WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
INITIAL IMPACT/DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

I. PURPOSE

This section presents a system to coordinate damage assessment and reporting functions, estimate the nature and extent of the damage, and provide disaster recovery assistance.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Most hazardous events which may impact Wilson County have the potential for causing damage. A planned damage assessment program is essential for effective response and recovery operations.

2. If a significant emergency/disaster occurs, a series of damage assessment activities will be required in the following order:

   a. The County Immediate Situation Report results in notification to the State EOC, information on the severity of the problems, and the determination of need for further assistance.

   b. The State supported Impact Assessment results in the identification of immediate life support needs.

   c. Federal/State supported Damage Assessment precedes the delivery of a Presidential Disaster Declaration and defines the specific needs for long term recovery.

3. Following a significant disaster/emergency occurrence, a multitude of independent damage assessment activities will be conducted by a variety of organizations including County Damage Assessment Teams, American Red Cross, Insurance Companies, Utility Companies, Federal Agencies, etc.

4. Recovery from a significant disaster will be managed in two identifiable phases as follows:

   a. Phase One is the Emergency Reaction Phase and the implementation of emergency plans. Actions under this phase include emergency security, debris removal, mass care, and restoration of essential services. The County Emergency Management Agency will assume the lead role in coordination of this phase.

   b. Phase Two is the Long Term Reconstruction Phase. Actions under this phase include; rebuilding of private homes and businesses, rebuilding of damaged public buildings, rebuilding of roadways and bridges, etc. The lead roles in this phase will be assumed by the County Manager, the County Finance Officer, and the County Planner.

5. If the Magnitude and severity of the emergency/disaster warrants, a Presidential Disaster Declaration could be granted, thus making Federal Government Assistance available to Wilson County.

B. Assumptions

1. The County will continue to be exposed to various hazards resulting in damage to both public and private property.

2. A significant response of both solicited and unsolicited resources from outside the impacted area can be expected, and preparations must be made in order to manage this assistance.

3. Emergency public information is a critical tool in immediate post disaster response for informing the public about actions being taken, and for requesting help from outside the impacted area.

4. Damage to utility systems and to communications systems may hamper the recovery process.

5. Routine government agency operations such as delivery of social programs, legal processes, elections and cultural events may be postponed as a result of the disaster.

6. A major disaster could have a significant long term economic impact on the County.

7. A major disaster affecting the County could result in the severance of a main transportation artery resulting in a significant alteration of lifestyle in the County.

III. CONCEPT OF IMPACT/DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OPERATIONS

A. General

Responsibility for Immediate Situation Reports/Phase One of recovery operations lies with local government..

B. Specific

1. Emergency and recovery operations will initially be coordinated from the County Emergency Operations Center. Each municipality affected will maintain a presence in the Wilson County EOC.

2. Accurate emergency logs and expenditure records must be kept from the onset of the disaster by each response agency/organization.

3. The Damage Assessment Officer will coordinate the compilation of damage survey data, prepare damage assessment reports for the County Emergency Management Director, and plot damaged areas on local maps.

4. The County Emergency Management Director will review, with other appropriate local officials, the damage assessment reports to determine if any outside assistance will be necessary to recover from the disaster.

5. The County Emergency Management Director will forward damage assessment reports and any requests for assistance to the NC Division of Emergency Management, Area B office by the quickest means available. By Executive Order, the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety is authorized to commit any state resources to assist with the emergency/recovery efforts.

6. Based upon the local damage assessment reports, the State Emergency Operations Team will

determine what recovery capabilities are available to meet the anticipated requirements.

7. The Governor may request a Presidential Declaration of a "major disaster, "major emergency, or a specific federal agency disaster declaration (Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Corps of Engineers, etc.) to augment state/local/private disaster relief efforts.

8. The President, under a "major emergency" declaration may authorize the utilization of any federal equipment, personnel and other resources.

9. The President, under a "major disaster" declaration may authorize two basic types of disaster relief assistance:

a. Individual Assistance (IA)

1. temporary housing (100% federal dollars)
2. Individual and family grants (IFG) (75% federal 25% local state/local funds)
3. disaster unemployment assistance
4. disaster loans to individuals and farmers
5. agricultural assistance
6. legal services to low income families and individuals
7. consumer counseling and assistance in obtaining insurance benefits
8. social security assistance
9. veteran's assistance
10. casualty loss tax assistance

b. Public Assistance (PA) (75% federal, 25% state/applicant funds)

1. debris removal
2. emergency protective measures
3. permanent work to repair, restore or replace road systems, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, public utilities, public recreational facilities, etc.

10. In the event a major disaster or emergency is declared:

a. A Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will be appointed by the President to coordinate the federal efforts.

b. A State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) will be appointed by the Governor to coordinate the state efforts.

c. A Disaster Field Office (DFO) will be established within the state (central to the damaged areas) from which the disaster assistance programs will be administered.

d. For IA only, Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs) will be established central to the affected areas where individuals may obtain information after first registering with FEMA’s tele-registration center

e. If the area is declared eligible for Public Assistance Programs, an Applicant's Briefing will be conducted for officials of the county, cities, and private non-profit organizations to explain eligibility criteria. The County Emergency Management Director will be requested to assist with identifying and notifying eligible applicants.

f. At the applicant's briefing, each eligible entity will submit a Notice of Interest (NOI).

g. Each PA applicant, (including local government entities) will appoint an "Applicant's Agent" to coordinate the collection of documentation and submission of information to the DFO.