

OKALOOSA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Management Division

December 2023



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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Okaloosa County does not offer any guarantee of safety or level of service during or after a significant emergency event. Unpredictability and a tendency toward misinformation, especially in the early stages of an incident, characterize the nature of such events. The public is hereby advised that each individual must bear responsibility to be aware of the hazards they face, to be prepared to deal with such hazards, and to take prudent action when faced with danger. *In the event of a tropical storm system impact, the public should be prepared to self-sustain for the first 72 hours after landfall.*

The broadcast media is the means by which the public is alerted to pending danger. The public should not depend on door-to-door notifications.

Limited resources and legal restrictions inhibit the ability of government to provide individual services or to perform damage control tasks on private property after an emergency. The public should ensure their property is in good repair, and undertake to obtain sufficient homeowner's, hurricane, and other necessary insurance to recoup losses from any incident.

Pets and other animals are the responsibility of the owner. Okaloosa County government does not have sufficient resources to care for lost pets or animals in distress following a disaster. Owners should take precautions to ensure animals are properly sheltered and cared for. If owners are evacuating they should take pets with them or arrange for their care until able to reunite with them.

Disasters impact entire communities. An efficient response depends on the that community acting together toward a common goal – the physical and economic recovery of the area. Citizens, government, businesses, churches, and social groups all have important roles to play. Efficient response and recovery depend on everyone doing their part. Each must strive to be a part of the solution.

Emergency situations often change hourly, or even minute-by-minute. For example, a hurricane track and/or intensity can change suddenly and unexpectedly. For this reason, it is important for the public to maintain their level of alertness during such situations by frequently checking radio and television broadcasts for updates. It is advised that the public purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio to receive timely warnings. It is also recommended that the public register for the automated Okaloosa County weather warning system "AlertOkaloosa".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Okaloosa County is vulnerable to a variety of hazards which threaten our communities, businesses, and the environment. This Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) establishes the framework to ensure the County will be as prepared as possible to deal with these hazards. The CEMP outlines the roles and responsibilities of the public and private sector agencies within the county involved in emergency activities as well as the coordination required to obtain assets external to the county, i.e. Federal, State, or other local governments. The CEMP unifies the efforts of these groups for a comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of an emergency and/or disaster.

The CEMP addresses the four phases of emergency management: Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation. It parallels federal and state protocol set forth in the Federal National Response Framework and State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and describes how national and state resources will be coordinated to supplement County resources in response to a disaster.

The CEMP is divided into the following sections: The Basic Plan and Annexes. Annexes include Recovery, Mitigation, Administrative, and Hazard-Specific data. The Emergency Support Function (ESF) Plan is used with, but not part of, the Basic Plan and describes in detail the procedures to accomplish these responsibilities.

The Basic Plan – The Basic Plan section of the CEMP outlines how Okaloosa County will prepare for, respond to, recover from, mitigate, and administrate the hazards which impact the disaster. It addresses such areas as: concept of operations, financial management policies, and the method to conduct a Capabilities Assessment to determine adequacy of planning.

Annexes – The CEMP contains more detailed information pertaining to operational (Recovery and Mitigation) procedures, administrative matters and specific hazards in annexes as follows:

- **ANNEX I: EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS**
 - ESF 1/Transportation Unit
 - ESF 2/Communications Unit
 - ESF 3/Public Works and Engineering Unit
 - ESF 4/Firefighting Unit
 - ESF 5/Planning Section
 - ESF 6/Mass Care Unit
 - ESF 7/Resource Support Unit and Procurement Unit

- ESF 8/Health and Medical Unit
- ESF 9/Search and Rescue Unit
- ESF 10/Hazardous Materials Unit
- ESF 11/Food and Water Unit
- ESF 12/Energy Unit
- ESF 13/Military Support Unit
- ESF 14/Public Information
- ESF 15/Volunteers and Donations Unit
- ESF 16/Law Enforcement and Security Unit
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- ESF 19/Municipalities
- ESF 20 Citizens Information Line
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- **ANNEX III: MITIGATION**
- **ANNEX IV: ADMINISTRATIVE APPENDICES**
 - **APPENDIX IV-1 – Promulgation Letter**
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 - **APPENDIX IV-3 - Glossary**
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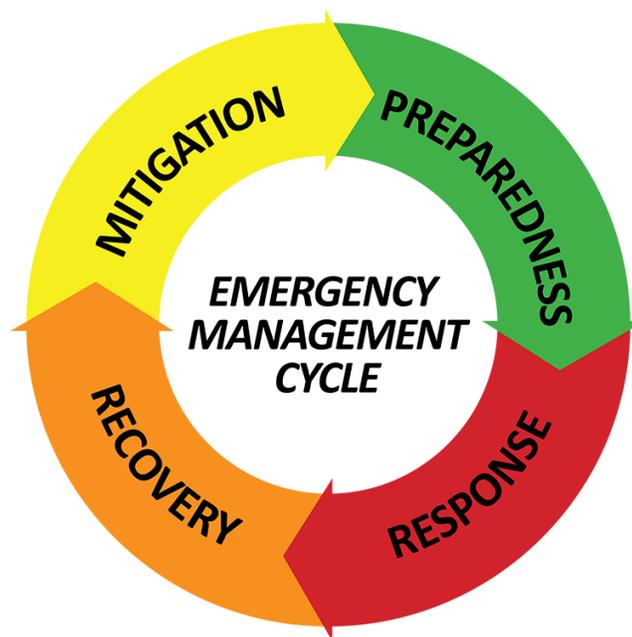
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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The CEMP is both Operations and Planning oriented. It addresses mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It also defines the roles of elected county and city officials as well as volunteer agencies through the Basic Plan and Annexes. The Annexes further explain the 21 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), disaster mitigation, and recovery. This is done in concert with the State of Florida's CEMP and the Federal Government's National Response Framework in order to establish a level of operational continuity. The CEMP is functional in a multi-jurisdictional setting where cross-jurisdiction coordination is required. This is achieved through the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), supplemented by the Incident Command System (ICS).

THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CYCLE



The Okaloosa County CEMP is written with an "all-hazards" approach. The Basic Plan addresses procedures and guidelines which will take effect in any type of major emergency incident. Each agency, department, and municipality should develop their own standard operating procedures to respond to emergencies and disasters.

The plan describes the basic mechanisms and structures by which Okaloosa County will mobilize resources and conduct activities to protect the public, maintain control of emergency response, and restore

government services to a minimum acceptable level after a disaster. Each ESF will work under the NIMS / ICS structure within each of their groups. For overall operations, Okaloosa County will use NIMS. Okaloosa County Emergency Management will serve as the coordinating point for NIMS activities for Okaloosa County and its municipalities.

For consistency with federal, state, and local response structures the CEMP follows the framework of NIMS. Should an incident occur in Okaloosa County which requires multiple jurisdictions, functional agencies, and emergency responder disciplines, it is critical that the response to the incident be coordinated effectively and efficiently across public, private, and volunteer agencies on the local, state, and federal levels. NIMS uses a “systems” approach to integrate all emergency agencies into a unified framework for incident management from an “all-hazards” approach. This framework forms the basis for interoperability and compatibility which will enable a diverse set of public, private, and volunteer agencies to conduct well-integrated and effective incident management operations. This framework also allows for the integration of improved technologies and concepts to enhance the overall response capabilities and coordination.

In Okaloosa County, ICS/NIMS is used for single agency responses on a daily basis. If multiple agencies are required to respond to an incident, ICS/NIMS can be expanded into a Unified Command. If multiple incidents occur simultaneously which require multi-agency response, an Area Command can be set up to ensure efficient prioritization and use of resources. Okaloosa County’s ICS structure is flexible and can integrate into any of the above scenarios.

This plan serves as the foundation for emergency operations. The very nature of emergencies is often complex and it is important to note that this plan is flexible to meet the current needs of the emergency. If the situation demands deviation from the plan, the agency concerned should determine the best course of action and inform the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or command authority at the first opportunity.

This plan establishes a framework for a systematic, coordinated, and effective response to significant incidents. It also establishes fundamental policies and assumptions; sets forth a concept of operations; establishes a mechanism for interagency coordination; assigns specific functional responsibilities; and outlines mitigation functions in the Appendix Section of this document.

An effective emergency management program must be a community effort, with emphasis on the roles and responsibilities of private, as well as public entities. Each citizen, each business, and each government agency must understand their individual and collective responsibilities if the community is to meet the challenge.

B. SCOPE

This plan encompasses the following:

- Describes the various types of events which are considered to be likely to occur.
- Establishes the concepts under which the governments and agencies of Okaloosa County will operate in response to major or catastrophic emergencies by defining the responsibilities of each functional area of response.
- Defines the emergency response organization and structure.
- Establishes the framework for detailed supportive planning by county agencies, municipalities, private and voluntary organizations, and provides for expeditious, effective, and coordinated employment of available resources before, during and after a major or catastrophic emergency.
- Identifies actions required by county and municipal governments to obtain assistance and relief from the state, non-governmental and private organizations, and the federal government.
- Establishes fundamental policies, program strategies and assumptions.
- Establishes a concept of operations for the direction and control of an emergency, spanning from initial monitoring through post-disaster response and recovery.
- Defines an interagency coordination mechanism to facilitate delivery of immediate assistance, and direction and control of response and recovery resources.
- Assigns specific functional areas of responsibilities to appropriate county and municipal departments and agencies, as well as private sector groups and volunteer organizations.
- Addresses the various types of emergencies which are likely to occur, from minor to major/catastrophic.
- Identifies actions which county response and recovery organizations will take, in coordination with their state and federal counterparts.

This plan applies to all Okaloosa County departments and agencies which are tasked to respond to a disaster or significant event.

This plan does not address how municipalities will deploy their assets or expend their resources. Municipalities should prepare their own plans and

coordinate their plans and activities with the Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety. Procedures for county aid to cities are addressed in the plan.

“Each municipal emergency management plan must be consistent with and subject to the applicable county emergency management plan. In addition, each municipality must coordinate requests for state or federal emergency response assistance with its county.”

Chapter 252, FSS para 252.38(2)

C. ORGANIZATION

1. The Basic Plan

The Basic Plan section of the CEMP describes, in general terms, how Okaloosa County will mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of a large-scale emergency or disaster. The Basic Plan contains sections which address areas such as: the responsibilities of the county and city government, method of operations, financial policies which will be adhered to during times of emergency or disaster, and continuity of government. The Basic Plan also describes how Okaloosa County will manage large scale emergencies and disasters in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Basic Plan further contains a section which addresses recovery issues in order to ensure a rapid and orderly implementation of rehabilitation and restoration programs for persons and property affected by an emergency or disaster. The Basic Plan contains a section addressing mitigation issues so that Okaloosa County has a framework which will be used to reduce the effects of potential emergencies or disasters before they occur. Non-disaster, operations are depicted by the organizational chart on page 65.

2. Annexes to the Basic Plan

Annexes to the Basic Plan set forth the specific details for emergency operations within the Emergency Support Function concept. For example, Tab 1 covers procedures for the ESF 1/Transportation Unit. The Basic Plan Annexes section organizes the county into Emergency Support Functions, or ESFs. In conjunction with the State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the National Response Framework, Okaloosa County has identified an initial 21 Emergency Support Functions as described in the appendices. Each of the 21 appendixes to the Basic Plan, at a minimum, contain a method of operation and the responsibilities of the primary and support agencies that will respond in support of county government. Each ESF will have descriptions of their roles under the Okaloosa County NIMS/EOC Interface.

3. Tabs

Tabs contain more detailed information for a particular subject.

4. Appendices

Appendices to the plan include supporting plans and agreements that are not an integral part of the CEMP, but which are considered as supporting documents. These will be maintained on file in the Emergency Management office, but will not be distributed.

Keeping in mind that few people actually read a plan from cover to cover, but instead scan the portions relevant to their field of interest, there is intentional duplication of some key points throughout this plan.

D. METHODOLOGY

The Emergency Management Division of the Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety developed this plan. It is based upon a combination of lessons learned from previous emergencies (both in county and elsewhere), state and federal plans or regulations, guidance from disaster research groups and local coordination.

Plan development and maintenance is a primary functional responsibility of the County Emergency Management Division. Active and on-going participation in the emergency planning process and in Plan production and evaluation is required of all who have responsibilities in Plan execution. This process involves a team of participants from all sectors of the community, and at all levels of authority in those sectors, in a set of interrelated and reiterative activities as described in the following:

The Emergency Management Division maintains an emergency management team consisting of designated and empowered representatives of government agencies having operations in the county, critical businesses and industries, as well as volunteer and other concerned private groups. The organizations providing key members of this long-standing, broadly based multi-purpose team are more formally identified in the Okaloosa County ESF matrix in the Organizational section of this plan. Those identified with ESF primary and support responsibilities comprise the core emergency management planning team. Those on the core team also have key roles in Plan training and evaluation activities. This team meets twice a year to discuss planning, training, and operational needs to support their emergency management activities. In consultation with the core team, the Emergency Management Division drafts the Basic Plan and revisions thereto, defining the Plan Purpose and Scope, providing analysis of hazards and financial and resource management issues as well as the other elements of the Basic Plan. The core emergency management planning team meets on an annual basis after the end of the Atlantic hurricane

season to review the Basic Plan, ESFs, and supporting annexes to determine if changes need to be made based on new planning requirements, identified gaps, or identified areas of improvement. Changes are subsequently made in order to keep the plan current and functional.

Based upon contents of the draft Basic Plan, the Lead Agency for each ESF drafts an Annex for that ESF. This is done in coordination with the agencies which have support roles in that ESF. Each draft ESF Annex is reviewed by all affected ESFs to advance overall coordination and understanding. In the ESF drafting and review process, the Basic Plan also undergoes scrutiny for adequacy of policy, content, coverage, and concepts. The result of this reiterative draft-and-review activity is production of a final draft Basic Plan with Annexes.

The final draft Basic Plan with Annexes is reviewed by the County Attorney, the County Administrator, elected officials, and department and agency principles for official written concurrence preliminary to presentation by the Board of County Commissioners for adoption. Recognizing that the planning process is unending, Plan adoption may be undertaken even though some elements may be incomplete. Rosters of training and orientation seminars which cover ESF and Plan operations can also be found in the Okaloosa County EM files.

II. POLICIES & GUIDELINES

A. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

1. General

“Each entity is responsible for preparing its own implementing plans and procedures.”

This plan assigns missions and sets forth the responsibilities of public and private agencies within Okaloosa County, and defines the relationship between the county and municipalities or fire districts during significant incidents or disasters. Each entity is responsible for preparing its own implementation plans and procedures. The Emergency Management Division is responsible for preparing and maintaining this plan, as well as developing and maintaining OCPS Standard Operating Procedures to implement the plan.

This plan does not assume that any federal or state assistance will be forthcoming. To aid coordination (in the event such aid is offered) the plan does outline certain policies and procedures which will be in effect if outside help arrives.

Command relationships for significant incidents will follow the National Incident Management System (NIMS) utilizing the Incident

Command System (ICS). The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a standardized approach to incident management developed by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The program was established nationally as required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 5 and adopted locally by the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners. Additionally, the Emergency Support Function model is integrated into NIMS for EOC operations. These systems are depicted below.

B. NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 5, Management of Domestic Incidents, Okaloosa County follows the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for disaster management.

NIMS provides a consistent approach to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from disaster occurrences regardless of cause, size, or complexity. This system integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive framework for incident management. As an integral component of NIMS, the Incident Command System (ICS) will be the management framework used for incident response within the County. The ICS functions on the concepts of a modular organization, unified command, multi-agency coordination, span of control, common terminology, action planning process, comprehensive resource management, integrated communications, and pre-designated facilities.

The following is a description of each of the ICS Sections and a summary of the responsibilities that each section may be tasked with. Some positions may or may not be needed depending upon the size and complexity of the incident. The ICS/UC is designed to expand and contract depending on the incident needs. The Span of Control for any Commander, Director, or Unit Leader should only be 3–5 people. If the number of direct reports is higher, Branch leaders may be assigned to consolidate reporting for similar operational groups. The Incident Commander/Unified Command is responsible for assigning personnel to each position as warranted and as per Standard Operating Guidelines. Checklists outlining the specific responsibilities for all of these positions can be found in the Appendix Section of this document.

1. Command Staff

a. Incident Commander

The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall management of all incident activities, including the development and implementation of strategy, and for approving the ordering and release of resources. In multi-jurisdictional incidents, the duties of the Incident Commander

may be carried out by a Unified Command established jointly by the agencies which have direct jurisdictional or functional responsibility for the incident. In single-jurisdiction incidents where assisting agencies have significant resources committed, the responsible agency may establish a unified command at the incident command level, or place assisting agency personnel in key positions within the organizational structure. The Incident Commander may have a deputy. The deputy's responsibilities will be as delegated by the Incident Commander.

b. Public Information Officer

The Public Information Officer, a member of the command staff, is responsible for the collection and release of information about the incident to the news media and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

The Public Information Officer reports to the Incident Commander.

c. Safety Officer

The Safety Officer, a member of the command staff, is responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures for assuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer will correct unsafe acts or conditions through the regular line of authority, although he or she may exercise emergency authority to stop or prevent unsafe acts when immediate action is required. The Safety Officer maintains an awareness of active and developing situations, approves the medical plan, and includes safety messages in each Incident Action Plan.

The Safety Officer reports to the Incident Commander.

d. Liaison Officer

The Liaison Officer is responsible for interacting (by providing a point of contact) with the assisting and cooperating agencies, including fire agencies, the American Red Cross, law enforcement, public works and engineering organizations, and others. When agencies assign agency representatives to the incident, the Liaison Officer will coordinate their activities.

The Liaison Officer reports to the Incident Commander.

e. Agency Representative (Emergency Support Function Representative)

An Agency Representative is assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency with full authority to make decisions on all matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Agency Representatives report to the Liaison Officer, if that position has been filled. If there is no Liaison Officer, Agency Representatives report to the Incident Commander. There will be only one Agency Representative from each agency assigned to the incident.

In Okaloosa County, the agency representatives are organized under Emergency Support Functions under the NIMS structure.

In small incidents, the Agency Representatives will answer to the Incident Commander. In larger incidents, agency representatives will answer to their respective Section Chiefs, who will in turn answer to the Incident Commander.

2. Planning Section (ESF – 5 Planning and Information)

a. Planning Section Chief

The Planning Section Chief, a member of the Incident Commander's General Staff, is responsible for the collection, evaluation, dissemination, and use of information regarding the development of the incident and status of resources. Information is needed to:

- Understand the current situation.
- Predict the probable course of incident events to include identification of future resource requirements
- Prepare alternative strategies and control operations for the incident.

The Planning Section Chief reports directly to the Incident Commander. The Planning Section Chief may have a deputy. The deputy's responsibilities will be as delegated by the Planning Section Chief. Unit functions may be combined if workload permits.

b. Situation Unit Leader

The Situation Unit is primarily responsible for the collection and organization of incident status and situation information, and the evaluation, analysis, and display of that information for use by ICS personnel.

The Situational Unit Leader will answer to the Planning Section Chief.

c. Resources Unit Leader (ESF-7 – Resource Support)

The Resources Unit is primarily responsible for:

- Confirming that incident resources are properly checked in.
- Preparation and processing of resource status change information.
- Preparation and maintenance of displays, charts, and lists which reflect the current status and location of operational resources, transportation, and support vehicles.
- Maintaining a file or check-in list of resources assigned to the incident.

The Resources Unit Leader will answer directly to the Planning Section Chief.

d. Documentation Unit Leader (ESF-5 – Information and Planning)

The Documentation Unit is responsible for:

- Maintaining accurate and complete incident files.
- Providing duplication service to incident personnel.
- Packing and storing incident files for legal, analytical, and historical purposes.

The Documentation Unit Leader will answer directly to the Planning Section Chief

e. Demobilization Unit Leader (ESF-5 – Information and Planning)

The demobilization of the resources and personnel from a major incident is a team effort involving all elements of the incident command organization. The Demobilization Unit develops the demobilization plan and coordinates and supports the implementation of that plan throughout the incident command organization. Several units within the General Staff structure, primarily in Logistics, are responsible for assisting in the demobilization effort. These units should also participate in the preparation of the plan.

The Demobilization Unit Leader is responsible for the preparation of the demobilization plan and assisting sections and/or units in ensuring that an orderly, safe, and cost-effective movement of personnel and equipment is accomplished from the incident.

Individual agencies and/or contractors may have additional specific procedures to follow in the process of incident demobilization.

The Demobilization Unit Leader will answer directly to the Planning Section Chief.

3. Operations Section (ESF 4 and ESF 16 Leads)

a. Operations Section Chief

The Operations Section Chief, a member of the General Staff, is responsible for the management of all operations directly applicable to the primary mission. The Operations Section Chief activates and supervises operations, organizational elements, and staging areas in accordance with the Incident Action Plan. The Operations Section Chief also assists in the formulation of the Incident Action Plan and directs its execution. The Operations Section Chief directs the formulation and execution of subordinate unit operational plans and requests or releases resources and recommends these to the incident commander. He or she makes expedient changes to the Incident Action Plan (as necessary) and reports such to the Incident Commander.

The Operations Section Chief may have a deputy. The deputy's responsibilities will be as delegated by the

Operations Section Chief, and the deputy must serve in the same operational period.

The Operations Section Chief reports directly to the Incident Commander.

b. Staging Area Manager

The Staging Area Manager (when utilized) is responsible for overseeing the staging area.

The Staging Area Manager reports to the Operations Section Chief.

c. Branch Director

The Operations Branch Director is responsible for the implementation of the Incident Action Plan within the branch. This includes the direction and execution of branch planning for the assignment of resources within the branch. Branch Directors will be activated only when and as needed in accordance with incident characteristics, the availability of personnel, and the requirements of the Incident Commander and Operations Section Chief. The Deputy, if activated, must serve in the same operational period as the director.

The Operations Branch Director reports to the Operations Section Chief.

d. Division / Group Supervisor (Operations)

Divisions divide an incident into natural separations where resources can be effectively managed under span-of-control guidelines. Examples of divisions are floors of a building or segments of a line. Groups are functional and describe activity. Examples of groups are ventilation, salvage, or secondary line construction.

The Division or Group Supervisor is responsible for:

- The implementation of the assigned portion of the Incident Action Plan.
- The assignment of resources within the division or group.
- Reporting on the progress of control operations.
- The status of resources within the division or group.

The Division/Group Supervisor reports to the Branch Director or, in the event that Branch Directors are not activated, to the Operations Section Chief.

e. Strike Team/Task Force Leader

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is responsible for performing operations assigned to a strike team or task force. The leader reports work progress, resource status, and other important information to a Division Supervisor and maintains work records on assigned personnel.

The Strike Team/Task Force Leader reports to a Division/Group Supervisor.

4. Logistics Section (ESF – 7 Logistics)

a. Logistics Section Chief

The Logistics Section Chief, a member of the General Staff, is responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials in support of the incident. The Logistics Section Chief participates in the development of the Incident Action Plan and activates and supervises the branches and units within the Logistics Section.

The Logistics Chief reports to the Incident Commander.

b. Logistics Support Branch Director

The Support Branch Director is responsible for the management of all support activities at the incident.

The Support Branch Director position will be activated only as needed in accordance with incident characteristics, the availability of personnel, and the requirements of the Incident Commander and Logistics Section Chief.

The Support Branch Director reports to the Logistics Section Chief.

c. Ground Support Unit Leader

The Ground Support Unit Leader is primarily responsible for:

- Providing for the transportation of personnel, supplies, food, and equipment.

- Providing for the fueling, service, maintenance, and repair of vehicles and other ground support equipment.
- Collecting and recording information about the use of rental equipment and services initiated and requested.
- Implementing the traffic plan for the incident.

The Ground Support Unit Leader reports to the Logistics Section Chief.

d. Food Unit Leader (ESF-11 – Food and Water)

The Food Unit Leader is responsible for determining feeding and cooking facility requirements at all incident facilities, menu planning, food preparation, serving, providing potable water, and general maintenance of the food service areas.

The Food Unit Leader reports to the Service Branch Director (if activated) or the Logistics Section Chief.

e. Communications Unit Leader (ESF-2 – Communications)

The Communications Unit Leader, under the direction of the Service Branch Director or Logistics Section Chief, is responsible for developing plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities. These include:

- Installing and testing of communications equipment.
- Supervision of the incident communications center.
- Distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel.
- Maintenance and repair of communications equipment.

f. Logistics Service Branch Director (ESF – 7)

The Service Branch Director is responsible for the management of all service activities at the incident. The Service Branch Director position will be activated only as needed in accordance with incident characteristics, the availability of personnel, and the requirements of the Incident Commander and Logistics Section Chief.

The Service Branch Director reports to the Logistics Section Chief.

g. Medical Unit Leader (ESF-8 – Health and Medical)

The Medical Unit Leader is primarily responsible for the development of the medical emergency plan, obtaining medical aid and transportation for injured and ill incident personnel, and preparation of reports and records. The Medical Unit may also assist operations in supplying medical care and assistance to civilian casualties at the incident. The Medical Unit Leader may require the services of a Welfare Officer to assist in resolving personnel matters or to support the general well-being of personnel assigned to the incident.

The Medical Unit Leader reports to the Service Branch Director in large incidents and directly to the Logistics Section Chief in smaller incidents when a Service Branch Director is not assigned.

h. Facilities Unit Leader (ESF – 7)

The Facilities Unit Leader is primarily responsible for the activation of incident facilities (i.e., the base, camp(s), and Incident Command Post). The unit provides sleeping and sanitation facilities for incident personnel, and manages base and camp operations. Each facility is assigned a manager who reports to the Facilities Unit Leader and is responsible for managing the operation of the facility. The basic functions or activities of the base and camp manager are to provide security service and facility maintenance.

The Facilities Unit Leader reports to the Support Branch Director. Close liaison must be maintained with the Food Unit Leader, who is responsible for providing food for all incident facilities.

i. Supply Unit Leader (ESF – 7)

The Supply Unit Leader is primarily responsible for:

- Ordering personnel.
- Ordering, receiving, and storing all supplies for the incident.
- Maintaining an inventory of supplies.

- Servicing non-expendable supplies and equipment.

The major functions of the unit are grouped into the ordering of equipment and supplies and the receiving and/or distribution of equipment, other than primary supplies. The Supply Unit Leader reports to the Support Branch Director during large incidents and directly to the Logistics Chief in smaller incidents when a Support Branch Director is not assigned.

5. Administration/Finance (ESF – 21 Finance)

a. Administration/Finance Section Chief ESF 21

The Finance/Administration Section Chief, a member of the General Staff, is responsible to organize and operate the Finance/Administration Section within the guidelines, policy, and constraints established by the Incident Commander and the responsible agency. The Finance/Administration Section Chief participates in the development of the Incident Action Plan and activates and supervises the units within the section.

The Finance/Administration function within the Incident Command System is heavily tied to agency-specific policies and procedures. The Finance/Administration Section Chief will normally be assigned from the agency with incident jurisdictional responsibility. The organization and operation of the Finance/Administration function will require extensive use of agency-provided forms.

The Finance/Administration Section Chief reports directly to the Incident Commander.

c. Cost Unit Leader

The Cost Unit Leader is responsible to prepare summaries of actual and estimated incident costs. The unit also prepares information on costs of resource use and provides cost effectiveness recommendations.

The Cost Unit Leader reports to the Finance/Administration Section Chief.

d. Compensation/Claims Unit Leader

Compensation for injury and claims are handled together within one unit in NIMS/ICS.

The Compensation/Claims Unit is responsible for:

- The prompt preparation and processing of all forms required in the event of injury or death to any person.
- Gathering evidence and preparing claims documentation for any event involving damage to public or private properties which could result in a claim against the agency. The Compensation/Claims Unit Leader must have firsthand knowledge of all required agency procedures on claims handling.

The unit leader and assigned specialist must work in close coordination with the Medical Unit, Safety Officer, and Agency Representatives.

The Compensation/Claims Unit Leader reports to the Finance/Administration Section Chief.

e. Procurement Unit Leader (ESF – 7 Lead)

The Procurement Unit Leader is responsible to develop a procurement plan for the incident and to perform equipment time recording. The Procurement Unit Leader will ensure that goods and services are procured to meet the needs of the incident within his or her authority and the constraints of the Finance/Administration Section and the jurisdictional agency.

The Procurement Unit will work closely with the Supply Unit, which will implement the procurement plan and perform all incident ordering.

The Procurement Unit Leader reports to the Finance/Administration Section Chief.

6. Unified Command and Area Command

For incidents which require a multi-agency/multi-jurisdictional response, it may be necessary to initiate a **Unified Command** Structure. Incoming agencies or units who are not already part of the Okaloosa County NIMS/EOC interface will be assigned to work with their counterparts in the already-existing structure. This will ensure consistency of information, efficiency in use of resources, and an overall consistent response and recovery. No one will work outside of this structure.

When multiple incidents occur, which may require the same jurisdictional or regional resources, it may be necessary to initiate an

Area Command which may integrate the ICS/NIMS Structures of multiple jurisdictions. This would be required if identical resources (personnel or equipment) were being sought after for multiple incidents within the same area/region. In cases where area command is established:

The Unified/Area Command shall work with the Planning Section to ensure that overall incident-related priorities are set. With little exception, priorities shall generally be, listed in order:

- Protection of Life
- Protection of Health and Welfare
- Protection of Property

This is consistent with overall incident priorities whether in Area Command or in single agency response.

The Unified/Area Command shall work with the Administration Section/Procurement Unit to ensure that critical resources are allocated according to the established Unified/Area Command priorities.

The overall Incident Commander (IC) shall work through the Unified/Area Command, along with the Planning Section, Logistics Section, Operations Section, and the Administration Section to ensure that the incident is being managed correctly, efficiently, and in accordance with incident goals and objectives set forth in the IAP.

The IC shall also work through the Unified/Area Command to ensure that incident management objectives do not conflict with each other or policies set forth by the response/recovery agencies.

The Unified/Area Command shall ensure that all requests for critical resources are directed to the Logistics Section in the EOC so that they can be analyzed, prioritized, and filled as deemed appropriate.

The overall IC shall work with the Planning Section to ensure that short-term emergency recovery is coordinated to assist in the transition to full recovery operation.

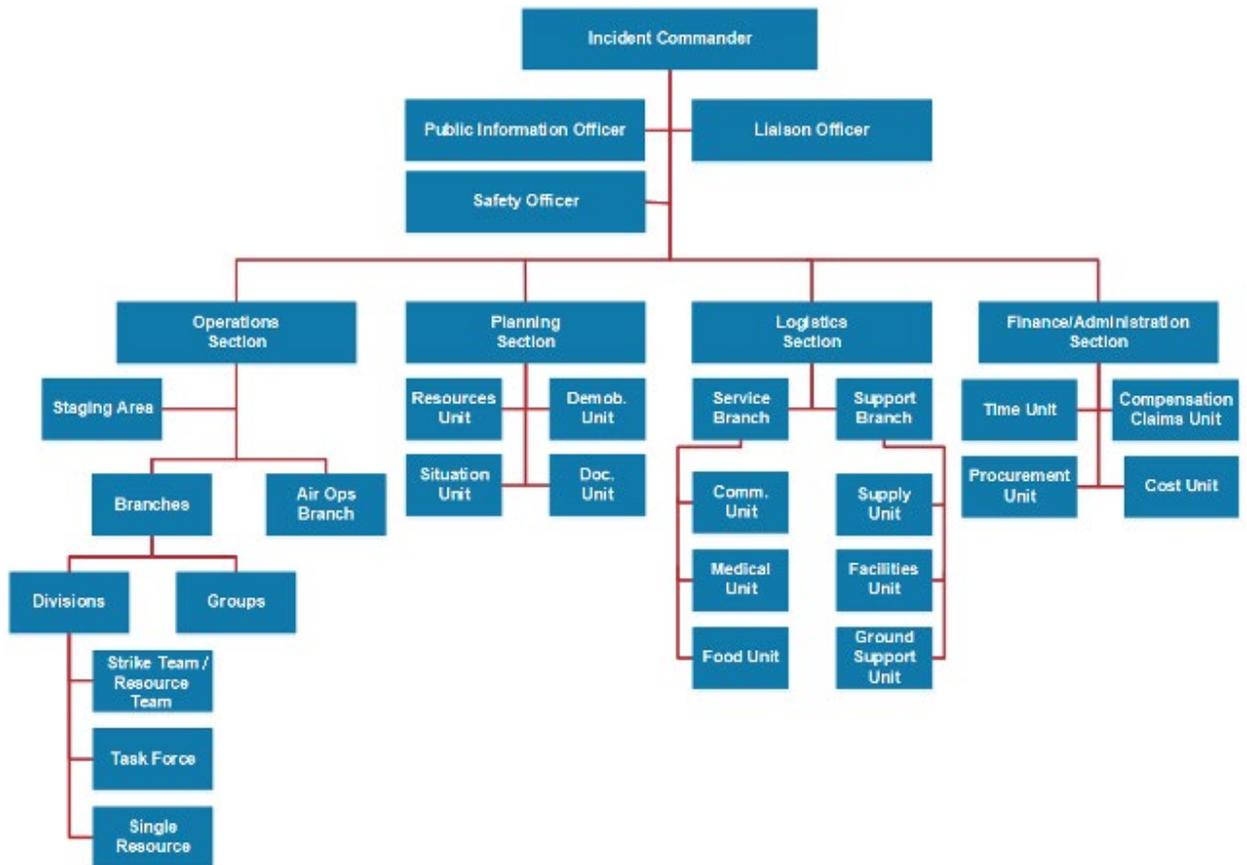
The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners is the lead authority in all emergency and disaster situations per Florida Statute 252. However, there may be a variation in who will act as lead advisory or lead response agency. The following table illustrates the lead response agencies and their legal authorities for each of the hazards to which Okaloosa County is vulnerable. These lead

agencies would have a representative serving as Incident Commander for the incidents to which they are responsible.

OKALOOSA COUNTY HAZARD RESPONSE FREQUENCY & MATRIX

Hazard/Special Planning Consideration	Frequency	Population Affected	Lead Agency	Applicable Statute	Comments
Civil Disorder	Infrequent	Varied	Sheriff	F.S. 870.041-8	FDLE, FHP, FMP, FLNG
Drought	Semi-frequent	Population & Agriculture	Extension		
Flood	Semi-frequent	All	Emergency Management	F.S. 252	FDEM
Freeze - Winter Storm	December - April	Population & Agriculture	Extension		
Hurricane	June-November	All	Emergency Management	F.S. 252	FDEM
Tornado	Year Round	All	Emergency Management	F.S. 252	FDEM
HAZMAT	Infrequent	All	Fire	F.S. 252 & 29 CFR 1910.120	FDEP
Power Failure	Semi-frequent	All	Utilities		FDCA
Radiological	Infrequent	All	Public Health	F.S. 252	FDEP
Subsidence	Infrequent	All	Public Works	F.S. 252	USACE
Transportation - Air	Infrequent	All	Fire/Rescue	F.S. 252	FDLE, FHP, FBI, FAA, NTSB
Urban Fire	Frequent	Varied	Fire/Rescue	F.S. 252	Local Mutual Aid, FLFCA
Wildland Fire	Frequent	Varied	Fire/Rescue	F.S. 252	Local Mutual Aid, FLFCA, FDOF
Mass Casualty	Infrequent	Varied	Fire/Rescue	F.S. 252	Local Mutual Aid, FLFCA
Terrorist	Infrequent	Varied	Sheriff	F.S. 252	FDLE, PDD 29(FBI)
Mass Migration	Infrequent	Varied	Sheriff	F.S. 252 & 870	FMP, USCG, INS
Distinguished Visitor	Infrequent	Varied	Sheriff		FBI, USSS
Public Health Emergency	Semi-frequent	Varied	Public Health	F.S. 388.45	FDOH. CDCA
Chemical Spill - Waterway	Semi-frequent	Varied	Fire/Rescue		FMP, FDEP, USCG

Figure 1. Basic Structure of the ICS/NIMS



During the above incidents, Emergency Management (upon request) will work directly for the On-Scene Incident Commander to coordinate technical and resource assistance, evacuation, etc. EMS will perform medical operations under the Operations Section of the NIMS or ICS. In the ESF system, EMS operates under the Public Safety Group during the response phase. As the incident transitions into the Recovery Phase, EMS will operate under the general supervision of the ESF 8/Health and Medical Unit Coordinator for operations in comfort stations and field clinics. All emergency response operations remain within the Public Safety Group.

Response priorities shall be as follows:

- Protection of Life
- Protection of Health and Welfare
- Protection of Property

These priorities shall be used in determining prioritization of resources and incident response.

When the Board of County Commissioners declares a formal Local State of Emergency, the Emergency Management Division will assume incident management responsibilities for the overall operation (see Florida Statute, Title XVII, Chapter 252 for description). Such situations will likely affect a large area of the county, with several simultaneous incidents spread throughout the affected area. In such cases, the local fire or law enforcement officials will assume command of each specific incident, with overall responsibility for county-wide operations resting with Emergency Management and the Emergency Operations Center. The County Attorney maintains a declaration for use in an emergency.

The military will retain command and control for incidents occurring on military property or for incidents involving military assets in civilian areas. In the event of a military mishap in civilian areas, the civilian fire service will retain incident command until the military response forces arrive and are able to assume that responsibility. The military may request support from civilian agencies for on-base emergencies, and such support will be provided if available.

Additional information on responsibilities may be found in Section V, Responsibilities for Emergency Operations.

C. LINE OF SUCCESSION

The line of succession for emergency operations conducted under the provisions of Chapter 252, F.S.S. shall be as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners
2. Any three county commissioners
3. The Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.
4. Any County Commissioner
5. The County Administrator

The line of succession for agencies and departments will be specified in their SOPs and plans. The line of succession will reflect at least three levels of responsibility and delegation of authority.

D. RESOURCE COORDINATION

The Emergency Management Division can provide resource coordination assistance during significant events that do not require a formal Declaration of Emergency. Such services can be initiated upon the request of the responding agency or municipality. Examples would include extended fire

service operations or wilderness searches where external support is required.

When the Board of County Commissioners declares a formal emergency, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated to level one. All resource requirements should then be coordinated through the proper representative at the EOC. The EOC provides outside response and relief forces with the impact statement, primary damage assessment, and estimated type and quantity of assistance needed. **Whenever possible, internal assets -- including contractors -- should be used before requesting outside assistance.**

Okaloosa County will request State assistance through the designated Okaloosa County Emergency Logistics Section Chief. The Logistics Section Chief will then analyze the request and forward it to the state only when all other county resources are depleted, or expected to be depleted.

E. RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Recovery consists of short and long-term operations. Short-term recovery operations restore vital services, such as electrical power, water, and sewer systems, clear roads in affected areas, and provide emergency assistance to disaster survivors. Disaster relief programs to help restore the personal, social, and economic well-being of private citizens are administered by non-profit disaster relief and charitable organizations, and local, state and federal disaster relief programs. Long-term recovery focuses on restoring communities to a state of normality by assisting property owners in repairing or rebuilding their homes and businesses and assisting local governments, school districts, and other public non-profit agencies in restoring or reconstructing damaged infrastructure. State, local and non-government organizations administer the provisions of federal and state disaster relief funds to provide for restorations and recovery of vital facilities. Post-disaster mitigation programs may also be implemented during the recovery period.

Okaloosa County, through the Growth Management Department, Public Works, and the American Red Cross, provides damage assessment to unincorporated areas of the county.

During a non-declared event when county resources are overwhelmed, local authorities may declare a state of emergency and request State assistance. In a non-federally declared disaster, the Governor may order State assistance to become available in the form of grants, technical assistance, personnel, equipment and facilities. The role of State recovery is to coordinate possible resources where available and offer assistance to the affected local government. Mutual aid agreements in Okaloosa County can mitigate most non-declared emergency situations. Requests to the State of Florida for assistance shall be made through the Okaloosa County Emergency Management Director or Chief.

Municipalities are responsible for damage assessment and restoration of services within their jurisdictions. When needs exceed their capabilities, municipal governments should identify the exceptional requirements and report them to the Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). If county assets are available, they will be provided to the municipality. If the assets are not available, the EOC will attempt to obtain mutual aid assets or, if appropriate, inform the municipality to seek private contractors.

The EOC will direct short-term recovery operations in the unincorporated areas, and will coordinate recovery support to the municipalities. The EOC will coordinate with state and federal agencies during the restoration process. Once the emergency transitions into recovery, each political subdivision, will coordinate with the state or federal agency providing direct assistance.

Each department within the county government is responsible for developing internal plans for carrying out its mission during recovery operations. The Emergency Management Chief will provide initial coordination and advice and assistance upon request. The County Planner and Director of Growth Management will provide staff coordination for long-term recovery issues.

The Emergency Management Chief will be the primary point-of-contact for coordinating federal and state Disaster Field Office (DFO), Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) operations, Joint Field Office or Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in the county (incorporated and unincorporated areas). The Emergency Management Chief is responsible for pre-identifying potential DRC locations. Site will be chosen based on accessibility for ADA compliance, traffic flow and size. Actual site utilized after a disaster event will be based on habitability of the location which was pre-identified. The Chief of Emergency Management will request State of Florida participation, FEMA participation, and SBA through the State WebEOC system. The Okaloosa Walton United Way will be asked to man a position in the DRC. Okaloosa County will initially rely on mobile DRC site which allow for easy ingress and egress. The two primary mobile DRC sites are at the Mullet Festival site in the City of Niceville and the Spanish Trail Park in the City of Crestview. Fixed building locations will be identified after the event has occurred and will be placed as near to the impacted areas as is practical. Some fixed site locations have been identified and are listed in appendix IV-7 located in Annex IV of this plan. As disaster operations move from Response to Recovery on large scale incidents, and when a Joint Field Operations center (JFO) is established, the EM Chief and select staff (appointed by the EM Chief) shall operate out of the JFO for interagency coordination. Other Okaloosa County agencies that may be assigned to the JFO based on requirements are the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, and the following Okaloosa County Departments – Grants and Restore, Public

Works, Purchasing, and Public Information Office, and other departments as required.

Additional information on recovery may be found in Sections IV.B.2 and IV.F.5. and IV.G. Recovery, Redevelopment, and Hazard Mitigation; and Annex A, Recovery.

F. OPERATING FACILITIES

The primary EOC is located at 90 Collage Boulevard, Niceville. If the primary EOC is rendered unusable, the EOC will relocate to the Okaloosa County Extension Office at 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, FL 32539. Potential sites for recovery operations are listed in the Appendix Section of this document, Master Location List.

G. MUTUAL AID

In general, all local resources should be committed before requesting assistance from outside the county. One city may not have been impacted as severely, and may be able to aid the county or another city. Mutual Aid forces are not a cure-all, and are intended only to be an immediate, short-term aid to save lives, reduce the risk to life, and to restore services to a minimum level necessary to conduct emergency operations. Long-term operational assistance must come through expanding local capabilities or through contracts with private vendors. During recovery, mitigation opportunities should be identified by municipalities, citizens, and the county, and possible projects will be reported to the LMS committee.

During non-declared emergencies, response agencies may request military assistance in two ways: by coordinating through Okaloosa County Emergency Management, or by contacting the Command Posts at Hurlburt Field, Duke Field, or Eglin Air Force Base. Okaloosa County has a mutual aid agreement with the Civil Air Patrol, Eglin Flight Test Squadron, and the U.S. Army 6th Ranger Training Battalion for various types of military assistance. Eglin and Hurlburt fire departments are signatories to the automatic aid agreement. Department of Defense regulations and federal law govern other types of military assistance.

During declared emergencies, all requests for military assistance will be processed through the EOC. Authority to request military (including National Guard) assistance is as follows:

For humanitarian aid, such as search & rescue, evacuation airlift or ground transport, etc., Emergency Management must make the request.

For security assistance, such as restoring or ensuring public order, the request must be made by the Sheriff.

Okaloosa County is a signatory to the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement¹. Fire Districts, municipalities, and law enforcement agencies maintain agreements with other agencies in and out of Okaloosa County.

Okaloosa County will continue to pursue formal mutual aid agreements which are beneficial to all parties. Mutual aid agreements will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

Each municipality is encouraged to enter into the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Cities that have entered into this agreement shall be considered to have a mutual aid agreement with the county. The Emergency Management Chief will monitor the mutual aid agreements on behalf of the county, and will make recommendations or take the necessary staff action to facilitate operations under such agreements.

All mutual aid agreements shall contain the following:

- Definitions of key terms used in the agreement.
- Roles and responsibilities of individual parties.
- Procedures for requesting and providing assistance.
- Procedures, authorities, and rules for payment, reimbursement, and allocation of costs.
- Notification procedures.
- Protocols for interoperable communications.
- Relationships with other inter-jurisdictional agreements.
- Workers compensation.
- Treatment of liability and immunity.
- Recognition of qualifications and certifications.

During declared emergencies, the EOC will coordinate mutual aid assistance to the county, fire districts, and municipalities. This will be accomplished through the appropriate ESF position.

The EOC will coordinate Mutual Aid requests from the state or other counties, and to the extent possible will obtain the mission number from the state. The EOC will to the extent possible try to determine logistical needs based on the mission requirements.

H. VOLUNTEER AGENCIES AND DONATIONS

Okaloosa County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) has agreed to coordinate volunteers and donations during an incident which requires activation of the EOC. In lesser incidents, the American Red Cross, of Northwest Florida, is the primary agency for coordinating volunteer relief efforts. Okaloosa County Schools and BCC Employees manage “Risk” shelters during mass evacuations, and long-term host shelters during recovery. The Red Cross may arrange temporary housing for victims of fires and severe weather incidents. The Red Cross will operate short-term host shelters, separate from county run shelters, for localized incidents. Okaloosa County Schools will provide space in public evacuation shelters for the Special Needs Unit, but will not staff the unit (staff is provided by the Public Health Department and volunteer home health nurses). The Department of Public Safety coordinates location and use of public buildings as evacuation shelters.

The Coalition on Homeless has been designated the shelter for homeless and transient populations. The Coalition will maintain certification of training from the Red Cross as an emergency shelter manager, and will provide shelter and food for homeless populations who come either voluntarily or are brought by law enforcement.

The Salvation Army can provide limited services to victims of disaster events, mainly in the area of food service. The United Way can assist victims in satisfying non-immediate needs through its Information and Referral service five days a week, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Additional information may be found in Section V. Responsibilities and Tab 15, Volunteers & Donations.

I. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Okaloosa County Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the county. The cities of Ft. Walton Beach, Shalimar, Niceville, Valparaiso, and Crestview have municipal police departments. The Sheriff provides law enforcement services to unincorporated areas and the cities of Destin and Mary Esther, as well as all incorporated areas as determined by circumstances.

Municipal law enforcement agencies that require support from agencies with which they do not have mutual aid agreements must first contact the Okaloosa County Sheriff in accordance with the Florida Mutual Aid Plan. The Sheriff may contact other mutual aid agencies or the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for additional law enforcement or security resources. When the EOC is activated, these requests should be funneled through the ESF 16/Law Enforcement and Security Unit desk at the EOC.

The Sheriff must make requests for National Guard security assistance. County Emergency Management must make requests for National Guard humanitarian assistance.

See also Section IV. Concept of Operations; Section V. Responsibilities for Emergency Operations; and Tab 16, Law Enforcement.

J. LIABILITY

Various statutes provide certain government personnel and agencies with limited protection from liability in certain circumstances. The specific language is too complex for this plan, and case law constantly changes the practice of tort law. In general, however, emergency responders should be familiar with certain types of civil liability. These are:

1. Strict Liability

Strict Liability arises from a violation of the law or other regulations, even if the violation is unintentional.

2. Intentional Torts

Intentional Torts may be incurred when a person or agency intends to injure another or intends his actions (not necessarily the results) which result in harm.

3. Negligent Liability

Negligent Liability is incurred when a person fails to do what a reasonable and prudent person would have done under the same or similar circumstances. The finder-of-fact (usually a jury) determines the definition of "reasonable." There are four elements of negligence that must be proved:

- The existence of a duty or standard to act;
- A breach of duty or failure to carry out that duty or standard;
- A connection between the act of the wrongdoers and the injury to another party;
- An actual loss or harm to the injured parties.

4. Warrant Liability

Warrant Liability is incurred when promised service levels are not delivered and harm results.

Agencies tasked with emergency services can incur liability in several ways. Poor planning -- or lack of planning for a known hazard -- may subject an agency to liability. Failure to prepare implementing procedures for established plans can also incur liability. Other areas that can expose an agency to liability are: poor training, failure to identify hazards, failure to warn the public (through the media or other method) of an identified and known hazard, use of substandard equipment, and failure to meet the established standard of care.

K. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Okaloosa County Purchasing Manager will serve as the Procurement Unit Leader under the Okaloosa County NIMS/EOC Interface, and will provide procurement support for supplies, facilities, equipment, and supplies needed by County agencies. Items that could be included are meals for emergency workers, tires, repair parts, construction materials, sanitary supplies, and rental equipment.

Only the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is authorized to execute funding agreements with other legal entities. The Board signs all grant applications, amendments, modifications, and agreements. However, the Board may delegate authority to sign grant related documents to the County Administrator, the Finance Director, the Grants and Restore Manager, constitutional officers and project managers. Funding sources that provide financial assistance during disaster/emergency operations come from "General Revenue". General revenue refers to Ad Valorem Taxes, State shared revenues, and other miscellaneous revenue sources.

Each agency, department, and political subdivision is responsible for maintaining the appropriate financial records to meet requirements for internal regulations and state or federal financial assistance. Costs should be project-oriented; i.e., all labor, overtime, equipment, and supply costs for each specific project within the reimbursement category should be detailed. Such records should be completed as the operation progresses. The Okaloosa County Grants and Restore Manager will act as a central point of contact for final processing and tracking of post-disaster state and federal financial assistance to BCC departments. The Emergency Management Chief will assist the Grants and Restore Department and other eligible government applicants to resolve conflicts or confusion with state and federal agencies. This assistance may include advising on eligibility of costs, acting as an intermediary between inspectors and applicants, or assisting in the preparation of appeals. Additional guidance is contained in the Appendix Section of this document, Recovery & Redevelopment.

Mutual Aid responders are eligible for cost recovery. The responder should submit the appropriate documents to the requester, who will then use those

documents as justification for additional disaster assistance funds. Specific procedures are contained in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, provides authority for political subdivisions to waive normal bidding procedures during a formal State of Emergencyⁱⁱ. Each political subdivision is responsible for establishing guidelines for obligation and expenditure of funds under such emergency conditions.

Okaloosa County does not provide financial management services to municipalities. The county will assist in coordinating initial contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to obtain assistance but will not track project worksheets or manage disaster claims for municipalities. Okaloosa County will not apply for grants on behalf of municipalities; it is the responsibilities of individual municipalities to apply and manage grant funding.

OCPS will notify the Purchasing and Grants and Restore Departments of state training opportunities to support disaster financial management. The Purchasing and Grants and Restore departments are responsible for training local agencies and providing guidance. Proper processing will be an item of interest in the annual hurricane exercise.

See also Tab 7, Resource Support.

L. PUBLIC INFORMATION

During routine operations, the various departments, agencies, and municipalities conduct their own public information activities. County departments coordinate public information through the Board of County Commissioners Public Information Officer (PIO).

Upon request for assistance by the on-scene Incident Commander of a significant event, the Emergency Management Chief may conduct public information activities related to the incident. The agency exercising incident command may also conduct such activities.

When the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, the EOC PIO acts as the single point-of-contact for non-law enforcement public information. The PIO will coordinate and get authorization on press releases with the Incident Commander in accordance with the Okaloosa County NIMS/EOC Interface, and work within the Okaloosa County NIMS EOC Interface structure in all duties

The ESF 16/Law Enforcement and Security Unit, or the Sheriff's Office PIO, is the contact for law enforcement information. Any press release regarding water quality or health issues must be coordinated with the ESF 8/Health and Medical Unit Coordinator. It is essential to the public well-being and to operational efficiency that all news releases relating to the emergency

situation be coordinated through the EOC. Incorrect or improperly timed instructions could result in public confusion, panic, or unsafe actions by the public. An example would be one agency or city telling the media that people may return home from an evacuation, but the EOC is still conducting damage assessment to determine if return is safe. OCPS maintains a file of public information releases that can be quickly adapted for broad release in an emergency. See Tab 14 for more information.

M. SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

The Okaloosa County Emergency Management Division conducts a voluntary registration program for Special Needs Patients through the State funded Everbridge System. The intent of the program is to pre-register citizens who have special medical needs and lack the resources to evacuate or care for themselves in an emergency evacuation. The nature and unpredictability of major emergencies does not allow any guarantee of service, however. The adequacy of such service is dependent upon sufficient warning time, quality of information provided by the patient, patient compliance with instructions, and availability of resources. Transportation support is provided by Okaloosa Coordinated Transportation “EC Rider” by calling for pickup and transport to a shelter. If available, the Okaloosa County School District may provide drivers and busses upon request from the EOC. The Special needs population is assisted in program registration by home health care agencies, caregivers, Department of Health, Okaloosa County Staff, Emergency Management Staff and or by self-registering for the database on the link provided on the Okaloosa County website.

Persons who do not register until an emergency exists may be assigned a lower priority for assistance than those who pre-registered. Doing otherwise could seriously degrade the ability to help anyone.

The Department of Public Safety will routinely and frequently request the aid of the media, elderly or handicapped support agencies, and home health care agencies to publicize the Special Needs Registration Program.

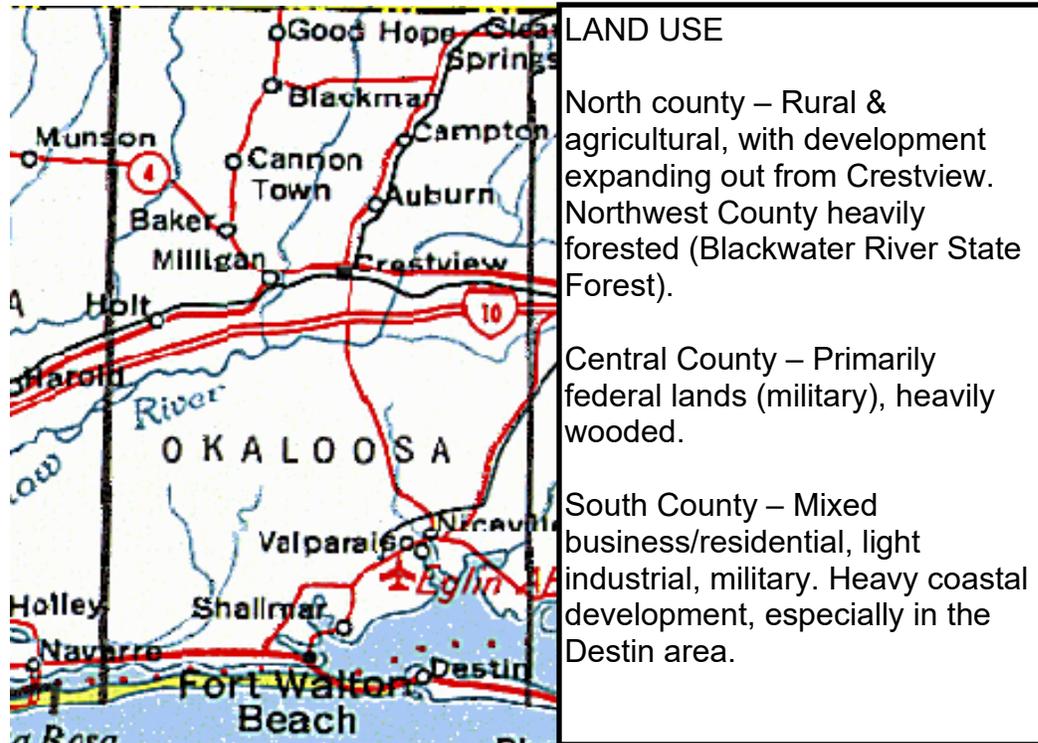
See also Section IV.F.4. Special Needs Evacuation; and Tab 8, Health and Medical Unit.

N. PROTECTION OF RECORDS

Each ESF Section Chief shall designate an individual and alternate who will be responsible for ensuring that essential government documents are protected in an emergency. Agencies that have satellite offices should designate a person on-site, as well as a person with overall responsibility, who will direct implementation of the process.

These procedures should include protection from fire, water, and wind events. There should be an established priority system for evacuating documents or document holding areas and for accomplishing regular back-ups of computer information. Back-ups of paper and computer files should be maintained in a separate facility. Note: Okaloosa County Clerk of Courts maintains copies of all administrative and financial records per state requirements for record retention.

OKALOOSA COUNTY LAND USE



III. SITUATION

A. HAZARD ANALYSIS

1. Background

The county has a land area of 936 square miles. The county's water area covers 59.89 square miles. Okaloosa County is a coastal area which includes a shallow bay; several bayous, three major rivers, and a major waterway (see maps above). The county is bordered to the south by the Gulf of Mexico.

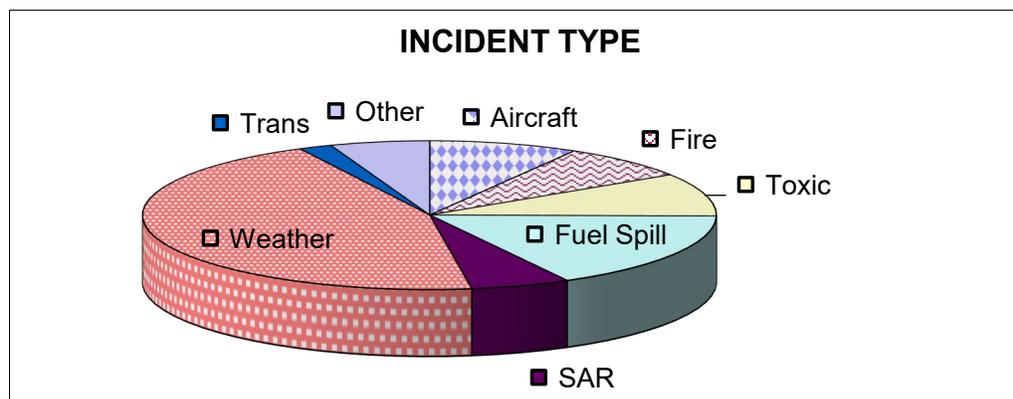
The Southern portion of the county has approximately 200 miles of coastline along the Gulf of Mexico, Santa Rosa Sound, and Choctawhatchee Bay (including numerous bayous). Choctawhatchee Bay has an area of 120 square miles. This area of the county is densely populated, with single-family homes and high-rise condominiums built along the shores.

Main rivers include the Shoal River, which traverses the county near Crestview, and the Blackwater and Yellow Rivers that flow southerly through the northwest corner of the county into Santa Rosa County. Riverbanks are sparsely populated. There are numerous wetland areas throughout the county with many located on the Eglin AFB reservation. These areas are home to several endangered plant species.

The only barrier island is Santa Rosa Island, which has its western end in Escambia County. Within the county lines, the island stretches from the western county line to Choctawhatchee Bay, terminating at the East Pass near Destin. The island has heavily developed portions along its center county portion. The U.S. Air Force owns the western and eastern county portions of the island. Those portions have light development. The once-healthy dune system was destroyed in Hurricane Opal, October 1995.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY - 1976-PRESENT

YEAR	EVENT
1979	Hurricane Frederic, Wind
1990	100-year River Flood
1993	Agricultural loss, Winter storm (USDA)
1994	Tropical Storm Alberto, 100- year River Flood
1995	Hurricane Erin, Wind & Surge
	Hurricane Opal, Wind & Surge
1998	March Madness Floods (500-year river flood)
	Wildfires and Drought
	Hurricanes Georges (500-year river flood)
2000	Tropical Storm Helene
2004	Hurricane Charley & Tropical Storm Bonnie
	Hurricane Frances
	Hurricane Ivan
2005	Hurricane Dennis
	Hurricane Katrina
2012	Hurricane Isaac
2014	April Flood Event
2018	Hurricane Michael
2020	Hurricane Sally
	Covid-19 Pandemic
2021	Tropical Storm Fred



Holiday Isle in Destin, while not a true island, suffers from low elevation and is subject to the same hazards as a barrier island.

Portions of Destin, such as Kelly Plantation, are covered under the COBRA rules.

2. History and Outlook

a. Hazardous Materials -- High Threatⁱⁱⁱ

There is a high potential for hazardous materials incidents, with the impact potential for any individual incident running from minor to catastrophic. Minor incidents include small spills and atmospheric releases from air, land, and marine transportation accidents. Major occurrences in the past include train wrecks, airplane crashes, tank truck accidents, explosions, barge spills, and improper storage at industrial sites. The frequency of these events has been low. Damage to surrounding areas has also been low mostly soil along roadways have been affected.

There are no large-scale chemical production or refinery facilities in the county. Chemical storage is generally limited to the amounts needed for short-term use by the owning facility. Emergency Management maintains a Cameo database containing information on facilities that store federally designated Extremely Hazardous Substances. Emergency Management updates this database on a yearly basis, and performs a site survey and hazard analysis for half of the facilities each year.

Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and 7th Special Forces Group are active military installations that store, use, and ship large quantities of explosive ordnance and industrial chemicals. Munitions range from non-explosive small arms ammunition to large aircraft bombs and missiles. Eglin Air Force Base is host to an extensive munitions research and development program as well. Missile testing occasionally requires missile over-flights of civilian areas. The Air Force and Army have historically maintained an excellent safety record, but the possibility of a munition's accident does exist. The military has an extensive emergency response capability organic to Eglin, Hurlburt and 7th Special Forces.

Okaloosa County has three major roadways used for east-west shipment of hazardous materials. One is US Hwy 98, which is in the southern portion of the county and runs parallel to the coast. The second is US Hwy 90, which is in the northern portion of the county. Interstate 10 follows a path

near HWY 90. Hwy 98 traverses the major metropolitan area for most of its in-county length. Hwy 90 and I-10 lie largely in rural areas, but pass through the City of Crestview.

State Roads 85 and 285 lie in a north-south direction through the county. State Road 123 connects two portions of S.R. 85, and is used as a bypass around Eglin Air Force Base, Val-P and Niceville.

There is one railroad traversing the county in an east-west line. It follows a roughly parallel track to US Hwy 90 and Interstate 10. The line is used for freight trains and CSX Transportation manages this rail system. This railroad runs through downtown Crestview, and therefore poses a high risk of causing injuries among the public in the event of a major train accident involving hazardous materials. The speed with which such accidents happen, and the high population density in the immediate area of the tracks, creates a situation in which there could be a high number of exposed residents before public safety could respond and mitigate the hazard.

The Intracoastal Waterway traverses the county in an east-west line through Santa Rosa Sound and Choctawhatchee Bay. There is frequent barge traffic along the waterway, which passes beneath two major bridges. The waterway is often congested with barges, pleasure craft, and commercial shrimping vessels. Heavily populated land areas and environmentally sensitive marine areas bound the waterway.

The nature of hazardous materials incidents and the proximity of transportation routes to developed areas create a high hazard that significant numbers of the population could be exposed to high concentrations of chemical pollutants before public safety agencies could be notified and initiate protective action.

Although there is a risk the only documented large scale release occurred from a train derailment on April 9th, 1979. An L&N train carrying hazardous materials derailed near the City of Crestview over the Yellow River. 29 cars derailed, 26 were tankers carrying hazardous liquids including anhydrous ammonia, acetone, methyl alcohol, chlorine and carbolic acid. The wreck resulted in 4,500 people evacuated, \$1,258,500 in property damage, 14 injuries and chemical pollution spilling into the Yellow River. There have been no other occurrences within Okaloosa County of a major release.

Environmentally sensitive areas - include extensive wetlands in the north and south, the Shoal, Yellow, and Blackwater Rivers in the north, Okaloosa Island, and Choctawhatchee Bay. The red cockaded woodpecker and the beach mouse are protected species on federal lands. Protected nesting programs are in place for the sea turtle.

b. Transportation Accidents -- High Threat

1) Aircraft Accidents.

Okaloosa County has one airport suitable for passenger jetliners. Destin- Fort Walton Beach Airport, which is leased from the U.S. Air Force and shares facilities with Eglin Air Force Base. There is no record of a major crash of a passenger airliner in Okaloosa County. The Destin- Fort Walton Beach Airport handles approximately 800,000 passengers per year. Frequency is low; however, one accident did cause extensive damage to two homes in Valparaiso.

There are two significant airports for other private aircraft. One such facility is the Destin Executive Airport (in Destin) and the other is Bob Sikes Airport in Crestview. Destin is the second busiest uncontrolled airport in Florida. Small private aircraft experience occasional accidents in the area. Large jet cargo aircraft operate out of the Bob Sikes airport. Aircraft modification facilities are currently in operation with continued industrial development underway.

The U.S. Air Force maintains three bases in the county: Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field. Duke Field is administratively assigned to Eglin AFB. A large variety of aircraft use these bases, including F-15, F-16, F-22, F-35, U-2, C-135, C-5, C-130, AC-130, CV-22, MQ-9 and UH-60's. While there are periodic crashes, all but one in recent history have been in the Gulf of Mexico, neighboring counties, or in isolated land areas. One F-5 did crash into the Valparaiso area destroying two homes, no lives were lost. The military and civilian aircraft fly over densely populated civilian areas on a regular basis. The Air Force maintains a significant emergency response capability to deal with such incidents. Okaloosa County has established an aircraft crash task force to expedite response to aircraft incidents.

2) Train Accidents.

Freight trains transit the county roughly every two hours. Either situation poses a risk for mass-casualty incidents. The hazards of a hazardous materials spill from a freight train are covered under IIIA2a, above.

The rail line crosses three rivers and runs through rural areas that would be difficult to access in an accident. A wreck of a passenger train could result in a heavy rescue and mass-casualty incident.

c. Droughts -- Moderate Threat

In Florida, 90-percent of the population draws their drinking water from groundwater. Groundwater comes from various aquifer systems, which are layers of water-bearing rock or sediments. Pores interconnect these rocks, thus allowing for the flow of water. The water then discharges into wells or springs, bringing the water to the surface. The Floridian aquifer system is the principle source of groundwater for the entire state. This aquifer system can supply an estimated 1,000 cubic miles of potable water^{iv}. Northwest Florida draws its water from the Floridian aquifer and the surficial aquifer, which is nearer the surface.

Okaloosa County suffered a serious drought in 1998. The Keech-Byram Drought Index reached near-desert levels. The Northwest Florida Water Management District has classified South Okaloosa County as a Water Caution Area. Whereas the county once had an abundant supply of groundwater in the Surficial (also called the Sand-and-Gravel) and Floridian aquifers, the water levels have dropped dramatically. Furthermore, the water table may fluctuate widely due to changes in seasonal rainfall. Northwest Florida averages 48 inches or more of annual rainfall. Spot shortages have occurred for limited periods due to a combination of low rainfall accumulation and inoperative wells. Both public and private water utilities are searching for additional sources of fresh water to prevent chronic shortages in the future. Additional information may be found in the Okaloosa County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

The top soils of Okaloosa County are characterized by a high rate of percolation. Soils will tend to dry out if the area does not have rainfall for three weeks or more. A severe drought

could result in curtailment of pumping and possible rationing of water. In such a case, the residential population would receive priority over agricultural users. Such priority is necessary to ensure the general health of the population, but could result in economic losses to farm interests.

d. Wildfires -- Moderate Threat^v

There are three types of wildfires: Surface fires (most common, burns along the forest's floor moving slowly), ground fires (burn on or below the floor, difficult to detect and extinguish), and crown fires (jumps along the tops of trees, spread rapidly by wind). Wildfires in uninhabited areas pose little concern until they threaten to grow out of control. The risk to humans comes from the Urban/Wild land Interface, which can be characterized in three classes:

1) Mixed Interface

The mixed interface, where buildings are lightly mixed with forested areas. An example would be the Blackwater River State Forest in northwest Okaloosa County.

2) Occluded Interface

The occluded interface has isolated woodland areas within a built-up area. An example would be Liza Jackson Park in Ft. Walton Beach.

3) Classic Interface

A classic interface occurs when built-up areas meet wild land areas along a broad front, such as the residential areas bordering Hurlburt Field along Hwy 98 in the Florosa-Wynnehaven Beach corridor.

Much of Okaloosa County is forested land. Undeveloped federal lands account for about 200 square miles, while the Blackwater River State Forest covers about 100 square miles.

Federal and state agencies have a program for maintaining these lands, including a fire prevention program which uses controlled (called prescribed) burns. Most wildfires in the past have been fairly small and in isolated areas. Occasionally, however, fires do threaten populated areas. Recent development patterns encroach on federal land boundaries,

thus aggravating the potential for wildfire impact on life and property.

The primary threat from wildfires is from munitions testing on Eglin or from arson. Though the historical incidence is low, plans must take the possibility into account.

The highest threat of wildfires occurs in dry months. When combined with low humidity and high winds, the risk increases. The driest months are January, February, and March. The largest number of lightning-induced fires occurs in June, July, and August. Statistically, the greatest causes of wildfires statewide in 2020 were escaped burning yard debris, arson, and lightning. To ensure private burning activities do not start wildfires during high-risk periods, Jackson Guard and the Florida Division of Forestry require agencies and individuals to obtain burn permits before carrying out open burns or using fire-producing materials (such as smoke generators for an exercise).

e. Tornadoes & Severe Thunderstorms -- High Threat

A severe thunderstorm is defined as a thunderstorm with winds 58 MPH or faster, or hailstones three-quarters of an inch or larger in diameter. A tornado is a strong, rotating column of air extending from the base of a cumulonimbus cloud to the ground. Tornadoes can have wind speeds up to 300 MPH, but most U.S. tornadoes have wind speeds of less than 200 MPH. Waterspouts are a marine form of the tornado, but wind speeds are generally less due to the increased friction of water. If a waterspout makes landfall, however, its speed can grow to more devastating proportions. A funnel cloud is a rotating column of air extending from a cloud but not reaching the ground. Funnel clouds can cause heavy damage to roofs.

Northwest Florida has the second highest incidence of severe thunderstorms in the nation. The Florida Panhandle has the second highest rate of tornadoes in the state (Okaloosa County averages two per year). This area has 80 to 100 days with thunderstorms each year, on average^{vi}. Tornadoes are most likely in the months of January, February, and March. In 1989, a tornado caused over \$5 million damage to Eglin Air Force Base. In 1933, a tornado traveled 35 miles through Okaloosa County, setting a state record up to that time.

Thunderstorms generate lightning and, very often, microbursts. Florida leads the nation in the number of

lightning-related deaths each year. Microburst are a severe type of downburst- winds blast down from a thunderstorm and hit the ground, causing it to reflect out from the center in all directions. Microbursts can generate wind speeds of 150 MPH or faster, and create a starburst damage pattern on the ground.

Another hazard of severe thunderstorms is a Derecho. A derecho results from squall-line thunderstorms which create repeated downbursts. These types of storms are more frequent in the Midwest than in Florida.

f. Winter Storms & Freezes -- Moderate Threat

Okaloosa County suffered significant winter freezes in six years during the period 1977 to 1993 and again in 2014. The most recent was during the winter storm of January 2014. During that storm, heavy ice accumulation occurred during the evening hours resulting in numerous road and bridge closures. Due to freezing temperatures for an extended period most bridges remained closed for a couple of days until road crews could spread sand on the roads. At first only one lane could be opened until additional equipment could be dispatched. Plans have been developed to expedite road and bridge openings that include pre-staging road crews and vehicles.

Florida's northern counties, on average, experience a freeze every three years. The chief danger is to vegetable crops -- watermelon, corn, cabbage, and grains. Roads and water pipes are also susceptible to freeze-induced damage. Structure fires may also increase as people turn to alternative heating methods (fireplaces, space heaters, outdoor fires, etc.).

g. Floods -- High Threat^{vii}

The elevation of Okaloosa County increases from south to north, with a low of sea level to a maximum of 275 feet. The average elevation in the south county is 40 feet, but most of the densely populated Ft. Walton Beach/Destin area is less than 16 feet. The average elevation in the north county is 225 feet.

Flood prone areas have been identified in the 2015 *Hurricane Evacuation Study*, the 2015 *Hurricane Surge Atlas* (Army Corps of Engineers), and the *Flood Insurance Rate Maps* (Federal Emergency Management Agency, Community No.

120173). The originals are on file in the Planning and Inspection departments of the county and municipalities. Okaloosa County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Significant portions of the county are prone to ponding effects brought about by poor drainage or super-saturated soils. A high-water table, low-lying areas, and 85,000 acres of forested and non-forested wetlands aggravate ponding.

Another source of information on areas of potential flooding is the Soil Survey of Okaloosa County (USDA, June 1995) or most recent the web base soil survey available at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. This book is a series of aerial photographs with soil type contours overlaid. The web-based product is more recent and provides an interactive interface for areas of interest. The soil types correspond to period of flood return.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Study provides information on flood threats for municipalities and the unincorporated areas in separate booklets. Tables contain information on Base Flood Elevation and velocities for various points along rivers. For example, it shows that at Hwy 90 on the Yellow River, the floodway (100-year flood inundation area) is 1,671 feet wide, and would experience a velocity of 2.1 feet per second. The study also provides an explanation of how the "Velocity Zone" is established for coastal areas. According to the study, the Velocity Zone for Okaloosa coastal areas is that which would experience wave heights of greater than 3 feet during a 100-year flood event.

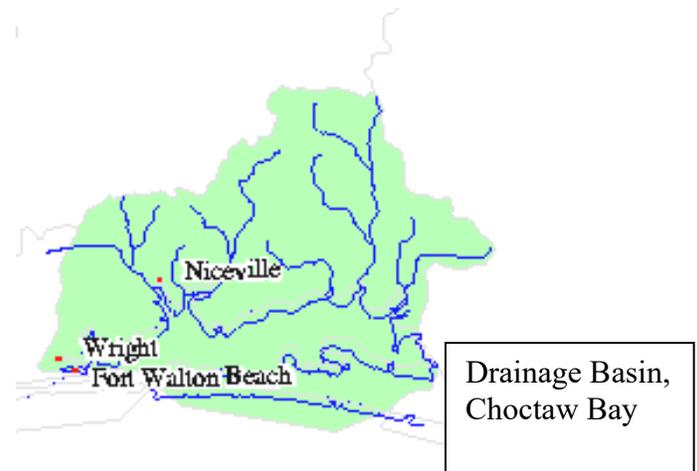
The potential for river flooding can be recognized by high-rainfall events either in the county or within the drainage basin (see map below). The progressive rise of river levels is reported by both automated gages and visual checks by Emergency Services personnel. See Figure below for a correlation between river levels and effects. Major coastal storms are forecasted by the National Weather Service, who issues the appropriate advisories with expected rises in tide or coastal flooding.



Drainage patterns in many sub-divisions create minor short-lived flood problems during heavy rainfall. This problem is more significant on Santa Rosa Boulevard (Okaloosa Island), US Hwy 98 at the intersection of Beal Pkwy, Racetrack Road, Mar Walt Drive, County Road 393 in Dorcas, and the intersection of Main Street and Ferdon Blvd. in Crestview.

Hurricanes and major coastal storms have resulted in flooding of coastal areas in the past. Heavy rainfall in Alabama or north Okaloosa/Walton County can cause rivers to swell. There is a high historical incidence of floods in the county.

Hurricane Eloise (1975) made landfall in Bay County, but resulted in severe flooding along the Yellow River and its tributaries. Heavy rainfall caused the river to crest 16.6 feet above normal. The floods inundated several residential areas in Milligan and covered portions of US HWY 90. Several wells were contaminated and utilities were interrupted. Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Alberto (July 1994) resulted in flooding from the rivers and Choctawhatchee Bay. Storm surge flooding from Hurricane Opal (October 1995) resulted in heavy damage to first-floor structures all along the coast, including south of Hwy 98 on Santa Rosa Sound. Hurricane Georges (September 1998) resulted in all county rivers to rise above flood stage. The flooding isolated the City of Crestview. The only entry points into the city were from Alabama using Hwy 85 and one westbound lane from the west. Hurricane surge studies of Okaloosa County considered the high dune structure on Okaloosa Island. The destruction of these dunes in Hurricane Opal could result in higher surge levels for areas along Santa Rosa Sound and Choctawhatchee Bay in a future hurricane. The current evacuation strategy includes an increased buffer to account for the unknown effect of the damaged dune structure. The April flood event (2014) caused significant flooding throughout Okaloosa County. Areas that had never flooded in the past were inundated. This event depending on the location was considered a 100 to 500-year flood event.



The event in some locations of the county dropped 25" of rain in 8 hours resulting in major flooding across the county.

The drainage basin for the Yellow River includes the northern portion of Okaloosa County and the eastern section of Covington County, Alabama. The drainage basin for the Shoal River includes the northeast section of Okaloosa County and the northwest section of Walton County. The Shoal River drains into the Yellow River at a point southeast of Crestview. The areas at highest risk from river flooding are Dorcas, south Crestview, Milligan, and southern areas of the Holt community. High river levels can also pose dangers to military training operations at Camp Rudder.

Okaloosa County maintains four automatic flood gages: on the Yellow River at County Road 2 the Shoal River at Hwy 90 and Shoal River in Mossy Head and the Blackwater River Hwy 4. The gages have telemetry devices and record/report river level and rainfall accumulation. The USGS does the actual maintenance on the gages in the county. Since the dial-up recorders are powered by solar/wet cell battery, the phone numbers of these gages must be strictly controlled. Excessive calling will discharge the batteries. The gages may be viewed at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=mob>

RIVER FLOOD DATA MEASURED DATA

RIVER SITE	BRIDGE HEIGHT	10/50/100/500 YR FLD	FLOOD STAGE
Yellow at Hwy 90	22 feet	12/17/19/21	12 feet
Yellow at County Road 2	107 feet NGVD	Not established	95 feet NGVD*
Shoal at County Road 393	25 feet	Not established	21 feet*
Shoal at State Road 85	21 feet	12/17/18/21	8 feet
Shoal at Hwy 90	89 feet NGVD	81/83/84/87	78 feet NGVD*
Blackwater at State Road 4	24 feet	??/23/25	11 feet

*No official flood stage established; arbitrarily set to 3 feet above bank full. NGVD = National Geodetic Vertical Datum. The river level is given as the feet above mean sea level rather than the actual depth of the water. This is a more accurate and consistent means of measuring river rise and fall because river channel depths change over time. County-operated sites use the NGVD method.

FLOOD EFFECTS

RIVER / STATION	LEVEL	EFFECTS
Yellow at Hwy 90	5.9	Crosses Ellis Rd at trellis
	9.9	Water in back yards on Antioch Rd
	11.5	Water in yards on Ellis Rd.
	13.0	Threatens homes on Ellis and Antioch in Milligan
	14.5	Floods Antioch Rd and Yellow River Valley in Holt
	18.0	Railroad floods

NOTE: Crest from County Road 2 hits this station approx. 10-12 hours later. Crest from this station hits Holt in 24-36 hours

Shoal	8.5	In yards on Sowell Rd
	10.0	Surrounds trailers on Sowell Rd.
	15.0	Water on Trevor Ct in Crestview; homes on Sowell flooded
	16.85	Water over bridge pylon; homes on Trevor Ct. flooded
	21.0	Hwy 85 closes
Blackwater/Hwy 4	10.0	Kennedy & Peaden Bridges flooded upstream
	14.5	Park flooded
	24.0	Bridge closed

FLOOD HISTORY

RIVER / STATION	FLOOD YEAR	HIGHEST RIVER LEVEL
Yellow at Hwy 90	1928	20.2
	1929	26.2
	1953	13.63
	1970	15.50
	1975	17.71
	1979	12.65
	1990	19.06 (100-year flood)
	1994	17.55 feet
	1998 (Mar)	20.32
	1998 (Oct)	24.09

Shoal at Hwy 85	1975	15.58
	1990	13.74 (20-year flood)
	1994	14.82
	1998 (Mar)	13.47
	1998 (Oct)	21.40

Blackwater/Hwy 4	1970	25.61
	1990	24.99
	1994	18.30
	1998 (Mar)	23.05
	1998 (Oct)	25.57

h. Civil Disturbance -- Low Threat

Past incidents of civil disturbance have been of a few hours' duration involving less than 200 persons. Although future political, economic, social events, or visits by dignitaries may give rise to larger disturbances, it is considered to be a low-probability. Local law enforcement agencies have sufficient resources (when acting in mutual aid to each other) to handle the initial stages of foreseeable events. If necessary, the Sheriff may request additional law enforcement assistance from outside the county.

i. Mass Immigration -- Low Threat

There have been two mass immigration events in Okaloosa County -- the first was resettlement of Vietnamese refugees and the second was associated with the Mariel Boatlift of Cuban refugees. It is the position of state and local government that such emergencies are a federal responsibility. While Okaloosa County does its best to welcome immigrants and to assimilate them into society, local government does not have the resources to handle mass immigration events without major state and federal involvement.

Future events are impossible to predict, but the large expanses of federal lands make this area a prime choice for federal temporary housing of immigrants. When such events occur, local government will act in a supportive role to assist the federal government to meet its responsibilities.

j. Nuclear Power Plant Incidents -- Unlikely Threat

Okaloosa County is not within the 50-mile emergency planning zone of any nuclear facility.

k. Coastal Oil Spills -- Moderate Threat

The primary source of such events is commercial barge traffic along the Intercoastal Waterway. The secondary source is a terminal spill at the refinery in Niceville or military terminals on Choctawhatchee Bay and spills from drilling rigs in the Gulf, other sources as in the most recent past is the BP Oil Spill (Deep Water Horizon) April 20th 2010. It was the result of the well blow out that began with the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig off the shores of Louisiana.

Until the Deepwater Horizon event coastal spills in the past have been limited to relatively small spills that could be handled by local resources or contractors. Very large spills such as the Deepwater Horizon required assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, Mobile, FEMA, Florida State Division of Emergency Management, Florida Division of Environmental Protection as well as numerous hazardous materials clean up teams.

The local fire department hazardous materials teams have sufficient marine booms to isolate oil spills from recreational watercraft and small commercial vessels. The Niceville and North Bay fire departments also maintain marine booms. The U.S. Air Force and the privately-owned refinery in Niceville also maintain booms for handling terminal spills. The Deepwater Horizon Event quickly depleted the local and state-wide stock pile of booms and many regional supply companies. An oil spill plan was developed and is attached to this plan in Annex VII.

I. Sinkholes -- Low Threat

Okaloosa County is in the Area IV Sinkhole Risk Distribution area. Area IV has a thick section of clastic sediments that overlie the carbonate rock. The cover is more than 200 feet thick, thus resulting in very few sinkholes. Large diameter and deep sinkholes can occur, however, in areas where shallow carbonate rocks are permeable enough to permit ground-water circulation^{viii}.

The incidence of sinkholes has been limited to a few feet in diameter and depth. Most resulted from settling of subterranean abscesses, such as old graves, collapsed water or sewer facilities, etc.

m. Hurricanes -- High Threat

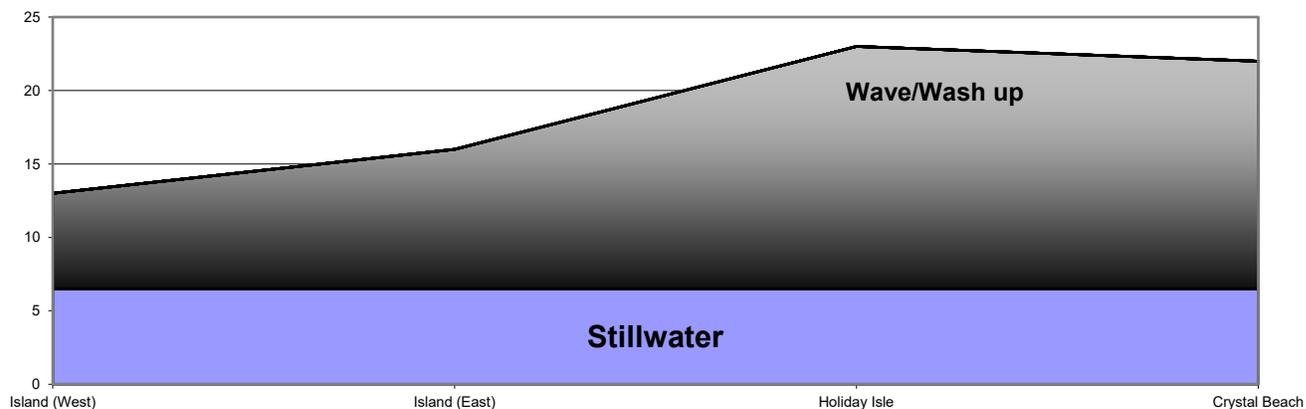
Historically, Okaloosa County has a 1-in-7 chance of being hit by a hurricane in any given year (not including tropical storms). This percentage is nearly equal to the southern tip of the Florida peninsula. The county has suffered the effects of 61 tropical cyclones that hit or passed within 65 miles since 1887. The Appendix Section of this document contains track maps of Category 3 or higher storms that have passed within 65 nautical miles of Ft. Walton Beach.

The ocean floor of the Gulf Basin slopes gradually, thus aggravating the problem of storm surge. Surge poses the chief danger to coastal populations. A storm surge is caused by a variety of factors. First, the low pressure in the hurricane's eye produces a small mound of water above normal levels. Second, the vortex of high wind pushes water inward toward the storm's center. The ocean floor, which gradually slopes upward, blocks the water from flowing away, effectively trapping the growing mound near the center. The surge is greater at and to the right of the eye.

The storm tide is a combination of the astronomical tide level and the storm surge. The surge normally does not arrive as a "wall of water," but is a quick rise in the tide to extremely high levels. This quickly rising water can trap residents and cause widespread drowning if people fail to evacuate. The chief damage mechanism of surge to structures is the onset of storm-whipped waves inland. Battering by the waves causes more damage than high water alone.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the National Hurricane Center developed computer models of storm surge for this area and published the resulting predictions in the Tri-State Hurricane Evacuation Study (2015) and the updated Hurricane Surge Maps (2015). The surge studies do not account for the effects of wave action, which can be phenomenal along the coastline. Figure 12 shows the combined surge and wave effects of Opal in October 1995.

OPAL STILLWATER SURGE AND WAVE HEIGHTS



A serious planning issue for Okaloosa County is the low-lying evacuation routes and their limited capacity. Studies and

experience show that the approaches to key bridges and long stretches of US Hwy 98 could be under water hours before a serious storm makes landfall. The accepted goal is to have evacuation complete by the time Tropical Storm winds (39 MPH) arrive, which could precede the storm's eye wall by hours. The 2020 Hurricane Evacuation Study indicates that it could take up to 34.5 hours to evacuate the surge-endangered areas. Population growth and slow public response could extend these times. Okaloosa Public Safety has computer software to make new estimates of evacuation times based on changes in population density. The department also uses a variety of software to help determine the arrival time and magnitude of storm surge in a given event. In spite of the current wealth of information and computing tools, we must consider the present lack of certainty in landfall predictions and the small size (in meteorological terms) of the Gulf of Mexico, which make timely evacuation decisions difficult. It is the planning goal of the county to issue voluntary evacuation notices 36 hours before landfall; urgent evacuation notices 24 hours before landfall, if practical.

The State Hurricane Evacuation Study established 28 evacuation zones. It also established two evacuation scenarios: one for Category 1-3 storms, and one for Category 4 & 5 storms. Unfortunately, the Tri-State Study's zones are complicated and would be impossible to communicate to the public. It also failed to consider areas that, while not flooded would be cut off from help by flooded roads. Therefore, the Department of Public Safety has adopted recommended evacuation plans based on boundaries that are easily communicated and enforced, and which accounts for isolated zones. Hurricane evacuation zones are discussed in Section IV, Concept of Operations, paragraph F.

n. Exotic Pests, Pandemic and Diseases – Moderate Threat

Accidental or migratory infestations of pests have a serious potential impact on the states, and county's, agricultural sectors. Historically, Florida has suffered from the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Citrus Canker, Brown Citrus Aphid, Asian Gypsy Moth, Golden Nematode, exotic plant feeding snails and other insect organisms. Since agriculture farms are an important part of the northern Okaloosa County economy, pest infestations must be considered a threat. While most of these infestations occur in counties of central and south Florida, north Florida is not immune. The County Extension Office monitors the risk from pest infestations.

Pandemics and communicable diseases are a particular risk to populations that live in congested areas, are highly mobile, or host frequent visitors from other areas. Okaloosa County, especially the southern area, fits all three of these risk factors. In 2020, the county experienced a Covid-19 outbreak that severely taxed local government's capabilities and caused fear and anxiety among the residents. A significant amount of material and personnel support from the Air Force , Florida Department of Health , and CDC was necessary to successfully deal with the outbreak. Communicable disease emergencies are discussed in greater detail in the ESF 8/Health and Medical Unit Tab, as well as pandemic plans developed by the Florida Department of Health. The Public Health Department monitors developing situations and has command responsibility for dealing with disease emergencies. OCPS provides material, personnel, and coordination support in such events.

o. Earthquakes -- Unlikely Threat

Although portions of Florida do have a slight earthquake risk, Okaloosa County lies in Seismic Risk Zone 0 of the state. This means there is "no reasonable expectancy of earthquake damage.^{ix}"

p. Terrorist Action -- Dynamic Threat

The primary target for terrorist action would likely be the military presence. The daily threat is low, but may rise during periods of international tension or as a result of high visibility incidents in other parts of the U.S. Possible terrorist actions include downing an aircraft, hijacking an aircraft, explosive attacks, hostage taking and chemical/biological or nuclear attacks. There have been no occurrences of a terrorist attack or damages sustained from a terrorist attack within Okaloosa County.

q. Special Events - Moderate Threat

Okaloosa County has a moderate vulnerability to special events. The county is a popular vacation destination, and population increases dramatically during the period of spring break and summer vacation. No occurrences or incidents of damage have occurred from this threat within Okaloosa County.

3. Population at Risk

a. General

The 2020 census population of the county (by U.S. Census) is approximately 211,668, with the heaviest concentration in the coastal areas. There are approximately 227 residents per square mile. The county has an estimated population of 714 inmates. This number will fluctuate as inmates are released and incarcerated. There are approximately 714 state/county inmates in the North end of the county.

b. High Risk Population

There are 5,478 mobile homes registered county wide (2019). There are 15,338 persons living in mobile homes (year 2019 estimate based on 2.8 persons per dwelling). This estimate should be considered slightly low, since some mobile homes are in use but have not been registered. Residents of mobile homes anywhere in the county are considered to be at risk in high wind events. See the Appendix Section of this document for a list of mobile home parks.

There are no nursing homes in the Category 1-3 surge area. There is an average of 120 nursing homes and 213 retirement home residents in the Category 4-5 surge area.

There are approximately 240 registered Special Needs Patients in the county. 26 currently indicate they need evacuation assistance from the county, and this fluctuates on a month-to-month basis. A planning figure of 20-percent may be used as an estimate as there has been an increase in requests prior to an actual event. Special Needs Patients who depend on electric life support devices but do not live in mandatory evacuation zones are encouraged to use the Special Needs Unit during evacuations.

The number of people living in Category 1-3 evacuation (Zone A, B, C) areas is estimated at 47,500, and 74,500 for Category 4-5 (Zone D, E) areas. The extreme risk areas of Okaloosa Island, Holiday Isle, and near-water homes have 11,400 full-time residents^x.

The tourist population can approach 50,000 plus during peak summer periods. Tourist levels are moderate to high in the spring and moderate to low in fall and winter. Age distribution of winter tourists is skewed toward 55-plus. There are approximately 15,000 motel rooms and tourist dwelling units in Okaloosa County, with the heaviest concentration in the coastal area^{xi}.

Seasonal (Farm Workers) migrant population, to include farm workers is negligible when compared to the total population. This population, if any is not estimated nor counted by Okaloosa County or the U.S. census bureau.

There are approximately 40,000 individuals with varying degrees of hearing loss. This includes individuals who have mild to profound hearing loss, and can be termed hard of hearing to deaf.

The non-English speaking population is approximately 10% of the population, but there are a significant number of residents for who English is a second language. Below are the estimates for the population of residents who English is a second language or who do not speak English at all:

- **92.1% of residents of Okaloosa County speak English at home.**
- **3.5% of residents speak Spanish at home (67% speak English very well, 16% speak English well, 15% speak English not well, 2% don't speak English at all).**
- **2.0% of residents speak other Indo-European language at home (78% speak English very well, 13% speak English well, 9% speak English not well, 1% don't speak English at all).**
- **2.3% of residents speak Asian or Pacific Island language at home (58% speak English very well, 30% speak English well, 11% speak English not well).**
- **0.1% of residents speak other language at home (66% speak English very well, 18% speak English well, 15% no not speak English well)**

There are approximately 900 transient and homeless persons located within Okaloosa County at any given time, with an estimated 495 located within the Category 1-3 evacuation zone.

Approximately 2,547 homes draw their water from individual wells. Approximately 59,832 draw their water from public or private water systems.^{xii}

Scenario	Population
Minimum (Extreme Risk)	11,500 (33,500 with high tourist pop.)
Medium (Ext Risk & Zone A & B)	32,500 (60,500 with high tourist occupancy)
Maximum (Zone A, B, C & D)	47,500 to 74,500 (105,800 with high tourist occupancy)

The figures above are based on year 2015 population estimates as extracted during the ongoing Tri-State Hurricane evacuation Study by the Corps of Engineers. The population numbers for each category do NOT include an estimated mobile home population of 20,678. All mobile homes should be evacuated in any tropical cyclone scenario.

AGE DISTRIBUTION (2020 Census)

<5	18	19-64	65+
6.2%	22.5%	54.9%	16.4%

4. Infrastructure at Risk

There are 11 post offices and 4 contract service centers in the county.

There are 3 LP Gas distributors, two fuel distributors, and 12 water or water & sewer systems in the county.

Florida Power & Light provides power to approximately 70,000 commercial and residential customers, mostly in the county south of Eglin AFB and in Crestview. CHELCO provides service to 4,500 – 5,000 customers in Bluewater Bay and north county areas.

Okaloosa County has 52 schools, two Vocational Technical Centers, and three college complexes or centers.

The county has three civilian hospitals with 434 beds and 10 nursing/convalescent homes with 634 beds

No manmade damage has occurred to critical infrastructure within Okaloosa County. Damage to critical infrastructure has occurred during natural disasters. The occurrence of this type of disaster is discussed in the appropriate section of the plan.

5. Economic Risk

The taxable sales in Okaloosa County are in excess of \$3.4 Billion (2018). The average per household annual income in 2021 was \$67,390. The total bank deposits were \$2.5 billion, with Savings & Loan Associations total savings of \$60 million.

The average market price of a single-family home in the county is \$248,400 (2021). The most popular area for new single-family home construction is Crestview and Niceville, an area that is at-risk during hurricanes, flooding, and tornados.

The civilian labor force was estimated at 96,708. The service industry accounted for 15,051 jobs, retail trade accounted for 13,641, manufacturing was 5,414, and 276 persons were occupied by agricultural jobs. Okaloosa County ranks first in the state for the percentage of labor force employed by the Federal Government. The 2022 unemployment rate was 2.3%.

FIVE LARGEST GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS (2020)^{xiii}

EMPLOYER	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Eglin AFB	7,570
Hurlburt Field	13,255
Duke Field	1,700
Okaloosa School District	3,294
State of Florida	897

Okaloosa County has four industrial parks, occupying 800 acres.

2.1 million Tourists visit Okaloosa County each year. They account for an estimated \$540 million annual economic impact. Tourism provides over one-third of the gas tax revenues for local road repair.

Destin harbors the largest fishing and charter boat fleet in Florida.

There are approximately 12,000 acres devoted to crop production. There are 20,000 acres of pasture and forage for livestock. Agriculture accounts contribute \$10-\$12 million to the local economy each year.

B. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

For planning purposes, the following assumptions have been made:

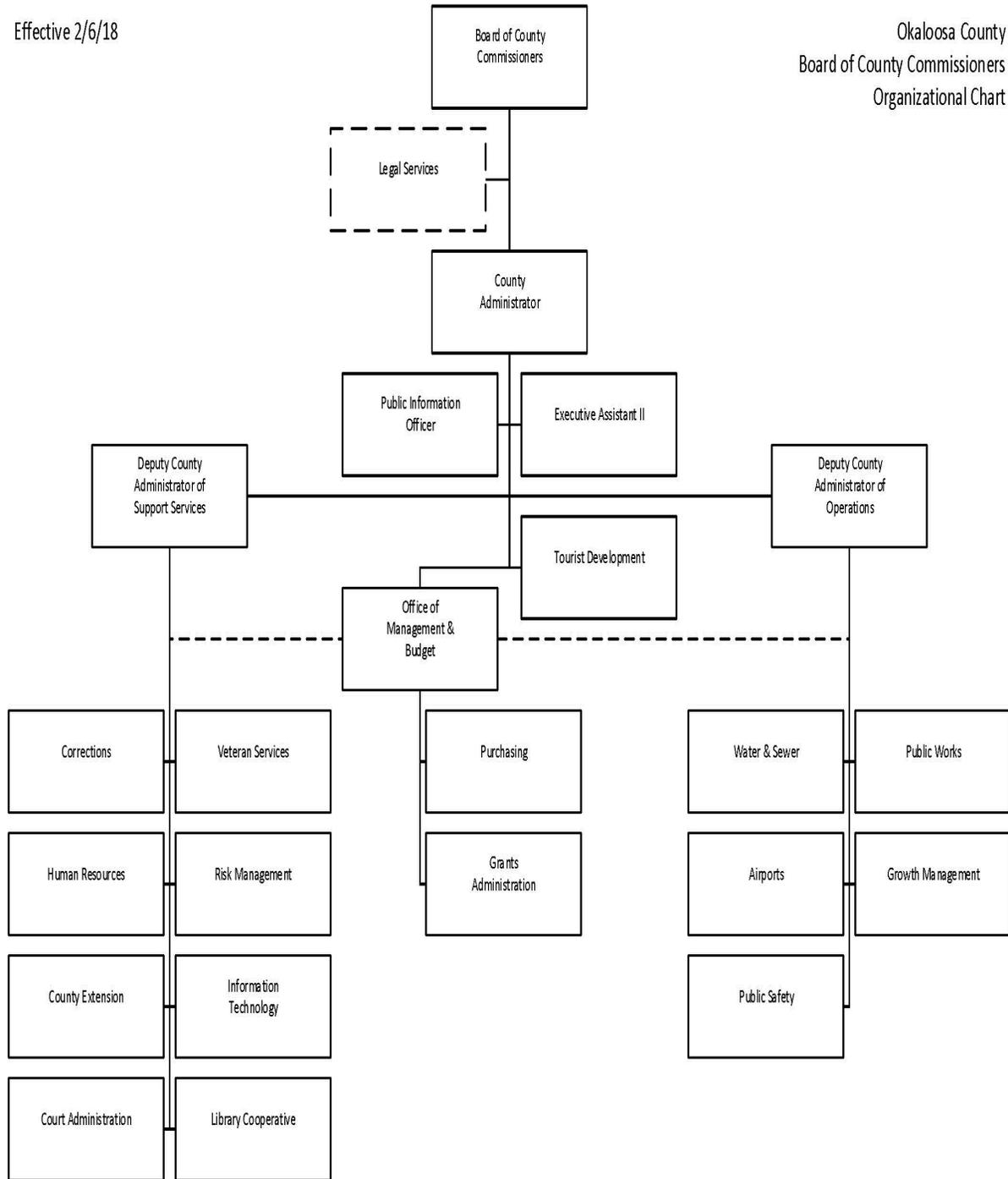
- Since 65 percent of Florida hurricanes strike in August and September, we must assume that either the tourist population will be high or, if in September, that schools will be in session. Each of these factors complicates the warning time and transportation issues.
- We cannot assume that state or federal financial assistance will necessarily follow a decision to evacuate for a minor disaster.
- Okaloosa Island will be flooded by hurricane storm surge, but will not be completely breached by the Gulf of Mexico except in a Category 3 or higher hurricane^{xiv}. A breach is defined as a major break that would essentially allow the Gulf of Mexico and Choctawhatchee Bay to function as a single body of water. A break in the island may occur, as it did during Hurricane Opal in 1995.
- Local military assets will not be available during hurricane alert and deployment phases. Assume that it will take 72 - 96 hours for outside assistance to arrive in any significant number after a major or catastrophic disaster.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**A. GENERAL**

Okaloosa County day-to-day operations flow from the BCC to the County Administrator, to the Department Heads, to the Divisions. Day-to-day mitigation activities fall under the Growth Management Department. Normal operation is depicted by the organizational chart below.

Effective 2/6/18

Okaloosa County
Board of County Commissioners
Organizational Chart



During the onset of any emergency activity, ICS/NIMS should be instituted in order to achieve efficient organization of duties during the event(s). In all instances, the Incident Commander (IC) shall decide to what level it is necessary to staff the ICS/NIMS structure. This also must be monitored throughout the event, for the incident may warrant the expansion or contraction of the overall ICS/NIMS structure. When possible, the Incident Commander, or designee shall notify Emergency Management of any potential for escalation of the event. In these cases, Emergency Management will make appropriate notifications to agencies who may become involved in the event should it escalate. This shall be done to minimize disruption to other agency functions by alerting them and putting them on standby for the event. In some instances, such alerting may not be possible due to the magnitude of the event and its needed response. However, when possible, the appropriate agencies in the NIMS/ICS structure will be notified in advance to allow for incident-specific response planning.

1. Classification of Emergency Incidents

a. Incidents

The day-to-day life-threatening situations that public safety personnel resolve with resources readily available within the responsible agency. Mutual aid responders may be used, but only for short periods. No outside support is usually required.

b. Significant Events

Significant events are situations that require two or more public safety agencies to respond, and which threaten several lives or a wide geographic area. Mutual aid responders may be required, but state assistance would usually be limited to technical advice or assistance. Examples would be a tornado touchdown in a populated area, a highway accident involving hazardous materials, or a wildfire that threatens populated areas. The EOC may enter an increased state of activity, and the primary agency may request resource assistance from the Department of Public Safety.

c. Minor Disaster

As defined in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, a Minor Disaster is a disaster "that is likely to be within the response capabilities of local government and to result in only a minimal need for state or federal assistance." There is a high likelihood that the EOC will be activated; there may have been a formal State of Emergency declared and an evacuation. An example of this

would be a weak hurricane making landfall in Okaloosa County, or a stronger hurricane making landfall 60 to 125 miles away. The 2014 April floods and Hurricane Erin in 1995 were minor disasters. The biggest need for outside assistance after Erin was for debris removal and for the floods in April was individual assistance.

d. Major Disaster

As defined in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, a major disaster "will likely exceed local capabilities and require a broad range of state and federal assistance." An example would be a strong Category 3 hurricane making landfall in or very near Okaloosa County, or a massive hazardous material release in the bay or on the railroad near Crestview. Hurricane Ivan in 2004 was a major disaster.

e. Catastrophic Disaster

As defined in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, this is "a disaster that will require massive state and federal assistance, including immediate military involvement. A Category 4 or 5 hurricane, making landfall in or near Okaloosa County, will likely result in such a disaster.

2. State of Local Emergency

The agency primarily responsible for handling an incident or significant event will retain incident command authority unless the Board of County Commissioners or the Governor has declared a formal State of Local Emergency.

When an actual or impending event threatens a large segment of the population, the Director of Public Safety may request that the Board of County Commissioners declare a State of Local Emergency. The Director or the Emergency Management Chief will submit such request through the County Administrator. If, however, the County Administrator and the Director or the Emergency Management Chief cannot reach agreement on the need for a declaration, the Director or the Emergency Management Chief is obligated by Florida Statute to appeal directly to the Board of County Commissioners. If the Board of County Commissioners or the Governor declares a State of Emergency, the Director of Public Safety is designated as the Incident Commander, with the Emergency Management Chief acting as his designated alternate.

When the Board of County Commissioners votes on the emergency declaration, it will simultaneously decide on any evacuation

recommendations made by the Director or the Emergency Management Chief.

If the Board of County Commissioners declares a State of Local Emergency, but does not at that time decide on evacuation orders, the Director of Public Safety or the Emergency Management Chief may, under the provisions of Chapter 252, F.S.S., later issue evacuation orders deemed necessary and prudent for the protection of life.

Generally, the priorities for emergency action will be:

- Protect the safety of the general public
- Protect the safety of emergency responders
- Protect property and the environment

In any situation, the Incident Commander may potentially face a choice between protecting the public and protecting emergency responders. Specific guidelines for making such choices are impossible to formulate. In general, however, the person exercising command authority may evaluate the circumstances of the hazard and, when the risk to public safety personnel is such that their death or injury would appear probable; decide against placing those personnel at further risk. An example of this would be the inadvisability of dispatching rescue personnel during a hurricane.

B. ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations flow from the BCC to the County Administrator, to the Public Safety Director, to the Division of Emergency Management.

1. General Organization

a. Law Enforcement Agencies

Each law enforcement agency functions independently for routine operations. Mutual aid agreements exist between several parties. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the county. The Sheriff's Office and Ft. Walton Beach Police Department have Special Tactics Teams. See also section V. Responsibilities and Annex 5. Law Enforcement agencies in Okaloosa County include:

- Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

- Okaloosa County Department of Corrections
- Ft. Walton Beach Police Department
- Niceville Police Department
- Valparaiso Police Department
- Crestview Police Department
- Shalimar Police Department
- State Fire Marshall
- Florida Highway Patrol
- Florida Marine Patrol
- U.S. Air Force (Office of Special Investigations, Security Forces, Range Patrol/Marshals)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation

b. Emergency Medical Services

The Department of Public Safety is the sole licensed provider of 9-1-1 response emergency medical services within Okaloosa County.

Private ambulance services with a valid Certificate of Need and Public Convenience in Okaloosa County or who are sent to Okaloosa County pursuant to a mutual aid request may respond to emergencies or other missions when tasked by OCPS Dispatch or the Emergency Operations Center. Visiting EMS units may not operate independently or “self-dispatch,” which would be a violation of Florida Statute. See Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 15, Art. IV.

Okaloosa Public Safety has mutual aid agreements with neighboring counties for EMS response. Okaloosa County has entered into the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for providing or receiving EMS assistance to or from other parts of the state.

See also IV. Concept of Operations and Annex 8, Health & Medical Support.

c. Public Works

The following municipalities have Public Works (Road & Engineering) agencies:

- Crestview
- Destin
- Ft. Walton Beach
- Mary Esther
- Niceville
- Valparaiso

The following municipalities do not have a public works organization, but use private contractors or county Public Works on a case-by-case basis,

- Cinco Bayou
- Shalimar
- Water & Sewer is provided by the following agencies:
- Okaloosa County Water & Sewer
- Okaloosa-Niceville-Valparaiso Sewer Board
- Ft. Walton Beach City Public Works
- Niceville City Public Work
- Destin Water Users, Inc.
- Valparaiso City (water only)
- Crestview City Public Works
- Auburn Water, Inc. (water only)
- Baker Water, Inc. (water only)
- Holt Water, Inc. (water only)

- Seminole Water, Inc. (water only)

The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) provides Public Works service to unincorporated areas of the county, and to municipalities under contract or when requested in emergencies. Unless the municipality has a prior written agreement with the county or is a signatory to the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement, emergency support during normal operations must be approved by the Chairman of the BCC or County Administrator on a case-by-case basis. During a declared State of Emergency, however, the EOC ESF 3/Public Works Unit Coordinator, Emergency Management Chief, or Director may approve such support.

Public Works mutual aid is covered under the Statewide Mutual Aid Compact. See also Annex 3 and Annex 11.

d. Fire Protection

Okaloosa County fire protection service is organized within fire control districts or municipalities, each of which (except Sylvania Heights) has independent taxing authority. Annex 4 contains more information and procedures on Fire Protection.

The fire districts/departments are responsible for establishing and maintaining fire suppression operations. In the south end of the county and part of the north, the fire service is dispatched from the County Warning Point, and routinely provides automatic aid assistance outside their primary jurisdictions. In the central area, Niceville and Valparaiso Fire Departments maintain their own dispatch operations. In the north end, Crestview Fire Department dispatches for itself and three volunteer fire departments.

Each fire department and district are responsible for maintaining plans for emergency operations. They enter into mutual aid agreements as necessary. Several departments, including the Department of Public Safety, have entered into an automatic aid agreement that allows for immediate dispatch of personnel and equipment from one agency to the aid of another.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICTS

Agency	Dispatch	Type	Stations	Remarks
Almarante FCD	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer
Blackman	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer
Baker FCD	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer
Crestview FD	Crestview	Mixed	2	Paid & Volunteer
Destin FCD	CWP	Career	2	Paid & Volunteer
Dorcas FCD	CWP	Mixed	2	Paid & Volunteer
East Niceville FCD	CWP	Mixed	1	Paid & Volunteer
Florosa FCD	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer
FWB FD	CWP	Career	2	Paid
Holt FCD	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer
Laurel Hill FD	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer
Mary Esther FD	CWP	Career	1	Paid & Volunteer
Niceville FD	CWP	Mixed	1	Paid & Volunteer
North Bay FCD	CWP	Mixed	1	Paid & Volunteer
North Okaloosa FCD	CWP	Mixed	3	Paid & Volunteer
Ocean City/Wright	CWP	Career	3	Paid
Okaloosa Island FCD	CWP	Career	1	Paid
Valparaiso FD	CWP	Volunteer	1	Volunteer

e. **Special Teams**

The following special teams are available in Okaloosa County:

- **High-Angle Rescue Team** -- The fire service and OCPS cooperate to form a high-angle rescue team.
- **Water Rescue Team** -- OCPS maintains a Water Rescue Team for bay, beach, and swift water (river & flood) operations.
- **Wild land Fire Support Team** -- OCPS through mutual aid and local fire districts maintains a cadre of certified Basic Wild land Firefighters to provide medical and communications support to wild land firefighting operations.
- **Crisis Awareness & Referral in Emergencies (CARE) Team** -- OCPS maintains a team of OCPS personnel trained to assist victims to cope with the negative impact of disasters.
- **Sheriff's Dive Team** -- full scope of Sheriff's office operations
- **Okaloosa County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** -- Okaloosa County CERT in cooperation with district fire have trained county citizens in the FEMA CERT program. The teams are coordinated through Okaloosa County Emergency Management and are self-

sufficient. Teams are neighborhood based and after a disaster event form up and perform disaster assistance within the guidelines of their training.

- **Sheriff's Marine Unit** – The Marine Unit's routine mission is law enforcement inshore and on Choctawhatchee Bay. They have deployed with great success during river floods to participate in search & rescue and security patrols.
- **Sheriff's Special Response Team** -- This team is specially trained for situations involving barricaded suspects, hostage situations, etc. They have also been deployed to support special security missions in disaster areas and to assist with search and rescue.
- **Local Mitigation Strategy Committee** – The committee holds regular meeting on a quarterly basis. They discuss mitigation objectives, as well as current and future projects. The committee will review identified mitigation opportunities in post disaster actions and act upon feasible opportunities. The committee is chaired by the Growth Management Director of Okaloosa County (See Annex B).

2. Emergency Planning Phases

a. Awareness Phase

This is the normal state of readiness for emergency operations. Public safety agencies conduct normal operations and maintain a structure to recognize and react to significant incidents. The public maintains awareness of the various threats and seeks, through information and accumulation of resources, to improve its ability to survive a significant incident.

Agencies are able to deal with the usual emergencies (structure fires, vehicle accidents, isolated damage and injuries caused by localized storms) with existing assets and command structures. Agencies conduct planning, preparation, and training for significant events and disasters.

b. Alert Phase

The Alert Phase begins when a significant threat is recognized. This may be the receipt of a tornado warning from the National Weather Service, a 9-1-1 call about a train derailment, or notice that a hurricane could make landfall in 60 to 48 hours. Agencies begin specific actions to meet the actual or potential threat.

In the case of hurricanes, agencies take such action as staging back-up supplies, setting up additional communications equipment, activating stand-by phone lines, perform emergency repairs of critical equipment, begin making arrangements for sleeping and subsistence needs of staff, volunteer agencies assemble staff, coordinate with hotels, etc. Coordinate sheltering arrangements, include shelters of last resort (additional schools, churches, YMCA, etc.).

c. Decision Phase

The Decision Phase applies to hurricane situations. Ideally, it occurs when landfall is 48 hours to 33 hours away (see Appendix 4 for a decision point table). In less than ideal circumstances, such as when Gulf-born tropical systems form near the coast or when storms make unexpected turns, the Decision Phase may occur much later.

Ideally, the decision to evacuate should be made during this period. The public should be made aware that evacuation is being considered and should be instructed to finalize their preparedness activities. Transportation arrangements must be finalized. Law enforcement agencies begin deploying signs and other assets to support evacuation. Utility and public works agencies gear up for deployment to storm locations. EOC staff transitions to Level 3 activation.

If practical in cases of very large storm systems that have a high probability of impacting the county, phase into evacuation by ordering or advising residents of Okaloosa Island to begin evacuation. Additional evacuations may be ordered later.

d. Final Preparation Phase

The Final Preparation Phase applies to hurricane situations. Ideally, it takes place at landfall minus 45 hours to 30 hours, but may run concurrently with the Decision Phase.

Assets begin to deploy to emergency locations. Test communications with shelters. Volunteer agencies and schools begin to prepare for receiving evacuees. Special Needs evacuation begins. Coordinate evacuation orders with state agencies, Alabama, and other counties.

e. Evacuation Phase

The Evacuation Phase is usually associated with hurricanes, but may also be used in cases of hazardous materials spills, flooding, or winter freezes with loss of power over a wide area.

In the hurricane scenario, it would ideally occur at Landfall minus 36 hours to 24 hours. Some situations may not allow this much notice. Government issues the evacuation order at the beginning of the phase. It is important to note that evacuation should be complete by the time 40-mph winds reach the county. Evacuation is estimated to take 15 to 24 hours, depending on time of year, time of day, size of evacuated area, and tourist population. The order to evacuate should be given, if practical, before school busses commit to their morning routes, or before the normally scheduled news broadcasts. The EOC goes to Level 1 activation. The county utilizes five evacuation zones; the zones are based upon surge zones. Zone "A" encompasses Cat 1 hurricane surge zones. Zone "B" includes surge zones for Cat 2. Zone "C" includes surge zones for Cat 3, Zone D is for Cat 4, and Zone E is for Cat 5. Evacuation zones and routes as part of the public information program are located the county website at at: <http://www.myokaloosa.com/ps/evacuation>. The public types in their address to find what evacuation zone their house is located and the evacuation routes for the county.

In hazardous materials incidents, there is usually no warning before an evacuation order is issued. Most situations result in evacuation of small numbers of people, but rare incidents may require evacuation of large areas and many thousands of people. The decision to evacuate is made by the Incident Commander after consultation with specialists and other government representatives. Coordination with several agencies is necessary to arrange notification, transportation, and sheltering.

In other cases, such as winter freezes, there may be more warning time for government agencies to prepare. Evacuation in such cases is usually conducted for individuals who have health problems that would place them in a high-risk category if they were without heat.

f. Landfall Phase

This applies to hurricane situations, and begins with the arrival of sustained 40-mph winds or serious flooding of Okaloosa Island roads. The population should be sheltered in homes, public shelters, or out of the area. If evacuees are still on the roads during this phase consider opening shelters of last resort.

Emergency vehicles cannot respond due to high crosswinds (ambulances usually cease operations when sustained winds reach 40-mph; fire apparatus usually stop responding at 55-mph winds). All emergency personnel are in their designated staging areas.

g. Response Phase

In most emergencies, this would occur immediately after the Alert Phase. In hurricane situations, however, it begins after wind speeds reduce to levels considered safe for emergency responders and workers to begin work outside. The Response Phase could last from one day to two weeks.

When wind speeds subside to relatively safe levels, public safety and public works agencies begin clearing routes into populated areas to conduct search & rescue. As they proceed, they relay initial assessments of human impact to the EOC, which collates the information and formulates the impact assessment.

The following actions may also take place:

- Utility companies assess damage and attempt to restore priority operations to support search & rescue, emergency communications, and public health.
- The EOC collects and collates resource requirements and requests support as necessary. Assess damage to critical facilities and report.

- Citizen re-entry in Declared Emergencies is allowed only upon order of the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners or the Governor. This will be extremely difficult to enforce and will place a heavy burden on law enforcement agencies.

h. Restoration Phase

This phase begins after the threat has passed or has been otherwise neutralized. It includes actions designed to bring the environment, business, and daily routine back to minimum essential levels.

In hurricane situations, it may begin concurrently with response actions and may last days or weeks, depending on the severity and geographic extent of damage.

This is the period in which local governments make temporary repairs to the infrastructure, insurance companies assess damage to homes, homeowners do clean-up and makeshift repairs, and mutual aid support rotates through in 7 to 30-day cycles. Disaster Assistance Centers activate.

Certain negative aspects may begin to develop, such as public safety and hospital workers suffering from exhaustion, public health concerns begin to multiply, debris builds up, and social order may deteriorate, public outrage is fueled by their own frustration and press reports of what went wrong.

I. Recovery and Redevelopment Phase^{xv}

The recovery and redevelopment period are comprised of community actions to rebuild and prepare for the next significant event. It may take weeks to years, depending on the severity and extent of damage. Federal and insurance funds may fuel a flurry of repair and construction, temporary workers may move into the area, special interests may compete for attention in priorities and policies of recovery action, and long-term emotional problems begin to evidence themselves.

There may be efforts to have building inspection standards loosened in order to promote fast recovery, but such efforts are counterproductive in the long term and should not be approved^{xvi}.

The role of government in this phase is to facilitate society's skill and tendency to restore life to normal, while ensuring a

strategy that would prevent counterproductive and imprudent activities.

Further information on recovery and redevelopment is contained in the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Chapter of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and in the Appendix Section of this document, Recovery & Redevelopment.

C. COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING

1. General

Incident communications for notification and warning will be dictated by and through the Incident Action Plan (IAP).

Okaloosa County uses a decentralized system for most public safety communications. The Department of Public Safety, through the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, maintains an Emergency Communications Center (County Warning Point)

The primary method for warning the public of hazardous situations is through the broadcast media. The county utilizes the "Alert Okaloosa" system to alert residents of emergencies. "Alert Okaloosa" is a geo-notification system. The system allows areas to be selected on a map, a message is recorded and automated phone calls are initiated. The system can call up to 1,000 phones per minute. The county also utilizes the weather warning service of "Alert Okaloosa" which provides completely automated weather warning information to residents who live in warning areas. The Emergency Alert system is discussed under Warning and in Tab 2. A network of sirens or loudspeakers is deemed impractical and unworkable. This is based on research on their relative effectiveness and the specifics of terrain, building patterns, and population behavior in Okaloosa County. The cost-to-benefit ratio is unfavorable.

2. Communications System

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office maintains the entire 911 Network for Okaloosa County.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office operates the County Warning Point which dispatches EMS for all fire departments and Emergency Management, with the exception of Crestview and Eglin AFB. The Department of Public Safety maintains the Emergency Management Satellite Communications System (ESATCOM) and the "AlertOkaloosa" Warning system used by Emergency Management to

alert schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office operates Next Generation 911 Network and is working toward Next Generation Spatial Routing in the near future. Okaloosa County has two Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs): The Emergency Communications Center (ECC)/ County Warning Point, and Eglin AFB Fire. Secondary PSAPs are located at Crestview PD, City of Crestview Fire, Security Forces, City of Niceville PD, City of Valparaiso PD, and City of Fort Walton Beach PD. Hurlburt Field has a stand-alone 911 network to which Okaloosa County may transfer, re-route, and forward wireless 911 calls.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service for supplemental emergency support is designed to place HAM radios, with an operator, in the County Risk Shelters and the EOC. Some municipalities also have HAM radio capability for their EOC. Each school-based shelter has a two-way 800 MHz radio and a Verizon emergency phone which can be operated by non-HAM personnel.

Antenna systems for the HAM radios have been installed in the schools designated as public evacuation centers (County Shelters).

OCPS has an 800 MHz Command & Control Net for use during significant incidents. To date, the following organizations participate in the net:

- Okaloosa County Public Safety
- Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
- Okaloosa Water & Sewer
- Ocean City/Wright Fire Control District
- Destin Fire District
- Florosa Fire District
- Ft. Walton Beach Fire Department
- Niceville fire Department
- North Bay Fire Control District
- Okaloosa Island Fire Control District
- Eglin AFB Fire Department

- Jackson Guard
- 6th Ranger Training Battalion
- Crestview Fire Department

3. Communications Operations

During routine operations, public safety agencies dispatch their own assets using their own communications center and frequencies. This concept of operations does not change during a declared emergency.

During the Alert or Deployment Phases of a declared emergency, Amateur Radio personnel will pick up the designated Emergency Management HF/UHF radios from the EOC or storage location and deploy them as planned to County Shelters. Designated Amateur Radio operators will establish radio positions in the EOC. The EOC will establish ESATCOM contact with the State Warning Point.

During EOC activation, County Department Directors will establish sat phone positions at the EOC. Sat phones for that purpose are stored in the EOC with exception of Water and Sewer who maintain their own. Sat Phones will be used when regular communication channels are interrupted i.e... Land lines or cell phones.

In the event that EOC radio roof top antennas are destroyed during a storm, the EOC will rely on cellular, satellite phone, and portable ham radio communications until such time as the radio network can be re-established. A crank-up antenna tower is installed at the EOC should the roof top antenna system be affected.

OCPS maintains a Satellite Communications System capable of operation in remote areas or when landline and cellular phone systems are out of operation. The system consists of two fixed site units. The county owns 25 satellite phones that will be issued to pre-identified individuals as situations dictate. The county also owns an emergency communications trailer. The trailer utilizes HAM radio equipment to include D-star, UHF/VHF radios, SATCOM communications, and all emergency response vhf/uhf/800 MHz frequencies and can establish a wireless network for responders in the immediate area of the trailer. The trailer includes a tactical interoperability system which can interconnect radios on different frequencies allowing first responders to communicate. However, if the dispatch center of the affected area has a functioning interoperable system, it is always best to use their own system. If necessary, these devices can be used to coordinate mutual aid

response to the county or for operations in remote or rural areas where cellular and radio signals are too weak for reliable communications.

The 800 MHz Command & Control Net may be used for “routine” emergencies to effect improved coordination among the user agencies, or as a backup when VHF/UHF antennas are torn away by high winds. This system is also very good for use in remote areas.

4. Warning System

The County Warning Point (ECC) conducts warning operations in accordance with established Standard Operating Procedures. A generator and UPS systems provide emergency power. The Emergency Management Warning System consists of the following components:

a. Notification by the National Weather Service

Notification by the National Weather Service (NWS) that there is impending danger from weather systems. The NWS issues these warnings to media outlets and emergency management. OCPS also receives warning information from commercial vendors via smart phones.

b. 911 Call

In the case of hazardous materials incidents, wildfires, aircraft crashes, etc., initial notification is made only after the danger has begun. This may be by a 9-1-1 call from a citizen, a business, or storage facility.

c. Relay of Warning by the Public Safety Department

The Department of Public Safety relays warnings it receives by several methods which may be used singly or in conjunction with other methods. These methods include:

- The Alert Okaloosa System with broadcast capability is used for alerting the media, tourist resorts, and public safety agencies of known hazards.
- An automated Citizen Information Line (phone number 311/850-609-7000) for posting recorded messages that can be accessed by the public and Department personnel. This system is usually reserved for hurricane-related events and public health emergencies.

- Warning signs are posted near rivers when the NWS issues flood warnings. The signs are red in color with white reflective letters that state “Flood Warning in Effect.”
- Smart phones for alerting Department management personnel.
- Coordination with print and broadcast media, who informs the public of impending danger and relays official instructions to the public.^{xvii}
- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is comprised of a network of broadcast stations across the nation. Certain stations are designated as Local Primary Sources (LP-1 or LP-2). Stations not designated as an LP-1 or LP-2 monitor at least one Local Primary and rebroadcast EAS alerts sent out by those primary stations. Broadcast TV and radio stations are included in the system. The LP-1’s for this area are WCOA-AM/WWRO-FM, 1370 kHz/100.7 MHz in Pensacola and WKSM-FM, 99.5 in Fort Walton Beach. The LP-2’s in Okaloosa County are WWY-FM, 88.1, Pensacola and WRGV, 107.3, in Pensacola. The Federal Communications Commission regulates EAS operations. Each EAS Operational Area within the states is required to submit a procedural plan for approval by the FCC. Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia Counties are in EAS Operational Area 1. The primary purpose of the EAS is to alert the public to national emergencies. Its most frequent use, however, is for local alerts. For severe weather, the NWS activates the EAS. Emergency Management activates the EAS for hazardous materials emergencies or other major incidents that may threaten large sectors of the population. The EAS plan for this area allows the Director of Public Safety or the Emergency Management Chief to activate the EAS through the Alert Okaloosa System.

5. Warning policies.

The Department of Public safety facilitates public warning by relaying official alert information to the media, who in turn inform the public. The Department of Public Safety will utilize the Alert Okaloosa system to provide direct warning information by phone to affected areas. The Alert Okaloosa system can call up to 1,000 numbers per minute. The actual level of calls per minute will be affected by the phone company’s computer servers and the length of the warning message. Although it is not practical for large area warning,

there may be instances where public safety personnel go door-to-door or street-to-street to announce a warning. Such personal delivery of warnings is practical only in fire and hazardous materials situations. Previous attempts to directly notify the public over large areas (Alberto, Erin, and Opal) with fire and law enforcement personnel had poor results. Generally, it caused confusion, was ignored and pulled critical personnel from other important duties.

The public has a basic responsibility to maintain situational awareness, and to monitor official broadcasts for emergency instructions. For example, when the weather appears to be threatening, the public should monitor radio and television for any watches or warnings that may be issued. During hurricane season, the public should check the weather broadcasts daily to learn of any tropical systems that may develop. When a tropical system is a potential threat to our area, the public should frequently check broadcasts for emergency information. **Successful warning depends on public participation and interest.**

Some agencies, such as home health care agencies and Elder Services, relay hurricane and flood warning information to their clients by telephone if time and operations permit. For example, a home health care agency should call their clients during a hurricane alert to check on the status of special supplies, if the client intends to evacuate, etc.

Okaloosa County does have the capability to specifically identify and warn citizens who are hearing or visually impaired. The Alert Okaloosa system does have the ability to communicate with TDD equipment. Residents with such impairments should plan with friends, relatives, neighbors, or service agencies to assist them in an area-wide emergency.

Siren and loudspeaker warning systems are expensive to install and maintain over large areas. Research in other areas has shown that, due to a number of factors, they are inefficient warning systems except for local hazards (such as a chemical plant or beach)^{xviii}. Modern building practices and ambient noise in the home or office (televisions, stereo, air handlers, etc.) requires a high number of sirens to be installed if there is to be any assurance that a large portion of the population will hear them. In and of themselves, sirens do not provide information. Assuming they would hear the siren, residents would then have to tune into the broadcast media to obtain information. For these reasons, it has been determined that sirens are not a cost-effective solution to public warning, and

could lull the public into a false sense of security. The Alert Okaloosa, automated severe weather warning system will be utilized as the primary warning system for severe weather.

There are two warning zones: north and south.

OCPS uses the Warning Point concept for distributing warning information. In other words, OCPS will notify one person or facility for each agency, department, or municipality (military bases are treated as municipalities). That person or facility must then relay the information in accordance with internal procedures to ensure maximum distribution of the information.

6. Warning Operations

The Department of Public Safety is usually advised of severe weather through commercial notification systems, the NWS Mobile, or the State Warning Point via ESATCOM, NAWAS, or facsimile. A first responder or witness may advise the department of other events (HazMat, tornado damage, etc.). The Department also monitors rivers through the network of automated gages. River stage information from these gages is available by via the NWS USGS system, voice and/or data, a USGS internet connection, and from the NWS.

If the situation warrants and time allows, OCPS will initiate public warnings by sending alert messages to the appropriate broadcast stations, via the County PIO, and the Alert Okaloosa System, and/or by recording an appropriate message on the Citizen Information Line. The Department of Public Safety may directly warn the public utilizing Alert Okaloosa, but mainly depends on signage and the broadcast media (see discussion of the EAS System in paragraph IV.C.3.a, Warning systems, above. Public safety agencies and city governments may be alerted via Alert Okaloosa System.

The Director of Public safety or the Emergency Management Chief will ensure that the State Warning Point is advised of significant incidents in accordance with the OCPS Significant Incident SOP.

C. ACTIVATION OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The primary location of the EOC is 90 East College Boulevard, Niceville, FL. 32578. The secondary (alternate) location is the UF/IFAS Extension Office for Okaloosa County, 3098 Airport Rd. Crestview, FL. 32539.

Activation of the EOC means that it is staffed to the appropriate level of personnel and operating at a minimum of Level 3. Staffing may consist of the Emergency Management Division, command representatives of the ESF Lead and Support agencies, and others from public, private, and volunteer sectors who are, or are expected to be, involved in a specific incident. This includes all members required to support the County NIMS/ICS structure. Emergency Management will make notifications to the appropriate ESF/NIMS components to advise that the EOC is being activated, and that their presence is required in the EOC.

1. General

The Emergency Management Chief is responsible for maintaining the EOC in a ready-to-activate status. Level 1 (full) activation of the EOC requires approval by the County Administrator. Stages of activation are indicated below.

a. Level 3

Level 3 activation, or monitoring, includes day-to-day routine operations. Fire/EMS Dispatch acts as the county's 24-hour Warning Point.

During a routine incident, the responsible department may set up an on-site Incident Command Post (ICP) if it so desires. No county-wide action is required.

The responsible department will handle press relations via their Public Information Officer (PIO). Needed logistical support, additional personnel, or other resources will be the additional responsibility of the responsible department.

b. Level 2

A Level 2 activation indicates urgent conditions. The Director of Public Safety or, in the absence of the Director, the Emergency Management Chief can activate the EOC to level 2. At this level the EOC generally functions on 12-hour rotations for the duration of the event, with representatives of all required ESFs on 12-hour shifts. Public Safety

management personnel staff the EOC a minimum of 12-hours per day.

The responsible department, if required, may set up an on-site Incident Command Post (ICP) and all responding departments should be notified of its location.

NIMS shall be instituted using an Incident Command Systems structure, and the designated Incident Commander (IC) shall assign necessary personnel to the Administrative/Finance, Logistics, Planning, and Operations Sections of the NIMS structure as required by the incident. Unified Command (UC) may be set up as necessary to coordinate operations among multiple agencies in an efficient manner.

The responsible department may also set up an administrative command post at its main facility or at the EOC according to the level of administrative support required. The County Administrator, Director of Public Safety, and the Emergency Management Chief should be notified of the command post location and of any need for EOC activation.

As deemed necessary, the Incident Commander will designate a Public Information Officer (PIO) for the incident, who shall determine the need to activate a Joint Information Center (JIC) and/or Joint Information System (JIS) as required by incident demands. Needed logistical support, additional support, or other resources will be the responsibility of the Operations Section and the Logistics Section. Emergency purchases should be referred to the County Administrator through the Administrative/Finance Section, who may expedite those requests with the assistance of the County Purchasing Director under the Logistics Section as established.

c. Level 1

A Level 1 activation is considered a full activation of the EOC, and requires County Administrator or BCC Chairman approval. At this level of activation, the EOC is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the duration of the incident. Staff operate on 12-hour shifts. Staff consists of a minimum of one representative from each ESF, four Citizen Information Line operators, Gulf Power, Chelco and Okaloosa Gas and County department representatives as needed. OCPS staff shall be present in the EOC as required during each 12-hour

shift. Each agency is responsible for developing rosters and schedules to ensure the EOC is staffed as needed (administered through Section Chiefs). Each ESF will report to a Section Chief (appointed by the IC). The Section Chief will handle scheduling, attend all necessary briefings and meetings, prepare necessary ICS forms and act as spokesperson for the respective ESF. The Section Chief may have a Deputy during larger events.

The primary responsibility for decision making rests with the Incident Commander or Unified Command (UC)/Emergency Management Board, which is defined as a committee of appointed representatives in the EOC. This committee may include state, federal and volunteer agency representatives as the incident warrants. The on-site Incident Commanders (ICs) will make decisions necessary to protect life and property and to stabilize the situation. Decisions designed to properly resolve the entire emergency shall be the responsibility of the overall Incident Commander or Unified Command.

This level of response usually results in a "Declaration of Emergency" by the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, who invokes the emergency powers of the office.

The senior representative of the department in charge of on-scene operations shall establish an on-site Incident Command Post and notify all departments of the location.

NIMS shall be instituted using an Incident Command Systems structure, and the designated Incident Commander (IC) shall assign necessary personnel to the Administrative/Finance, Logistics, Planning, and Operations Sections of the NIMS structure as required by the incident. Unified Command (UC) shall be set up as necessary to coordinate operations among multiple agencies in an efficient manner.

As deemed necessary, the Incident commander will designate a Public Information Officer (PIO) for the incident, who shall determine the need to activate a Joint Information Center (JIC) and/or Joint Information System (JIS) as required by incident demands.

Needed logistical support, additional support, or other resources will be the responsibility of the Operations Section and the Logistics Section. Emergency purchases should be referred to the County Administrator through the

Administrative/Finance Section, who may expedite those requests with the assistance of the County Purchasing Manager under the Logistics Section as established.

It must be emphasized that the EOC consists of the entire building or complex where it is in operation. The EOC is not simply one room. When it is necessary to use rooms of other departments or agencies within the complex, the Director of Public Safety or the Emergency Management Chief will make a request in short memo format, or verbally, to a representative of the responsible agency. If permission is not forthcoming in the necessary time frame, the Director of Public safety or the Emergency Management Chief will notify the County Administrator, who will seek to obtain the needed space either directly or through the Board of County Commissioners.

The Northwest Florida State College Wellness Center will be set aside as a sleeping area for EOC staff and family members. Wellness classrooms will be used as sleeping areas for EOC staff who do not have families present. Overflow sleeping and support of family members will be conducted in the Raider Room.

2. Alert Procedures

When deemed necessary to activate the EOC, the Department of Public safety will notify department heads, municipalities, public safety dispatch centers, and heads of agencies which send representatives to the EOC. Voice telephone, text and email alert system may accomplish the alert through the Alert Okaloosa System.

Each agency, department, or municipality should have standing procedures for internal notification once the alert is given.

3. Operations

Routine emergencies may be occurring in tandem with County or City preparations for, response to, and recovery from a major event. This can affect full activation of the EOC. All pre-existing routine emergencies must be integrated into management of the overall event through a Unified Command or, in some instances, an Area Command which establishes priorities, allocates resources, analyzes the impact of the emergencies and informs the public.

Okaloosa County will use the Incident Action Plan (IAP) to provide a coherent means of communicating the overall incident objectives in the context of operational and support activities. This will be coordinated through the Planning Section/ESF-5. All agencies participating in the NIMS/ICS structure are required to provide

appropriate situational awareness and resource status updates to the Planning Section in order for the IAP to remain updated and current.

Okaloosa County will use the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to organize its responses to emergencies and disasters. County agencies and organizations have been trained and will continue to be trained in the implementation of NIMS/ICS. Many organizations have differing levels of training in NIMS. All agencies will be required to integrate their management system into the overall Okaloosa County NIMS/ICS system to prevent fragmentation and duplication of resources during an emergency or disaster. The use of the NIMS is being instituted on the federal, state, and local levels to ensure incident management consistency.

The County EOC will be the distribution point for information disseminated to or from state and federal agencies. Departments and municipalities should report all impact and damage information to the EOC for formulation of the overall needs assessment. Requests for resources and assistance must be funneled through the EOC. The EOC will coordinate information and operations of the Emergency Support Functions and make the necessary reports to the SEOC or SERT Liaison. This will be accomplished through the Administration/Finance Section under the NIMS structure. The EOC will coordinate response requests and assign available assets to meet mission needs. If necessary, the EOC will request additional resources through the SEOC or SERT Liaison. See the ESF 5/Planning Section Tab, for additional information on mission requests and tracking.

The Director of Public Safety shall oversee EOC operations. The Public Safety staff or support personnel from other county departments will perform information coordination and mission tracking functions (see ESF 5 Tab). The Emergency Management Chief shall assist the Director and may, if necessary, operate a Forward CP to coordinate activities in the field. When the Director is not available, the Emergency Management Chief will assume those duties and responsibilities. The EMS Chief will assist the Director and work with the ESF 4/Firefighting Unit and ESF 8/Health and Medical Unit Coordinators to ensure effective emergency medical operations, including mutual aid, throughout the county.

Major functional areas, such as Law Enforcement, Fire Service, and Public Works may operate a command post when necessary, but will maintain a knowledgeable representative in the EOC. The Fire Command Post may be located in one of the EOC breakout rooms or other area as determined by fire department command personnel. The Law Enforcement Command Post will be located in the Law

Enforcement complex located at 50 2nd Street Shalimar, or other area designated by the Sheriff.

The following is a matrix of the Okaloosa County Emergency Support (ESF) Function Lead Agencies and their Support Agencies:

OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAD AND SUPPORT AGENCIES

	ESF 1	ESF 2	ESF 3	ESF 4	ESF 5	ESF 6	ESF 7	ESF 8	ESF 9	ESF 10	ESF 11	ESF 12	ESF 13	ESF 14	ESF 15	ESF 16	ESF 17	ESF 18	ESF 19	ESF 20
Century Link		E																		
ARC School/County Shelter				S		S	S	S			S			S						
Amei Corps																		P		
ARES		S				S														
ATT Language Line														S						
Bridgeway, Inc.								S												
Choctawhatchee Elec.			E									P								
CISD Team				S				S												
Civil Air Patrol									S											
Council on Aging					S															
Crestview Chamber																		S		
Crisis Line														S						
Destin Chamber																				
Department of Children and Families								S												
Durable med Equip Agency								E												
DMAT Florida One								S												
Duke FD				S																
Economic Dev Council																			S	
Elgin FD				S																
Elgin Hospital	E												S							
Eglin AFB Test Squadron	E																			
Emerald Coast Health Care Coalition								S												
Fire Control Districts				P					P	P										
Fire Departments				P					P	P										
Florida Dept of Ag																		S		
Ft Walton Beach Med Ctr								S												
Ft. Walton Beach Chamber																		S		
Ft. Walton Comm.		S																		
Gulf Power			E									P								
Home Health Agencies						S		S												
Hurlburt FD				S																
Hurlburt Field Clinic													S							
Jackson Guard				P						S										
Local Media														S						
Nurse Registry Agencies								E												
Municipal PDs	S			S					S	S						P	S			
Municipal Public Works			P								S					S				
Municipal Purchasing Depts.							P													
Municipalities																				P
N Okaloosa Medical Ctr.								S												
N Okaloosa SAR		S				S			S											
National Guard													S							
Naval EOD School													S							
Niceville Chamber																		S		
OC Airport														S						
OC Board of Commissioners														P						P
OC Dept. of Corrections	S																			
OC Extension								S			S									

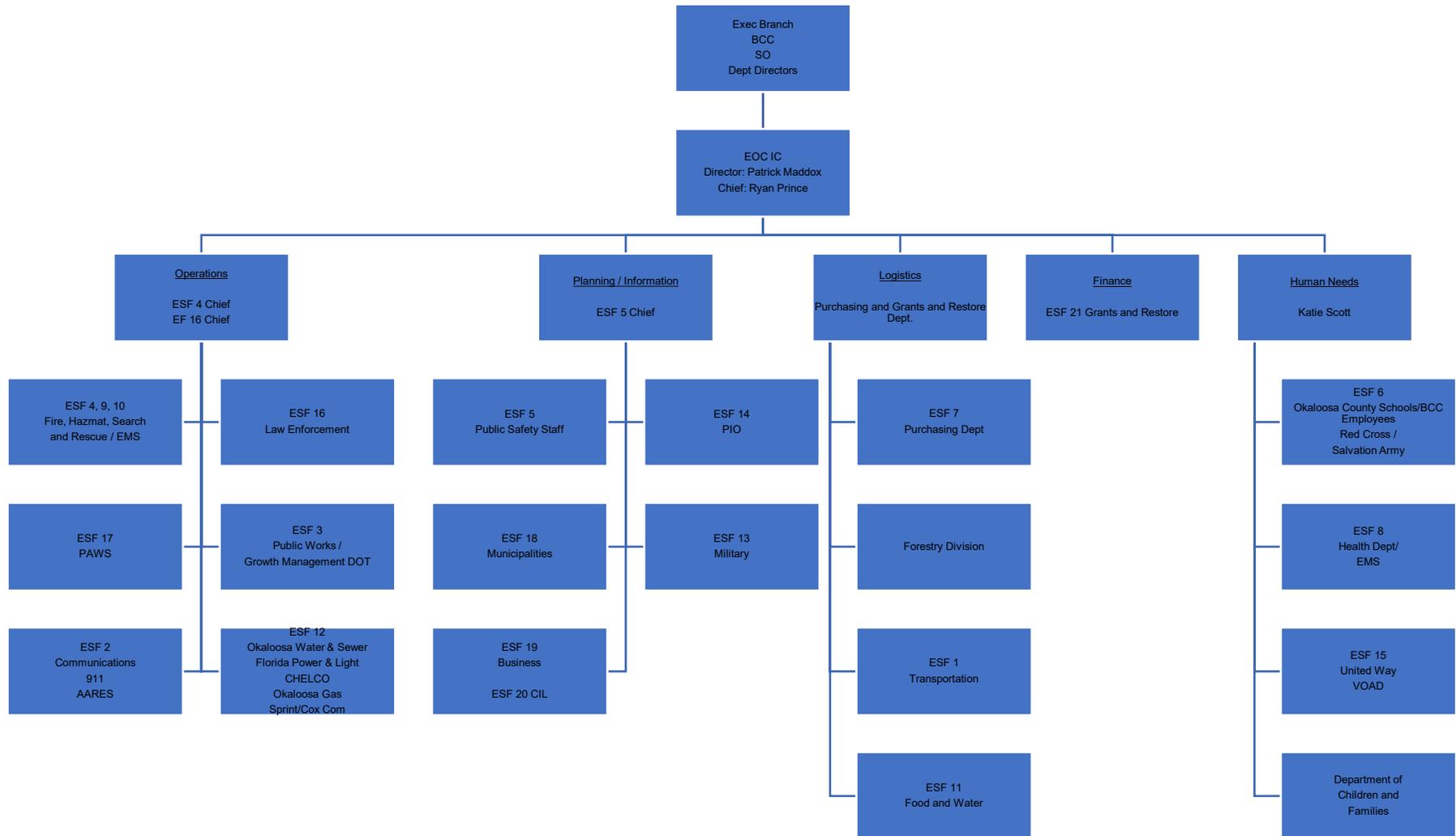
	ESF 1	ESF 2	ESF 3	ESF 4	ESF 5	ESF 6	ESF 7	ESF 8	ESF 9	ESF 10	ESF 11	ESF 12	ESF 13	ESF 14	ESF 15	ESF 16	ESF 17	ESF 18	ESF 19	ESF 20
OC Clerk of Courts Finance Dept							P													
OC Fleet Maintenance			S																	
OC GIS					S															
OC Grants and RESTORE							P													
OC Growth Management			S																	
OC Medical Examiner								S												
OC Planning & Inspection					S															
OC Public Safety		P		S	P	S		S	P	S		S	P	P	S	S				S
OC Human Resource Dept.																				P
OC Public Works			P													S				
OC Purchasing							P													
OC School District	S				S					S	S									
OC Sheriff's Office	S			S		S			P	S			P	P		P	S			
OC Special Ops Unit										S										
OC Transportation EC Rider	P					S														
OC Water & Sewer			S								S	P								
Okaloosa Gas			S									P								
PAWS								S										P		
Political Subdivisions														S						
Private Water Systems			E								S									
Public Health						S		P		S	S			S						
Harris Corp		E																		
Salvation Army						S	S		S		S									
Williams Com.			E																	
Special Tactics Squad	E																			
Bakers Communications		E																		
Tourism Development																				
Twin Cities Hospital								S												
U.S. Air Force													S							
U.S. Army	E												S							
United Way											S									
VOAD						S	S	S			S					P				
WKSM FM		E																		

P = Primary Agency

S = Secondary Agency, E – External Agency,

- | | | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| ESF-1 | Transportation | ESF-2 | Communications | ESF-3 | Public Works |
| ESF-4 | Firefighting | ESF-5 | Planning | ESF-6 | Mass Care |
| ESF-7 | Resource Support | ESF-8 | Health and Medical | ESF-9 | Search and Rescue |
| ESF-10 | Hazmat | ESF-11 | Food and Water | ESF-12 | Energy |
| ESF-13 | Military Support | ESF-14 | Public Information | ESF-15 | Volunteers |
| ESF-16 | Law Enforcement | ESF-17 | Animal Issues | ESF-18 | Business |
| ESF-19 | Municipalities | ESF-20 | Citizens Information | | |

Okaloosa County will use the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The following table shows Emergency Support Functions (s) and how they fit into the overall Okaloosa County NIMS/ICS structure, as used in the EOC. The forms to be used by each position are located in the Appendix Section of this document.



In the post-hurricane scenario, the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector will operate a consolidated field office, preferably at the Okaloosa County Administration Building in Shalimar, to assist with processing license applications by out-of-town contractors, and damage assessment operations.

Once the Board of County Commissioners has declared a State of Local Emergency, the Director of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Chief, the EMS Chief, and ESF Coordinators will have authority to authorize emergency purchases or short-term lease contracts necessary to meet operational needs. All such purchasing actions will be coordinated through the ESF 7/Procurement Unit Coordinator before obligating funds, unless the time delay of such process would result in an unacceptable risk to the public welfare. They will also have the authority to invoke the emergency management powers set forth in Chapter 252, Florida State Statutes. When possible and practical, they will attempt to obtain approval from the County Administrator or at least one County Commissioner, but this will in no way be interpreted in a manner that will cause undue delay or operational deficiency in protecting safety or relieving suffering.

During a declared emergency, the County Administrator will convene an ad-hoc committee comprised of available constitutional officers and municipal leaders. This committee will be known as the Policy Group, and will serve as an advisory and coordination body. Among the functions of the Policy Group are:

- Ensure unity of purpose among all constitutional officers and elected officials.
- Ensure the needs and concerns of each level of government (county and municipalities) are addressed.
- Evaluate the contributions to community emergency management that each constitutional officer may make through use of personnel, equipment, supplies, and facilities.
- Determine priorities for medium-term recovery.

Policy issues will be addressed to the County Administrator and the County Attorney under the Administration/Finance Section. Any issues shall be resolved in writing in order to ensure documentation for future reference.

The Policy Group will have no tactical responsibilities.

4. Deactivation

The County Administrator will determine deactivation, after consultation with the Director of Public Safety and/or EM Chief.

Deactivation will usually be accomplished in phases. For example, the EOC may phase down from 24-hour operation to 16-hour operation with a skeleton staff during the night, then to a 12-hour operation with a skeleton staff until midnight, etc. The nature of the incident will determine the phasing of deactivation.

5. EOC Resource Requirements

The ESF 7/Resource Support Unit will coordinate with other EOC representatives to meet the ongoing needs of the EOC. Costs of supplies, food, etc. for the EOC will be billed to Emergency Management. In turn, these costs will be allocated to the county disaster funds.

Each agency representative who has EOC duties will report to the EOC with bedding, personal hygiene supplies, any cellular phone in their possession and other items (medications, for example) which may be needed by the individual. Each agency is responsible for providing office supplies to support its EOC operations.

The primary EOC located at 90 College Blvd E, Niceville FL and the 24-hour County Warning Point have emergency power from a diesel generator. The generator is permanently installed, has an automatic switch and is tested weekly. The EOC generator has a 5000-gallon fuel supply. The secondary EOC is located at the Extension Office in Crestview.

E. DEPLOYMENT OF RESPONSE ASSETS

Each agency, department, and municipality should develop procedures for deploying their internal assets during an emergency.

The Fire/Rescue Command Post will determine the deployment of fire service mutual aid forces in support of local operations. The EMS Chief will determine how mutual-aid EMS forces are deployed. The Law Enforcement Command Post or Sheriff will do likewise for law enforcement assets. Each of these two elements should inform the EOC of general deployments and problems encountered. The appropriate ESF Coordinator in the EOC will determine deployment of other mutual aid assets after coordination with municipalities.

The EOC will determine the deployment of internal and external assets for debris removal, mass care, food and water, transportation, mass care, health and medical services, humanitarian support by the military, and volunteers & donations.

F. EVACUATION

1. Policies

a. Areas to be evacuated

1). Hurricanes.

Evacuation Orders for hurricanes will be limited to mobile homes and campsites, storm surge areas and areas which would be cut off by surge-damaged roads. There are several factors which complicate the evacuation process. First, the lack of ability to forecast specific landfall points, the need for a 24-hour lead time for mandatory evacuation clearance, and the present inability to forecast extreme intensity changes. A tropical storm could become a Category 3 hurricane in a matter of hours without prior forecast of such change. Any change in the variables, especially the lead-time presented by a given situation (see the Appendix Section of this document for a decision point table), could cause a variance from the ideal evacuation zones. (see the Appendix Section of this document for maps).

According to specialists at the National Hurricane Center, the average forecast error for landfall is 100 miles radius for each 24-hour forecast period. Furthermore, the ability to forecast intensity changes is practically nil. What does this mean in real terms? When we make an evacuation decision 24 hours before landfall, the cyclone may be a Tropical Storm forecasted to hit Panama City. By the time it actually makes landfall, however, it could be a category 3 making a direct hit on Pensacola or Ft. Walton Beach.

a). Extreme-Risk Surge Areas.

Areas which should be evacuated, even in some strong tropical storm scenarios, are Okaloosa Island, Holiday Isle, and all homes within one block of any waterfront on the Gulf, Bay, Sound, or bayous.

b). Hurricane Category 1 areas (Zone A).

Areas which should be evacuated in a tropical storm/Category 1 scenario include the areas along and south of Hwy 98 from west to east throughout the county, the Ft. Walton Beach City Hall area, and all areas within 200 feet of any body of water. The City of Destin poses a special problem in that much of the land area would not be flooded in a Category 3 hurricane, but access roads to the city could be cut off by a less severe hurricane. If this were to happen, local government could not provide essential services to those who remained behind. Therefore, in an optimum evacuation scenario, all of Destin should be evacuated for a hurricane.

Additionally, all mobile homes, campsites, and high-risk surge areas should be evacuated.

c). Hurricane Category 2 Areas (Zone B)

Areas which should be evacuated in a Category 2 hurricane include all those specified for Zone A, *plus* all category 2 surge prone areas.

d). Hurricane Category 3 Areas (Zone C)

Areas which should be evacuated in a Category 3 hurricane include all of those specified for Zones A and B, plus additional areas identified as threat areas for Category 3 surge.

e). Hurricane Category 4 Areas (Zone D)

Areas which should be evacuated in a Category 4 hurricane include all of those specified for

Zones A, B, and C plus additional areas identified as threat areas for Category 4 surge.

f). Hurricane Category 5 Areas (Zone E)

Areas which should be evacuated in a Category 5 hurricane include all of those specified for Zones A, B, C and D plus additional areas identified as threat areas for Category 5 surge.

g). Public Shelters and Refuges of Last Resort

Eight public shelters have been designated as evacuation centers. These shelters are intended as a place of temporary refuge, not comfort for persons who have no other place to go. In other words, blankets and cots are not guaranteed. Those seeking shelter should bring their own sleeping items, i.e. blankets, pillows and cots or inflatable mattress. No guarantee of safety can be offered in any hurricane situation, and public shelters should be considered only as places of relative safety compared to remaining in a surge area or mobile home. Two of the approved shelters will only be used as a last resort due to no generator being installed.

Order	Evacuation Shelter	Rated Operational /Max Capacity	Elevation	Remarks
1	Davidson Middle School	766/3267	265 ft	SPNS Primary, Generator, Pet Friendly
2	Shoal River Middle School	2740/3277	160 ft	SPNS Backup, Generator Hookup
3	Riverside Elementary	1959/2479	145 ft	Gen Hook Up, Pet Friendly
4	Raider Arena	3267/3567	112 ft.	General Pop, Generator
5	Choctawhatchee High School	435/435	43 ft	First responders only (Hallway)
6	Antioch Elementary	1303/1956	130 ft	Pet friendly, No Power
7	Baker School	266/587	243 ft	No Power
8	Kenwood Elementary	467/467	32 ft	Pet friendly Will be last shelter opened

The American Red Cross, Okaloosa County School Board and Okaloosa County Employees will manage shelters depending upon location and designation. EOC Command Staff will coordinate operations with the Okaloosa County School District to ensure proper use of, and access to, needed facilities.

None of the established shelters are in expected hurricane surge zones.

The Emergency Management Division (OEM) will coordinate with the School District and Public Health Department to designate areas of existing public shelters as refuges for persons with special needs. The Public Health Unit and OEM will coordinate to ensure that the minimum essential levels of supplies are secured for the special needs refuges. These refuges are not intended to function as mini-clinics, but are an attempt to set aside areas where people with special needs would not be subjected to the noise and discomfort that would be unavoidable if sheltered with the general shelter population, and to provide some medical monitoring and minimum care services during the emergency^{xix}. The Special Needs shelter will provide emergency backup power.

Churches, businesses, and other groups with sturdy buildings are encouraged to open "Refuges of Last Resort" to their members or the general public. A refuge of last resort is different from a public shelter in that it is not listed as an official shelter and is not managed by the County. OEM will provide technical data to private entities who wish to evaluate their structures for storm-worthiness. If necessary for the public safety, government buildings may be opened as refuges of last resort. More shelter information may be found in the ESF 6 Tab, Mass Care Unit.

“Any person or organization, public or private, owning or controlling real estate or other premises who voluntarily and without compensation ...permits...use of the whole or any part of such real estate or premises for the purpose of sheltering persons during an actual, impending, mock, or practice emergency, together with his successor in interest...shall not be liable for the death of, or injury to, any person on or about such real estate during the actual, impending, mock, or practice emergency, or for loss of, or damage to, the property of such person....”

Chapter 252, FSS, Para 252.51

e). Evacuating population & vehicles^{xx}

Estimates of the number and people who will evacuate are dependent on the public's perception of the risk, the quality of news coverage about the threat, and the timing of the evacuation order. Behavioral studies show that, generally, the evacuating population will use 65% of the vehicles available to them. Also, some people will evacuate even though they do not live in a designated evacuation zone. In order to reduce the traffic congestion during an evacuation, it is desirable to reduce the number of people who evacuate from areas not designated for evacuation. The information below represents the expected maximum number of people who will evacuate, and the number of vehicles that will enter the traffic flow for each scenario (based on the state-wide regional evacuation study of 2015 Operational Scenarios).

An order to evacuate the Extreme Risk Area should result in

11,000 to 21,000 mobile home dwellers
 361,547 residents/tourists of the Extreme Risk Area
 24,416 residents/tourists of Zone A
 35,913 residents/tourists of Zone B
 64,339 residents/tourists of Zone C
 103,171 residents/tourists of Zone D
 133,708 residents/tourists of Zone E

These numbers include shadow evacuations. Shadow evacuations are residents and tourists that are outside the surge vulnerable areas but choose to evacuate. Approximately 163,547 are shadow evacuees or tourists.

Worst case number of vehicles 18,000 to 23,000

People using public shelters: 3,000 to 5,000

An order to evacuate Zone A should result in:

15,000 to 21,000 mobile home dwellers
10,000 to 11,500 residents of the Extreme Risk Area
15,500 to 20,700 from Zone A
3,600 from Zone B
3,800 from inland (non-surge) areas
8,000 to 28,000 tourists

Worst case number of vehicles: 28,000 to 35,100
People using public shelters: 6,900 to 7,900

An order to evacuate Zones A and B should result in:

15,300 to 21,000 mobile home residents
10,300 to 11,500 residents of the Extreme Risk Area
16,600 to 20,700 residents of Zone A
28,500 to 35,600 residents of Zone B
13,200 to 17,700 from inland (non-surge) areas.
8,400 to 29,700 tourists

Worst case number of vehicles: 45,900 to 52,800
People using public shelters: 11,500 to 12,800

These numbers will continue to rise through Zones C, D, and E until they reach a worst-case scenario of approximately 167,547 residents and shadow evacuees.

f) Planning Difficulties and Evacuation Priorities.

The planned evacuation zones represent the optimum evacuation plan. Many factors may work against accomplishing the optimum plan. These factors include, but are not limited to: short notice for a hurricane which makes an unexpected turn or a Gulf-born hurricane, a hurricane which unexpectedly increases in strength, road construction projects which decrease route capacity or heavy tourist occupancy which would add to the route congestion and thereby increase the chances that evacuees would be caught on the road during landfall. A decision to evacuate, whether mandatory or voluntary is based on a complex

set of factors. These factors often change hourly during a developing situation. Some of the factors influencing a decision are: size of the storm, present and forecasted (official or unofficial) category of the storm, amount of time before landfall, pre-storm conditions etc.

Hurricane evacuation zones are based on the expected storm surge. The optimum evacuation zones are designated by utilizing the county GIS system. The system allows residents to determine the evacuation zone they live in by typing their address into the GIS system. Public Safety provides a public education outreach by conducting public meetings, attending local events and providing disaster preparedness presentations. The program provides evacuation information to residents. When it is not practical to use the optimum evacuation plan, priorities for evacuation will be as follows:

- **Priority 1:** Areas which would suffer surge and wave action.
- **Priority 2:** Areas which are expected to suffer surge heights of two feet or more (based on the most current estimates from all technical sources available).
- **Priority 3:** All expected surge areas.
- **Priority 4:** Areas which are not expected to suffer surge but have a high risk of being cut-off by surge or wave action.

2) **Technological hazards.**

These include hazardous materials incidents, explosive devices, bomb threats, and transportation incidents.

a). **Evacuation of hazard areas.**

The Incident Commander will be responsible for designating areas to be evacuated or closed,

based on the current and potential hazards posed by the situation. The Incident Commander may base the evacuation decision on advice from technical specialists, computer modeling, or other responders. If it is necessary to evacuate any populated areas, the Incident Commander should inform Emergency Management (if not already at the scene) to coordinate mass care operations.

Estimates of the area to be evacuated may be based on recommendations from technical specialists, technical manuals, or computer programs such as the NOAA/EPC Aerial Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres (ALOHA). The Emergency Management Chief will maintain a portable computer, necessary software, and local data for such use.

It must be noted that evacuation is NOT necessarily the safest course of action in a hazardous materials incident. Such variables as source strength, weather conditions, speed of the contamination plume, type of chemical, etc. may make it safer for people to take shelter in their current structure. There are cases on record where people evacuated, only to receive a higher dose during the evacuation than if they had sheltered-in-place.

Emergency Management may also, at the Incident Commander's request, coordinate public notification. Public notification will usually be conducted through the broadcast media and Alert Okaloosa. In some cases, it may be necessary to use public safety personnel to accomplish door-to-door notifications.

Whenever an evacuation is ordered, evacuees should be informed of a place where they can go until re-entry is allowed. This will usually be a pre-designated public shelter, such as a school. When requested by the Incident Commander, Emergency Management will coordinate this activity.

All county and municipal agencies should cooperate with public safety officials in facilitating evacuations and protective measures.

Okaloosa County contracts with a transportation service, EC Rider. The contract calls for assistance in emergency transportation to shelters for those residents who do not have their own transportation. If required to augment this, the Public Safety Department may request school buses and drivers from the Okaloosa School Board. Either way, busses will be used to evacuate residents in hazard areas who do not have transportation. Pick-up locations and times will be announced through the media. Busses will transport residents to county shelters prior to the arrival of a hurricane. Residents will be transported back to the original pick-up location once it is safe to do so.

Okaloosa County makes no guarantee that transportation will be available. Residents should attempt to make private arrangements to ensure their timely evacuation. We urge families, friends, and neighbors to help those in need.

b). Shelter-in-Place^{xxi}

Shelter-in-place may be the best choice when the threat is from toxic concentrations/air contamination. When the threat is from fire or explosion of a hazardous material, evacuation is usually the best choice. The Incident Commander will have decision making authority for choosing the protective measure.

The air exchange rate in a closed building often offers protection from high concentrations, whereas evacuation would expose people to potentially fatal or crippling concentrations. When there is an existing plume of toxic pollutant, it is usually better to have people remain indoors at least until the highest concentrations have drifted past the area. If there is the potential for a toxic plume, it is better (if practical) to evacuate the people who will be

in the highest area of concentration. These options can be modeled using the Aerial Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres (ALOHA) computer model (available through Emergency Management laptop computer), if time is available.

Shelter-in-place may be the only practical choice for hospitals, nursing homes, and retirement homes. The evacuation time for nursing homes is usually in excess of four hours^{xxii}.

Shelter-in-place for hazardous materials incidents is defined as:

- Closing all windows and doors both exterior and interior, and closing drapes or curtains.
- Shutting down all air-handling devices, such as air conditioners, heaters, and fans.
- Sealing exterior doors and windows with tape, plastic, wet cloth, or another device.
- Moving to the side of the building away from the threat.
- After the all-clear is given, immediate airing out of the building.

When there is a potential for fire or explosion, it is generally better to evacuate personnel from the high hazard area.

When dealing with a bomb threat, the building manager, school principal, or other senior building occupant will decide if evacuation during the search should be accomplished. If circumstances dictate, the On-scene Incident Commander may order evacuation. Unless a municipality establishes a different arrangement for its jurisdiction, law enforcement has Incident Command in bomb threat situations.

b. Direction and Control**1). Non-declared emergencies.**

The first public safety official to recognize a hazard should initiate prudent protective actions. As more senior command personnel arrive on scene or become aware of the relevant facts, they should modify the protective actions as appropriate.

The On-scene Incident Commander will have responsibility to ensure the proper protective actions are taken.

The On-scene Incident Commander will have the authority to call on any municipal or county agency to provide necessary assistance to protect the public.

2). Declared emergencies.

When the Board of County Commissioners declares a State of Local Emergency, the Emergency Program Manager (Chief of Emergency Management in Okaloosa County) is designated as the Incident Manager, in accordance with Florida Statute 252.38 the Director of Emergency Management for Okaloosa County is the Director of Public Safety

The Division of Emergency Management will advise the Board of County Commissioners on the need for evacuations.

If the Governor of Florida has not ordered an evacuation, the BCC will decide the parameters of an area-wide evacuation (including business closures) at the same time it declares a State of Local Emergency. The Emergency Management Division will, if time and circumstances allow, advise the BCC on any necessary changes as the situation develops. The Director of Public safety, the Emergency Program Manager, or local Incident Commander will have authority to order area-

specific evacuations in the face of a developing situation, e.g., evacuating a housing development when threatened by quickly rising river waters.

The Emergency Management Division or local Incident Commander may call upon any agency of government to assist with the evacuation, e.g., asking the school district for buses or requesting law enforcement for notification and traffic control (Chapter 252, FSS).

Whenever a public safety official becomes aware of an imminent threat to public safety, they have the authority to order evacuations as necessary.

The Okaloosa School District has authority to order the closing of schools. If the schools are in a BCC-mandated evacuation area, the schools will be closed until re-entry is allowed. In the post-disaster scenario, the Policy Group will formulate a recommendation for scheduling the re-opening of schools, which will be acted upon by the School District.

The Administrative Judge retains authority for canceling court operations. In the post-disaster scenario, the Policy Group will recommend policies for resumption of court operations.

3). Public notification

Public notification will be conducted through the broadcast media. The local primary EAS radio stations in Okaloosa County are AM 1260, AM 1050, FM 99.5, FM 104.7, and FM 105.5. Other TV and radio stations should also broadcast emergency instructions. See the section on Warning under IV.C.3, above.

Okaloosa County has attempted door-to-door and neighborhood evacuation notices in Tropical Storm Alberto, Hurricane Erin, and Hurricane Opal. Such attempts had very little success and the neighborhood notifications with

sirens and public address systems actually caused more confusion. For that reason, the broadcast media will be the designated means of announcing area-wide evacuation advisories. In such cases, law enforcement agencies will assist in the notification process during regular patrols by spot-checking areas and notifying people as the opportunity presents itself. In some cases where time is of the essence, public safety agencies may be used to patrol areas and alert residents with sirens and public address systems. These efforts may be critical in alerting homeless and transient populations who may not have access to broadcast media.

In limited area evacuations where speed of notification is important, such as for hazardous materials incidents, public safety agencies may be tasked for door-to-door or neighborhood notification. The Alert Okaloosa system will also be utilized for limited area evacuations. So-called “Latch-key” children – those who arrive home from school before their working parents pose a planning difficulty. The only means of notifying such children may be through neighborhood patrols by public safety and neighbors who have awareness of the child.

2. Evacuation Routes and Traffic Management

a. Routes

The primary north-south routes out of Okaloosa County are (there are no secondary routes):

- Hwy 85 to Interstate 10 and Florida,
- Hwy 285 to Interstate 10,
- Hwy 189 to Alabama.

Critical intersections include:

- Hwy 85 and Hwy 189 (Lewis Turner Blvd),
- Hwy 85 and SR 123 (north and south),

- Hwy 85 and College Blvd (Valparaiso),
- Hwy 20 and SR 293 (Bluewater area),
- Hwy 20 and Hwy 285 (Niceville),
- Hwy 90 and Hwy 4 (Milligan),
- Hwy 4 and Hwy 189 (Baker),
- Hwy 85 and Hwy 90 (Crestview),
- Racetrack Rd and Hwy 85 (Ocean City),
- Racetrack Rd and Beal Pkwy (Wright),
- Mary Esther Blvd and Beal Pkwy (Wright),
- Mooney Rd. and Lewis Turner Blvd,
- Yacht Club Drive and Hwy 85 (Cinco Bayou).

The primary east-west routes out of the county are:

- US Hwy 98 to Hwy 87 (Santa Rosa County) and Hwy 331 (Walton County),
- Hwy 20,
- US Hwy 90,
- Interstate 10.

Critical feeder roads are:

- Beal Parkway and Lewis Turner Blvd
- Mary Esther Blvd
- Hwy 4 (to Hwy 189)
- PJ Adams Pkwy/Antioch Rd. (to Hwy 90)
- SR 123 (Niceville by-pass)

- The Mid-Bay Bridge (SR 293) to Connector and Hwy 285/85

There are no drawbridges in Okaloosa County. Critical bridges include:

- The Mid-Bay Bridge from Destin the connector,
- The Destin East-Pass Bridge along US Hwy 98,
- The Brooks Bridge from Ft. Walton Beach to Okaloosa Island (US Hwy 98),
- The Cinco Bayou Bridge on Hwy 85,
- The Shalimar Bridge on Hwy 85,
- The Hwy 85 Shoal River bridge south of Crestview,
- The Hwy 90 Shoal River bridge on US 90 east of Crest view,
- The Yellow River bridge on US 90 west of Crestview,
- The Shoal River and Pond Creek Bridges on CR 393 near Dorcas,
- The Blackwater River Bridge on Hwy 4 west of Baker,
- The Yellow River Bridge on CR 2 west of Laurel Hill.
- SR 20 between Rocky Bayou Bridge and Mid-Bay Connector.
- Hwy 85 –from Crestview to the Alabama line.

b. Traffic Management

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and municipal police agencies are responsible for traffic management during evacuations. These agencies shall develop plans for carrying out this responsibility during emergencies. Municipalities and county traffic management agencies may reprogram traffic lights along evacuation routes to allow for maximum practical flow.

During an area-wide evacuation, such as for hurricanes, priority for traffic patrol will be given to the intersections, evacuation routes, and feeder roads designated above.

Contraflow lane reversal can increase the capacity of roadways, but it has limited utility and presents serious safety and logistics problems^{xxiii}. Generally, contraflow offers a temporary solution to traffic congestion because all traffic will eventually have to merge again at various bottlenecks, such as at the intersection of Hwy 85 and I-10, and the two lane portion of North Hwy 85. Such operations require a large amount of patrol assets to ensure safety and efficient merging at bottlenecks. When deemed appropriate by the Sheriff, contraflow operations may be conducted under the following guidelines:

- The EOC should be notified before contraflow operations are implemented.
- At least one lane of Hwy 85, Hwy 285, Hwy 98, Hwy 20 Hwy 90, Hwy 4, Hwy 189 and Lewis Turner Blvd will be kept open in the normal direction for use by official vehicles.
- SR 123 should be converted to one-way northbound traffic as soon as practical.

The Mid-Bay Bridge should be converted to one-way northbound traffic only when the volume of traffic is such that it threatens to cause a back up on US 98. Tolls may be lifted after approval by the, Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Florida DOT and the State EOC.

If any construction impedes the progress of an evacuation, law enforcement will notify the EOC and the appropriate public works or DOT agency to have the obstruction cleared, if practical.

If any public or private thoroughfare becomes unsafe for reasons of weather or structural integrity, the agency first aware of the situation should take immediate steps to protect the public and notify the appropriate agencies. Further discussion of traffic management may be found in the ESF 16 Tab, Law Enforcement.

3. Marine Evacuations^{xxiv}

There are several yacht basins and marinas in Okaloosa County. They are located in Destin Harbor, along the shoreline of Choctawhatchee Bay and its bayous, and along the shoreline of Santa Rosa Sound.

It is recommended that marinas require boat owners to have a written hurricane plan and proper insurance before contracting to store a boat at the facility. Coastal marinas are not a suitable sanctuary for vessels during a hurricane or tropical storm. Slips are too narrow to allow for the violent waves of such a storm. Vessels need to be evacuated inland or moved to open areas and anchored properly while it is still safe to do so. Boat owners should secure or anchor their craft according to proper boat-handling principles as necessary to prevent the boat from slipping its moorings in foul weather and thus presenting a hazard to life, property, or navigation.

Boat owners should evacuate their craft as necessary, and as soon as practical, before a hurricane impacts this area. Boat owners must familiarize themselves with the rules of their marina and the provisions of Florida Statutes that govern marine evacuations.

OKALOOSA COUNTY MARINAS

MARINA	ADDRESS	CAPACITY
Bluewater Bay Marina	300 Yacht Club Dr, Niceville	120 slips
Boat, The	32 SW Miracle Strip Pkwy, FWB	130 slips
D & J Dry Storage	11 Calhoun Av, Destin	
Deckhands Marina	1352 Miracle Strip Pkwy, FWB	94 slips, 12 dry dock
Destin Dry Storage & Marina	116 E Hwy 98, Destin	167 dry storage, 5 slips
Destin Fisherman Co-Op	210 E Hwy 98, Destin	
East Pass Marina	288 E Hwy 98, Destin	35 slips, 10 dry storage
FWB Yacht Basin	104 SW Miracle Strip, FWB	
The Oak Marina	821 Bayshore Dr, Niceville	50 slips
Harborwalk Marina	346 Mountain Dr, Destin	
Lighthouse Key	115 John Sims Pkwy, Niceville	48 slips, 84 dry storage
Marina Café	404 E Hwy 98, Destin	25 slips
Marina Motel	1345 Miracle Strip, FWB	27 slips
Shalimar Yacht Basin	100 Old Ferry Rd	100 slips

4. Special Needs Evacuation

Evacuation of persons with special needs is performed primarily by Emerald Coast Rider (EC Rider), with the Okaloosa School District acting in a back-up role.

Okaloosa County has attempted to use pre-planned pick up routes in past events, but it was unsuccessful. People changed their minds or did not comply with instructions, thus causing delays and confusion. Therefore, persons with special needs who require transportation assistance will be required to pre-register and then notify EC Rider that they need assistance when the hurricane alert is announced. OCT will, if time and resources allow, provide transportation to a designated public shelter. See the ESF 1 Tab for further details.

Okaloosa County makes no guarantee that transportation will be available. Residents should attempt to make private arrangements

to ensure their timely evacuation. We urge families, friends, and neighbors to help those in need.

5 Re-entry to Evacuated Areas

It is the policy of Okaloosa County to allow residents to return to evacuated areas at the earliest moment commensurate with public safety. The early return of residents to evacuated areas facilitates quick restoration and recovery. It must be recognized, however, that there may be many hazards facing returnees after any disaster. Government cannot guarantee any particular level of safety in impacted areas. If we restricted re-entry until after every hazard was eliminated, it could be weeks or months before government could allow people to return to their homes and businesses.

As a general rule, residents will not be allowed to return until government agencies complete an initial impact/damage assessment to determine the risks, hazards and search & rescue needs. As all County employees are mission-critical and easily verifiable via systems accessible by the EOC, no credentialing will be required for re-entry when assigned continuity of operations-related work. Other non-county officials and mission-critical employees may register for re-entry with the EOC for limited re-entry by submitting a request on company letterhead with required information as determined by Emergency Management. It should be noted that re-entry will only be granted at the discretion of the Incident Commander and is not guaranteed at any particular point in time. Damaged areas will remain closed until the hazards of fires, flood, downed power lines and known natural gas leaks have been reduced to a reasonable level. Severely damaged buildings will remain closed until building inspectors can determine if the structure is in danger of collapse, and is properly marked by painted or placard notices. In declared emergencies, the Board of County Commissioners, or designated representative, after consultation with utility and public safety authorities, will determine when evacuated areas may be re-opened. Public hearings may be held during the decision process. For non-declared emergencies, the on-scene Incident Commander will determine when re-entry will be allowed. Re-entry may be phased to allow residents and business operators into the area before the general public.

Any re-entry will be at the individual's own risk. The public must use prudent and reasonable safety when re-entering impacted areas.

Law enforcement agencies will establish checkpoints and patrols to control access to closed areas.

G. RECOVERY, REDEVELOPMENT AND HAZARD MITIGATION

1. Policies

The ultimate goal of recovery and redevelopment is to return the impacted areas to their pre-incident level of service and economic vitality. As the incident phases out of the emergency nature, the Policy Group and Growth Management Department will assume more of a central role.

The Growth Management (GM) Department has the primary responsibility for hazard mitigation activities, with support from OCPS. The GM Department will coordinate and prepare recommendations for capital hazard mitigation projects involving public property, and will recommend the necessary changes to building codes, land use codes, or growth management plans to influence hazard mitigation in the private sector. OCPS will support these activities within the scope of its technical expertise and knowledge of state and federal policies. OCPS will maintain pre-event liaison with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to identify potential disaster relief sites and Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) set-up.

Many residents may be displaced from their primary work in the aftermath of a disaster. Such job loss may be temporary or, in some cases, very long term due to business failure. The post-disaster environment will increase the demand for labor in many areas for both physical and administrative work. To the extent that it is fiscally responsible to do so, local government can assist to a small degree by taking advantage of temporary workers to fill the need for additional help. Each department head should evaluate their requirements and coordinate with Emergency Management to determine if, under current rules, temporary labor would be a reimbursable expense. The Economic Development Council and Private Industry Council can coordinate federal temporary job programs to place workers to help with disaster recovery.

2. Pre-incident planning.

The GM and Water & Sewer Departments of cities and the county, Property Appraiser, and Tax Collector will maintain data to support impact and damage assessment not only for disaster response, but also to pre-identify potential applicants for Public Assistance. In addition, all agencies listed within the ESF matrix are potential applicants for Public Assistance, excluding any private for-profit companies. They will plan for means to retrieve and present file data on such items as:

- Number of mobile homes in selected geographic areas.
- Property values of homes and businesses in selected geographic areas.
- Number of residential customers served by water supply and water treatment facilities. For example, if particular water well is off-line, how many homes would be without water?
- Number of residential customers serviced by sewage facilities. For example, if certain lift stations are off-line, how many homes would be affected?
- Critical healthcare facilities within water or sewer service areas. For example, if a particular well is off-line, what hospitals, nursing homes, and other congregate care facilities would be impacted.
- Other information that would support preparation of reports on the post-disaster or pre-disaster exposure of homes and businesses, human impact of disaster, damage costs, etc.

When the area is at imminent risk of a disaster that threatens large portions of the county, such as a hurricane, the departments and agencies specified above will prepare the necessary computer printouts or other actions foreseeable necessary to present the information quickly in a no-electricity situation.

3. Post-incident operations

a. Initial Damage Assessment.

As soon as possible after an event, the EOC must formulate an assessment of the human impact; in other words, quantify

and qualify the level of human suffering. The Emergency Management Chief is responsible for all damage assessment activities.

Growth Management building inspectors inspect homes and businesses for damage and habitability. Damage assessment teams are activated by the chief building inspector, inspection areas and assignments are pre-identified by the chief building inspector. State Damage Assessment Forms will be utilized to document structure status.

Public safety, through the Emergency Management Division coordinates and is responsible for all damage assessment activities.

Public Works crews inspect public infrastructure such as roads and bridges for damage and usability.

The Civil Air Patrol may perform over-flight of the immediate coastline and inland water ways upon request of the EM Division if unavailable over-flight ops may be requested through Florida DEM for National Guard flight support.

Utility workers employed by the local utilities report damage to utility infrastructure which is communicated to the EOC from the individual utility operation centers.

The City of Fort Walton Beach, City of Destin, and the City of Crestview perform their own damage assessments and provide the information to the EOC.

Collection of this information as agencies check their assigned zones is documented on State of Florida damage assessment forms and within WEB EOC immediately after an event. The EOC will share this data with the State of Florida through the WebEOC system. This data helps determine the types and amount of external support required. For example:

- Number of homes and businesses damaged or destroyed?
- How many people are without electricity?
- How many homes are without water?
- How many wells are likely to be contaminated by flooding?

- How many homes are without sewage service? How long will it be before sewers overflow into the street? Where will overflowing sewers affect environmentally sensitive areas?
- What is the total cost in lost homes and businesses?
- How many people will need temporary shelter?
- How many tons (estimated) of debris was created? How many roads are blocked?
- Are the facilities listed in the Appendix Section of this document capable of performing their intended post-disaster function? If not, alternate sites must be identified or the facilities given priority for repair.
- Are there areas of the county that are isolated and in need of additional support? For example, Destin could become isolated if Hwy 98 is destroyed, and rural areas may have roads blocked preventing residents from getting to relief centers.

Impact assessment is conducted in a variety of ways, but usually by driving and walking. The Civil Air Patrol and Rapid Impact Assessment Team may conduct air operations. The Civil Air Patrol has an agreement with OCPS to assist with damage assessment specifically in north county areas.

b. Damage Assessment

This is a more detailed report of the situation, and may take days to complete. It is intended to provide responders, state and federal agencies, and governing bodies with the information necessary to facilitate long-term recovery, such as justifying a federal disaster declaration. Red Cross teams, joint local/state/federal teams, and municipal agencies complete this data. All information must be reported to the EOC for a consolidated report.

A knowledgeable representative of the Growth Management building inspectors, Property Appraiser's Office, City/County Public Works Department and City/County Water & Sewer Department should accompany the joint State/Federal Damage Assessment Team to assist in data collection. If

possible, the Emergency Management Chief will also accompany them for some portion of their activities.

Before the Joint Damage Assessment Team arrives, each city and the county should prepare a travel itinerary based on the findings of the impact assessment. The team will not try to see every damaged facility or structure but will try to visit the areas with the most damage. The team will split into groups that will have distinct assignments for evaluating damage to public and private property. Local government must identify personnel who will accompany each team. In a minor disaster, there may be two teams, while a major disaster may require several teams.

The EOC will coordinate with the Tourist Development Council, Private Industry Council, Economic Development Council, and the Chambers of Commerce to determine the economic impact of the disaster.

Joint damage assessment is usually conducted by driving and walking through the impacted areas. Fly-over support may be requested from the Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force, or Florida National Guard.

Damage assessment information should be recorded on the state forms provided by the EOC. After the damage assessment inspections, the forms will be consolidated to provide an overall picture of the damage. Local, state, and federal inspectors consult on the assessment to determine estimates of damage in each of the categories.

c. Hazard Assessment and Elimination.

This is usually conducted concurrently with impact and damage assessment during the Restoration Phase. It is specifically geared toward those disaster results that pose a risk to responders or the public. All participating agencies collect the data in the course of their operations and report it to the EOC. Examples include:

- Water hydrants without water pressure
- Power lines across roads, walkways, or homes
- Broken natural gas lines

- Fires
- Buildings at risk of collapse
- Undermined roads and bridges
- Structural damage at confinement facilities that make them uninhabitable or that pose a serious risk of escape
- Agricultural animals at risk from lack of food and water
- Abandoned pets or other animals wandering loose throughout the area
- Healthcare facilities without electricity, water, sewer, or laundry

d. Public Assistance

The Emergency Management Chief is responsible (primary lead) for coordination of state and federal disaster assistance claims (Kick-Off meeting). The Okaloosa County Emergency Management Office maintains a list of stakeholders in the Everbridge system. Once the damage assessment data is obtained a list is compiled by EM Staff as to who should be invited to the applicants briefing. This notification is sent out via Everbridge notification system. The stake holders list includes all emergency response agencies, municipalities and non-governmental agencies in Okaloosa County. The Grants and RESTORE and Clerk of Courts Office will fill the role of completion and filing of project work orders and reimbursement requests. Note: The Clerk of Courts Office is only involved in the matter of finance and accounting process and does not process project work sheets. After the initial kick-off meeting the Grants and Restore Department is the lead on all Okaloosa County projects for public assistance. All parties to include county departments such as Purchasing, Public Works, Facility Maintenance, Emergency Management staff and municipalities in Okaloosa County shall participate in the applicants briefing and kick-off meeting as county and municipal representatives. Federal Title V is that part of emergency or disaster relief through which the federal government supplements the efforts of state and local governments to return the disaster area to normal conditions, including repair and restoration of public facilities or services which have been damaged or destroyed. Two types of

assistance are authorized, emergency and permanent. Emergency work includes efforts to save lives, protect property and maintain operation of essential facilities until permanent restoration can be made. Permanent work involves actions necessary to repair, restore, reconstruct, or replace public and certain private non-profit facilities damaged or destroyed by the disaster. The Grants and Restore Department and Clerk of Courts Finance Office shall maintain all records for a minimum of 3 years after FEMA closes out the last grant for the disaster, and is aware that FEMA may request originals and/or printouts for up to 5 years after the incident date.

Project applications for federal public assistance may be approved to fund a variety of projects, including the following:

- Clearance of debris on public or private lands and waters.
- Emergency protective measures for the preservation of life and property.
- Repair or replacement of water control facilities (dikes, levees, irrigation works, drainage facilities).
- Repair or replacement of public utilities.
- Repair or restoration to pre-disaster condition of public facilities including facilities damaged while under construction.
- Repair or restoration of recreational facilities and parks.
- Repair or replacement of private non-profit educational, utility, emergency medical and custodial care facilities, including those for the aged or disabled and facilities on Indian reservations.

For a detailed explanation of funding options, see the Handbook for Applicants (HUD Publication 4350.1).

e. Recovery Operations

Okaloosa County Public Safety will be responsible for coordinating recovery operations, primarily through the EOC. As emergency operations transition into more conventional redevelopment and reconstruction, the agencies charged with

the various responsibilities will begin to conduct decentralized operations under the supervision and control of the governing bodies. See also the Annex Section of this document for additional and specific information on recovery operations.

OCPS will coordinate with the proper state and federal agencies to identify and obtain sites for Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC), Points of Distribution, staging of supplies, County Staging Areas, landing zones and Disaster Field Offices. Field Aid Stations may be established according to policies and procedures covered in Tab 8/Health and Medical Unit. Preplanned sites are listed in the Appendix Section of this document, Maps & Master Location List.

The Emergency Management Chief will act as a liaison between state/federal agencies and local government, including notification of eligible applicants about the time and location of applicants' briefings.

The EOC will ensure that public information activities are carried out in order to inform victims of the types of assistance available, locations of DRCs, and schedules. See Tab 14/Public Information for additional information and procedures.

Local offices of the Salvation Army, Bridgeway Center, Social Security, Department of Children and Families, Insurance Commissioner, and VOAD should have representatives or referral information in the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). A DRC should be a "one-stop shop" for disaster assistance. Local offices needed in the DRC will be contacted by ESF 15. This will be done through phone, email and direct face to face contact. Agencies such as the Insurance Commissioner will be requested through State of Florida Division of Emergency Management WEBEOC portal.

Equipment and vehicles needed to support the DRC will be provided by individual agencies and not Okaloosa County. Personnel required to man the DRC will be provided by individual agencies, not Okaloosa County. Past history of events in Okaloosa County has shown that FEMA and the SBA provide the majority of equipment and personnel required to man the DRC. Okaloosa County only performs a support role through the Emergency Operations Center.

Actual recovery begins concurrently with the assessment activities mentioned above. Usually, however, the recovery process begins slowly and in pockets as the more seriously affected zones receive priority of resources for search and rescue and hazard elimination. Two key activities in beginning recovery are building inspection (by government and insurance agencies) and citizen re-entry to impacted areas. Both of these activities must begin as soon as it is relatively safe to do so.

The Tax Collector's Office should set up streamlined procedures to issue business licenses to companies who come to this area to work. External businesses are essential to the recovery process in any disaster. If practical under the circumstances, the Tax Collector's Office should co-locate or, at least, coordinate with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

The Planning & Inspection departments of cities and the County Growth Management Department should, if necessary, assign additional staff and set up satellite offices near heavily damaged areas to facilitate inspection and permitting for repairs. Permitting should be carried out in compliance with the community's Post-Disaster Redevelopment Chapter of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

The EOC and Planning & Inspection Agencies will work with insurance companies to facilitate rapid insurance inspection and collaborate on a public education campaign regarding use of unlicensed contractors. Law enforcement should take a proactive stance in checking contractors for the appropriate licenses. Unlicensed contracting is a felony.

Fire Departments and Districts should take a proactive stance for fire and life safety inspections of repair/reconstruction work. Early detection of substandard practices can prevent serious accidents.

Complaints or inquiries about auto or home insurance policies should be referred to the Florida Insurance Commissioner.

If necessary to meet workload, agencies should contract with temporary labor companies or the Private Industry Council to obtain temporary staff. This can also help the recovery

process by giving temporary employment to workers whose primary employer was put out of business by the disaster.

The Risk Management Department will be responsible for reconciling insurance coverage with the Clerk of Courts Finance Department and State/Federal Financial Assistance Claims.

f. Hazard Mitigation Activities

Okaloosa County Emergency Management (OCEM) will coordinate information and preventative activities with county and municipal floodplain managers. OCEM will encourage proactive actions to promote effective floodplain management and citizen engagement. OCEM will support flood plain managers in activities to educate the public about the dangers of flooding. OCEM is responsible for conducting damage assessments in unincorporated areas after any type disaster within Okaloosa County. This will be accomplished utilizing the damage assessment teams located in the Growth Management Department. OCEM will coordinate consolidation of damage assessments from municipal damage assessment teams with county data to identify damaged structures located in special flood hazard areas.

In conjunction with flood plain managers OCEM will promote public awareness of storm surge threats and flood threats within the county. OCEM will ensure the public is informed of pending threat situations using the "Alert Okaloosa" warning notification system, press releases, and direct interaction with the media. OCEM will ensure communication systems are capable to communicate before and after flood conditions and are available to send warnings for flood plain managers. OCEM will work with Growth Management and municipalities to ensure that all public buildings that serve first response and critical emergency/public needs, including recording/data collection and communication centers infrastructure are located outside of flood zones and flood prone areas.

The Okaloosa County Growth Management Department will be the primary agency for administering the hazard mitigation program, National Flood Insurance Program and Local Mitigation Strategy Committee. Okaloosa County has a State & FEMA approved Local Mitigation Strategy plan which expires in 19 July 2021. The Emergency Management Chief

is responsible for coordinating mitigation activities with the LMS working group. The Director of Growth Management will Chair the LMS Committee. Emergency management will attend LMS meetings and assist in prioritizing projects submitted by the county and municipalities.

The Post Disaster Redevelopment Chapter of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan contains information on specific hazard mitigation procedures and priorities.

Okaloosa County will seek Hazard Mitigation Grants when appropriate to meet priorities for hazard mitigation. The Growth Management Department (Director or designate) has primary responsibility for completing and submitting applications. Potential applicants will be notified when a grant cycle opens by the Florida Department of Community Affairs, or Okaloosa Growth Management, or OCPS. The priorities are:

- Reduce the county's exposure from multiple-loss properties.
- Protection or relocation of Critical Facilities.
- Activities that will enhance ability to quickly respond to needs after a disaster.
- Public education on the benefits of hazard mitigation for private property.

Okaloosa County and the municipalities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Current ratings are available through the Growth Management Department.

In those events where a federally coordinated Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team is established, Okaloosa County will actively seek to have input.

OCPS, the Public Works Department, the Water & Sewer Department, and the Growth Management Department will seek to send representatives to meetings or, at least, to review and comment on the team's publications and recommendations.

If Okaloosa County is not notified that such a team has been formed, the Emergency Management Chief will make inquiries of the Florida Division of Emergency Management to determine if a team is contemplated or has formed. The Emergency Management Chief will notify interested parties mentioned above (from county and municipalities) to insure maximum input and participation.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

A. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1. Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners will call a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners at the appropriate time to vote on declaration of a formal State of Local Emergency. The Board of County Commissioners has statutory responsibility for emergency management (which includes preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) in the county.

2. County Administrator

The County Administrator authorizes Level 1 activation of the EOC, and determines the time and method of deactivation. The County Administrator acts as a liaison between the political leadership (county commissioners and the ad hoc Policy Group) and the EOC, and communicates policy decisions to the EOC; ensures other county departments support execution of the CEMP. The County Administrator will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System per federal mandate, and assist the Emergency Management Director and/or the Incident Commander in ensuring that all county agencies work under the established NIMS structure

3. Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety provides functional operation of Emergency Management. Sets up and oversees the EOC. Coordinates planning, response, short-term restoration and recovery operations. Provides emergency medical services to the county. The Emergency Management Chief functions as the "Emergency Program Manager" under the Federal Staffing Pattern, and the

Public Safety Director assumes the duties as Emergency Management Director as specified in Chapter 252, F.S.S. The Emergency Management Chief is designated as the Emergency Program Manager for purposes of state and federal coordination. The Emergency Management Chief serves as the primary contact for coordinating with state and federal agencies for emergency operations. The Emergency Management Chief has primary responsibility for updating, coordinating, and disseminating changes to this plan.

The Public Safety Department will work within the Okaloosa County NIMS / EOC Interface structure in all duties.

4. Public Works Department

The Public Works Department maintains the county road network and storm water drainage in unincorporated areas. Assists the EOC by providing a Public Works ESF coordinator. Field crews provide information on observed damages to assist with the initial damage assessment and preliminary damage assessment. Provides field coordinator for debris management.

The Public Works Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Operations Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure.

The Public Works Department will staff the EOC as required on a 24-hour basis to fill ESF 3 Public Works position.

5. Growth Management Department

The Growth Management Department provides building inspection services, initial and preliminary damage assessment, issues building permits, monitors compliance with the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, and administers the National Flood Insurance Program within the unincorporated areas. Manages the hazard mitigation program and assists with post-disaster damage assessment.

The Growth Management Planning Coordinator serves as the Disaster Housing Coordinator. The Planning Coordinator will act as the Okaloosa County Liaison with the State of Florida and FEMA for interim short- and long-term disaster housing. Initial housing through the use of risk shelters will be coordinated by Okaloosa County.

Short term host shelters are coordinated by the American Red Cross separate from the county run shelters.

The Growth Management Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

6. Water and Sewer Department

The Water and Sewer Department maintains the county water and sewer system, operates water treatment plants. Assists the EOC by providing a Public Works ESF coordinator for ESF 12. Field crews provide information on observed damages to assist with the initial damage assessment and preliminary damage assessment.

The Water and Sewer Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

7. Purchasing Department (Procurement Unit Leader, Resource Management Unit Leader)

The Purchasing Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves as the Procurement Unit Leader under the Administration and Finance Section of the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure. This Unit acquires the resources. This position also serves as lead agency to Resource Support (ESF-7) under the Information and Planning Section. This unit plans for what resources are needed and helps to analyze if needed resources can be obtained from alternate, more efficient sources. These two units naturally work together.

The Purchasing Department accomplishes emergency leases or purchases in support of operations, and acts as the ESF 7/Resource Support Coordinator in the EOC.

8. Corrections Department

The Corrections Department is responsible for the safe incarceration of county prisoners, provides prisoner work details in support of emergency operations, assists with limited transportation assets, provides (when practical) short-term housing for mutual aid

responders, allows use of the visitor's area for use as an alternate EOC.

The Corrections Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

9. Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department provides personnel to assist with Citizen Information phone lines, ensures all new county employees are aware of their responsibility to support emergency operations. Briefs new employees on their responsibilities to report for work during emergencies.

The Human Resources Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

10. Geographic Information Systems

Geographic Information Systems provides maps to assist with damage assessment, operational planning, and mutual aid responders. Supports damage and impact assessment activities by providing GIS database information.

The Geographic Information Systems Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

11. Tourist Development/Visitors' Center

The Tourist Development/Visitors' Center assists the EOC with information regarding tourist occupancy. Provides personnel to assist with the Citizen Information phone lines. Advises the EOC or Department of Public Safety on Tourist-related issues. Provides leadership on beach erosion issues.

The Tourist Development/Visitors' Center will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

12. Risk Management

Risk Management performs information coordination and mission tracking functions (ESF 5) in the EOC. Provides insurance

information in support of financial assistance claims. Prepares the Safety Manual, which includes emergency planning requirements, for departments under the Board of County Commissioners.

The Risk Management Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

13. Airports

Airports will coordinate with Eglin AFB and the airlines to close or open the airport, as necessary. Post notices in the airport when the area is under a hurricane watch or warning. Assist the EOC with aviation-related issues. Secure airport facilities and conduct damage assessment of airports. Prepare and maintain emergency plans in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration. Acts as ESF 1/Transportation/Airports in the EOC.

14. Fleet Maintenance

Fleet Maintenance is responsible for all maintenance of county-owned vehicles and for fuel operations. Purchases, stores and supplies of fuel for county vehicles and shelter generators.

The Fleet Maintenance Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Logistics Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure.

15. Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office coordinates law enforcement operations in the county, and, when necessary, requests outside law enforcement assistance to meet emergency needs. Performs traffic management and security functions in support of emergency operations.

The Sheriff's Office will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Operations Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure. Depending on the incident, this position may also be required to become involved in Unified Command.

The Sheriff's Office will serve as Incident Commander (IC), if required, as dictated by the type of incident, and staff the EOC as required on a 24-hour basis. Acts as ESF 16 Law Enforcement in the EOC

16. Property Appraiser

The Property Appraiser provides information in support of damage assessment.

The Property Appraiser will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Operations Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure.

17. Tax Collector

The Tax Collector aids in the form of issuing business licenses to out-of-town contractors. Assists with damage assessment by providing information on the number of mobile homes in the county.

The Tax Collector will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

18. Supervisor of Elections

The Supervisor of Elections sets up polling places when elections are scheduled during disaster recovery periods.

19. Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent of Schools provides designated schools as public shelters. Provides school bus and driver assets to support Special Needs evacuation in accordance with Chapter 252, F.S.S. The Superintendent of Schools will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Administration/Finance Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure. Depending on the incident, this position may also be required to become involved in Unified Command. The Superintendent of Schools will provide a staff member to staff the EOC as required on a 24-hour basis.

20. Grants and Restore Dept. and Finance Office, Clerk of Courts

The Grants and Restore DEPT and Clerk of Courts Finance Office, act as the central repository and tracking agency for emergency

costs and financial assistance claims by the Board of County Commissioners and Clerk of Courts Office. These entities will act as the central repository for tracking county disaster claims filed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Grants and Restore and Finance departments will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

21. Health Department

The Health Department coordinates staffing and operation of the Special Needs Units within public shelters, performs as the ESF 8/Health & Medical Unit coordinator in the EOC.

The Health Department will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

22. Council on Aging

The Council on Aging provides vehicles and drivers to assist with their residents. They also provide care services to the Okaloosa County elderly population.

The Council on Aging will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

23. Cooperative Extension Office

The Cooperative Extension Office provides agricultural damage assessment information to the EOC, informs the EOC of response needs for the agricultural community, assists the community with agricultural and livestock needs, assists the ESF 11/Food and Water Unit coordinator with location of sources for food and water and provides space in the Extension Office training center for a tertiary EOC.

The Cooperative Extension Office will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

24. Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol assists with search and rescue, both with air and ground search teams. Assists with damage assessment in north county areas.

The Civil Air Patrol will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Operations Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure.

26. The Okaloosa County School District, Board of County Commission Employees and American Red Cross of Northwest Florida

The American Red Cross of Northwest Florida performs as the ESF 6/Red Cross Mass Care Unit coordinator in the EOC, manages and provides food and drink to emergency workers and victims and assists victims of fire and other catastrophe with immediate housing and personal needs. The Okaloosa County BCC Employees and Okaloosa County School District Employees manage all risk shelters.

The Red Cross and County Employees will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Logistics Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS/ICS Structure.

27. Salvation Army

The Salvation Army assists the homeless and impoverished, and provides food and drink to emergency workers and victims.

The Salvation Army will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Logistics Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure. Performs as ESF 6/Salvation Army.

28. Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)

COAD Performs as the ESF 15/Volunteers & Donations Unit coordinator in the EOC, locates and assigns volunteer resources to assist disaster victims with a wide range of services to meet immediate needs.

COAD will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position

serves in the Logistics Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure.

29. Fire Departments/Districts

Fire Departments/Districts are responsible for search & rescue, fire suppression, and hazardous materials operations. Performs initial impact assessment after hurricanes and notifies the EOC of the findings.

Fire Departments and Districts will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate. This position serves in the Operations Section under the Okaloosa County NIMS Structure. Depending on the incident, this position may also be required to become involved in Unified Command. Performs duties as ESF 4-9-10 Fire in the EOC.

Fire Departments and Districts may serve as Incident Commander (IC), if required, as dictated by the type of incident.

30. Municipalities

Municipalities will prepare plans and/or standard operating procedures to implement emergency operations within their jurisdiction. Take prudent and necessary action to protect critical public facilities and to ensure continuity of government services during and after an emergency. Perform damage and impact assessments within their jurisdiction, and relay the information to the EOC. Inform the EOC of recognized or anticipated unmet needs that require outside assistance, and inform the EOC if and when outside assistance is no longer needed. Assigns personnel to serve as ESF 19 Municipalities in the EOC.

The City liaison will assist the County Administrator in the EOC under the Administration/Finance Section as the focal point of coordination with the City, and work within the structure of the National Incident Management System per federal mandate. The City Liaison will ensure City agencies work within the established County NIMS structure to ensure consistent and efficient management of the incident.

31. Panhandle Welfare Society (PAWS)

PAWS responds to emergencies involving endangered animals or animals that pose a threat to public safety. Paws serves as the ESF-17 representative in the EOC. They operate on contract to the county

and municipalities, and have a limited response capability. Their operations do not supplant the animal owner's responsibilities to care for the animal.

PAWS will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

32. Medical Examiner

The Medical Examiner is responsible for proper handling of mass-fatality operations.

The Medical Examiner will work within the structure of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS per federal mandate.

33. The Public

The public -- including the business community -- also has responsibilities for emergency planning and operations. Local government must balance capability improvements against the public's desire for a certain level of service and taxation. The public has expressed its will that Okaloosa County maintain a moderately low level of taxes and government growth. Therefore, the public must be willing to bear a portion of the responsibility for its own well-being. Among those items for which the public has responsibility are as follows:

- **Situation awareness.** The public should be aware of, and actively seek information on, the hazards that accompany life in Okaloosa County. This includes frequent checks of radio and television stations for emergency broadcasts during periods of actual or potential hazardous weather, purchase and use of weather alert radios, seeking information about the proximity of hazardous materials storage near their homes, etc.
- **Preparedness.** Local emergency response forces maintain the minimal essential staff necessary to deal with day-to-day emergencies, and initial response to major incidents. To increase their chances of survival in a disaster, the public should take actions to prepare themselves. This includes seeking information on how to prepare, taking CPR and CERT classes, preparing their homes for hurricanes, installing smoke detectors, preparing a disaster supplies kit to last at least 96 hours, etc.

- **Reporting.** The public should report emergencies or critical needs to the appropriate agency.
- **Proper action.** The public has responsibility for following the advisories, instructions, or recommendations made by local government during any emergency. Individuals who fail to follow such advisories in a timely manner assume the responsibility for lack of action. The public must also tend to their individual and family responsibilities, such as, proper maintenance of their dwelling, correct operation of equipment (generators, chain saws, etc.), looking after the needs of family members, and making necessary arrangements for pets and animals.

VI. TRAINING, EXERCISE, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

A. TRAINING

Each municipality, department, and agency are responsible for conducting sufficient training for emergency operations. The Department of Public Safety will notify parties when emergency management training is offered.

The Department of Public Safety will prepare, coordinate, and schedule all-hazards emergency training for all levels of local government as well as volunteer groups as time and funds allow, including training on the operation of various disaster centers, processing of Damage Survey Reports (DSR), the DSR appeal process, and financial reporting. The Department of Public safety will disseminate information on state level training to include date, location, and time of training. This information will be disseminated at the monthly Emergency Management Committee meeting as it becomes available. The Emergency Management Chief has functional responsibility for implementing the training program.

ESF teams will train with the Emergency Management Director at the start of each severe weather season in basic NIMS/ICS principles as well as their basic ESF functions and relationships with other ESFs and EOC, and WEB EOC operations. At a minimum, all emergency lead and support personnel shall be trained to ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 300, and ICS 700 levels. The training program shall also include:

- Incident management organizations and personnel participating in realistic exercises, including multidisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional events and private-sector and nongovernmental organization interaction.
- Standard courses on Incident Command and management and incident management structure.
- Standard courses on operational coordination processes and systems.
- Courses focused on *discipline-specific* subject matter expertise.
- Courses focused on *agency-specific* subject matter expertise.

Personnel who have emergency response responsibilities must meet established training requirements as specified in state or federal rules. For example, Police Recruit training, Firefighter Standards, EPA or OSHA-mandated Hazardous Materials Responder training, etc. OCPS will, upon request, provide Level 1 Hazardous Materials Responder classes. Level 2 and higher classes must be coordinated with external agencies. OCPS will provide training on the requirements of state and federal preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation programs to local agencies. OCPS will offer such training annually, and will coordinate additional training when time and resources allow.

The EOC staff and public safety managers will receive training in the roles and capabilities of volunteer organizations annually. This training will be coordinated with the various organizations that provide volunteer services, i.e., Red Cross, Salvation Army, VOAD, NOSR, etc.

Damage assessment teams will be trained annually. Training will be conducted by the Area 1 Coordinator for the State of Florida. Training will be scheduled by OCPS after coordination with the Area 1 Coordinator. Upon completion of training personnel will be placed in a three-person team and have a geographical area assigned.

Mitigation Assessment Teams will be trained as needed or as directed by the Growth Management Director. Team members will be trained as their individual position dictates.

B. EXERCISE

Each municipality, department, and agency are responsible for conducting periodic exercises for emergency operations. The Department of Public safety will coordinate at least one full-scale and two functional exercises per year. To the extent possible, each agency with responsibilities under this plan will be involved in the exercise program. Agencies will not be listed individually in this section of the plan. Agencies involved in the exercise program are identified in Annex one. They are listed as “Primary, Support, or External Agencies” under each individual ESF tab.

The Department of Public safety will provide assistance to hospitals, public safety agencies, municipalities, and others in setting up exercises when requested in writing to do so by the appropriate official. The Department will participate in external exercises to the maximum extent practical.

An After-Action Review shall be conducted within two weeks of the cessation of an emergency operation or exercise to identify improvements needed in training, planning and operations, and resource management. Information will be provided to all participants in an After-Action Report. The After-Action Report should be consistent with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). The County Administrator, or designee, shall follow-up on identified actions to be taken to ensure their completion.

When shortfalls are identified, each agency should determine which areas for corrective action are within the agency’s funding or training abilities and take action to correct the shortfalls. Multi-year plans may be necessary for equipment and training issues. If local funding is not available, then the exercise report may serve as additional justification for grant programs.

Plans should be changed to include needed operational changes when practical.

C. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

The Department of Public Safety will conduct, or assist others in conducting, public awareness and education. The goal of such activities will be to educate the public in the proper actions to take in a variety of emergencies.

These activities will include: public speaking engagements (including schools), preparation and printing of brochures or handouts,

appearing on radio or television programs to provide information and answer call-in questions, and seeking media coverage of educational topics. OCPS will publish information pamphlets to inform the public about all-hazards preparedness and recovery. Information will include data on shelter locations, evacuation zones and routes, shelter-in-place procedures, how to use 9-1-1, etc.

The designated Emergency Alert System (EAS) stations in Okaloosa County are:

- AM 1260
- AM 1210
- FM 99.5
- FM 104.7
- FM 105.5

During declared emergencies, the EAS radio stations will establish a broadcast capability in the ARES work area at the EOC. Press briefings will take place in an available courtroom or the jury assembly room.

The designated Citizen Information Line for emergencies is (850) 609-7000 or 311. During EOC activation, volunteers will staff additional citizen information lines to answer questions from the public. This procedure has been used during Alberto, Erin, Opal, Ivan, Dennis, Michael and the communicable disease emergency. Phone numbers for this purpose will be published at the time.

OCPS, Elder Services, and Home Health Care Agencies cooperate to distribute preparedness information to elderly and shut-in population. OCES and some tourist resorts cooperate to provide preparedness information in locations where it will be readily accessible to tourists. Also, OCPS provides handouts to the Visitor's Center.

Additional information on public information may be found in Tab 14/Public Information.

VII. AUTHORITIES & REFERENCES**A. AUTHORITIES**

Public Law 93-288, The Stafford Act

Chapter 252, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, as amended.

Florida Community Planning Act.

Okaloosa County Resolution 88-22, Adoption of NCP Plan.

Okaloosa County Resolution 89-17, Adoption of HazMat Plan.

Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 8, Flood Damage
Prevention

Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 9, Emergency Management

Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 10, Fire Prevention

Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 11, Art V, Hazardous Materials Abatement

Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 15, Art III, Emergency 911 Telephone
Service

Okaloosa County Code, Chapter 15, Art. IV, Emergency Medical Services

Municipal ordinances.

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Chapter, Okaloosa County Comprehensive
Growth Management Plan.

Statewide Mutual Aid Compact.

Florida Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Plan.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan.

Okaloosa County Automatic Aid Agreement, Okaloosa County Fire/Rescue Association.

Mutual Aid Agreement, Okaloosa County BCC and 40th Flight Test Squadron.

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(I) & (O), 383 ®, 524(G) & 606; and 47 CFR Part 11, FCC Rules & Regulations, Emergency Alert system.

Airport Disaster Standard Operating Procedures.

Okaloosa County, Public Safety Department Standard Operating Procedures

B. REFERENCES

1. Florida Statutes

- Chapter 1, Definitions
- Chapter 14, Title IV, Executive Branch, Governor
- Chapter 22, Emergency Continuity of Government
- Chapter 30, Sheriffs
- Chapter 73, Eminent Domain
- Chapter 74, Proceedings Supplemental to Eminent Domain
- Chapter 125, County Government
- Chapter 154, Public Health Facilities
- Chapter 163, Intergovernmental Programs, Part III, Community Redevelopment
- Chapter 165, Title XII, Municipalities, Formation of Local Governments

- Chapter 166, Municipalities
- Chapter 252, Emergency Management
- Chapter 321, Highway Patrol
- Chapter 381, Title XXIX, Public Health
- Chapter 401, Medical Communications and Transportation
- Chapter 403, Environmental Control
- Chapter 404, Radiation
- Chapter 406, Medical Examiners
- Chapter 409, Title XXX, Social Welfare
- Chapter 427, Transportation Services
- Chapter 768, Good Samaritan Act
- Chapter 870, Affrays, Riots, Routs, and unlawful assemblies

2. Florida Constitution

- Article VIII S. 1, Establishment of County Government
- Article VIII S.2 (b), Municipalities, Powers and Duties

3. Federal Authorities

- Public Law 93-288, Federal Response Plan Authority
- Public Law 103-337, Federal Civil Defense Act, conversion to the Stafford Act
- Public Law 93-234, Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, Revised August 1, 1997
- Public Law 94-499, Superfund Amendments and Re-Authorization Act of 1986
- Public Law 95-510, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)

- National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, and subsequent amendments.
- 44 CFR Parts 59-76, National Flood Insurance Program and related programs.
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5

4. Florida Administrative Codes

- Florida Department of Community Affairs Rules 9G 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 17
- Florida Department of Community Affairs Administrative Rules 92 and 5

5. Other

- State of Florida, Governor's Executive Order 18-276, Hurricane Michael Oct 8, 2018
- State of Florida, Governor's Executive Order 92-242, September 1992, Governor's Disaster Planning and Response Review Committee
- State of Florida CEMP 2018
- Okaloosa County Local Mitigation Strategy
- Okaloosa County Terrorism Annex

Major references used in preparing this plan are listed in the endnotes.

ⁱ Copy maintained in the Emergency Management office, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, and with each city that is a signatory. Okaloosa County municipalities that have joined the Statewide Compact include Crestview, Destin, Ft. Walton Beach, Niceville, Mary Esther, and Valparaiso.

ⁱⁱ Chapter 252, FSS para. 252.38(3).

ⁱⁱⁱ See also: West Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for Hazardous Materials, District 1 LEPC, Pensacola 2018.

^{iv} State of Florida Hazard Mitigation Plan, Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee. 2018 <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/statemitigationstrategy/state-hazard-mitigation-plan/>

^v See also: State of Florida Emergency Response Plan, Florida Fire Chief's Association, 2015

^{vi} Source: National Weather Service records.

^{vii} Flood Insurance Study, Okaloosa County, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2019. <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-study>

Special Flood Hazard Information Report, US Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, 2019 https://corpslibrary.worldcat.org/title/special-flood-hazard-information-report-okaloosa-island-beaches-on-santa-rosa-island/oclc/5745749&referer=brief_results.

^{viii} State of Florida Hazard Mitigation Plan, Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee. 2018

^{ix} State of Florida Hazard Mitigation Plan, Department of Community Affairs, Tallahassee. 2018

^x Population data is based on year 2015 estimates of the population living within the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) that lie either wholly or partly within surge areas. In cases where only a portion of the TAZ was within a surge zone, a population estimate was extrapolated based on the percentage of land area within the surge zone. This is expected to result in a slight overestimate of the surge population. Vehicle data is based on the ratio of population to housing units, and assuming one vehicle per housing unit would evacuate.

^{xi} Source: Tourist Development Council

^{xii} 2010 Census of Population and Housing

^{xiii} Source: Economic Development Council

^{xiv} Source: Flood Plain Information, Choctawhatchee Bay, USACE, Mobile District, 2017. The original study did not contemplate a breach at all, but with the destruction of the dune system, we must now assume a breach at Category 3. This assumption is based on the land elevations, predicted surge heights, and lack of a dune system.

^{xv} See also: Handbook for Disaster Assistance, FDEM 2004

^{xvi} Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance for State and Local Governments, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2018.

^{xvii} See also: Emergency Alert System (EAS) Procedures for Florida EAS Local Operational Area 1, Local Area 1 Communications Committee, Pensacola, 2014.

^{xviii} Drabek, Thomas. Human System Responses to Disaster an Inventory of Sociological Findings, Springer-Verlag, New York. 1986.

^{xix} Mega-Shelter Planning Guide, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Washington DC. 2010.

^{xx} Preliminary data from the Tri-State Hurricane Evacuation Restudy, obtained July 1997

^{xxi} Technical Guidance for Hazards Analysis - Emergency Planning for Extremely Hazardous Substances, joint publication of the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, & Department of Transportation. Washington DC. 1987.

^{xxii} Vogt, Barbara. Evacuation of Institutionalized and Specialized Populations, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN. 1990.

^{xxiii} Transportation Planning Guidelines for the Evacuation of Large Populations, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington DC. 1984.

^{xxiv} Villanueva, Maria and Donald Pybas, *ed.* Recommendations for Hurricane Preparations and Responses for Boating Communities and Industries. Florida Sea Grant Program, University of Florida. Gainesville. 1994.

Federal Response Plan