

# Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

## 7 Definitions and Acronyms

### 7.1 Acronyms

**A-NPDC** - Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

**CBBT** - Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel

**COOP** - Continuity of Operations

**DFO** - Disaster Field Office

**DHS** - Department of Homeland Security

**EAS** - Emergency Alert System

**EMA** - Emergency Management Agency

**EMAC** - Emergency Management Assistance Compact

**EMC** - Emergency Management Coordinator

**EMS** - Emergency Medical Services

**EOC** - Emergency Operations Center

**EOC-AP** - Emergency Operations Center Action Plan

**EOP** - Emergency Operations Plan

**ER** - Emergency Room

**ES** - Emergency Services

**ESF** - Emergency Support Function

**ETA** - Estimated Time of Arrival

**FAA** - Federal Aviation Administration

**FCC** - Federal Communications Commission

**FEMA** - Federal Emergency Management Agency

**HMP** - Hazard Mitigation Plan

**HSEEP** - Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program

**HTW** - Hazardous or Toxic Waste

**IAP** - Incident Action Plan

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**ICS** - Incident Command System

**IC/UC** - Incident Command/Unified Command

**IMT** - Incident Management Team

**JIC** - Joint Information Center

**MAA** - Mutual Aid Agreement

**MOA** - Memorandum of Agreement

**MRC** - Medical Reserve Corps

**MSDS** Material Safety Data Sheet

**NIMS** - National Incident Management System

**NRF** - National Response Framework

**NSF** - National Science Foundation

**NTSB** - National Transportation Safety Board

**NWS** - National Weather Service

**PDA** - Preliminary Damage Assessment

**PIO** - Public Information Officer

**POC** - Point of Contact

**SME** - Subject Matter Expert

**SOP** - Standard Operating Procedures

**USACE** - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**USCG** - U.S. Coast Guard

**VA-EOC** - State Emergency Operations Center

**VDEM** - Virginia Department of Emergency Management

**VDOT** - Virginia Department of Transportation

**VEOC** - Virtual Emergency Operations Center

**VOAD** - Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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## 7.2 Definitions

**Command Post** (may also be called Incident Command Post) - The location at which primary command functions are executed, usually located near the incident scene. This is where the Incident Commander operates from.

**Disaster** - An event that demands a crisis response beyond the scope of any single line agency or service (beyond the scope of just the police department, fire department, etc.) and that presents a threat to a community or larger area. An emergency is an event that can be controlled within the scope of local capabilities; a major emergency or disaster require resources beyond what is available locally.

**Disaster Field Office (DFO)** - An administrative office established by FEMA and staffed by appropriate federal/state personnel following a disaster declaration by the president.

**Emergency Alert System (EAS)** - A network of broadcast stations interconnecting facilities authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate in a controlled manner, according to the State EAS Plan, to inform the public of needed protective actions in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.

**Emergency Assistance** - Assistance required by individuals, families, and their communities to ensure that immediate needs beyond the scope of the traditional “mass care” services provided at the local level are addressed. These services include the following: support to evacuations (including registration and tracking of evacuees); reunification of families; provision of aid and services to access and functional needs populations; evacuation, sheltering, and other emergency services for household pets and service animals; support to specialized shelters; support to medical shelters; nonconventional shelter management; coordination of donated goods and services; and coordination of voluntary agency assistance.

**Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** - The facility from which government directs and controls its emergency operations; where information about the status of the emergency situation is officially collected, assimilated, and reported on; where coordination among response agencies takes place; and from which outside assistance is officially requested.

**Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** - A document that provides for a preplanned and coordinated response in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.

**Emergency Support Function (ESF)** - A function as explained in the Federal Response Plan that tasks federal agencies to provide and/or coordinate certain resources in response to emergencies or disasters.

**Exercise** - An activity designed to promote emergency preparedness; test or evaluate EOPs, procedures, or facilities; train personnel in emergency response duties; and demonstrate operational capability. There are three specific types of exercises: tabletop, functional, and full scale.

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**Family Reunification** - A mass evacuation process may mean family members become separated, particularly in a no-notice incident. The federal government requires that jurisdictions have processes in place that will track information on individuals and families in an effort to assist with the reunification of separated family members. Tracking, locating, registering, and reuniting evacuees and survivors are activities performed at local, state, and federal levels.

**Federal Disaster Assistance** - Aid to disaster victims or state and local governments by federal agencies under provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (PL 93-288).

**Hazardous Materials** - A substance or material in a quantity or form that may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or property when released to the environment.

**Housing** - Includes housing options such as rental assistance, repair, loan assistance, replacement, factory-built housing, semi-permanent and permanent construction, referrals, identification and provision of accessible housing, and access to other sources of housing assistance. This assistance is guided by the National Disaster Housing Strategy.

**Human Services** - Includes the implementation of disaster assistance programs to help disaster victims recover their non-housing losses, including programs to replace destroyed personal property, and help to obtain disaster loans, food stamps, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment, disaster legal services, support and services for access and functional needs populations, and other federal and state benefits.

**Incident Command System (ICS)** - An open-ended organizational structure designed to effectively direct and control an in-the-field emergency response.

**Incident Commander** - The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations.

**Local Emergency Services Organization** - An organization created in accordance with the provisions of Section 44-146.19 of the Code of Virginia by local authority to perform local emergency services functions.

**Major Disaster/Emergency Determined by the President** - These terms are defined in the Stafford Act (Public Law 93- 288) and have a specific meaning in the context of federal disaster relief and emergency assistance. They are declared by the president when local and state response capabilities are overwhelmed and federal disaster assistance is needed.

**Man-Made Disaster** - Any industrial, nuclear, or transportation accident, explosion, conflagration, power failure, resource shortage, or other condition, except enemy action, resulting from man-made causes, such as sabotage, oil spills, and other injurious environmental contamination, which threaten or cause damage to property, human suffering, hardship, or loss of life.

**Mass Evacuation** - The ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Resources) Branch may provide staff to support local authorities with mass evacuation. ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Resources) mass evacuation activities and requirements are identified and addressed in the Mass Evacuation Incident Annex to the National Response Framework (NRF).

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**Mass Care** - Includes sheltering, feeding operations, emergency first aid, bulk distribution of emergency items, and collecting and providing information on victims to family members.

**Mitigation** - Mitigation activities are those that either prevent the occurrence of an emergency or reduce the community's vulnerability in ways that minimize the adverse impact of a disaster or other emergency.

**National Weather Service (NWS)** - The federal agency that provides localized weather information to the population, and during a weather-related emergency it provides weather information to state and local emergency management officials.

**Natural Disaster** - Any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, or other natural catastrophe resulting in damage, hardship, suffering, or possible loss of life.

**Recovery** - Recovery involves restoring systems to normal after an emergency. Some long-term recovery actions may continue for months or even years.

**Severe Weather Warning** - An advisory broadcast message from the NWS that indicates the probability of a particular severe weather storm is high and is an alert to the public of such severe weather conditions.

**Severe Weather Watch** - An advisory broadcast message that indicates there is a possibility of a particular severe weather storm impacting a jurisdiction.

**Stafford Act** - The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended by Public Law 100-707. In this plan, it is referred to as "the Stafford Act." The act is a federal statute that provides for the prompt delivery of federal assistance to affected local governments and individuals following a major disaster, especially when state and local relief resources are overwhelmed.

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** - Preplanned instructions, usually in checklist format, that are used to facilitate the completion of assigned tasks in a time of emergency. SOPs supplement EOPs and are usually published separately. They include items such as call-up lists, manning documents, and resource lists.

**State of Emergency** - The condition declared by the governor when, in his/her judgment, the threat or actual occurrence of a disaster in any part of the state is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant disaster assistance by the state to supplement the effort and available resources of any locality or relief organization in preventing or alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering threatened or caused thereby and is so declared by the governor when it is evident that state resources are needed to cope with such disasters.

**Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)** - Coalition of nongovernmental agencies that actively participate in disaster response and recovery.

**Warning** - The alerting of public officials, emergency support services, and the general public to a threatened emergency or disaster situation.