

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
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PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING (NCESF-3)
2023

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

To provide Public Works and Engineering support to assist local governments with lifesaving or life protecting needs following an emergency or disaster.

B. SCOPE

Public Works and Engineering involves technical advice and evaluations, engineering services, construction management and inspection, emergency contracting, emergency repair of water, wastewater and solid waste facilities.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

A major disaster will cause significant property damage. Structures will be destroyed or severely weakened; homes, public buildings, bridges, and other facilities will have to be reinforced or removed to ensure safety. Debris may make streets and highways impassable and public utilities will be damaged and may be partially or fully inoperable.

A major disaster may affect the lives of many response personnel, preventing them from performing their prescribed emergency duties. Resources in the immediate disaster area may be damaged or inaccessible resulting in inability to meet emergency requirements. State resources may be required to be deployed from outside the affected area to ensure a timely, efficient, and effective response. Many disaster situations have the potential to create sewage and waste disposal problems. Facilities may be damaged or destroyed creating additional public health problems. Emergencies may involve hazardous chemicals, sewage, waste, pesticides, or radiation that may threaten the environment critical to health and safety.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Each agency will be responsible for debris removal or requesting the same from property and waterways under its general authority.
2. Each agency will be responsible for essential planning and employee safety and protection of state property during debris removal operations.

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3. State agencies will not remove debris from private property without a properly executed "Right-of-Entry" agreement.
4. All state departments having engineering capabilities within their agencies should be prepared to provide assistance in emergencies.
5. Local governments will use their own engineering personnel and those prearranged under mutual aid agreements. Additional engineering services required beyond state and local capabilities will be secured through contracts with private organizations or through prearranged agreements with other governmental organizations.
6. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sets regulations for waste treatment facilities and will monitor the restoration of damaged wastewater systems to a safe, functioning condition.
7. Regulations for the safety of the public water supply and clean air are set by DEQ. DEQ will monitor the restoration of systems to a safe, clean level.
8. Assistance from the state may be needed to clear debris, perform damage assessment, conduct structural evaluations, make emergency repairs to essential public facilities, reduce hazards by stabilizing or removing structures, and provide emergency water for human health needs and firefighting.
9. Access to the disaster areas will be dependent upon the re-establishment of emergency routes. In many locations debris clearance and emergency road repairs will be given top priority to support immediate lifesaving emergency response activities.
10. Rapid damage assessment of the disaster area will be required to determine potential workload.
11. Emergency environmental waivers, legal clearances and "Rights-of-Entry" (on private property), will be needed for disposal of material from debris clearance activities.
12. Significant numbers of personnel with engineering and construction skills along with construction equipment and materials will be required to assist in the response and recovery from the disaster.

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III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Serve as lead agency to plan, administer, and coordinate damage assessment throughout the state in response to emergencies.
- b. Gather, compile, and submit damage and needs assessment data as the situation may require.
- c. Plan, direct, and coordinate a multiple state agency emergency response to request from affected jurisdictions requiring public works assistance concerning debris collection, removal, and reduction; engineering services support; sewage and waste disposal facility repairs; and air and water quality evaluation and support.
- d. Coordinate Public Works and Engineering response by directing resources and prioritizing needs.
- e. Coordinate debris collection, removal and reduction assistance provided by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Small Business Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Individual Assistance Grant Program, and Public Assistance Program.
- f. Coordinate local government requests for assistance.
- g. Assist local governments and state agencies in preparation of project applications for Federal assistance. With the assistance of the NC Department of Administration and the NC Department of Insurance, coordinate use of available state engineers for damage assessments, surveys, overviews, and reports during response and recovery operation.

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

- a. Assume the lead role for vegetative debris removal on NCDOT maintained right-of-ways during and after an emergency or disaster.
- b. When debris removal from private property is ordered by the Governor, select and designate pick-up points on the right-of-way of public roads and streets to receive disaster related debris removed from private property.
- c. Provide coordination as needed for debris removal off right-of-way when it is a threat to health and safety, and has been so ordered by the Governor.
- d. Provide assistance in clearing wreckage from public property as requested by the Governor after a disaster.
- e. Provide consultation and appropriate engineering evaluations as necessitated by damage to state highway systems (roadways, bridges, signs, traffic signals).

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

- a. Assume the lead role for coordinating the response to sewage and waste disposal problems resulting from an emergency.
- b. Assist with damage assessment and restoration of wastewater treatment plants.
- c. Provide information, guidance, and instructions concerning standards for emergency wastewater treatment problems.
- d. Assist local governments in evaluating ramifications from chemical spills or releases that adversely affect the environment.
- e. Apply enforcement criteria as situation demands.
- f. Assume the lead role in coordinating the emergency response to air and water quality problems resulting from an emergency.

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- g. Evaluate water quality when public water supplies are threatened by contamination resulting from any spill or emergency.
- h. Provide technical advice when existing water supply has been disrupted due to power failure or other circumstances.
- i. Initiate boil water advisories for the period of time until water supply has been reestablished.
- j. Assist in damage assessment and restoration of water supply.
- k. Provide consulting assistance as required for public water supply concerns and emergencies.

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY (DAQ)

- a. Provide assistance, information, and guidance for emergency disposal of materials that adversely affect air quality.

3. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

NC FOREST SERVICE (NCFS)

- a. Assist in damage assessment of state-owned property.
- b. Assist with debris removal from state-owned property.
- c. Provide personnel and equipment to assist in coordination of debris removal when environmental concerns exist.
- d. Provide food and lodging for debris removal personnel as requested.
- e. Assist Department of Transportation in obtaining permits and clearances for disposal of debris and wreckage.

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE (NCDOI)

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

- a. Provide engineering services support for damage surveys and other technical support as needed to respond to missions assigned to Public Works and Engineering.

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5. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. The State Laboratory will provide environmental laboratory services as requested.
- b. Provide assistance to local public health organizations.
- c. Human Ecology and Epidemiology will provide support as required.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

Public Works and Engineering support supplements local emergency response actions immediately following a disaster. Representatives of Public Works and Engineering agencies will report to the State EOC upon request to coordinate response to public works and engineering requests for assistance. Primary agencies will determine, according to the nature of the emergency/disaster, which support agencies need to be SERT participants.

B. NOTIFICATION

In the event a disaster occurs or if the potential for a disaster exists, NCEM will notify lead and supporting agencies.

C. RESPONSE ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

- a. Coordinate with supporting agencies to inventory available personnel, equipment, and materials.
- b. Alert field personnel to prepare for response activities.
- c. Establish priorities and develop plans for mobilization.
- d. Preposition resources as appropriate.
- e. If there is advance warning, remove resources to safe location.

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2. CONTINUING

- a. Public Works and Engineering agencies will provide personnel for damage assessment.
- b. Reassess priorities to ensure critical requests are being addressed.
- c. Track resources and re-allocate as necessary.

D. RECOVERY ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

When requested, agencies will provide personnel and equipment to assist in the recovery phase.

2. CONTINUING

- a. Continue damage assessment process.
- b. Re-evaluate priorities and make appropriate changes.
- c. Continue to support on-going missions with needed resources.
- d. Coordinate with local governments to accomplish off system work as required.
- e. Coordinate with the SERT/NCEM Public Assistance Branch to arrange for disaster cost reimbursement to local governments.

V. DIRECTION, CONTROL AND COORDINATION

1. LOCAL

Each jurisdiction within the state is responsible for its own requirements. Only when local and mutual aid resources are exhausted or projected to be exhausted may the jurisdiction request assistance from the state. Local governments will use their own engineering personnel and those under pre-arranged mutual aid agreement and/or contracts to conduct public works response and recovery missions, and should have pre-arranged agreements or contracts in place for debris removal and disposal.

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Local governments are normally responsible for the operation of local sewage and waste disposal systems in accordance with state standards. Reports and/or requests for assistance are made to the nearest Department of Commerce field office that notifies the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Local governments maintain a capability to monitor and react to local air and water contamination to ensure readings are compatible with public health standards and requirements.

2. STATE

Public Works and Engineering has been categorized into five support elements. The primary agencies for these categories include the Department of Public Safety, North Carolina Emergency Management (damage assessment), Department of Transportation (debris removal), Department of Administration (engineering services), Department of Environmental Quality (air/water quality and sewage/waste disposal), and the Department of Health and Human Services (testing/sampling).