

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
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LAW ENFORCEMENT (NCESF-13)
2023

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this appendix is to provide coordination for all state law enforcement resources to support local law enforcement during and following public disturbance, riots and/or emergency situations.

B. SCOPE

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) Emergency Services Branch will coordinate state law enforcement activities during public disturbances, riots and/or emergency situations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

Emergencies, man-made or natural, may be of such magnitude as to overwhelm the resources of local law enforcement. Security and protection of the public and its property will be essential.

2. CIVIL DISTURBANCE

Civil disturbances are the public assemblage of three or more persons which by disorderly and violent conduct, or the imminent threat of disorderly and violent conduct, results in injury or damage to persons or property or creates a clear and present danger of injury or damage to persons or property (G.S. §14-288.2).

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Local government may be, under certain circumstances, overwhelmed by the extent of response effort required to support evacuations, provide security, control traffic and carry out other law enforcement activities.
2. Local police departments and sheriff's offices will activate mutual aid from other local law enforcement agencies before requesting state assistance.
3. The SERT will develop a contingency plan to deploy state resources in the event that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property.

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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. Monitor potential emergencies that may require the deployment of state law enforcement resources in support of the affected law enforcement agencies.
- b. Coordinate requests for resources from all state agencies.
- c. Provide additional law enforcement resources to impacted areas as necessary.
- d. Request federal assistance as required.

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Provide uniform personnel for highway law enforcement, traffic control, security, public disturbance, and riot response.

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Provide trained military police for traffic control
- b. Provide military forces to assist local law enforcement in the emergency area for security, control of entrance to and exit from disaster area, and protection of people and crowd control.
- c. Provide a Reaction Force specifically trained for response to public disturbances and riots.

STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (SBI)

- a. Assist in law enforcement as necessary and requested, including investigation and staff law enforcement specialists.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION

- a. Provide uniformed personnel to support/assist law enforcement with security, traffic control, and related services as directed.

3. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)

- a. Enforce laws and regulations in state coastal waters.
- a. Provide law enforcement support as necessary and requested.

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

- a. Develop, maintain and implement the Emergency Highway Traffic Regulation Plan.

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSE AND THEFT BUREAU (DMV-L&T)

- a. Assist local law enforcement as requested.
- b. Assist emergency management officials with special vehicle registration matters for emergency vehicles.

5. NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION (NCWRC)

- a. Provide law enforcement support as necessary and requested, especially on state rivers and lakes.

6. NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (NCDNCR)

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- a. Provide law enforcement support as necessary and requested, especially regarding laws on or related to state park lands and waters.

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7. NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE (NCDOI)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID)

- a. Provide Law enforcement support as necessary and requested especially regarding security, and traffic control.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

Local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to request assistance first from other local law enforcement agencies as provided for by mutual aid General Statutes before asking the state for assistance. In a gubernatorial or legislatively declared state of emergency, when it is determined by the lead state agency that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property in accordance with the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, the Governor may deploy state law enforcement resources to the emergency area.

B. NOTIFICATION

Upon notification that a public disturbance, riot and/or emergency situation has occurred or the potential for one exists, emergency management will alert the Commissioner of Operations and appropriate law enforcement agencies. Based upon the severity of the situation, agencies will be asked to report to the State EOC.

C. RESPONSE ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

- a. Local and state law enforcement agencies from within the emergency area will be committed.
- b. State law enforcement agencies will monitor local situations in preparation for possible commitment.
- c. Local law enforcement resources from both within and from outside the emergency area will be committed when requested by mutual aid.

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2. CONTINUING

- a. Local law enforcement agencies will respond to law enforcement and security requirements within their capabilities.
- b. State law enforcement resources will be deployed to the emergency area upon receiving a request or when it is determined local law enforcement agency resources are insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property.

D. RECOVERY ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

- a. State law enforcement agencies and National Guard resources will further supplement the needs of local law enforcement and fulfill the enforcement and security requirements of other state and volunteer entities involved in recovery.
- b. Operations will be demobilized as directed by the State EOC.

2. CONTINUING

- a. Continue those operations necessary to protect people and property.
- b. Assist with the reconstitution of local law enforcement agencies as necessary.

V. DIRECTION, CONTROL AND COORDINATION

1. LOCAL

County sheriffs and local chiefs of police are responsible for law enforcement within their jurisdictions. Pursuant to law, all sheriffs' offices and police departments may provide mutual aid to each other, upon a written request, upon the terms specified in the General Statutes. When local resources are exhausted, state assistance is requested through emergency management channels.

2. STATE

The SERT Emergency Services Branch will coordinate law enforcement activities when a public disturbance, riot and/or emergency situation occurs or when the potential for disaster exists. According to the severity, agencies will

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be asked to report to the State EOC. If the public disturbance, riots and/or emergency situation are isolated to one area of the state, a representative of the law enforcement division from that area will be dispatched to the affected agency to establish a state law enforcement liaison and to monitor and coordinate state law enforcement activities. State resources will be dispatched from the State EOC, including an NCEM Area Coordinator, should the situation require.

3. FEDERAL

In the event a public disturbance, riot and/or emergency situation exceed state capabilities, the Governor may request federal assistance.