

# Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

## ESF 14: RECOVERY AND MITIGATION

**Primary Agency:** Richland County EMA

**Supporting Agencies:** Richland County Commissioners  
Richland County Prosecutor's Office  
Richland County Job and Family Services  
Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ESF is to coordinate short and long-term community recovery after a significant incident and identify a process for hazard mitigation to occur in order to reduce the potential negative impacts of future disasters.

### 2. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### a. Situation

- i. Natural, technological, and human-caused disasters and emergencies can cause significant property damage and casualties in Richland County.
- ii. Recovery from a significant disaster will require resources from all levels of government as well as private and non-profit resources. It may take several years for affected individuals and organizations to return to pre-incident condition.
- iii. Long-term recovery will require local coordination with state and federal support agencies and other entities like the Small Business Administration and FEMA.
- iv. Damage assessment will be conducted to identify disaster-related loss, including uninsured and under-insured loss. This assessment will determine the types of supplemental assistance necessary for recovery and mitigation.
- v. Disasters will affect a broad spectrum of the county, ranging from individuals and families to businesses, government entities, non-profit agencies, and others.

- vi. In severe incidents, damages can exceed the limits of insurance coverage; supplemental assistance is oftentimes necessary. Some properties and possessions will not be insured.
- vii. The process of identifying catastrophic loss begins during the casework process. This process can be initiated when at an emergency shelter location or another identified location.
- viii. Short-term recovery begins with damage assessment in the affected areas and determining the recovery assistance that is available.
- ix. Long-term recovery and mitigation activities are those that will take more than 18 months to complete. This may include significant structural repair, re-building, or relocation of damaged public facilities.

b. Assumptions

- i. If disasters losses are not sufficiently covered by private insurance and other recovery programs, state and federal assistance programs may be necessary to assist local residents, businesses, and organizations in their recovery.
- ii. Disaster recovery and mitigation requires strong partnerships and collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels.
- iii. For federal recovery assistance to be available, statewide damage levels must meet a specific threshold. Even if local damage is high, statewide totals may not meet the minimum threshold and federal recovery assistance may not be available.

### **3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

a. General Overview

- i. Disaster recovery priorities include, but are not limited to, debris removal, restoration of utilities and critical services, emergency temporary housing, financial assistance to affected populations, and disaster-related mental health support.
- ii. Richland County must initiate support from the Ohio EMA by issuing a local disaster declaration and formally requesting assistance for disaster recovery.

- iii. Preliminary damage assessments (PDA) must be completed at the local level within 12 hours of incident impact or as soon as possible to facilitate response from outside resources. Volunteers with proper training can be used to conduct this assessment.
- iv. The Richland County EMA will complete the PDA and forward to Ohio EMA.
- v. The Ohio EMA will determine whether a more detailed state damage assessment needs to be completed based upon the local PDA.
- vi. Mutual aid agreements held by the county or organizations within the county may be put into effect and utilized regardless of local and state disaster declarations.

b. Relationship Between Levels of Government

- i. The Richland County Commissioners have the authority to issue a local disaster declaration.
- ii. The Commissioners may ask the Governor to declare a state emergency and make state assets and assistance available for persons and properties affected by the incident.
- iii. The Governor may ask the President to issue a disaster declaration, which makes federal recovery assistance available to the state and affected jurisdictions.
- iv. The Richland County EMA Director will act as the liaison between Ohio EMA and the county.
- v. The Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch will coordinate with the Richland County EMA to provide recovery resources to the county.
- vi. If a federal disaster is declared, federal assistance will be coordinated through a JFO (Joint Field Office) provided by FEMA.

#### **4. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**

a. Richland County EMA

- i. Function as the primary agency for coordination of recovery efforts among local agencies, businesses, and residents.

- ii. Assemble a Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) with representatives from key community organizations to support recovery across the community.
  - iii. Ensure completion of the damage assessment process and submit information to the Ohio EMA within 12 hours, or as soon as possible, after the incident.
  - iv. Serve as liaison between local government and individuals, businesses, and organizations that have experienced disaster loss.
  - v. Ensure that facilities necessary to administer for recovery process are established and maintained.
- b. Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)
  - i. Establish a formal committee with representation from local government, social service agencies, financial institutions, community organizations, and others to address long-term recovery needs.
  - ii. Address critical long-term recovery needs such as housing, employment, medical care, government services, and others.
  - iii. Meet as needed for the duration of the recovery process.
- c. Richland County Prosecutors Office
  - i. Advise EMA Director and County Commissioners on legal matters
  - ii. Assist in cases of possible fraud associated with disaster assistance
  - iii. Conduct appropriate actions to protect consumers during recovery efforts
- d. Richland County Job and Family Services
  - i. Participate as a key member of the Long-Term Recovery Committee.
  - ii. Assist with short- and long-term recovery needs, including emergency housing, childcare, employment, and others issues that will support the return to normalcy for affected individuals and families.
  - iii. Assist with the administration of state and federal programs to assist affected families and children.

- iv. Participate in and support the development of grant applications through programs such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Individual Training Grant (ITG) and others that may be available.
- e. Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services
  - i. Assist with short and long-term need for mental health support for people affected by the disaster, including individuals, families, and responders.
  - ii. Work to assist individuals with addictions, behavioral and emotional needs, and other mental health needs in the aftermath of the incident.

## **5. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- a. Because recovery and mitigation occur after the disaster has passed, most recovery and mitigation work is completed outside the typical incident command structure. The incident scene is no longer active; the EOC may be active for part of the recovery period but will generally not be active throughout the entire recovery phase.
- b. The Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), lead by the EMA, will oversee the recovery process. This ad-hoc committee will be assembled by the EMA and meet on an as-needed basis to address recovery issues.
- c. Agencies and organizations involved in recovery and mitigation will work under the umbrella of the LTRC but independently to administer their specific programs and services.
- d. If federal recovery services are available, representatives from Ohio EMA and FEMA will establish a local field office to administer their programs and services.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

- a. All recovery organizations are guided by agency-specific policies and procedures.
- b. Agency representatives may work at the EOC or in other disaster locations, such as shelters, recovery centers, or others as identified for the incident.
- c. All organizations are expected to maintain accurate records of activities and expenditures. This information may be requested by the EMA for financial reporting and cost recovery purposes.

**7. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF**

- a. All organizations involved in disaster recovery should conduct regular training to ensure staff is prepared to fill their role in an incident.

**8. ADDENDA**

- a. Tab A – Richland County Hazard Mitigation Plan

**9. AUTHENTICATION**

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Date of Adoption

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Richland County EMA Director