

# **WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

## **SHELTER/MASS CARE**

### **ESF-6**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

This section provides for the care of the population following the effects of hazards through the identification of shelters and provision of mass care.

#### **II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

##### **A. Situation**

1. Based upon the County's hazard analysis, there are several emergencies for which shelters may be required including severe storms, tornadoes, floods, hazardous material accidents, fires and hurricanes. Wilson County is responsible for shelter operations.
2. There are seventeen (17) identified shelters for use in Wilson County. These locations will be used depending on area of impact and type of situation.
3. Sheltering for Wilson County evacuees will be coordinated with the Emergency Management Central Branch Office.
4. A written agreement exists between the American Red Cross, County Department of Social Services, County Health Department and the County Board of Education for the coordination of shelter and mass care.
5. Wilson County is a host county for coastal evacuees, primarily during a hurricane evacuation. Depending on the conditions in Wilson County, all attempts will be made to accommodate coastal evacuees.

##### **B. Assumptions**

1. Local grocery stores, restaurants and other businesses will support initial shelter/mass care operations with donations or purchase of emergency supplies.
2. For out-of-county evacuation, sufficient shelter capacity exists in adjacent counties and shelter locations can be arranged and made available.
3. A high percentage of evacuees will seek shelter with friends or relatives rather than go to a public shelter.
4. Evacuees will be provided with public information in the shelter concerning the emergency event.
5. Following a major disaster there will be an over abundance of unsolicited goods delivered to the disaster area by well-intended citizens outside the impacted area.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. If additional shelter support is needed following a disaster event, requests for assistance should be made through the Division of Emergency Management, Central Branch Office.
- B. The County Emergency Management Director, Public Health, Department of Social Services, and the American Red Cross will coordinate shelter location and operation, and will mutually support shelter operations with shared personnel and support services whenever possible. These agreements will be included in the local written plan. County employees working in shelter operations are doing so on County time and will receive their normal compensation to include overtime if necessary.
- C. Public and private providers of institutional care (medical and residential) remain responsible for having shelter plans for their populations.
- D. **Wilson County will assume NO RESPONSIBILITY/LIABILITY for unauthorized shelter openings during emergency events.**
- E. The American Red Cross, The County Department of Social Services, Health Dept, and the County Board of Education, in coordination with the County Policy/Administration Group will decide when shelters should be closed.
- F. At each County supported shelter location; the County will provide health/medical support, communications and security.
- G. Crisis intervention and mental health counseling should be provided at shelters.
- H. In the event that Wilson County is requested to open shelters for coastal evacuees, all openings and locations will be coordinated with the Division of Emergency Management, Central Branch Office. Jurisdictions ordering evacuations will be advised through their respective branch office as to the established routes to the shelters.