

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

1 Basic Plan

Introduction, Purpose, Mission, and Scope

Introduction

The Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) provides education and guidance for the County and responding partners and follows federal- and state-level guidance for developing response plans. The EOP describes the unique challenges posed by all disaster situations within Northampton County that may necessitate specific leadership decisions, response actions, and communication mechanisms, with the intent to limit the impact of a disaster, preserve continuity of essential government functions, and minimize social disruption and economic losses. The plan contains the following sections:

Basic Plan

The basic plan contains the fundamental elements to guide a disaster response in Northampton County. It establishes the concept of operations and assigns responsibility to stakeholders in the County. The basic plan discusses the hazards likely to affect the County. The basic plan also outlines the various local, state, and federal statutes and guidance documents that authorize local disaster response in the County.

Emergency Support Function Annexes

Emergency Support Function (ESF) annexes group similar functions together. These annexes delineate responsibilities for primary and support agencies and indicate how they will carry out defined duties. Agencies from each ESF will provide a representative to act as a liaison between the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the ESF.

Hazard Specific Annexes

The EOP also includes annexes that contain hazard-specific information. Although the majority of response functions are common regardless of the hazard, unique characteristics exist for each. The hazard-specific appendices deal with the nuances related to different types of hazards.

Attachments

The attachments section contains useful documents, forms, and guidance for various elements of the emergency management life cycle.

Acronyms and Definitions

This section of the plan contains commonly used emergency management acronyms used throughout this plan. This section also contains definitions for basic emergency management concepts referenced throughout the plan.

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to direct actions intended to preserve life and protect property from further destruction in the event of an emergency. This plan establishes the legal and organizational basis for preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against the effects of natural, technological, and human-made disasters in Northampton County, Virginia. These responsibilities are generally extensions of normal, day-to-day functions involving the same personnel and material resources.

Mission

To provide Northampton County residents, property owners, businesses and institutions, government departments and commissions, and emergency support organizations with a comprehensive emergency management system that can

1. reduce community and governmental vulnerability to known natural, technological, and human-made hazards;
2. encourage behavior among the general population that will lead to widespread preparedness in all sectors;
3. foster cooperative planning at all levels, so there can be a uniform and rational approach for coordinating multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional actions – before, during, and after any threat to the public's welfare;
4. regularly evaluate the County's capacity to effect a coordinated community and public response and recovery effort that is focused on protecting and saving lives; lessening human suffering; minimizing property, economic, and environmental losses; and re-establishing a normal state of affairs; and
5. in any event causing damage and/or interruptions, focus on the restoration of public services and the return of all segments of the community to pre-disaster conditions, or when feasible to more disaster-resistant standards for chronic risks.

Scope

This EOP guides disaster response for public and private entities within Northampton County, Virginia.

The intent of the plan is to explain how public policies give legal standing to the County's emergency management program, the administration of which provides the citizens, workforce, and visitors of Northampton County a standardized system for managing major emergencies and disasters.

The EOP is different from the incident planning associated with an Incident Management Team (IMT) specifically charged with directing a single department/agency or multi-departmental/agency response. Incident planning is specific to that activity and not usually as broad as the EOP that addresses County-wide departments, agencies, and resources. Components of the EOP, at a minimum, shall include the following:

- A comprehensive framework for effective use of government, private-sector, and volunteer resources
- An outline of local responsibilities
- Implementation of the standards that are part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

This plan is the official Northampton County EOP that covers the entire jurisdiction and its citizens. Northampton County does not intend for this plan to replace existing internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) but will activate this plan to provide support and coordination of all County-lead efforts for response to an emergency or disaster situation.