

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan



Richland County Emergency Management Agency
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Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

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FOREWORD

This Emergency Operations Plan provides Richland County and its political subdivisions with a systematic approach to address community needs created by disasters or emergencies. It identifies the responsibilities, functions, operational procedures, and relationships between and within government entities and their various departments, community agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individual citizens.

The plan was developed by the Richland County Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with representatives from the departments and agencies tasked with emergency responsibilities throughout the plan. The goal of the plan is to protect lives and property in the county by developing programs and emergency operations capabilities that address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery from natural, technological, and other types of disasters. Regular review of the plan, exercises, and actual incident responses will serve to refine and clarify emergency responsibilities for designated agencies and contribute to the ongoing planning process initiated by those agencies.

1. Section 5502.26 of the Ohio Revised Code requires Richland County to develop and maintain a county Emergency Operations Plan. The Richland County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is an all-hazards plan that establishes a framework through which local government agencies and designated community organizations prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters that affect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Richland County. The EOP follows the Emergency Support Function structure as outlined in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Response Framework (NRF) and is compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which includes the Incident Command System (ICS).
2. The Richland County EOP outlines the county's response to emergencies and disasters. Under this plan, an emergency is defined as a natural or human-caused incident that may have caused or is likely to cause localized or limited damages to a specific area or population and requires immediate responsive action to protect life or property. A disaster is defined as a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human-caused incident that may result in severe property damage, fatalities, and/or multiple injuries and requires immediate or extended response. Throughout this plan, the two terms are used interchangeably.
3. The Richland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the central point of coordination within the county for emergency and disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Established under Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.26, the EMA coordinates local assistance and resources during an emergency and prepares the county for hazards through planning, training, and exercising activities.

4. In carrying out and prioritizing emergency operations and assigning resources under this plan, Richland County's response priorities are: life safety, incident stabilization, property protection, and environment conservation. When not responding to or recovering from an emergency, the primary focus of the EMA is planning, preparedness, and mitigation across the county.
5. The Base Plan describes the structure and process that encompass Richland County's approach to all-hazards emergency management and the integration of resources from local agencies and organizations. The Base Plan provides information about plan activation, authorities and regulations, roles and responsibilities, and continuity of government.
6. Emergency Support Functions
 - a. The Richland County EOP is structured according to 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) that correspond to the format of the Ohio EOP and National Response Framework. In the State of Ohio, the ESF is the primary mechanism through which state assistance to local governments is managed during emergencies. ESFs detail the roles and responsibilities of public and private agencies charged with carrying out functional missions to respond to emergencies and disasters.
 - b. Each ESF is headed by a Primary Agency that coordinates and reports activity for that ESF.
 - c. Support Agencies are identified for each ESF. These agencies are selected based on their legislative authority, knowledge, resources, and/or capabilities to respond to a specific type of disaster or perform specific functions in a disaster response.
 - d. Primary and support agencies have internal plans, procedures, and guidelines that address how they will carry out their mission during response and recovery.
7. Plan Update

In 2015, the EMA began the process of updating the current plan and converting from the Functional Annex format to Emergency Support Function format. This process was completed in early 2018.

- a. Base Plan – Conversion and update based on previous Base Plan and elements of Annex A: Direction and Control, Annex L: Continuity of Operations, and new information

- b. ESF #1 Transportation – Conversion and update based on previous Annex E: Evacuation and additional information
- c. ESF #2 Communication – Conversion and update based on previous Annex B: Communications
- d. ESF #3 Engineering and Public Works – Conversion based on previous Annex L: Engineering, Utilities, and Public Works, Annex M: Damage Assessment, and Annex K: Debris Management
- e. ESF #4 Firefighting – Conversion and update based on previous Annex N: Firefighting
- f. ESF#5 Information and Planning – Conversion based on previous Annex A: Direction and Control, Annex C: Notification and Warning, and new information
- g. ESF #6 Mass Care – Conversion and update based on previous Annex F: Shelter and Mass Care
- h. ESF #7 Resource Support – Conversion and update based on previous Annex G: Resource Management
- i. ESF #8 Public Health and Medical – Conversion and update based on previous Annex H: Public Health, Annex I: Medical, and new information
- j. ESF #9 Search and Rescue – New section based on elements of previous Annex N: Firefighting and new information
- k. ESF #11 Agriculture – New section
- l. ESF #12 Energy – New section based on elements of Annex J: Engineering, Utilities, and Public Works and new information
- m. ESF #10 Hazardous Materials – Conversion and update based on Richland County Hazardous Materials Response Plan
- n. ESF #13 Law Enforcement – Conversion and update based on previous Annex O: Law Enforcement
- o. ESF #14 Community Recovery and Mitigation – New section
- p. ESF #15 Emergency Public Information and External Affairs – Conversion and update based on previous Annex D: Emergency Public Information

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PROMULGATION STATEMENT

This Emergency Operations Plan addresses Richland County's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological emergencies, and acts of civil hostility. It is the underlying document for the protection of health, safety, and property of the public in Richland County and is the principle guide for county agencies and government bodies in Richland County in responding to emergencies and disasters. It is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction coordination, particularly between local, state, and federal agencies, and establish a framework for an effective system of comprehensive emergency management.

This comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan attempts to be all-inclusive in combining the four phases of emergency management:

- Mitigation: Activities that eliminate or reduce the probability for disaster.
- Preparedness: Activities that government agencies, organizations, and individuals develop to save lives and minimize damage.
- Response: Activities that prevent loss of lives and property and provide emergency assistance.
- Recovery: Short- and long-term activities that return all systems to normal or improved standards.

In order to execute this plan effectively and mobilize the available resources, all implementing personnel must have knowledge of the procedures set forth in this plan and be trained in its use. Agencies with roles and responsibilities established by this plan are expected to develop Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), emergency response checklists, and other supporting documents based on the provision of this plan.

This plan was developed using generally accepted management principles and practices for emergency management. Planning elements derived from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency are incorporated.

This plan is a statement of policy regarding emergency management issues and assigns tasks and responsibilities to county, city, village, and township officials; department heads; and various agencies and organizations specifying their roles before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. It is developed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5502 and 3750, the National Incident Management System from Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, and the

resolution by the Richland County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee dated _____, assigning emergency responsibilities.

Chairman, Richland County Commissioners

Date

Richland County Commissioner

Date

Richland County Commissioner

Date

Director, Richland County EMA

Date