouri, following Interstate 55 to Blytheville and on down to Marked Tree, Arkansas and any other fault lines affecting White County. These are the main hazards that White County faces, but others may exist. The White County Office of Emergency is aware of and concerned about other disasters and will be ready to respond in case of these remote possibilities.
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III. Assumptions

- A. The White County EOG is considered open to interpretation and tasked officials and organizations who use or implement this guide can choose alternative actions not outlined in the EOG as deemed necessary in order to preserve life in the event of an emergency disaster. County representatives and organizations have read and are familiar with the current White County EOG and will execute their assigned responsibilities.
- B. The County Judge has established an Emergency Management Organization in accordance with Section 10, Arkansas Emergency Services Act 511 of 1973 as amended.
- C. The County Judge has appointed an OEM Coordinator who represents him/her in guidance for and coping with disasters in the county and who manages the Office of Emergency Management Organization.
- D. Disasters impacting city or county resources will normally be contained with local paid and volunteer professional responders using the National Incident Management System (NIMS). If requirements for assistance exceed local and county resources, further assistance from state and federal resources may be requested through ADEM as well as assistance from Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).
- E. White County will have an emergency organization which is prepared at all times to respond to disasters threatening life or property and will have the capability to cope with most disaster situations.
- F. White County will make efforts to mitigate any disaster situation. Efforts to educate the population on all possible disasters shall be made.
- G. An organized warning system will be in existence and continually manned to relay warnings to residents throughout the county.

- H. Advance warnings of most natural and some man-caused disasters will be received in time to warn the public prior to impact.
 - I. Most emergencies can be dealt with using the Incident Command System and resources within the county.
 - J. Each functional area officer, organization, agency and individuals with assigned emergency management responsibilities will prepare and maintain standard operating procedures (SOPs) and checklists which detail how their assigned tasks will be performed.
 - K. Each annex is functionally oriented and outlines the lead and support roles of each local government or volunteer group, as applicable.
 - L. Each functional annex will obtain and keep current maps and charts required to fulfill its assigned responsibilities.
 - M. Each functional annex is encouraged to develop written mutual assistance agreements with their counterparts in surrounding areas.
 - N. An attack on the United States would likely be preceded by a period of increasing international tension that would provide a minimum of 72 hours needed to complete Crisis Relocation.
 - O. There is a remote possibility of an accidental launch of a nuclear missile by either the United States or some other nation. The National Warning Center would provide as much warning as possible for persons in and near the projected impact point to allow the population to take shelter in-place.
 - P. Every effort will be made to identify and meet the special needs of disabled and elderly persons.
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IV. Concept of Operations

The world of Emergency Management continues to adopt the concept of the Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS), which focuses on functions common in all disasters.

- A. Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS):

1. An assessment of hazard vulnerabilities.
2. An inventory of community capabilities to deal with hazards.
3. Steps to reduce the gap between vulnerability and capability (by working across various districts and jurisdictions and working with many different kinds of professionals).

B. The four phases of comprehensive emergency management:

1. Mitigation:

Taking sustained actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.

2. Preparedness:

Building the emergency management function to respond effectively to, and recover from, any hazard.

3. Response:

Conducting emergency operations to save lives and property by taking action to reduce the hazard to acceptable levels (or eliminate it entirely); evacuating potential victims; providing food, water, shelter, and medical care to those in need; and restoring critical public services.

4. Recovery:

Rebuilding communities so that individuals, businesses, and governments can function on their own, return to normal life, and protect against future hazards.

Local Roles

Local government has the primary responsibility for emergency response. Local government has direct responsibility for the safety of its citizens, knowledge of the situation and accompanying resource requirements, and proximity to both event and resources. Within local government are Emergency Support Services-the departments of local government that are capable of responding to emergencies 24 hours a day. They include law enforcement, fire/rescue/, and public works. They may also be referred to as emergency response personnel or first responders.

State Roles

States provide emergency management guidance, emergency management training and exercising, emergency operations and disaster assistance. State government has legal authorities for emergency response and recovery and serves as the point of contact between local and Federal governments.

Federal Roles

The Federal government has legal authorities; fiscal resources; research capabilities, technical information and services; and specialized personnel to assist local and State agencies in responding to and recovering from emergencies or disasters.

Military Roles

The National Guard, or the Army and Air National Guard, is a state-administered force. The National Guard is trained and equipped to protect life and property and to preserve peace, order, and public safety to the citizens of the state of Arkansas. The Guard's resources and expertise include: trained medical personnel, evacuation units, search and rescue capability, aviation support, ground transportation, forest fire support, and emergency shelters (armories).

C. Activation of the EOC

1. Analyze the emergency situation and decide how to respond quickly, appropriately, and effectively.
2. Direct and coordinate the efforts of the jurisdiction's various response forces.
3. Coordinate with the response efforts of other jurisdictions.
4. Use available resources efficiently and effectively.

V. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

Chief Executive Official (CEO)

- a) Sets policy for the emergency response organization.
- b) Assumes responsibility for the overall response and recovery operations.

- c) Identifies the individuals assigned to work in the EOC during disasters.
- d) Emergency Management Coordinator
- e) Coordinates all aspects of response efforts during a disaster and coordinates with each organization to ensure that appropriate emergency functions are carried out properly.

Warning Officer

- a) Coordinates with PIO and Transportation and Evacuation Officers in order to ensure the public is promptly warned.
- b) Checks appropriate areas in the county and informs Emergency Management Coordinator of inadequate equipment.

Public Information Officer (PIO)

- a) Advises the Emergency Manager and “CEO” on matters on emergency public information (EPI).
- b) Establishes and maintains a working relationship with local media.

Administration and Records Officer

Maintains records of EOC activities and directly works with EOC staff during response and recovery.

Public Works Officer

Manages public works resources and directs public works operations (e.g. water supply/treatment, road maintenance, trash/debris removal).

Logistics Officer

Manages and directs resource support activities during large-scale disasters.

Fire Officer

Manages fire department resources and directs fire department operations.

HazMat Officer

Manages hazmat resources in coordination with fire department operations.

Search and Rescue Officer

Coordinates all search and rescue operations with law enforcement officials, fire department, and civil air patrol.

Law Enforcement Officer

Manages law enforcement resources and directs traffic control and law enforcement operations.

Staging and Security Officer

Provides security for disaster areas and monitors entrances and exits to allow emergency workers to respond.

Military Department

Provides personnel and equipment to support emergency functions when local resources are exhausted.

Emergency Communications Officer

Coordinates communication between the EOC and field forces.

Transportation and Evacuation Officer

Coordinates all evacuation guidance activities with the Emergency Manager.

Health and Medical Officer

Coordinates the use of health and medical resources and personnel involved in providing medical assistance to disaster victims.

Sheltering and Mass Feeding Officer

Coordinates shelter operations for evacuees and disaster victims with non-profit organizations, military personnel, and volunteers.

County Coroner

Coordinates efforts to properly handle situations which lead to mass fatalities.

Damage Assessment Officer

Assesses and reports damage to public and private properties during recovery phase.

VI. Administration and Logistics

- A. Administrative and fiscal procedures employed by county and municipal authorities for routine operations will be utilized to support emergency disaster operations.
- B. Facilities, equipment, supplies and services will be procured during emergency operations using normal procurement procedures. Records of all expenditures will be kept and tabbed specifically as disaster costs to aid in separating routine and disaster expenditures. In extreme emergency conditions, when the chief elected official has declared a state of disaster/emergency, private property may be commandeered subject to later compensation. [See Arkansas Emergency Services Act 511, section 8g(4).]
- C. Inventory, storage, maintenance and replacement of administrative and logistical support items during disaster operations will be accounted for using standard procedures by each local government entity.
- D. Donations of money, equipment, or supplies may be received by local government and will be entered into records and accounted for. Donation of services and labor will be recorded and may be counted as matching contributions to match federal funding in a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- E. Equipment and personnel are not normally available at local government level to evaluate threats posed by chemical, radiological or biological contamination of the environment. This support will be provided by the Arkansas Department of Health, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), and if required, agencies of the federal government.
- F. Personnel and equipment will be available from neighboring jurisdictions through written and/or verbal mutual support agreements. If local government resources are exhausted, ADEM will coordinate assistance from state, federal and volunteer sources.

VII. Guide Development and Maintenance

This section will be updated as necessary. It will be reviewed and updated at least annually by the White County Office of Emergency Management.

VIII. Authorities and References

Arkansas Emergency Services Act 511 of 1973, as amended.

State of Arkansas Emergency Operations Guide: as amended.

White County Court Order, dated June 6, 1974 and recorded in Book M. Page 137 - 146

Public Law 81-920 (Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950) as amended.

Public Law 93-288 (Disaster Relief Act of 1974) as amended.

Public Law 99-499 (Superfund Amendments: Reauthorization Act of 1986).

Earthquake Preparedness Guidebook, published by Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM).

School Earthquake Safety Guidebook: June 84, published by Arkansas Department of Emergency (ADEM).

CPG 2-8, April 1987, Sheltering and Care Operations: published by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

CPG 2-20, January 21, 1988, Life Support Operations in Shelters: published by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

CPG 2-21, May 1988, Habitability and Human Problems in Shelters: published by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

EPA Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations EPCRA-Emergency Guidance and Community Right to Know Act

IX. Related Attachments to Basic guide

None