WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
EVACUATION / RE-ENTRY

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for a coordinated evacuation and re-entry of the County population if necessary during emergencies.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. A hazard analysis and a vulnerability assessment have been completed which identify the types of threats, the areas and population in the County that are most vulnerable to these threats.

2. Efforts are being made to identify special evacuation problems.

3. There are several highway routes allowing evacuation from various parts of the County. These include I-95, U.S. 301, U.S. 264, U.S. 264 Alt, NC 91, NC 42, NC 58, US 117, NC 222, and NC 581.

4. There is no commercial public transportation serving Wilson County.

B. Assumptions

1. Emergency situations may require evacuation of all or part of the County. Small-scale, localized evacuations may be needed as a result of a hazardous materials incident, major fire, or other incident. Large-scale evacuation may be needed in the event of an impending hurricane.

2. Sufficient warning time will normally be available to evacuate a threatened population.

3. Traffic control resources must be in place prior to the public release of an evacuation order.

4. Evacuation and re-entry information will be made available to the public by all available means.

5. If there is significant potential threat, some residents will evacuate prior to being advised to do so by public officials.

6. Most evacuees will seek shelter with relatives or friends rather than accept public shelter.

7. Some residents may refuse to evacuate regardless of warnings.

8. Some people will lack transportation. Others who are ill or disabled may require vehicles with special transportation capabilities.

9. Debris or damage to the roadway could hamper re-entry.

10. Effective evacuation should be completed during daylight hours.

11. A delayed evacuation order could endanger lives and result in civil disorder.

12. Evacuation from Wilson County will impact adjacent counties.

13. Stranded motorists could present significant problems during an evacuation situation.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR EVACUATION AND RE-ENTRY

A. General

1. The ultimate responsibility for ordering a countywide evacuation or re-entry rests with the Policy/Administration Group. If a municipality is to be evacuated, the mayor will issue the order. If the evacuation or re-entry involves more than one jurisdiction or an area outside of a municipality, the order will be issued on a County level by the Chairman of the Policy/Administration Group, or his/her designated representative.

2. Public information concerning the Policy/Administration Group's evacuation or re-entry orders will be released through all available media.

3. The incident commander at the scene of an emergency in Wilson County has the authority to order an evacuation.

4. Regional coordination of traffic control, shelter/mass care and public information will enhance the total evacuation and re-entry process. The State Division of Emergency Management will coordinate regional evacuation activities.

5. Law enforcement will implement traffic control for evacuation and re-entry.

B. Specific

1. Movement Control and Guidance

   a. Traffic control points to support a countywide evacuation have been pre-determined by law enforcement personnel.

   b. The size of the threatened area to be evacuated will be determined by conditions at the time of the emergency.

2. Staging Areas and Pick-up Points and Routes

   a. Identified stranded motorists will be assisted by law enforcement officers in reaching a predetermined rally point for mass transportation to a location for best available shelter. The Operations Officer will determine the location of best available shelter.

b. The County has determined pre-designated staging areas as mobilization points to organize the emergency response personnel and equipment entering from areas outside the County.

3. Evacuations of Special Populations (Institutions, Facilities, and Special Care Individuals)

a. Institutions within the County must develop procedures for evacuation.

b. Schools will develop evacuation procedures. Pre-designated buses will be utilized for students without their own vehicles. Schools within the danger zone for hazardous materials spills will develop procedures for in-place sheltering, and "walk-away" evacuations. Parents will be advised of the location of reception centers.

c. The Department of Social Services is attempting to identify special needs populations.

4. Reentry

a. The decision to allow reentry to Wilson County will be made by the Policy/Administration Group, based on considerations of public safety.

b. The Policy/Administration Group may establish a priority reentry system for the public.

c. Staging areas will be established. Personnel reporting to Wilson County will report to a staging area.

d. Sections of Wilson County may remain isolated or closed to the public even after reentry begins.

e. Reentry to the affected area will be coordinated with the Wilson County Policy/Administration Group.

f. Shelter/mass care operations may need to be implemented depending on the degree of destruction in Wilson County.