WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
RECOVERY OPERATIONS

I. PURPOSE

This section presents a system for the provision of disaster recovery operations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Recovery refers to those measures undertaken by a community following a disaster to return all systems to normal or improved levels. Recovery does not just happen, despite the fact that citizens generally take the initiative in "picking up the pieces" and trying to resume the activities that make up community life. Effective recovery consists of a complex array of inter-dependent and coordinated actions. These actions are undertaken at several levels, (individually, organizational, community, national) and over a long period of time.

2. A properly managed recovery program will allow the prompt restoration of essential services, the reconstruction of damaged property, and the resumption of traditional lifestyles.

3. Recovery from a significant disaster will be managed in two identifiable phases

   a. Short Term Recovery Phase

      This is the emergency reaction phase, which begins with the implementation of emergency plans.

      Actions under this phase will include:

      - initial emergency response (fire/rescue, law enforcement, EMS, mass care)
      - initial impact assessment
      - emergency debris removal
      - restoration of vital services
      - security of damaged/evacuated areas
      - management/distribution of donated goods
      - preliminary damage assessment

   b. Long Term Recovery Phase

      Actions under this phase will include:

      - completion of damage assessment
      - completion of debris removal
      - request for Disaster Declaration/assistance
      - restoration of essential facilities
      - repair/rebuilding of damaged public and private buildings and facilities

- repair/rebuilding of roadways and bridges
- repair/rebuilding of private homes and businesses
- hazard mitigation projects

4. A request from the Governor to the President of the United States for a Presidential Declaration will be based on the magnitude and severity of the situation and the inability of the County to recover without assistance.

5. The President's Disaster Relief Program is designed to supplement the efforts and available resources of state and local governments, voluntary relief organizations, and other forms of assistance such as insurance. The President's declaration of a major disaster or emergency authorizes Federal assistance under the Stafford Act and triggers other Federal disaster relief as well.

6. A full Presidential Declaration of Disaster includes all of the following emergency assistance programs:

   - Public Assistance Programs (PA)
   - Individual Assistance Programs (IA)
   - Small Business Administration assistance (SBA)
   - Hazard Mitigation Programs

7. In lieu of a full Presidential Declaration, Federal Assistance can also be delivered through a partial Declaration and any combination of the following:

   - Search and Rescue Assistance
   - Fire Suppression Assistance
   - Health and Welfare measures
   - Emergency Conservation Programs
   - Disaster loans for homeowners and businesses
   - Repairs to federal aid system roads
   - Tax refunds/IRS assistance to victims
   - Voluntary agency assistance via Red Cross
   - Department of Defense pre-declaration emergency assistance (via the Stafford Act)

8. There exists in the County a United States Department of Agriculture Emergency Board responsible for providing leadership and coordination for all USDA emergency programs at the county level. The USDA State Emergency Board provides guidance, direction, and assistance on emergency programs.

9. The President may declare an emergency in the absence of a Governor's request when the emergency involves a subject area for which the Federal Government exercises exclusive or preeminent responsibility and authority.

10. Close cooperation among the agencies of Local, State, and Federal government will be essential in expediting assistance to the county after any Presidential Declaration.

11. Hazard Mitigation Grants may be available through FEMA after a Presidential Declaration; the grant total will be based on the amount of Public Assistance funds applied to Wilson County PA applications.

12. As potential applicants for Public Assistance, local governments and private non-profit

agencies must thoroughly document disaster related expenses from the onset of an emergency/disaster.

13. Businesses, which intend to apply for Small Business Administration Disaster loans, will need thorough documentation of the history of the business and the effect of the disaster on the business.

B. Assumptions

1. A major disaster will have a significant long-term economic impact on the County.

2. Unsolicited resources and donated goods can be expected from outside the impacted area. The County must be prepared to manage this influx of resources and goods as part of the recovery effort (see Donated Goods section).

3. Space will be available for the operation of one or more Disaster Application Centers in the County following a Presidential Declaration of Disaster.

4. A Disaster Field Office will be set up by the Federal Emergency Management near the impacted area.

5. The damage assessment process will identify most local individuals with unmet needs.

6. A minimum loss of 30% of one of the County's major crops will qualify the County's agri-business community for USDA Disaster Assistance; however, the loss must be incurred as a result of natural disaster.

7. The combined state and/or local share of funds provided for Public Assistance (PA) will be 25%, supplementing the mandated Federal share of 75%.

8. Mitigation has become increasingly important to local officials who must bear the agony of loss of life and property when disaster strikes.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Responsibility for coordination and support of the recovery effort lies with local government.

2. Recovery operations will initially be coordinated from the Emergency Operations Center.

3. Accurate emergency logs and expenditure records will be kept from the onset of the disaster by each local government agency/organization. Standardized forms have been developed for local governments. These forms will be available through the County Finance Office.

4. The President may authorize the utilization of any Federal equipment, personnel, and other resources.

5. The Governor may request a Presidential Declaration or specific Federal Agency declarations, i.e., Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Corps of Engineers, etc., to augment state/local/private disaster relief efforts.

6. The ASCS will be the lead agency for agricultural disasters under an agency declaration. For natural disasters where loss is confined to agriculture the following actions will occur:

- Damage assessment
- USDA County Emergency Board Meeting
- Submission of a USDA Flash Situation Report to ASCS Area Office
- USDA State Emergency Board Meeting
- Exchange of information on available programs/actions plus other counties affected
- State Review of damage assessment reports
- Decision made by State Board on "concurring" and "not-concurring" with information in the damage assessment reports.
- Forwarding of reports to Farmers Home national headquarters to support a request for designation of a county (ies) for FHA Emergency Loans.

7. A Presidential Declaration of Disaster, will initiate the following series of events:

   a. A Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will be appointed by the President to coordinate the federal efforts.

   b. A State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) will be appointed by the Governor to coordinate state efforts.

   c. A Disaster Field Office (DFO) will be established within the state (central to the damaged areas) from which the disaster assistance programs will be administered.

   d. Disaster Assistance Centers (DAC's) will be established in the affected areas to accommodate persons needing individual assistance after they have registered by phone with FEMA.

   e. An Applicants Briefing will be held to explain Public Assistance eligibility criteria for officials of the county, cities, and private non-profit organizations. The Emergency Management Coordinator will assist with identification and notification of potential applicants.

   f. Each eligible entity will submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) within thirty days of the Declaration.

8. A Presidential Declaration of Disaster may authorize two basic types of disaster relief assistance:

   a. Individual Assistance (IA) - supplementary Federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to individuals and families adversely affected by a major disaster or an emergency. Such assistance may be provided directly by the Federal Government or through State or local governments or disaster relief organizations.

Individual Assistance can consist of any or all of the following:

- temporary housing (100% federal dollars)
- individual and family grants (IFG) (75% federal, 25% state and local funds)
- disaster unemployment assistance
- disaster loans to individuals, businesses, and farmers
- agricultural assistance
- legal services to low-income families and individuals
- consumer counseling and assistance in obtaining insurance benefits
- the Cora Brown Fund
- Veterans' assistance
- casualty loss tax assistance

b. Public Assistance (PA) - supplementary Federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to State and local governments or certain private, non-profit organizations other than assistance for the direct benefit of families and individuals.

Categories of Public Assistance available include:

- debris removal
- emergency protective measures
- permanent work to repair , restore, or replace road systems, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, public utilities, public recreational facilities, etc.

8. Following the Public Assistance Applicant's briefings, Damage Survey Teams will be dispatched from the DFO to inspect every damaged site and prepare Damage Survey Reports (DSR) for each applicant. The DSR will provide a recommended scope of work and give estimated costs in accordance with FEMA eligibility criteria. The criteria allow repairs or restoration of facilities to their pre-disaster condition in accordance with applicable codes, specifications, and standards.

9. A Public Assistance Damage Survey Team will be comprised of the following:

a. A Federal representative who will serve as team leader
b. A State representative
c. Local applicant's representative

10. The Emergency Management Coordinator will take the lead in determining mitigation projects needed following a disaster, and make applications for available mitigation grants.

11. Following any major emergency or disaster event, an after action briefing will be held to evaluate the jurisdiction's response to the event. An after action briefing 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. Un-met needs status

d. Management of donated goods

e. Interagency cooperation

f. Damage survey report process/documentation

g. Recovery training needed

(27 March 2012)