

WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

FIRE/RESCUE

ESF-4

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for the coordination of fire, rescue, and emergency medical activities to ensure the safety of life and property within Wilson County during emergency situations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Wilson County is served by seventeen fire departments; five departments are based outside of Wilson County, but serve areas within the County. Nine are located in municipalities, and eight are located in unincorporated areas.
2. The City of Wilson Fire/Rescue Services is the only career department. All other departments in Wilson County are primarily volunteer.
3. The Wilson County Fireman's Association, Inc., composed of all the fire protection agencies that serve the County serves as an advocacy group for firefighters. The Wilson County Emergency Management Director serves as the County's liaison to the Association.
4. The N.C. Division of Forest Resources is the lead agency for Forest Fire Control in Wilson County. Wilson County is in the Division's District Five which is based out of Rocky Mount. The Wilson County Office maintains equipment at the Old Raleigh Road location.
5. All fire departments rely on the Wilson County Emergency Communications Center for primary dispatch and communications.
6. The City of Wilson Fire/Rescue Services maintains a Hazardous Materials Team, which can respond, county wide if needed and when personnel are available. Firefighters are the primary responders to any hazardous materials event, although capabilities are generally limited to defensive actions.
7. Mutual aid agreements exist among fire departments within Wilson County, some agreements exist with departments from surrounding counties.
8. Thirteen fire departments operate medical first responder programs.

B. Assumptions

1. Existing fire and rescue personnel and equipment will be able to cope with most emergency situations through the use their own personnel and equipment and existing mutual aid agreements.

2. When additional or specialized support is required, assistance can be obtained from neighboring counties, state, and federal agencies, through the Wilson County Emergency Management Director.
3. Fire departments will be called upon to assist with rescue and extrication of trapped persons, as well as search, debris removal on primary roadways, evacuations, reconnaissance, traffic control and security.
4. People seeking basic necessities and information may congregate at fire stations following a catastrophic disaster.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Incident Command will be implemented on an appropriate scale (per the NIMS requirements) at the scene of every fire/rescue event in Wilson County. If fire or threat of fire is involved, the fire chief or his/her designated representative will be the incident commander.
- B. Under the North Carolina Hazardous Materials Right-To-Know Law and the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to Know (EPCRA), the Fire Chief will survey facilities within his/her jurisdiction to identify types and volume of hazardous materials located within the County. He/she should consider this information when developing response plans for hazardous materials accidents within his/her district. Coordination of facility emergency plans with the Wilson County Emergency Operations Plan will be included in fire service planning.
- C. Fire stations will become a community focal point and source of public information when normal communications are disrupted by disaster.
- D. During the critical phases of an emergency/disaster, fire stations will be opened and continuously manned, as conditions permit. Firefighters will report to the station for duty. Communications will be established with the Communications Center/EOC.