

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

2.3 Phases of Emergency Management

Since this comprehensive EOP is concerned with all types of hazards to which Northampton County is exposed before, during, and after an occurrence, four phases of emergency management are recognized as follows:

1. PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness activities serve to develop the response capabilities needed in the event of an emergency. Planning, exercising, training, and developing public information programs and warning systems are among the activities conducted during this phase.

In addition, preparedness activities are those that help avoid or intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Preparedness involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; monitoring of public health; agricultural surveillance and testing processes; and immunizations, isolations, or quarantine.

2. RESPONSE

Response activities help to reduce casualties and damage and to speed recovery. These activities include warning, evacuation, rescue, and other similar operations addressed in this plan. During the response phase, emergency services are provided.

3. RECOVERY

Recovery includes both short-term and long-term activities. Short-term operations seek to restore critical services to the community and provide for the basic needs of the public. Long-term recovery focuses on restoring the community to its normal, or improved, state of affairs. Examples of recovery actions would be temporary housing and food, restoration of non-vital government services, and reconstruction of damaged areas.

4. MITIGATION

Mitigation activities are those that eliminate or reduce the probability of a disaster occurrence, as well as those long-term activities that lessen the undesirable effects of unavoidable hazards. Some examples include establishment of building codes, flood plain management, insurance, elevating buildings, and public education programs. Mitigation activities take place at all levels of emergency management, including during the incident recognition phase for an incident with notice, such as a hurricane, as well as during response operations for a no-notice incident, such as a terrorist incident or tornado.