

WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

ESF-8

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for emergency medical services during natural and technological emergencies.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Wilson County is served by Wilson Medical Center, located on South Tarboro St. in Wilson.
2. Wilson County Dept. of Emergency Medical Services is the primary EMS provider to Wilson County. Three volunteer rescue squads also provide EMS services. The City of Wilson Fire/Rescue Service and 15 Volunteer Fire Departments (10 of 11 in-County Departments and 5 out-of-County Departments with districts in Wilson County) provide medical first responder service.
 - a. Wilson County EMS provides services at the EMT-Paramedic level.
 - b. The volunteer rescue squads and the first responder units provide services at the basic life support level.
3. Two private ambulance services provide non-emergency ambulance services and transports.
 - a. MedEx Medical Transportation provides back-up 911 service and paramedic non-emergency ambulance service for Wilson County.
 - b. North State Medical Transport provides EMT non-emergency ambulance service for Wilson County.
4. Wilson County is served by helicopters from:

Vidant Medical Transport:	Rocky Mount-Wilson airport (RWI), Mt. Olive Municipal Airport (W40); Washington (Beaufort County)
Carolina Air Care:	Pikeville- Wayne Executive Jetport (GWW), Chapel Hill (UNC Hospital),
Duke Life Flight:	Durham (Duke Medical Center), and Smithfield- Johnston Regional Airport (JNX).
5. The nearest trauma centers are Vidant Health in Greenville, N.C and Wake Med in Raleigh, NC. Both are approximately forty minutes by road and twenty minutes by helicopter.
6. A mass casualty event has the potential to quickly overwhelm the limited existing emergency medical resources in Wilson County.
7. Ten skilled nursing/assisted living facilities nursing/rest homes provide services for a fluctuating number of clients.
8. All County and volunteer EMS units rely on the Wilson County Emergency Communications Center for paging and dispatching.

B. Assumptions

1. A large-scale emergency will result in increased demands on EMS and medical personnel. Any mass casualty event in Wilson County will quickly overwhelm limited response capabilities.
2. Following a disaster, many of the injured will be transported to medical facilities by persons other than trained medical personnel.
3. Disruption of the County Communications system will severely impede delivery of emergency medical service.
4. Debris on roadways will hamper EMS unit response.
5. Catastrophic disasters may affect large areas of the County and surrounding counties. Medical resources may be damaged, destroyed, or unavailable.
6. Following a disaster occurrence, field emergency medical facilities may need to be established. This may include a temporary morgue.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATION

- A. EMS units will provide field medical care as needed during emergency situations and coordinate necessary medical transportation.
- B. First responder units will respond in their respective areas, or other areas as designated by the EMS Supervisor. Fire Department personnel will assist with rescue of trapped victims.
- C. During mass casualty incidents, EMS will establish patient triage, holding, treatment, and transportation areas.
- D. When necessary, an EMS official will be located at an established command post, under a unified command to coordinate responding medical units and establish communication links with the hospital and the County Communications Center or EOC.
- E. Duke Life Flight, Carolina Air Care, and Vidant Medical helicopters may be utilized for patient evacuation with the approval of the County EMS Director or his/her designee. Military helicopters may be used and will be requested through the County Emergency Management Coordinator from the NC Division of Emergency Management.
- F. Local industry, construction companies, and/or farming operations may be called upon to provide specialized equipment such as refrigerated trucks, backhoes, and heavy equipment for extrication of victims.
- G. Wilson County maintains and operates a State Medical Assistance Team (S-MAT) type three and will deploy personnel at the request of the state or other jurisdictions providing adequate personnel are available to respond.

(20 June 2019)