WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

BASIC PLAN

I. PURPOSE

This plan predetermines actions to be taken by the governmental agencies and private organizations of Wilson County to reduce the vulnerability of people and property to disaster and to establish capabilities to respond effectively to the actual occurrence of a disaster. While updates to this plan are made as needed, the entire plan is reviewed and updated on a five year cycle. All entities under direct control of Wilson County or having operational agreements for plan responsibility with Wilson County are involved in plan updates. The plan is reviewed and approved by the Wilson County Board of Commissioners on the same five year cycle. The plan is maintained by the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency electronically. Each portion of the plan is date and timed stamped and is considered the most current version.

II. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Geography and Economics

Wilson County is located in the northeastern section of the state, contiguous to Nash County to the northwest, Edgecombe County to the northeast, Greene and Pitt Counties to the east, Wayne County to the southeast, and Johnston County to the west and southwest. The economy is largely dependent on agriculture, however, industry is playing a larger roll county wide. Some specialized industry exists, including wire and cable manufacturing, and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

There are seven municipalities within the county; the largest of these is Wilson, the County Seat with a population of 47,441 (2004 figures). The total population of Wilson County is 76,781 with some seasonal fluctuations. The County totals 371 square miles.

2. Transportation and Roads

Wilson Industrial Air Center is the only airport within Wilson County, serving small aircraft. Rocky Mount - Wilson Airport in Nash County serves Wilson County with commuter flights and small commercial flights. The nearest large commercial service is Raleigh-Durham International, at a distance of approximately 55 miles.

Interstate 95 traverses Wilson County from north to south. It intersects with US 264 in the western part of the county. US 264, I-795, NC 42, NC 58, US 301, NC 117, NC 581, NC 222, US 264-A, and NC 91 are the major traffic routes for tourists and commercial traffic through the county.

Hurricane evacuees and persons seeking shelter from coastal would possibly use highway routes into and through Wilson County.

Public roadways within Wilson County are almost exclusively owned and maintained by the NC DOT, Division of Highways. Many streets are maintained by the city. Most secondary

roads within the county are paved, however, a number of unpaved public roads remain.

CSX and Norfolk & Southern railroads serve Wilson County. These two lines intersect on the east side of the City of Wilson.

3. Hazards

Wilson County is exposed to many hazards, all of which have the potential to disrupt the community, cause damage, and create casualties. Potential hazards (natural, technological, and national security), which could affect Wilson County, include:

A. Hurricanes
B. Drought/Floods
C. Severe Thunderstorms
D. Tornadoes
E. Severe Winter Storms
F. Severe Cold Weather
G. Extreme Heat
H. Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Transportation Incidents
- Fixed Facility Incidents
- Unidentified Spills or Dumping Incidents
I. Large Structure Fires
J. Forest or Wildland Fires
K. Landfill Fires
L. Aircraft Crashes (civilian and military)
M. Mass Casualty Incidents
N. Civil Disorder/Riot/Vandalism
O. Sabotage/Terrorism
P. National Security Emergency
Q. Public Health incidents (disease outbreaks)

B. Assumptions

1. The occurrence of any or more of the emergency/disaster events previously listed could impact Wilson County severely, and include several of the following possibilities:

1. Loss of electric service.
2. Loss of water distribution and storage system.
3. Loss of waste treatment system.
4. Severance of road/highway system.
5. Necessity for mass care and feeding.
6. Need for debris clearance.
7. Multiple injuries.
8. Drastic increase in media attention.
9. Damage to communications network.
10. Damage to telephone network.
11. Severe economic impact.
12. Increased number of insects.
13. Need for public information and rumor control.
14. Need for state and federal assistance.

15. Re-entry of the public into damaged/evacuated areas.
16. Damage to vital records.
17. Need for damage assessment.
18. Need for auxiliary power.
19. Solicited/unsolicited donations and goods.
20. Contamination of private wells and municipal water supplies.
21. Exhaustion of local resources.
22. Lack of depth of staffing.
23. Loss of facilities vital to maintaining essential services.
24. Environmental impact.
25. Need for management of reconstruction.
26. Need for coordination of staged resources.
27. Damage to historic sites.
28. Isolation of populations.
29. Presidential disaster declaration.

2. The occurrence of one or more of the previously listed emergency/disaster events could result in a catastrophic situation which could overwhelm local and state resources.

3. It is necessary for the county and towns to plan for and to carry out coordinated disaster response and short term recovery operations using local resources; however, it is likely that outside assistance would be necessary in most major disaster situations affecting the county.

4. Emergency and disaster occurrences could result in disruption of government functions. This necessitates that all levels of local government and departments develop and maintain **Standard Operating Guidelines** to ensure continuity of government. These procedures will address depth of staffing, line of succession, and mode of operation.

5. Most natural disasters will leave at least some part of the county isolated and on its own for a period of time. Families should be encouraged to train and prepare for these events.

6. Officials of the county and municipalities are aware of the threat of a major emergency or disaster and will fulfill identified responsibilities as needed to the extent possible.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Preparedness

A. As required by General Statute 166A-2, it is the responsibility of County/local government to organize and plan for the protection of life and property from the effects of hazardous events or disasters.

B. Facilities vital to the operation of county and local government have been identified. These facilities will receive priority for restoration of service.

C. Planning and training are necessary and integral parts of emergency and disaster preparation and must be pre-requisite to effective emergency operations.

D. Coordination with adjoining jurisdictions is essential when events occur beyond county or jurisdictional borders.

E. It is the responsibility of elected officials to ensure that all legal documents of both public and private nature recorded by designated officials be protected and preserved in accordance with existing laws, statutes, and ordinances.

Response

A. In significant emergencies/disasters, direction and control will be managed by the Policy/Administration Group. All events (either planned or emergency) will be managed utilizing the Incident Command System in accordance with the National Incident Management System both on the local incident level and within an Emergency Operations Center. The Wilson County EOP includes exercpts of the ICS 420 (Firescope) Field Operations Guide descriping basic responsibilites of Incident Command, Operations Section, Planning Section, Logistics Section and Finance/Administration Section.

B. Emergency Operating Centers (EOC) will be staffed and operated as the situation dictates. When activated, ranking representatives from a number of local government, private sector, and volunteer organizations to provide information, data, and recommendations to the Policy/Administration Group supports operations. Currently, Wilson County maintains an EOC for the coordination of resources to serve county wide including all seven municipalities and unincorporated areas. The City of Wilson maintains an EOC for the coordination of resources within the city limits of Wilson and the city's utilities distribution systems. The County and the City coordinate activities through several means. Typically, the six smaller municipalities do not activate formal EOCs but do coordinate resource responses and requests through the County EOC.

C. When an emergency situation develops, the senior elected official or the designee of the jurisdiction (as defined in GS 14-288.1) may declare a State of Emergency within the jurisdiction (or a part thereof) and begin implementing emergency procedures. (See Authorizations and Authorities Section.)

D. The County Manager and County Emergency Management Coordinator will coordinate county resources. The Mayor or his designee will coordinate and control the resources of the municipality.

E. Wilson County's Public Information Officer will utilize all available media outlets for the dissemination of emergency information to the public.

F. Should local government resources prove to be inadequate during emergency operations, requests for assistance will be made to other jurisdictions, higher levels of government, and/or other agencies in accordance with existing mutual aid agreements and understandings. Requests for state or federal resources must be made through the Wilson County Emergency Management Coordinator to the Central Branch Office of the Division of Emergency Management and forwarded to the State EOC.

G. The National Response Framework establishes the basis for fulfilling the Federal Government's role in providing response and recovery assistance to a State and it's affected local governments impacted by a significant disaster of any kind which results in a required Federal response.

H. Under the National Response Framework, departments and agencies having various authorities and resources have been assigned primary and support agency responsibilities for various Emergency Support Functions. These Emergency Support Functions will work in concert with State agencies to provide the needed resource(s).

I. Under the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, a Federal Coordinating Officer will be appointed as the President's representative to coordinate overall delivery of Federal Assistance. Federal departments and agencies have been assigned missions to provide assistance directly to the State, under the overall direction of the Federal Coordinating Officer.

Recovery

Termination of a State of Emergency shall be declared by the authority by whom it was proclaimed. (See Authorizations and Authorities Section). All recovery activities will be coordinated under the guidance of the NC Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mitigation

Following any major emergency/disaster event, a critique will be held to evaluate the jurisdiction's response to the event. A critique will include the following issues related specifically to recovery:

A. Mitigation of potential problems through use of Hazard Mitigation Grants.
B. Plan Revision based on lessons learned.
C. Unmet needs status
D. Management of donated goods.
E. Interagency cooperation.
F. Damage survey report process and documentation.
G. Training needed.

IV. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Each agency of local government is responsible for development of Standard Operating Guidelines in the support of this plan.

B. The County Manager mandates the development and annual review of this plan by all officials involved and will coordinate necessary revision efforts through the Emergency Management Agency. That shall include a critique of the actions taken in support of the plan following any event following implementation of the plan.

C. This plan shall be exercised annually in lieu of actual response to real emergency events.