

WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

SHELTER/MASS CARE

ESF-6

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for the care of the population following the effects of hazards through the identification of shelters and provision of mass care.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Based upon the County's hazard analysis, there are several emergencies for which shelters may be required including severe storms, tornadoes, floods, hazardous material accidents, fires and hurricanes. Wilson County is responsible for shelter operations.
2. There are seventeen (17) identified shelters for use in Wilson County. These locations will be used depending on area of impact and type of situation. Wilson County assures that shelter locations meet ADA requirements.

Five primary shelter locations will be activated as needed:

- Darden Middle School – 1665 Lipscomb Road
 - Wilson County Rescue – 1901 S. Tarboro S. (pets)
 - B.O. Barnes Elementary School – MLK Parkway
 - Forest Hills Middle School – 1210 Forest Hills Road
 - Raleigh Road Baptist Church
3. Sheltering for Wilson County evacuees will be coordinated with the NC Emergency Management Central Branch Office.
 4. A written agreement exists between the American Red Cross, and the County Board of Education for the coordination of shelter facilities and with other facility management as necessary.
 5. Wilson County is a host county for coastal evacuees, primarily during a hurricane evacuation. Depending on the conditions in Wilson County, all attempts will be made to accommodate coastal evacuees.

B. Assumptions

1. Local grocery stores, restaurants and other businesses will support initial shelter/mass care operations with donations or purchase of emergency supplies.
2. For out-of-county evacuation, sufficient shelter capacity exists in adjacent counties and shelter locations can be arranged and made available.

3. A high percentage of evacuees will seek shelter with friends or relatives rather than go to a public shelter.
4. Evacuees will be provided with public information in the shelter concerning the emergency event.
5. Following a major disaster there will be an over abundance of unsolicited goods delivered to the disaster area by well-intended citizens outside the impacted area.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. If additional shelter support is needed following a disaster event, requests for assistance should be made through the Division of Emergency Management, Central Branch Office.
- B. The County Emergency Management Director, Public Health, Department of Social Services, and the American Red Cross will coordinate shelter location and operation, and will mutually support shelter operations with shared personnel and support services whenever possible. County employees working in shelter operations are doing so on County time and will receive their normal compensation to include overtime if necessary. County personnel assigned to shelter facilities should plan for deployment for at least seventy-two (72) hours. Red Cross has plans in place to bring in national RC personnel; however that will not occur until after the threat has passed.
- C. Public and private providers of institutional care (medical and residential) remain responsible for having shelter plans for their populations or family members.
 - Wilson County has no facility suitable for sheltering medically fragile individuals. Public school buildings (primary shelter locations) are not suited for maintaining specialized medical equipment.
 - Designated shelter facilities are capable of supporting citizens with disabilities, however, due to limited manpower, disabled citizens who require a caregiver are asked to have their caregiver accompany them to the shelter site.
 - Citizens requiring specialized transportation for evacuation purposes need to contact Emergency Management to request that transport.
 - Wilson County shelter locations are not pre wired for generators. Shelters here are a last resort option. Small generators are utilized if necessary to supply lights and fans. Ice chests are utilized to refrigerate medications that may be needed. The small generators are not adequate to power specialized medical equipment.
- D. **Wilson County will assume NO RESPONSIBILITY/LIABILITY for unauthorized shelter openings during emergency events. Unauthorized means shelter that are opened by concerned parties but have not been coordinated through Wilson County and our normal shelter management entities.**
- E. The American Red Cross, The County Department of Social Services, Health Dept, and the County Board of Education, in coordination with the County Policy/Administration Group will decide when shelters should be closed.
- F. At each County supported shelter location; the County will provide health/medical support, communications and security.
- G. Crisis intervention and mental health counseling should be provided at shelters.

- H.. In the event that Wilson County is requested to open shelters for coastal evacuees, all openings and locations will be coordinated with the Division of Emergency Management, Central Branch Office. Jurisdictions ordering evacuations will be advised through their respective branch office as to the established routes to the shelters.

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