

# Somerset County Emergency Operations Plan

## ANNEX E - EVACUATION

### I. PURPOSE

The Somerset County government must be able to assist the municipal governments with the orderly and coordinated evacuation of the residents and visitors of Somerset County, should the need arise.

### II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### A. SITUATION

1. The Somerset County EMA office has determined that an immediate evacuation of residents and visitors must be accomplished for hazardous materials incidents and terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This event could take place at any location within the county. Evacuation information will be released using the Emergency Alert System and the NOAA Weather radio, with the assistance of municipal and county law enforcement personnel.

2. A post-disaster evacuation may be required following a severe earthquake that causes structural damage to evacuate people from damaged structures. This event could take place at any location within the county. The Somerset County EMA office will coordinate evacuation efforts with the municipal emergency responders.

3. Because flooding situations, wildfire incidents, the approach of severe weather, or agricultural conditions involving blight and infestation are not immediate dangers, the EMA office may have hours or days in advance to evacuate the public from the endangered areas. These events could take place at any location within the county. The County EMA office may use the broadcast and print media, the Emergency Alert System, the NOAA Weather Radio, or county and municipal emergency responders using sirens and public address system to warn the public of the approaching dangers and to provide evacuation information.

4. It is unlikely that a transportation-related mass casualty incident will create an evacuation requirement to county residents and visitors. Neither should disease outbreaks, nor epidemics require evacuations.

5. During an evacuation, special attention will need to be made for the evacuation of nursing homes, hospitals and schools and for the release of evacuation information to visitors of the County. Residents of nursing homes and hospitals have special medical and transportation needs that must be met; some of these residents could die during evacuation. School children will need to be reunited with their parents, without causing further traffic congestion and confusion. The sheer number of Visitors to the County will need to be considered to reduce traffic congestion and confusion.

#### B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. There will be some spontaneous evacuation before it is recommended and some residents will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat.

2. It is not expected that large number of county residents and visitors will need to be evacuated because of flooding, severe winter storms, severe summer storms, transportation-related mass casualty incidents, utility failures, earthquakes, disease & epidemics, or blight & infestation. Large numbers of evacuees may result from large-scale wildland fires, hurricanes, hazardous

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materials incidents, and the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. For the purpose of this annex, evacuations will only be reviewed for these last four disaster events.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. For emergencies that take place within single municipality and do not overtax the municipal emergency responders, the evacuations will be handled by that community. The County will become involved when the scope or severity is so great to require greater assistance and coordination, when the event becomes multi-jurisdiction, or when the municipalities request assistance from the County EMA office.

2. Emergency evacuations will be required during hazardous materials incidents and the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. The Incident Commander of the hazmat incident or the WMD attack shall have the authority to order evacuations to relocate those in danger. The Municipal or County EOC will coordinate the evacuation efforts with the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will control all access to the evacuated area using fire department, law enforcement, and public works personnel.

3. Regional evacuations with advance warnings will be required for very large-scale wildland fires and hurricanes. Wildfires will mostly likely have multiple hours of advanced warning for evacuations. Hurricanes will mostly likely have several days of advanced warning for evacuations. The Municipal Officers have the authority to order evacuations within their communities; however, they must coordinate their order with the County EMA office so that the County EMA Director may organize the evacuations among all the municipalities that are effected. The most likely evacuees of wildfires will be home and camp owners and these people will require sheltering. Because Maine has only ever experienced Category 1 hurricanes, the most likely evacuees will be summer visitors and very few of these people will require sheltering.

4. Private vehicles and school buses are the primary means of transportation for the general public. Hospital and nursing home residents will need to be transported in ambulances and handicapped assessable buses. County Jail inmates will need to be transported by secure vans.

5. Each school in the County shall have an emergency plan identifying where the children from that school will be evacuated to during an emergency. This evacuation point shall have telephone communications to speak to the local emergency management director, to parents, and to the radio and television media, plenty of vehicle access for parents to pick up their children and enough space to temporary shelter the number of children from that school. Parents shall be pre-notified of the school evacuation point.

6. The County EMA Office will utilize the broadcast and print media, the Emergency Alert System, and the NOAA Weather Radio to keep the general public informed on the evacuation activities and the actions that they should take.

7. Inter-jurisdictional Relationships: The Somerset County EMA will coordinate multi-municipal evacuations and will coordinate with Franklin, Piscataquis and Kennebec counties for emergency services support and hosting of evacuees. Each municipality has authority over emergency operations within its boundaries, including evacuation of its residents. Evacuation coordination is provided by the Emergency Management Director in each municipality. The

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County EMA coordinates evacuation in jurisdictions that do not have emergency management capabilities.

### IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The following Evacuation responsibilities are required during an emergency event:

Incident Commander: (ON SCENE) Provide direction on scene traffic control and securing the perimeter of the evacuated area.

Emergency Management Director: (OPERATIONS) (207) 474-6788 Oversee all evacuation operations, coordination and will determine evacuation routes.

Public Information Officer: (COMMAND) (207) 474-7404 Update the broadcast media on evacuation information and instructions.

Warning Coordinator: (Logistics) (207) 858-0523 Provide evacuation information and instructions to emergency responders.

Medical Emergency Services Coordinator: (OPERATIONS) (207) 474-6788 Coordinate the evacuation of special care facilities with the medical personnel from those facilities and with EMS units.

Protection Services Officer (LOGISTICS) (207) 858-4709 and Fire & Rescue County Coordinator: (OPERATIONS) (207) 474-6788 Contact municipal, county and state police officers and municipal firefighters to coordinate evacuation assignments.

Resource Officer: (LOGISTICS) (207) 858-4709 Coordinate use of both public and private transportation.

Shelter Coordinator: (LOGISTICS) (207) 858-4709 Activate shelters within the county, and as needed, coordinate with the EMA offices in adjacent counties for sheltering assistance.

Sheriff's Department: (OPERATIONS) (207) 474-6788 Provide property protection when requested. Enforce law and ensure order. Provide traffic control.

### V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

#### A. ADMINISTRATION

The County EOC will record the constant status of the evacuation and number of evacuees on the EOC Status Boards. Evacuation routes will be indicated on the appropriate EOC map boards. Evacuation notices and will be filed with the EMA administrative assistant.

Emergency services personnel in the field will report their evacuation activities to their department. The respective departments will keep their municipal EOC informed. Municipal EOC's will update the County EOC of their activities. The County EOC will inform the State EOC of the county status.

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### B. LOGISTICS

1. If residents of one or more municipalities within the County are evacuated, their host areas may have a lack of adequate resources to support the evacuees. The County EOC Resource Officer will coordinate the transportation of essential consumer goods (foods, fuel, and medicine) to the host area(s) using existing transportation vehicles.

2. Municipal and County emergency responders may require additional manpower, water, food, vehicles, generators and fuel to maintain sustained operations. The County EOC will coordinate assistance from one municipality to another, may purchase additional supplies and distribute the supplies to the emergency responders needing the supplies, and will request additional manpower, vehicles, equipment and supplies from the State EOC.

### VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The County Emergency Management Director is responsible for the development, coordination and maintenance of this annex, and shall do so annually. The County Emergency Management staff shall develop and coordinate EOC job aids and agreements.

### VII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

Federal Emergency Management Agency. Transportation Planning Guidelines for Evacuation of Large Populations, CPG 2-15, September 1984.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. Guide to Hurricane Preparedness Planning for State and Local Officials. CPG 2-16, December 1984.