
Law Enforcement Annex

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During a disaster, instincts for protecting home and family are very strong. But the area may be dangerous, and people may have to leave home or stay away against their will.

Law enforcement personnel must guide people toward those difficult actions which, although in their own best interests, are very hard to take. Law Enforcement personnel must then take over the tasks of protecting life and property that the general public is no longer equipped to perform.

This annex covers evacuation, the maintenance of law and order, and the preservation of life and property during natural disasters, technological incidents, and wars.

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. Enforce laws and control crowds.
- B. Coordinate evacuations.
- C. Control evacuation traffic.
- D. Help alert and notify the public.
- E. Control access to areas closed to the public (but provide for access by emergency responders).
- F. Protect critical facilities and supplies.
- G. Assist with information collection (such as bridge failures and casualty estimates) as needed.
- H. Help establish staging areas for incoming resources.
- I. Support search and rescue operations.
- J. At the request of the American Red Cross, maintain order in reception centers and shelters.

II. PHASES OF THE EMERGENCY

- A. Before

During this phase, prepare plans, procedures, and checklists to serve as guides in an emergency. Recruit and train reserves, and prepare and maintain resource lists. Conduct exercises to improve the coordination of staff.

Evacuation plans should include information about population size, special facilities, transportation resources, and persons requiring transportation assistance.

If a situation such as an earthquake, fire, tsunami warning, floods or an approaching storm, review and update documents, check evacuation routes and resource lists, and alert transportation suppliers.

B. During

1. Warning phase

This phase could begin with a warning such as the forecast of a flood, fire, or natural disaster.

In addition to continuing law enforcement activities, assist with medical emergencies and rescue situations. Evacuate persons from threatened areas. At the request of Shelter Managers, provide support with security issues and handle disruptive citizens in reception areas and established shelters. Close areas and control access as needed. Use the law enforcement checklists as guides.

2. Impact Phase

Activities may include giving warnings, evacuating areas, helping with rescues, and establishing pass and entry controls.

Special procedures may be

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required to limit exposure if the area has been contaminated.

As the emergency continues, provide security for dangerous areas and support shelter operations.

Use the law enforcement checklists as guides.

C. After (Recovery)

After the initial shock of the disaster has passed, the mind of a criminal turns once again to crime. Since a damaged and evacuated area provides opportunities for looting, law enforcement priorities during the recovery phase will shift from evacuation to protection.

Continue traffic and access controls as needed to allow evacuees to orderly and safely return to their property or residence.

Later, when time allows, review your actions and update plan as needed.

III. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. All areas of the district.

The local Law Enforcement Coordinator, will:

1. Enforce laws and control traffic.
2. Direct evacuation operations.
3. Secure evacuated areas.
4. Determine the need for help and submit requests through the Operational Area structure.

B. Operational Area

1. The Law Enforcement Coordinator oversees in-county law enforcement mutual aid. He also handles requests for assistance between the Operational Area.
2. The Transportation Branch will coordinate transportation resources.
3. The Law Enforcement will provide and place traffic barricades, with appropriate assistance from Public Works, and staff roadblocks as needed.
4. Animal Control will handle referrals regarding injured and dangerous animals or animals needing evacuation and rescue.
5. Public Works will provide as needed:
 - Heavy Equipment
 - Manpower
 - Sandbags
 - Staging Area
 - Barricades

IV. ACCESS CONTROLS

A. To protect the public and maintain law and order, access to evacuated areas may have to be controlled. Areas may need to remain closed for several weeks.

B. Entering a closed area

Any unauthorized person who willfully and knowingly enters an area closed by a peace officer and who willfully remains within such area, after receiving notice to evacuate or leave, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Nothing in this section prevents a reporter from entering a closed area.

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- C. Keep a record of all persons and cars that enter the closed area. Document when they leave.
- D. Tell people entering the closed area what to do to protect themselves from hazards.

VI. EVACUATION

- A. All areas of the district may be subject to evacuation. The areas evacuated will be determined at the time of the incident and based upon criteria in the Emergency Evacuation Procedures. The hazard area is continuously evaluated and the evacuation area adjusted as necessary.
- B. In most situations, the Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for ordering an evacuation. If the EOC is activated, the Director of Emergency Services (DES) will make that decision.
- C. Evacuation routes, security and traffic control points will be determined by the IC (or DES) at the time of the incident. Evacuation routes will be adjusted as problems arise and the availability of vehicles changes.
- D. Coordination is required with the Care and Shelter Unit as shelters are opened and/or filled and if vehicular traffic becomes a problem.
- E. Small evacuations can be handled by on-scene public safety personnel.
- F. For large evacuations set up traffic and access control points, evacuation routes, and evacuation assembly points. Select shelters. The evacuation area may have to be subdivided. Evacuate those closest to the hazard first. Then expand the evacuation area until all of the threatened population is evacuated.

G. Evacuation routes

There are several surface highways, county roads, and city streets to be utilized for evacuation routes. Each route is subject to disruption.

Have tow trucks on standby to remove a vehicle from the evacuation route if it becomes disabled. Emergency repairs will be done on side streets.