

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

4.3 Water Contamination

Purpose

The purpose of the Water Contamination-Specific Annex is to establish how activities will be coordinated to meet the needs generated from a disaster in Northampton County. Water supply contamination would have a quick, negative impact on the health and economic well-being of any community.

Scope

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

Potential operations include the following:

- Developing measures to reduce the effect of water contamination
- Implementing water control measures, as needed
- Keeping the public informed
- Assisting with recovery as needed

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

Water Contamination	Roles/Tasks
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop measures that would prevent or limit the contamination of the water supply. • Develop contingency plans to provide potable water to the public in the event of water supply contamination.
Response – Initial Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise and maintain liaison with the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies. • Notify the public of the situation. • Review and update procedures to provide potable water in the event of water supply contamination.
Response – Continuing Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement appropriate conservation measures and emergency management programs as directed by local plans, the State Water Control Board, and the Virginia Department of Health. • Keep the public fully informed and provide appropriate guidance. • Maintain liaison with firms and agencies that have spare equipment, personnel, and expertise that could be used in addressing the problem and ensuring that essential services can be maintained. • Begin to maintain a record of all expenditures and continue to do so throughout emergency operations. • Notify the public of the extent of the contamination problem, emphasizing the importance of avoiding the use of water. • Advise the public of the availability and location of potable water. • Allocate available resources to ensure the maintenance of essential services. • Consider declaring a local emergency. Petition the governor to declare an emergency when the situation is so severe that local government cannot provide an adequate response.
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist as required.