WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
LAW ENFORCEMENT

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for security, maintenance of law and order, and traffic control.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Law enforcement in Wilson County is provided by the Wilson County Office of the Sheriff and three municipal police departments.

2. State law enforcement agencies that regularly operate within Wilson County's borders include the NC Highway Patrol, the NC Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement Section, NC Wildlife Commission, and the State Bureau of Investigation.

3. A spirit of cooperation exists between the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that operate within the County. Federal and state agencies routinely cooperate with local law enforcement officers during emergency events.

4. When NC Highway Patrol personnel are requested to assist with Wilson County traffic control, a ranking officer from the Highway Patrol may be present in the County EOC to coordinate Highway Patrol operations.

5. Pre-determined traffic control points have been determined by the Highway Patrol, Office of the Sheriff, and municipal police departments to facilitate the management of traffic flow when evacuation is required.

B. Assumptions

1. Activities of local law enforcement agencies will increase significantly during emergency operations. If local capabilities are overwhelmed, support may be obtained from state and federal law enforcement agencies.

2. An evacuation from a large area of the county could significantly impact Wilson County law enforcement/traffic control operations.

3. During evacuations, accidents or mechanical failure could significantly impede the evacuating traffic flow.

4. The number of law enforcement personnel available in the County during an emergency event may not be adequate to provide for security until supplemented.

5. Following an emergency event, it may be necessary to supplement local law enforcement personnel with officers from other jurisdictions to provide security and traffic control.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Emergency law enforcement operations will interrupt routine functions and responsibilities. Expanded emergency responsibilities will include maintenance of law and order, traffic control, crowd control and security.

B. The Wilson County Office of the Sheriff will be the coordinating agency for law enforcement operations in Wilson County during multi-jurisdictional emergency events.

C. Law enforcement officers in Wilson County will assist with the dissemination of emergency information to isolated populations and motorists.

D. Law enforcement activities will remain under the control of the senior law enforcement officer for the jurisdiction in which the emergency event is taking place.

E. Law enforcement agencies will have primary responsibility for traffic control, security and personnel access in and near an evacuated area and in other areas of emergency operations. They may be called upon to assist with warning the public.

F. Law enforcement officers in the field will observe and report emergency activity to the Wilson County EOC.

G. Law enforcement officers will enforce the provisions in the Proclamation of a State of Emergency.