

Somerset County Emergency Operations Plan

ANNEX F - MASS CARE

I. PURPOSE

The Mass Care annex provides information on the actions taken to protect evacuees and other disaster victims from the effects of the disaster by establishing mass care facilities. A mass care facility will be a government or private facility that will be used to receive and care for people who are in need of shelter, food, water, sanitation and other assistance. The annex describes the mass care system that will be set up.

II. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. Historically, there has not been a great need for a major sheltering program in Somerset County. Many times in the past, area motels have been used to shelter between 2-15 people. The largest shelter operation was initiated during the January 1998 Ice Storm disaster.
2. Mass Care Facilities or shelters will be established if a significant group of people are forced from their homes by an uncontrolled wildland fire, hurricane, major wide-area flooding, a wintertime power outage, or a hazardous materials (HazMat) incident or terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The HazMat or WMD will most likely be localized; requiring only a single shelter. A hurricane or winter storm power outage may also create a large need to establish locations to supply potable water and provide meals.
3. It is very unlikely that a transportation-related mass casualty incident, a disease outbreak or epidemic, or agricultural blight and infestation will require mass care sheltering. Maine has never experienced an earthquake great enough to cause structural damage and therefore it is unlikely that sheltering would be required for this event.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. In Somerset County, responsibility for establishing Mass Care Shelters, training shelter workers, staffing the shelter and coordinating shelter logistics is assigned to the American Red Cross, per an agreement signed between representatives of the State of Maine and the American National Red Cross. Citizens may locate open shelters by calling the Shelter Coordinator in the County EOC @ (207) 858-4709 or going to the Shelter link under the Emergency Management Agency at the Somerset County web site @ WWW.SomersetCounty-ME.org.
2. Municipalities have the option of establishing their own mass care facilities; however those communities that do establish their own will not be reimbursed by the American Red Cross, unless there has been a prior agreement between the municipality and the ARC.
3. Sufficient time will be available to establish mass care facilities for an uncontrolled wildland fire, hurricane, major wide-area flooding, or a wintertime power outage.
4. A HazMat or WMD incident will not provide sufficient time to establish mass care facilities for immediate use. However, the incident will most likely be local and in nature and short in duration and a single overnight accommodation may only be required. Hotels and motels will be utilized as much as possible.

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III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. HAZARD CHARACTERISTICS: The magnitude, intensity, spread of onset, duration, and impact on the county and municipalities will determine the level of mass care need.

1. Hurricane & Summer Storm: The majority of flooding that would force evacuations will be caused by coastal storm surge from a Category 1 hurricane. Somerset County has not experienced a hurricane stronger than Category 1 in the past century. Municipal flood zone ordinances have kept new residential development out of the 100 year flood zone, but modern storm surge inundation data shows that storm induced flooding will be more severe. Individual communities may be required to establish and operate a small shelter for their coastal residents for a few days or the American Red Cross will establish district mass care facilities.

2. Winter Storm & Power Outage: A major blizzard or ice storm could impact the entire county by severely damaging or destroying the power transmission system. This occurred in the entire State of Maine in January 1998. This storm forced many residents from their homes because they had no way to heat their homes without electricity. A winter storm of the same destructive capability could cause all mass care shelters in the county to be activated for a few days to a couple of weeks.

3. Wildland Fire: An uncontrolled wildland fire would most likely impact a portion of the county. Most evacuees would be taken in by family, friends or housed in motels.

4. HazMat Incident or Terrorist WMD Attack: A disaster event caused by an accidental release of hazard materials or the intentional release of nuclear, biological, or chemical agents by terrorists will most likely be a local event and not one that will cause evacuations from major portions of the County. In some cases, sheltering-in-place by residents will occur. A single mass care facility outside the effected area should be activated to provide for meals, water, and temporary shelter.

B. MASS CARE FACILITY MANAGEMENT:

1. The County or municipal EMA Director may request the activation of mass care facilities, as the need requires. The decision to open ARC shelters will be the Red Cross's. The Waterville, Mid-Maine Chapter of the ARC will perform the activation and management of all mass care facilities in Somerset County. When there is a warning period prior to a disaster striking the County, the County EMA Director will contact the ARC to request the ARC put selected shelters on standby. Any individual may also request shelter support from the American Red Cross. The HCC of the ARC considers five displaced families as a "Mass Care" situation.

2. The Waterville, Mid Maine Chapter of the ARC has signed agreements on file with several community school districts for these communities to provide facilities the Chapter will operate as mass care shelters during a disaster in Somerset County. All of the County mass care shelters are local schools.

3. The American Red Cross manages a secure interface Web Based System as a State Wide Shelter Inventory System. Access to the system is granted to the Somerset County Emergency Management Agency. Contact the Somerset EMA for information and planning purposes.

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4. There are numerous American Red Cross operated mass care shelters in Somerset County. They are located in the following Communities, but contact must be made with the Mid-Maine Chapter ARC at (207) 872-5642 or the Somerset County EMA at (207) 474-6788 to ensure the shelters are open:

Athens	Madison (2)
Bingham	North Anson
Caratunk	Pittsfield
Fairfield (4)	Skowhegan (3)
Harmony	Jackman
Starks	

4. Somerset County will not be involved in the procedures to opening shelter facilities, the composition and management of shelter staffs, the registration and tracking of shelter residents, and the services provided. The American Red Cross will be responsible for these tasks in accordance with the latest version of the "Statement of Agreement between the State of Maine and the American National Red Cross".

5. All emergency shelters in Somerset County, whether operated by the ARC or the community, Will have Ham stations at the shelter for maintaining communications with the County EOC and for reporting on the status of their shelter operations.

6. Local jurisdictions can open shelters but will assume responsibility for liability and operating costs if the shelter opening has not been pre-approved by the local Red Cross Chapter. The health and safety of local citizens remain a responsibility of Government.

C. SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION MASS CARE: Special assistance and provisions will be necessary for the evacuation and sheltering of the following special needs populations.

Population	Transportation	Medical/Personal	Shelter
Nursing Home Residents	Nursing homes vehicles would be augmented by local Ambulances and Passenger Buses	Nursing Home Staff would be augmented by and supervise local volunteers	Nursing Home facilities outside the disaster-affected areas
Hospital Patients	Hospital vehicles would be augmented by local Ambulances and Passenger Buses	All shifts of the Hospital Staff would be recalled to complete the evacuation	Hospitals and Clinics outside the disaster-affected areas and local schools
School Children	School Buses	School Staff personnel	Each individual school has evacuation plans and parental pick-up locations
County Jail Inmates	A couple of School Buses	Jail Guards augmented by Sheriff's Dept Deputies	Inmates will be relocated to other County Jails or the Maine State Prison

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IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The following EOC Staff Positions are tasked with Mass Care duties during an emergency event:

County Commissioners: (COMMAND) (207) 474-7404 Has the overall responsibility to provide policy and financial support to maintain the County mass care assets.

EMA Director: (OPERATIONS) (207) 474-6788 Oversees and tracks mass care resident status. Has the authority to activate all mass care facilities in the County. Will determine which mass care shelters should be established in the County. Contacts the ARC to request mass care facility management and operation support.

Communications Officer: (LOGISTICS) (207) 858-0523 Will ensure that communications is maintained with the mass care facilities located in the County.

Public Information Officer: (COMMAND) (207) 474-7404 Will provide mass care information, such as location and availability, through the local media networks to the general public.

Resource Officer: (LOGISTICS) (207) 858-4709 Will provide needed supplies and equipment to the mass care facilities.

Shelter Coordinator: (LOGISTICS) (207) 858-4709 Coordinates with each shelter and the EOC Resources Officer to ensure that each shelter is adequately equipped and supplied. Tracks shelter occupancy.

V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. The Shelter Manager of each mass care shelter will track the number of people staying in the facility and the amount of supplies that were expended. The Shelter Manager will be responsible for all shelter staff and shelter residents. All expenditures will be recorded and receipts saved. ARC-approved and trained shelters will be reimbursed by the American Red Cross.

B. The Somerset County EMA will consolidate all expenditure records for any mass care-related costs and will provide copies to the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

C. The American Red Cross has signed agreements on file for facilities they will operate as Mass Care shelters during a disaster event. Additional information regarding each facility is available in the FEMA National Facility Survey and Reception and Care Facility Listing on file with each County and appropriate municipality.

D. In doing so, the Red Cross will pay related costs only when such activities are under the administrative control of, or authorized by, the American Red Cross, or when prior written agreements have been made for another organization to provide emergency services on behalf of the Red Cross.

VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. REVISIONS: A continuous file on recommended changes or improvements will be

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maintained by the Somerset County EMA. The EMA Director reviews this annex annually and ensures that all procedures, policies, data and responsibilities are current and reflect actual assignments.

B. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: County, municipal and American Red Cross agencies are responsible for the development and maintenance of their organizational policies and procedures.

VII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

SLF 101, September 1996, Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning.

Statement of Agreement between the State of Maine and the American National Red Cross.

Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 93-288), 1974

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.(U.S.C., Title 42, Chapter 68, Section 302(b)(3), 1988