

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

4.1 Hurricane

Purpose

The purpose of the Hurricane-Specific Annex is to protect the public health and safety in the event of a hurricane in Northampton County.

Scope

This annex identifies the key policies, concepts of operations, roles and responsibilities, and capabilities associated with hurricane response and coordination in Northampton County. Specific operating procedures and protocols are addressed in documents maintained by the participating organizations.

Potential operations include the following:

- Establishing situational awareness
- Warning and evacuating the public
- Establishing and staffing shelters in the County
- Assessing damage post-incident
- Re-opening County roads

Hurricane	Roles/Tasks
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and maintain the Hurricane-Specific Annex. Review it annually.• Make individual assignments of duties and responsibilities to staff the EOC and implement emergency operations. Maintain a notification roster of these key personnel and their alternates.• Ensure that adequate facilities and resources are identified to conduct emergency operations at the EOC and the designated shelter centers.• Consider the need to harden (to board up windows) the facilities to be utilized for the EOC and shelter(s).• Develop mutual support agreements with adjacent jurisdictions and with relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, as needed.• Develop plans and procedures for providing timely information and guidance to the public.• Consummate official working agreements with local media outlets.• Identify and maintain a list of essential services and facilities that must continue to operate and may need to be protected during a hurricane.• Test and exercise plans and procedures with periodic exercises and drills.• Revise the annex and provide training as indicated by test or exercise results.• Incorporate procedures for tracking the hurricane and determining when to evacuate.• Identify mitigation tasks to be completed in the field during a Hurricane Watch though Landfall periods. Identify resources.• Take corrective actions and modify the plan, as needed.

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Hurricane	Roles/Tasks
Response – Initial Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72-Hour Alert – Potential Hurricane Threat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Activate the EOC with a skeletal staff and begin to monitor the storm system. – Review EOC procedures and update, as necessary. – Alert appropriate personnel of the situation. – Conduct briefings to reaffirm responsibilities and review procedures. – Begin to provide general information to the public, emphasizing the vulnerability of the coastal area and mobile homes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin to provide an official daily situation report for the record. Submit it to the VA-EOC and to local officials, as needed. – Implement record keeping of all incurred expenses. • 48-Hour Alert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepare to activate the EOC with a full staff. Continue to track the hurricane and assess its potential impact on the County. – Prepare to open and staff County shelters. Coordinate with ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Resources) to ensure that the shelter staffing plan is in place. – Disseminate emergency information and protective action guidance to the public. – Establish and maintain liaison with the VA-EOC and adjacent jurisdictions. Provide daily situation reports to the VA-EOC, if applicable. – Continue to maintain records for all expenses incurred. – Coordinate daily with each service chief. – Close schools, if in session. • 24-Hour Alert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to coordinate emergency operations. Fully staff the EOC. – Declare a local emergency. – Brief EOC staff and ESF departments/agencies regarding the situation. Coordinate with the VA-EOC. – Activate shelter operations, as needed. – In conjunction with the VA-EOC, advise the public by evacuation zone to evacuate or take other protective action, as appropriate. – Facilitate the provision of logistical support to in-the-field personnel. Identify and obtain essential resources. – Direct County departments to move equipment and supplies to safer locations, as needed. – Request periodic situation reports from ESF Primary Departments, as needed, to ensure the implementation of mitigation, preparedness, and/or response activities. – Coordinate with federal and state facilities in the County and special facilities, as needed. – Provide daily situation reports to the VA-EOC, as requested.

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Hurricane	Roles/Tasks
Response – Continuing Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall Expected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to coordinate evacuation. – Encourage protective action. Provide assistance as appropriate. Allow time for evacuation. – Provide a door-to-door warning for zones to be evacuated, as needed. Hand deliver or post evacuation instructions, as needed. – Provide for traffic control, as needed. – Provide for the security of the evacuated areas and for essential facilities. – Receive and care for evacuees in designated shelters. – Keep the public informed regarding incident status and protective actions. • Landfall – Emergency Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to coordinate emergency operations at the EOC. – Provide lifesaving emergency services, as needed. – Prepare for damage assessment. – Continue to keep the public informed. – Continue to provide daily situation reports to the VA-EOC, as needed.
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide lifesaving emergency services, as needed. • Restore essential services. • Implement damage assessment. • Direct and control reentry into evacuated areas. • Begin debris removal. • Continue to keep the public informed. • Provide periodic situation reports and requests for assistance to the VA-EOC as the situation requires. • Ensure that an accurate record of expenses is maintained. • Make an Initial Damage Assessment and forward to the VA-EOC. Damage assessment procedures and forms are included in this plan and the state EOP. • Continue to care for displaced persons who cannot return to their homes due to storm-related damage. • After a hurricane/coastal storm emergency or disaster, hold an After-Action Conference.