

# **WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

### **ESF-8**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this section is to provide for the public health and welfare of the population of Wilson County during emergency/disaster.

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

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

1. The Wilson County Health Department's main office is located at 1801 Glendale Drive, Wilson, N.C.
2. A large portion of Wilson County's population is dependent upon private wells, and private septic systems. These systems are susceptible to flooding problems when flooding occurs.
3. In cooperation with Social Services, the Health Department will maintain a current list of persons requiring special needs.
4. The Preparedness Coordinator for the Wilson County Health Department keeps and maintains the Strategic National Stockpile Plan and the Pandemic plan for Wilson County. While the County EOP describes responsibilities for agencies for all hazards, the SNS plan and the Pandemic plan lay out specific responsibilities for incidents involving wide spread communicable diseases.

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

1. A large-scale emergency/disaster will result in increased demands on public health and medical personnel.
2. Emergency operations for public health personnel will primarily be an extension of normal agency duties.
3. Following an emergency/disaster, the Health Department will take action to prevent the spread of communicable disease resulting from contaminated water supplies, malfunctioning septic systems, increased numbers of spoiled or contaminated food supplies, and lack of functional sanitary facilities.
4. When local resources can no longer meet the demand of the situation, additional resource requirements will be requested through the Wilson County Emergency Management Coordinator, who will in turn contact the N.C. Division of Emergency Management Central Branch Office.

#### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATION**

- A. The primary concern of public health is disease control. The County Health Department will

implement effective environmental health, nursing and health education practices to minimize the incidence of disease.

- B. The Health Department will coordinate initial basic health care in approved shelters until Red Cross Nurses arrive on station.
- C. Frequent inspections of damaged areas and emergency shelters will be necessary to determine the need for pest control, sanitation, or other protective measures.
- D. The Health Director will coordinate with the Medical Examiner in the event of death caused by a mass casualty event.
- E. The Health Director will oversee the expeditious testing of emergency water supplies to ensure potability.
- F. The Health Director must coordinate with the Public Information Officer concerning distribution of information to the general public on disaster related health matters.
- G. The Health Department will coordinate the movement of special needs populations, for example, the homebound patients normally attended by the Wilson County Health Department Home Health Nurses.

(20 Feb 2010)