Mathews County Emergency Operations Plan Summary Document

Mathews County Emergency Operations Plan Overview

The Mathews County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) outlines the framework for responding to various hazards and emergencies in the county.

- The EOP includes a Base Plan, Emergency Support Function Annexes, Support Annexes, and Threat or Hazard-Specific Annexes.
- It is designed to save lives, protect property, and restore essential services during emergencies.
- The plan is compliant with Virginia's Emergency Services and Disaster Law and follows FEMA guidelines.
- It emphasizes collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and the public for effective emergency management.

Hazards and Vulnerabilities in Mathews County

Mathews County faces multiple hazards that necessitate a comprehensive emergency response plan.

- Vulnerable to flooding, hurricanes, winter storms, hazardous materials incidents, and acts of terrorism.
- The Middle Peninsula Regional All Hazards Mitigation Plan identifies hazards such as hurricanes, flooding, and severe weather.
- Coastal flooding is a significant concern due to storm surges and heavy rainfall.
- The county has a population of approximately 8,533 residents, with a significant portion living in vulnerable coastal areas.

Emergency Operations Plan Components

The EOP consists of various components that provide a structured approach to emergency management.

- The Base Plan establishes authority and responsibilities for emergency operations.
- Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) detail interagency roles and responsibilities during disasters.
- Support Annexes provide essential functions applicable to all incidents.
- Incident Annexes address specific hazards requiring specialized response procedures.

Approval and Implementation of the EOP

The Mathews County Board of Supervisors officially adopted the EOP to ensure preparedness for emergencies.

- The EOP was adopted on September 18, 2025, emphasizing the county's commitment to safety and well-being.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for maintaining and revising the plan as necessary.
- The plan encourages participation from all stakeholders, including residents and organizations.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Adoption

Mathews County has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to standardize emergency response.

- NIMS provides a consistent approach for all levels of government to manage incidents effectively.
- It emphasizes standardized terminology, organizational structures, and communication protocols.
- The adoption of NIMS enhances the county's ability to utilize federal funding for emergency preparedness.

Planning Assumptions for Emergency Management

The EOP outlines key planning assumptions that guide emergency management operations.

- Emergencies may occur with or without warning, affecting public safety and property.
- Local government must continue functioning during disasters, with departments prepared to respond at any time.
- Outside assistance may be requested when local resources are insufficient.
- Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility among residents and government employees.

Concept of Operations for Emergency Management

The EOP establishes a clear concept of operations for managing emergencies in Mathews County.

- The primary goal is to save lives, reduce property loss, and protect the environment.

- The Emergency Management Director has the authority to declare a local emergency.
- Coordination with state and federal agencies occurs when local capabilities are exceeded.
- The EOC will manage resources and communication during emergencies.

Declaration of Local Emergency Procedures

The process for declaring a local emergency is outlined in the EOP to facilitate timely response.

- The Director of Emergency Management can declare a local emergency with Board approval.
- In the absence of the Board, designated officials may declare an emergency, subject to later confirmation.
- The declaration activates the EOP and authorizes necessary actions to protect public health and safety.

Requesting State Assistance During Emergencies

The EOP details the procedure for requesting state assistance when local resources are insufficient.

- Requests for Assistance (RFA) are submitted through WebEOC by the Emergency Management Director.
- Local jurisdictions monitor the status of RFAs and coordinate with state agencies for support.
- The process ensures timely delivery of resources needed during emergencies.

Event Injuries and Infrastructure Damage

This section outlines the impacts of incidents on public safety and infrastructure, guiding emergency declarations.

- Information on injuries and fatalities helps assess incident impacts.
- Damage to critical infrastructure and residences is evaluated.
- This data aids in determining the need for a State of Emergency declaration by the Governor.
- Resource shortages may prompt a petition for emergency declaration, as defined in the Code of Virginia.

Coordination of the Emergency Operations Center

This section describes the management and coordination of emergency operations through the EOC.

- The Emergency Management Coordinator oversees the EOC and coordinates responses to emergencies.
- The EOC can be activated by the Director or Deputy Director of Emergency Management based on incident severity.
- Activation levels depend on the incident's scale and complexity, with varying staffing and operational needs.
- Departments must maintain their roles in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

This section details the criteria and process for activating the EOC during emergencies.

- The EOC may be activated for imminent threats to public safety or extensive multi-agency responses.
- All department points-of-contact are notified upon activation.
- EOC representatives must report to the EOC and be prepared for their roles.
- The EOC can be partially or fully activated based on incident nature.

EOC Activation Levels

This section outlines the different levels of EOC activation based on incident severity.

- Routine operations involve daily activities and public information dissemination.
- Increased readiness includes monitoring potential emergencies and alerting personnel.
- Response operations focus on coordinated actions to preserve life and property.
- Recovery operations assist communities in returning to normalcy post-incident.

Mathews County Emergency Operations Center Organization Chart

This section presents the organizational structure of the EOC and its branches.

- The EOC is managed by an EOC Manager and includes various branches for public safety, human services and critical infrastructure.
- Each branch has designated responsibilities and support functions during emergencies.
- The organization chart facilitates clear communication and coordination among departments.

Succession of Authority in Emergency Management

This section defines the lines of succession for decision-making during emergencies.

- The Director of Emergency Management is the primary authority, followed by the Deputy Director.
- Each department has a designated line of succession to ensure continuity of operations.
- This structure is critical for effective emergency management and response.

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of various entities in emergency management.

- Local authorities are primarily responsible for managing emergencies, with state and federal support as needed.
- The Mathews County Board of Supervisors adopts the Emergency Operations Plan and guides recovery efforts.
- Each department must develop and maintain plans to support emergency operations.

Involvement of Nongovernmental Organizations

This section highlights the role of NGOs in disaster response and recovery.

- NGOs collaborate with first responders and government agencies to provide relief services.
- The Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VAVOAD) coordinates disaster relief efforts.
- NGOs enhance community resilience and support recovery initiatives.

Citizen Involvement in Emergency Management

This section emphasizes the importance of citizen participation in emergency preparedness and response.

- Citizens often serve as first responders in emergencies, providing immediate assistance.
- Community groups, like CERT, promote public education and volunteerism.
- Preparedness outreach programs aim to enhance individual and community readiness.

Mathews County Emergency Support Function Matrix

This section details the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and their responsibilities.

- Each ESF has primary and supporting agencies responsible for specific functions during emergencies.
- Responsibilities include public safety, human services and critical infrastructure.
- The matrix ensures coordinated efforts across various sectors during incidents.

Direction, Control, and Coordination of Emergency Response

This section describes the command structure for incident management.

- The Incident Commander oversees all response activities at the incident site.
- The EOC serves as the central hub for coordination and information dissemination.
- Effective communication between the EOC and field operations is crucial for successful incident management.

Information Collection and Dissemination

This section outlines the processes for gathering and sharing critical information during incidents.

- Essential Elements of Information (EEI) include lifesaving needs and infrastructure status.
- Information is collected and disseminated as Situation Reports to relevant stakeholders.
- Timely information flow is vital for effective decision-making and response.

Administration, Finance, and Logistics in Emergencies

This section details the administrative and logistical aspects of emergency management.

- Documentation of actions taken during incidents is essential for historical records and reimbursement.
- Financial management oversees disaster-related expenditures and obligations.
- The Logistics Section coordinates resource requests and mutual aid agreements.

Plan Development and Maintenance for Emergency Operations

This section discusses the ongoing development and review of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

- The EOP must be updated regularly based on lessons learned and changes in government structure.
- Training and exercises are essential for ensuring personnel are prepared for emergencies.
- After Action Reports (AARs) identify strengths and areas for improvement in response efforts.

Authorities and References for Emergency Management

This section lists the legal and regulatory frameworks guiding emergency operations.

- Local, state, and federal authorities provide the basis for emergency management practices.
- Key documents include the Code of Virginia and federal emergency management guidelines.
- These authorities ensure compliance and effective coordination during incidents.

List of Acronyms Used in Emergency Management

This section provides a comprehensive list of acronyms relevant to emergency management.

- Acronyms include terms like EOC (Emergency Operations Center), ESF (Emergency Support Function), and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).
- Understanding these acronyms is essential for effective communication among emergency management personnel.

Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Definition

AFN refers to individuals requiring additional support during emergencies due to various factors.

- Includes people with disabilities, older adults, and those with limited English proficiency.
- Federal laws mandate nondiscrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, and economic status.
- Many individuals with AFN are protected under these provisions.

Emergency Management Overview

Emergency management encompasses the preparation and response to disasters to minimize harm.

- Involves functions like firefighting, law enforcement, medical services, and evacuation.
- Aims to protect public health, safety, and welfare during emergencies.
- Includes coordination with local, state, and federal agencies.

Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Purpose

ESFs coordinate resources and services during emergencies to support response and recovery.

- Each ESF has designated primary and support agencies responsible for specific functions.
- ESFs include public safety, human services and critical infrastructure.
- They facilitate collaboration among various organizations to ensure effective disaster response.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Role

The EOC serves as the central hub for coordinating emergency management activities.

- It organizes information and resources to support incident management.
- The EOC may be temporary or permanently established based on the situation.
- It is staffed by representatives from various agencies involved in emergency response.

Incident Command System (ICS) Structure

ICS is a standardized approach to managing emergency incidents effectively.

- Utilizes common terminology and a modular organization for flexibility.
- Includes five functional elements: Command, Operations, Logistics, Planning, and Finance/Administration.
- Ensures clear communication and coordination among responding agencies.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Function

CERT teams are trained volunteers who assist in disaster preparedness and response.

- They support emergency responders and help protect their communities.
- Training includes basic disaster response skills and safety measures.
- CERT enhances community resilience during emergencies.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Role

FEMA provides support to state and local governments during disasters.

- It coordinates federal disaster assistance under the Stafford Act.
- FEMA offers technical support for response and recovery efforts.
- The agency plays a crucial role in national disaster preparedness.

Mass Care and Human Services Coordination

ESF #6 focuses on non-medical care for individuals affected by disasters.

- Includes sheltering, feeding, and emergency first aid services.
- Coordinates with various organizations to meet the needs of displaced persons.
- Aims to provide long-term housing and support for recovery.

Transportation Support During Emergencies

ESF #1 coordinates transportation resources for effective incident management.

- Involves reporting damage to transportation infrastructure and restoring services.
- Ensures clear access routes for emergency relief efforts.
- Collaborates with local agencies to manage transportation resources efficiently.

Firefighting Operations and Responsibilities

ESF #4 manages firefighting activities during emergencies to protect life and property.

- Prioritizes life safety, incident stabilization, and property conservation.
- Utilizes local volunteer fire departments and mutual aid agreements for support.
- Ensures effective command relationships during firefighting operations.

Emergency Support Function #7 - Resource Management

This section outlines the responsibilities and procedures for managing resources during disaster operations.

- Provides cost code information and guidance for disaster operations.
- Manages contracts for disaster goods and services.
- Identifies policies and personnel for resource procurement and payment.
- Offers cost tracking, property claims, and recovery support to county departments.

Emergency Support Function #8 - Public Health and Medical Services

This section details the coordination of public health and medical care needs during emergencies.

- Primary responsibility lies with the Health & Wellness Branch.
- Supports assessment of public health/medical needs, including behavioral health.
- Coordinates medical care personnel, equipment, and emergency medical services.
- Involves mass fatality management and patient evacuation.

Emergency Support Function #9 - Search and Rescue Operations

This section describes the search and rescue operations during emergencies.

- Primary responsibility is with the Law Enforcement Branch.
- Rapid deployment for lifesaving assistance during incidents.
- Involves locating, accessing, stabilizing, and transporting individuals in danger.
- Coordination among various local and state agencies for effective SAR operations.

Emergency Support Function #10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

This section outlines the response to oil and hazardous materials incidents.

- Primary responsibility is with the Fire & Rescue Branch.
- Responds to actual or potential discharges of hazardous materials.
- Involves identifying hazards and mitigating contamination.
- Coordination with local, state, and federal agencies for effective response.

Emergency Support Function #11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources

This section addresses the management of agricultural and natural resources during emergencies.

- Focuses on nutrition assistance and disease control in animals and plants.
- Ensures food safety and security during incidents.
- Coordinates with various agencies for effective response and recovery.

Emergency Support Function #12 - Energy Restoration

This section details the restoration of energy systems during emergencies.

- Primary responsibility lies with the Infrastructure Branch.
- Collects and shares information on energy system damage and outages.
- Prioritizes restoration of power for critical facilities.

- Coordinates with energy suppliers for recovery assistance.

Emergency Support Function #13 - Public Safety and Security

This section outlines the public safety and security measures during emergencies.

- Primary responsibility is with the Law Enforcement Branch.
- Maintains law and order and coordinates public warnings.
- Provides security for community facilities and assists with evacuations.
- Implements mutual aid agreements for additional support.

Emergency Support Function #14 - Long-Term Community Recovery

This section describes the framework for long-term recovery from disasters.

- Focuses on both short-term and long-term recovery efforts.
- Involves impact analysis and coordination of recovery programs.
- Aims to restore infrastructure, housing, and the local economy.

Emergency Support Function #15 - External Affairs Coordination

This section outlines the communication strategies during emergencies.

- Primary responsibility is with the Admin/Emergency Management Branch.
- Coordinates timely information dissemination to the public and media.
- Develops public information programs and rumor control procedures.

Emergency Support Function #16 - Military Affairs Coordination

This section details the use of military resources during emergencies.

- Military assets are available only during declared emergencies.
- Requests for military support are coordinated through VDEM.
- Local officials cannot directly request military assistance.

Emergency Support Function #17 - Volunteer and Donations Management

This section outlines the management of volunteers and donations during emergencies.

- Coordinates actions to manage and maintain accountability of volunteers.
- Maintains communication with various volunteer organizations.
- Records all donated resources for accountability.

Emergency Support Function #18 - Animal Care and Control

This section addresses the welfare of animals during emergencies.

- Coordinates response efforts for animal health and safety.
- Develops policies and procedures for animal care during emergencies.
- Works with various agencies to ensure effective animal emergency operations.

Household Pet Sheltering and Animal Recovery Plan

The plan outlines the procedures and responsibilities for the sheltering and recovery of household pets during emergencies in Mathews County.

- Mathews County Animal Control is the coordinating agency for pet sheltering and recovery.
- Support agencies include local health districts, social services, veterinarians, and animal welfare organizations.
- The plan aims to provide safe shelters for pets and facilitate their reunification with owners post-emergency.
- Assumptions include that pet owners may not evacuate if their pets cannot accompany them and that pets must be properly vaccinated and contained.
- The plan includes detailed operational procedures for setting up and managing pet-friendly shelters.

Emergency Support Function #18 Responsibilities

This section details the roles and responsibilities of various agencies in managing pet-related emergencies.

- Mathews County Animal Control is responsible for developing policies and coordinating shelter operations.
- The Department of Social Services ensures awareness of pet-friendly resources at shelters.
- The Three Rivers Health District monitors human health impacts related to pet sheltering.
- The Sheriff's Office provides security and enforces movement restrictions around shelters.

Action Checklist for Pet Sheltering

The checklist provides a structured approach to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from pet-related emergencies.

- Mitigation includes encouraging citizens to create emergency plans for their pets.

- Preparedness involves establishing organizational structures and training for pet sheltering operations.
- Response actions include implementing shelter plans and securing necessary resources.
- Recovery focuses on reviewing and updating plans based on lessons learned from incidents.

Pet-Friendly Shelter Set-Up and Operations

This section outlines the procedures for setting up and managing pet-friendly shelters during emergencies.

- The Emergency Operations Center authorizes the opening of shelters.
- Facilities must be prepared with designated areas for different types of animals.
- Registration and intake procedures include photographing pets with owners and assessing animal health.
- Clear signage and operational protocols are essential for effective shelter management.

Pet Registration and Discharge Procedures

The registration form captures essential information about pets and their owners for sheltering purposes.

- The form includes owner details, pet descriptions, and vaccination proof.
- Owners must agree to pick up their pets or risk them becoming property of animal control.
- Documentation includes intake forms and incident logs for accountability.

Lost Animal Reporting Process

This section describes the process for reporting lost pets during emergencies.

- Owners must provide detailed information about the lost animal, including descriptions and last seen locations.
- The report includes a section for matching lost animals with those found in shelters.
- Documentation is maintained to track the status of lost animals and their reunification with owners.

Damage Assessment Coordination

The annex outlines the process for assessing damage to public and private property post-disaster.

- The Mathews County Building Official coordinates damage assessments with various agencies.
- Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) must be submitted within 72 hours of a disaster.
- The assessment includes both private property and public infrastructure damage.

Evacuation Procedures and Responsibilities

This section details the evacuation process and the roles of various agencies in Mathews County.

- The evacuation plan addresses scenarios with and without warning, ensuring public safety.
- The Department of Emergency Management oversees the development and implementation of evacuation plans.
- The Sheriff's Office assists with traffic control and security during evacuations.

Functional Needs Support in Emergencies

The annex describes how to assist individuals with functional needs during disasters.

- The plan emphasizes maintaining independence and providing necessary medical care and transportation.
- It recognizes the importance of communication and supervision for individuals with disabilities.
- Agencies are responsible for ensuring resources are available to support these populations during emergencies.

Family and Caregivers in Disaster Response

Family and caregivers play a crucial role in the initial response to disasters, especially for individuals with functional needs.

- They provide the first level of assistance during emergencies.
- Emergency services must accommodate individuals with functional needs until routine assistance is restored.

Role of Private Industry and Organizations

Private industry and service organizations are essential partners in emergency response efforts for individuals with functional needs.

- Organizations like the American Red Cross and church groups are vital for support during emergencies.
- Their inclusion in planning processes is critical for effective response efforts.

Importance of Including Individuals with Functional Needs

Involving individuals with functional needs in emergency planning is essential for developing comprehensive response strategies.

- They offer valuable insights into the assistance they require during emergencies.
- Agencies supporting these individuals are also important resources in planning and response.

Responsibilities of Emergency Management Departments

All departments must conduct services that promote assistance to persons with functional needs during emergencies.

- The Mathews County Department of Emergency Management collaborates with Social Services to identify barriers and facilitate training.
- They prepare and disseminate emergency public information tailored to specific populations.

Functional Needs Action Checklist Overview

The action checklist outlines procedures for routine operations, increased readiness, response, and recovery operations.

- Routine operations include developing and reviewing plans for citizens with functional needs.
- Increased readiness involves confirming task assignments and tracking disaster-related expenses.
- Response operations focus on mobilization, care for evacuees, and maintaining records.
- Recovery operations emphasize long-term housing and reporting disaster-related expenses.

Hazardous Materials Incident Response Framework

The Hazmat Incident Annex provides a framework for responding to hazardous materials incidents in Mathews County.

- It emphasizes coordination among local, state, and federal agencies for effective response.
- The plan includes assumptions about the nature of incidents and the need for specialized assistance.

Responsibilities in Hazmat Incident Response

Various agencies have specific roles in responding to hazardous materials incidents.

- The Mathews Volunteer Fire Department develops hazmat response plans and ensures responder safety.
- The Mathews County Sheriff's Office assists with evacuations and traffic control.
- The Three Rivers Health District coordinates medical operations and health monitoring.

Hurricane Incident Response Framework

The Hurricane Incident Annex outlines the response to tropical storms and hurricanes in Mathews County.

- It aims to minimize loss of life and property while restoring essential services.
- The plan includes assumptions about pre-disaster warnings and the county's initial responsibility for response.

Responsibilities During Hurricane Incidents

Specific responsibilities are assigned to various departments during hurricane incidents.

- The Mathews County Administrator's Office (Emergency Management) monitors the situation and coordinates with VDEM.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is responsible for situation reports and damage assessments.

Acts of Terrorism Incident Response Framework

The Terrorism Incident Annex provides guidelines for responding to acts of terror in Mathews County.

- It aims to minimize loss of life and expedite restoration of services.
- The plan includes assumptions about the nature of incidents and the operational status of the EOC.

Responsibilities in Terrorism Incident Response

Key agencies have defined roles in responding to terrorism incidents.

- The Mathews County Sheriff's Office coordinates crisis management and provides traffic control.

- The Three Rivers Health District is responsible for mass immunization and medication distribution.

Tornado Incident Response Framework

The Tornado Incident Annex outlines the coordinated response to tornadoes in Mathews County.

- It aims to reduce loss of life and restore normalcy after a tornado.
- The plan includes assumptions about warning systems and the county's initial response capabilities.

Responsibilities During Tornado Incidents

Specific responsibilities are assigned to various agencies during tornado incidents.

- The EOC participates in situation awareness and submits reports via WebEOC.
- The Sheriff's Office establishes traffic control and maintains law and order.