

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. References

"All Hazards" Crisis Management Planning," Geary W. Sikich, Logical Management Systems, Corp.
<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byauth/sikich/allhz.html>, August 21, 2003

Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, 50 U.S.C. 2251 et seq., as amended.

PEMA Generic County Plan, Basic Plan, May 15, 2003

Pennsylvania Counterterrorism Planning, Preparedness, and Response Act (Act 2002-227), December 2002

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. 7101-7107

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 98-288, as amended.

Wayne County, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Wayne County, Indiana, September 23, 2002

B. General

1. It is the responsibility of local and county governments to reasonably protect life, property, and the environment from the effects of hazardous events. Therefore, local and county governments have the primary responsibility for emergency management activities that eliminate, or reduce hazardous events and for the preparation for, response to and recovery from significant emergency and disaster events that can and do occur.
2. Local first responders handle most disasters, emergencies, and terrorism related incidents. The county is called upon to provide supplemental assistance and coordination whenever the consequences of a disaster or emergency exceed local capabilities, and as identified within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code. If the disaster, emergency, or terrorism incident exceeds the capabilities of the county, the Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force will be requested to provide assistance. The Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force can provide assistance in the form of specialized response teams. Additionally, PEMA will be requested to provide assistance. If needed, the state can mobilize an array of resources including, specialized response teams, support personnel, and specialized equipment to support disaster or emergency operations.
3. While extensive effort and years of experience of responders have been brought into this plan in order to make it workable, appropriate to emergency and disaster emergency management, it should be recognized that this plan functions to provide guidance and should not be rigidly applied to every emergency or disaster event. Every

situation will present different and unique challenges, complexities and requirements. The specific tasks, assignments, and provisions contained in this plan may have to be modified to deal effectively with the actual situation at hand.

C. Intergovernmental Assistance

1. Per Subsection 7504 (c) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, the County EMC and elected officials shall develop mutual aid agreements with adjacent political subdivisions for reciprocal emergency assistance.
2. The agreements shall be consistent with the plans and programs of the agency. In disaster emergencies, requests for mutual aid assistance shall be referred to the organization having responsibility for coordination as specified in Subsection 7504 (a) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code and in time of emergency it shall be the duty of each local organization to render assistance in accordance with the provisions of the mutual aid agreements.
3. Additionally, as provided for in Act 2002-227 (The Counterterrorism Planning, Preparedness and Response Act) the county is a member of the North Central Counter Terrorism Task Force and may obtain assistance in the form of specialized support teams, materials and equipment.
4. Adjacent counties and other governments, including local governments, will render assistance in accordance with the provisions of mutual aid agreements in place at the time of the emergency. The provisions of the Regional Counterterrorism Task Force Plan, the County 911 plan, and the associated mutual aid agreements will also apply.

D. Direction, Control, Coordination, and Support

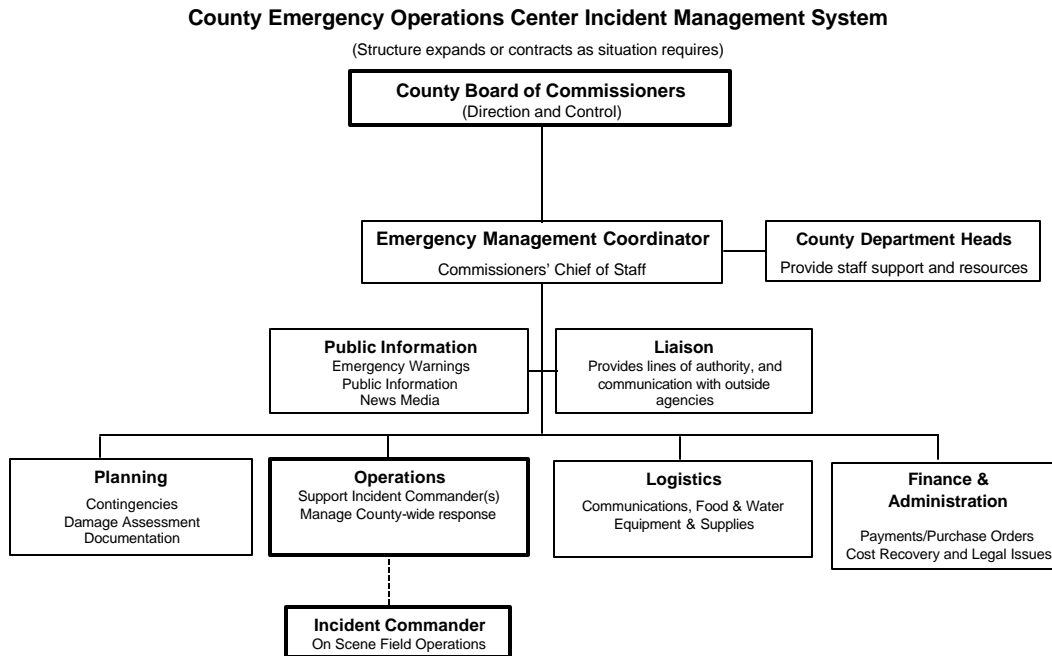
1. General
 - a. In accordance with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, the County Commissioners are responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the county's residents and exercise ultimate direction and control of emergency management activities within the county.
 - b. The County Commissioners have appointed an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) who may act on their behalf.
 - c. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been identified, and may be activated by the EMC or County Commissioners during an emergency.

- d. The county is served by a 24/7, 911 Communications Center, which is the designated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).
- e. Consistent with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, when two or more municipalities within the county are affected, the County EMA shall exercise responsibility for coordination and support to the area of operations.

2. Incident Management

- a. Consistent with the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP) and the Federal Response Plan (FRP), the County EOP employs a multi-agency operational structure that uses an Incident Management System (IMS) based upon the National Incident Management System (NIMS). A NIMS organization is led by a Command Group, and is typically supported by four sections—Planning; Operations; Logistics; and Finance and Administration. The IMS was formerly referred to as the Incident Command System or ICS.
- b. Whenever possible, emergency response by the County EMA will follow a pre-defined IMS structure; similar to the one illustrated in Figure IV-1. When called upon for assistance/coordination, the County EMA will interface with the local/municipal emergency management agencies and first responders.
- c. An IMS will be established by the first responding emergency agency to arrive on scene of an emergency incident. An IMS structure will be required in all emergency situations requiring the response of more than one emergency response agency.
- d. On-scene direction and control responsibilities shall be vested in the Incident Commander (IC). The IC shall have all necessary authority to direct and control all activities related to the emergency scene. The IC at an incident site will coordinate emergency operations with the County EOC.
- e. The IC will represent the primary emergency agency with jurisdiction over the geographical location of the incident. Incident Commanders will represent the fire department and/or law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
- f. The first arriving uniformed emergency responder (fire, police, EMS) regardless of agency affiliation will establish and exercise IC authority and responsibilities pending the arrival of an officer or supervisor from the jurisdictional agency with command authority for the incident. Should an incident occur which involves more than one jurisdiction or operational area, each involved jurisdiction may designate an IC under a Unified Command Structure.

Figure IV-1. County Emergency Operations Center Organization



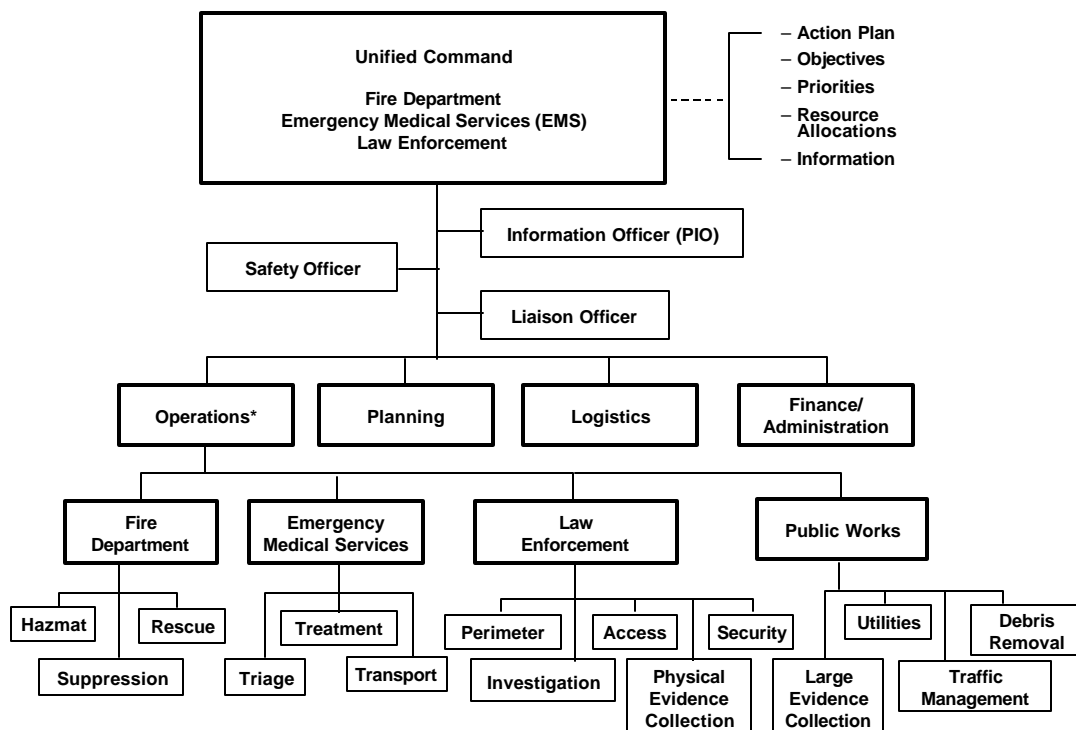
3. Unified Command

- a. Under a Unified Command System, an overall IC appoints potential Incident Commanders from participating jurisdictions or those with legitimate command authority to serve as deputy incident commanders. This preserves the unity of on-scene command while allowing all affected jurisdictions to participate in the on-scene decision making process. Unified Command structures, including police and fire commanders and commanders from other involved jurisdictions are strongly recommended. Figure IV-2 illustrates the organization of a typical Unified Command System.
- b. Each fire department and law enforcement agency shall establish its respective standard operating procedures for designation of the IC and the process of establishing command.
- c. The County EMC will coordinate a Unified Command System with centralized management of response and recovery operations. Emergency coordinators from each county agency, located at the EOC, will comprise the unified command staff and will lead personnel and deploy resources from their own organizations in support of the local IC or emergency management coordinator. The County EMA will coordinate the overall activity and ensure effective communications among

county agencies and between municipalities and county agencies.

- d. Participation of the command staff normally will expand and contract as the first event unfolds and then its effects are controlled. The staff supporting the County EMC will delegate missions and assignments through the County’s Emergency Support Function (ESF) teams in accordance with the emergency responsibilities outlined in Section V of the Basic Plan. The Primary Agency Team Lead for each ESF will delegate appropriate personnel and resources to complete tasks that achieve the desired objectives.

Figure IV-2. Sample Unified Incident Management System



*Section Chief comes from the agency with the most involvement for that operational period; e.g., EMS or Fire Department (short-term involvement) transitions to Law Enforcement (long-term involvement).

4. Continuity of Government

Continuity of Government procedures are specified in the Incident Specific Annex portion of the County EOP. The COG addresses the line of succession (elected officials, emergency management and county offices, alternate locations, preservation of records, and provides for the development of an Emergency Procedures Guide (EPG) for each county department.

5. County Emergency Operations Plan Activation

- a) When a major or catastrophic emergency has occurred or is imminent, the County Commissioners may issue a disaster emergency in accordance with this plan. Such an action will activate immediately all applicable portions of this plan. In the absence of a disaster emergency, the County EMC may activate portions of this plan in accordance with the continuity of government (COG) provisions of the county in order to achieve the appropriate levels of mobilization to facilitate response readiness or monitor appropriate response activities.

6. Plan Execution and Implementation

- a) The County Board of Commissioners have delegated to the County EMC responsibility for implementation of the County EOP. The director will implement this EOP as the situation warrants. All county departments, agencies and organizations with assigned responsibilities will provide support for plan implementation. The County EOP will automatically be activated upon any declaration of local emergency enacted by the County Commissioners or other responsible official with emergency declaration authority as defined in this plan.
- b) This EOP encourages the use of Incident Action Levels to guide the county's response effort, depending on the severity and complexity of the disaster emergency (Table IV-1). Incident Action Levels provide a shorthand method for mobilizing emergency response forces. A responder to an emergency scene estimates the level and notifies the emergency management system notification may be directed through the County Communications Center.
- c) The Incident Action Levels may include:
 - 1) Level One:
 - i. Affects a specific, limited location with minimal hazard;
 - ii. Incident Management System is necessary to direct and control emergency response forces at an incident site;
 - iii. Incident Command Post and staging areas established;
 - iv. Incident Commander able to control emergency without additional assistance or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation;

- v. Incidents involving spills, leaks, or fires caused by small amounts of fuel, oil or other materials that can be managed using equipment available to first responders.

**Table IV-1
Incident Action Levels**

| Parameter | Level One | Level Two | Level Three |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Scope of Emergency | Specific Location | Local Area Affected | Wide Area Disaster |
| Resources Needed | Local | Regional and/or Local | State and/or Federal |
| Possible Emergency Event | Example: Fire or accident, possible multi-agency response needed | Example: Wide area power failure; communications failure; multi-agency response, HAZMAT incident | Example: Terrorism/WMD incident; Severe weather; prolonged loss of utilities |
| HAZMAT | Spills, leaks, or fires of small amounts of fuel, oil, or other materials that can be managed using equipment available to first responders such as SCBA and/or SFPC. | Incident involving greater hazard that threatens the public or environment beyond the area of the release and may require limited public protective actions. | Incident involving a severe hazard: poses an extreme threat to life and property; high hazard and large quantities (e.g., bulk containers). Require public protective actions on a large scale and expanded expertise. |
| Jurisdictions | One | One or Two | Two or More |
| Evacuation | No | Possible, limited area | Possible, large area |
| Multiple Sites | No | Possible | Yes |
| Mass Care/Sheltering | No | Possible | Possible |
| County EOC Activated | No | Possible | Yes |
| Local EOC Activated | No | Yes | Yes |
| Local Warnings | No | Yes | Yes |
| Mass Warnings | No | No | Yes |
| PEMA EOC Activated | No | No | Yes |
| Federal EOC Activated | No | No | Yes |

2) Level Two:

- i. Affects a local area or involves increased/elevated hazard;
- ii. Resources that are immediately available to Incident Commander are exhausted;
- iii. EOC is activated to manage and coordinate related, multiple, low level emergencies in different locations; some precautionary evacuation may be necessary;
- iv. Incidents involving hazardous chemicals requiring the use of any kind of specialized protective

equipment beyond use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and/or Structural Firefighter's Protective Clothing (SFPC), special tools or knowledge beyond the normal scope of first responders.

3) Level Three:

- i. Affects a wide area/region or involves a severe hazard;
- ii. State response and management resources may be needed to assist local and regional response;
- iii. Local area evacuation and mass care activities characterize this level;
- iv. Hazardous Materials may be involved;
- v. PEMA, Regional Counter Terrorism Task Forces, County, and local EOCs are coordinating resources.

7. County Emergency Operations Center Activation

The County EOP also encourages the use of graduated operational conditions to guide the response and activation of the County EOC. As such, the County EOC may be activated under one of the following Operational Conditions (OPCON) discussed below. OPCONs will be based on notification received by the County EMC of a potential emergency from PEMA, the Regional Counterterrorism Task Force, the County Communications Center, or from National Weather Service (NWS) watches and warnings.

a) OPCON Normal

- 1) The County EOC is staffed, but operating under non-emergency, normal routine conditions.

b) OPCON I - Danger possible

- 1) Emergency Support Functions and emergency response agencies notified; as necessary
- 2) Emergency procedures reviewed;
- 3) ESFs and Standard Operating Procedures reviewed.

c) OPCON II - Danger probable within 24 to 36 hours

- 1) Key EOC personnel notified to report;
- 2) EOC activated, as required (*partial or full*)
- 3) Public informed;
- 4) PEMA and adjacent counties notified;

- 5) Ensure personnel have been briefed and family responsibilities have been addressed;
- 6) Municipal – County coordination established;
- 7) Notification of People with Special Needs initiated.
- d) OPGON III – Danger probable within 12 to 24 hours
 - 1) EOC fully operational;
 - 2) Public informed;
 - 3) All agencies should coordinate with EOC as required;
 - 4) Evacuation of mobile home parks and people with special needs is initiated, as required.
- e) OPGON IV – Danger imminent
 - 1) All response emergency actions to be completed;
 - 2) All personnel to safety.
- f) OPGON V - Post-disaster phase implemented
 - 1) Damage assessment and recovery operations conducted;
 - 2) Disaster areas secured;
 - 3) Continued reporting/coordination with municipalities and county agencies to provide initial community disaster/needs assessment, to include mental health needs.
 - 4) Conduct after-action reviews with EOC staff
- 8. Emergency Declaration Process
 - a) The provisions of this plan are applicable to all significant emergencies and disasters that require a declaration of local disaster emergency by the Chief Elected Official of the impacted political jurisdiction.
 - b) The effect of a declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local emergency management plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance.
 - c) The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended (the Stafford Act) was enacted to support state and local governments and their citizens when disasters overwhelm them. This law establishes a process for requesting and obtaining a Presidential disaster declaration, defines the type and scope of

assistance available under the Stafford Act, and sets the conditions for obtaining that assistance.

- d) Local disaster emergency activities and requests for assistance will be made in accordance with the Section 7501(b) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (Title 35) and as outlined:

1) Local Declaration of a Disaster Emergency

a. The governing body of a political subdivision within the county may declare a local disaster emergency upon finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent (Attachment 1, Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency). The governing body of a political subdivision may authorize the mayor or other chief executive officer to declare a local disaster emergency subject to ratification by the governing body. The period of declaration cannot exceed seven days without the formal renewal. The declaration must be given prompt, general publicity and filed with PEMA 35 Pa. C.S.A. 7501(b).

b. The County Board of Commissioners may declare a disaster emergency when a disaster has occurred or is imminent (Attachment 2 Declaration of a County Disaster Emergency). The involvement of two or more municipalities will activate the response and recovery aspects of the County EOP and authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance to the affected populations. The length or period of disaster emergency must be specified in the declaration. The declaration must be given prompt, general publicity and filed with PEMA 35 Pa. C.S.A. 7501(b).

2) Governor's Proclamation of a Disaster Emergency

The Governor may declare a disaster emergency and/or a state of emergency when it is necessary to meet an existing or impending disaster. The County Commissioners should submit a request for a proclamation when it is unable to meet the needs under the county declaration [35 Pa. C.S.A. 7501(b)].

3) Presidential Declaration of a Disaster or Emergency

When the situation is of such magnitude and severity that the effective response is beyond the capability of the Commonwealth, the Governor will request federal assistance.

E. Overall Plan Priorities

The following operational priorities are listed in order of importance. Whenever demands for emergency assistance/requests for resources (personnel or equipment) conflict, the operational demand that is highest on the list shall prevail.

1. Save Lives
 - a. Save human lives;
 - b. Treat the injured;
 - c. Warn the public in order to avoid further casualties;
 - d. Shelter persons-in-place from the effects of the emergency;
 - e. Evacuate people from the effects of the emergency;
 - f. Shelter and care for those evacuated.
 - g. Save animals – livestock and domestic pets.
2. Protect Property
 - a. Save property from harm/destruction;
 - b. Take action to prevent further harm/loss;
 - c. Provide security for property – especially in evacuated areas.
3. Protect the Environment
 - a. Confine hazardous chemical releases to the smallest possible area;
 - b. Prevent runoff from entering streams, ponds, lakes, rivers or sewers;
 - c. Contain the spill or release.
4. Stabilize the Economy
 - a. Take action to prevent price gouging in essential goods, services and rent;
 - b. Take action to keep people working.
5. Restore the Community
 - a. Restore essential services/utilities;
 - b. Restore community infrastructure, such as roads;
 - c. Help restore the economic basis of the community.

F. Relationship Between Normal and Emergency Functions

1. This plan recognizes and is based upon the concept that emergency functions for departments, agencies, groups and organizations involved with or supporting emergency management activities generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. Further, procedures and practices used in day-to-day operations serve as the foundation for the procedures and practices recommended for

emergency situations, though in an expanded form. To the extent possible, the same personnel, equipment and material resources, as well as, procedures that are applied to day-to-day operational activities will be employed in similar roles, tasks and responsibilities when applied to significant emergency or disaster situations.

2. It is generally true, however, that a disaster is a situation in which the usual way of doing things no longer suffices. It is desirable, and always attempted, to maintain organizational continuity and to assign familiar tasks to personnel normally accustomed to performing those tasks. In large-scale disasters, however, it may become necessary to draw on people's basic capacities and use them in areas of greatest need, regardless of their previous experience or normal functions.
3. Day-to-day functions that do not contribute directly to resolving the disaster situation may be suspended, upon Executive Order or Emergency Declaration from the County Commissioners for the duration of the emergency and those people, equipment, and material resources redirected to support disaster operations.

G. All-Hazards Approach to Emergency Management

1. Consistent with the Commonwealth's commitment to comprehensive emergency management, it is intended that this plan be applied to all types of significant emergency and disaster situations that may impact the county. It also accounts for recommended activities before, during, and after hazard events occur. It heavily emphasizes the capability of the county to respond to and accomplish short-term recovery from large-scale disasters.
2. The County EOP uses an "all hazards" approach, allowing it to be effective in any emergency situation. An all-hazards approach to emergency management ensures effective and consistent response to any disaster or emergency that threatens the citizens and communities of Pennsylvania. The foundation of the all-hazards approach is the concept of comprehensive emergency management (CEM). The four phases of CEM are: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery (see Subsection G below). It is impossible to be completely prepared for every contingency all the time, just as it is impossible to protect every piece of critical infrastructure from every possible eventuality. This plan does not advocate that. However, over the long haul, the all-hazard approach to emergency preparedness will sustain readiness and improve the skills necessary to preserve a viable emergency management program that is capable of tackling any crisis.
3. An "all hazards" approach calls for an initial response based on the threat posed by the event/disaster or potential event/disaster, not the event/disaster itself. This is possible because many events or disasters, though widely different in nature, create similar risks to lives and property. As such, planning for potential disasters is often more effective than planning for the multitude of situations that could

conceivably happen. Once an initial protective action has been taken, more detailed strategies and plans for resolving a particular situation can be implemented.

4. Emergency management professionals for years have advocated an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness. An "all hazards" approach to emergency management provides:
 - a. Effective coordination of activities among the response organizations having a management/response role;
 - b. Early warning and clear instructions to all concerned if a crisis occurs;
 - c. Continued assessment of actual and potential consequences of the crisis;
 - d. Continuity of business operations during and immediately after the crisis

("All Hazards" Crisis Management Planning," Geary W. Sikich, Logical Management Systems, Corp.
<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byauth/sikich/allhz.html>, August 21, 2003)

5. We live in a very different world than we did before September 11, 2001. We are more aware of our vulnerabilities and more appreciative of our freedoms. We know a disaster can strike anytime and anywhere. No person or community is immune. And we also know that disaster preparedness works. Senior leaders can take mitigating action now that will help to greatly protect the lives and property of the constituents in the county and reduce the impact an emergency – whether it be a man-made terrorist event or natural disaster – has on our lives, as well as, address the chaos when – not if – a crisis does occur.

H. Phases of Emergency Management

1. The primary role of emergency management is to save lives, protect property and the environment by developing appropriate operational capabilities. Dividing emergency management activities into the following phases facilitates reaching these goals:
 - Preparedness;
 - Response;
 - Recovery; and
 - Mitigation.
2. Mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery fall within recognized time periods. Mitigation and preparedness activities take place in the pre-emergency timeframe. Response activities occur in the trans-

emergency time frame and recovery occurs in the post emergency time frame. Mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery are addressed in each Emergency Support Function (ESF) of this plan to include the essence of planned arrangements for each timeframe.

3. The four phases of emergency management are further defined as:
 - a. Preparedness is any activity taken in advance of an emergency that facilitates the implementation of a coordinated response. Examples of preparedness include:
 - 1) Continuity of government;
 - 2) Emergency Alert System;
 - 3) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans/Standard Operating Procedures;
 - 4) Emergency Operations Centers;
 - 5) Exercises/Training;
 - 6) Hazard Identification;
 - 7) Procurement of equipment and supplies;
 - 8) Warning systems.
 - b. Response is any action taken immediately before, during, or directly after an emergency occurs to save lives, minimize damage to property, and enhance the effectiveness of recovery. Examples of response are:
 - 1) Emergency medical assistance;
 - 2) Law enforcement response;
 - 3) Fire and rescue response;
 - 4) Evacuation;
 - 5) Emergency sheltering;
 - 6) Protective action announcements/Public Information;
 - 7) Emergency Operations Center Activation;
 - 8) Decontamination.
 - c. Recovery is short-term activity to return vital life-support systems to minimum operating standards, and; long-term activity designed to return society to safe and normal levels of activity. Examples of recovery are:
 - 1) Damage Assessment;
 - 2) Debris clearance;
 - 3) Counseling/Critical Incident Stress Debriefing;
 - 4) Disaster Assistance;
 - 5) Temporary Housing;
 - 6) Reconstruction.

d. Mitigation is any action taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life and property from any type of hazard. Examples of mitigation efforts are:

- 1) Building/Fire/Electrical codes;
- 2) Disaster Insurance;
- 3) Land use/zoning regulations;
- 4) Public education;
- 5) Risk area mapping;
- 6) Statutes/ordinance/codes;
- 7) Tax incentives.

I. Plan Limitations

The county will endeavor to make every reasonable effort to respond in the event of an emergency or disaster. However, county resources and systems may be overwhelmed. The responsibilities and tenets outlined in this plan will be fulfilled only if the situation, information exchanges, extent of actual agency capabilities, and resources are available at the time. There is no guarantee implied by this EOP that a perfect response to an emergency or disaster situations will be practical or possible.

ATTACHMENT 1

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on or about _____ a (disaster) has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of (City/Township/Borough); and

WHEREAS, the (disaster) has endangered the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in (City/Township/Borough), and threatens to create problems greater in scope than (City/Township/Borough), may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in (City/Township/Borough);

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Commissioners/Supervisors/Mayor of (City/Township/Borough) pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in (City/Township/Borough);

FURTHER, we direct the (City/Township/Borough) Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of (City/Township/Borough) to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

(SUPERVISORS/MAYOR/COUNCIL OF CITY/TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH)

(Chair/President/Mayor)

(Vice Chair/President)

(Supervisor/Council member)

Attest: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT 2

DECLARATION OF A COUNTY DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on or about _____ a (disaster) has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of _____ County; and

WHEREAS, the (disaster) has endangered the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in _____ County, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than _____ County, may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in _____ County;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Commissioners of _____ County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S.), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in _____ County;

FURTHER, we direct the _____ County Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of _____ County to act necessary to meet the exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

Attest: _____ Date: _____