Emergency Operations Plan
Mineral County, Montana

Prepared for:
Mineral County Board of Commissioners,
The Town of Alberton, and the Town of Superior
Prepared by:
Mineral County Disaster and Emergency Services and
The Mineral County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

PROMULGATION DOCUMENT

WHEREAS, all citizens and property within Mineral County are at risk to a wide range of natural, technological, and human-caused hazards; and

WHEREAS, when such an event occurs, response agencies must be prepared to react in a well-coordinated manner by the use of an Incident Command System (ICS) in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to protect life, safety, health, and property of citizens and visitors in the County; and

WHEREAS, this Emergency Operations Plan is intended to coordinate the response of emergency personnel and supporting services of all Local, State, and Federal agencies in their response to an emergency or disaster and during the following recovery phase thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned, by virtue of the power and authority vested in us by the laws of the State of Montana do hereby adopt the Mineral County Emergency Operations Plan, dated December 22, 2016. This plan can be put into action by the undersigned, the Mineral County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, or our designee. Tasked organizations have the responsibility to prepare and maintain standard operating procedures and commit to the training and exercises required to support this plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have subscribed our signatures;

Approved By:

Roman Zylawy _____ Chairman, County Commission, Date: 12/30/16

Laurie Johnston _____ County Commissioner, Date : 12/30/16

Duane Simons _____ County Commissioner, Date: 12-30-16

Attest:

Staci Hayes _____ Clerk & Recorder, Date: 2-9-17

Town of Alberton
Josh Acker _____, Mayor, Date: 2-7-17

Town of Superior
Roni Phillips _____, Mayor, Date: 1-9-17

RECORD OF CHANGES

Change #	Date of Change	Page(s) Changed	Person Entering Change

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

Agency	# CD/Printed
County Commission	
County Attorney	
DES	
Sheriff	
County Fire Warden	
Frenchtown Fire	
Superior Fire	
St Regis Fire	
West End Fire	
Road Department	
Environmental Health	
Public Health Department	
Emergency Medical Services	
Town of Alberton	
Town of Superior	
U.S. Forest Service	
Montana Department of Transportation	
Montana Disaster & Emergency Services	

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PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) consists of five main sections outlined below.

Basic Plan

The Basic Plan provides an overview of our emergency organization and policies. It describes the overall approach to disaster response and recovery operations and assigns responsibilities for emergency tasks.

The plan is intended to be both "generic" and "hazard specific", covering the entire range of emergency and disaster situations from age old natural disasters to the technological hazards created as a byproduct of our modern society.

The plan is a reference of emergency/disaster information and the basic source of data considered necessary to accomplish the various types of emergency missions. It is designed to bring the user to the point of determining **what** is to be done, and **who** is to do it. It may include information relative to **when** and **where** the response will be effective, and **why** it will be done.

Each participating organization, private or governmental, must depend upon its own expertise to develop the procedures describing **"how"** to carry out its assignments in support of the plan.

This plan provides the necessary guidance for the personnel who have responsibilities to provide their services for the protection of lives, property, and the environment. Regular testing and exercising of this Plan will establish the groundwork for efficient and expeditious delivery of assistance in times of emergency or disaster.

The EOP serves as the foundation for the further development of detailed plans, procedures, and databases, to enable efficient, cost effective implementation of response activities. Each organization and agency which has a role in this plan or its elements should develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which provide step-by-step instructions for accomplishing assigned functions.

The EOP is intended as guidance for action and reaction in times of crisis. It is recognized that actions and reactions that vary from the content of this Plan can, and will, occur due to the unique nature of emergencies. This deviation, using initiative and common sense, is both authorized and encouraged to enable the necessary flexibility to adapt to the specific emergency and to promote public safety.

Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

To facilitate effective operations, the EOP adopts a functional approach that groups the types of assistance to be provided into 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF). The

ESF annexes detail the organization, roles and responsibilities of county/municipal government and cooperating agencies for coordinating emergency response and recovery efforts. The 15 ESFs mirror the National Response Plan (NRP) and the State of Montana Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Each ESF is headed by a lead agency or organization, selected based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities in that functional area. Primary agencies appoint a representative to manage that function in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Support Annexes

Support annexes develop specific information and direction for county/municipal managers concerning a particular emergency management function or hazard.

Incident Annexes

These annexes describe emergency response strategies for specific types of incidents based on the local hazard vulnerability assessment.

Appendices and Attachments

Organization charts and resource lists, responsibility tables, and lists of terms are included as appendices to the Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mineral County EOP is to establish a comprehensive and coordinated all hazards plan for effective response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters occurring in Mineral County, Montana. Using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) the plan establishes a framework for an effective system of comprehensive emergency management.
The EOP defines disaster-specific guidelines and describes the array of local response, recovery, and mitigation resources available to protect life, health, safety, and property, including wildlife, natural resources, the environment, and the local economy from the damaging effects of natural and human-caused emergencies and disasters. The EOP defines the responsibilities of elected officials and key personnel during an emergency or disaster.

SCOPE

The Mineral County EOP covers the full range of complex and constantly changing requirements in anticipation of or in response to threats or acts of terrorism, major disasters and other emergencies. The plan goal is to provide a means to utilize all available resources to **PREVENT** or **MITIGATE** potential emergencies or disasters whenever possible, **PREPARE** to deal efficiently with the effects of inevitable events, **RESPOND** to the needs to save lives and protect property, and promote a means to **RECOVER** rapidly from unavoidable damages.

The EOP:

- establishes fundamental guidelines, program strategies, and assumptions for a County wide comprehensive emergency management program;
- establishes a method of operations that defines the direction and control of an emergency from initial monitoring through disaster response, and post-incident recovery;
- defines the mechanisms to facilitate delivery of immediate assistance including direction and control of federal response and recovery assistance;
- assigns specific functions to appropriate agencies and organizations, as well as outlines methods to coordinate with the private sector and voluntary organizations;
- addresses the various types of emergencies that are likely to occur, from local emergencies, to minor, major, or catastrophic disasters; and
- identifies the actions that the County should initiate, in coordination with state and federal counterparts as appropriate, regardless of the magnitude of the disaster.

The EOP addresses the full spectrum of activities related to incident management, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery actions. The EOP focuses on those activities that are directly related to an evolving incident or potential incident rather than normal day to day preparedness or readiness activities conducted in the absence of a specific threat or hazard.

Emergency Operations Plan

Mineral County, Montana

Prepared for:
Mineral County Board of Commissioners
Prepared by:
Mineral County Disaster and Emergency Services and
The Mineral County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

December 22nd, 2016

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) assigns responsibilities to local agencies and personnel for the prevention and mitigation of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural and/or human-caused emergencies and disasters. The EOP applies to all local government departments and agencies that are tasked to provide assistance in a disaster or emergency situation. It describes the fundamental policies, strategies, and general concept of operations to be used in control of the emergency from its onset through the recovery phase.

This plan applies to the two incorporated towns of Alberton and Superior upon the approval of the town's governing body. The Governing Body will be the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in the event of an incident with County Jurisdiction, or the Town Council/Mayor if the town has jurisdiction.

Situation Overview

Mineral County covers approximately 1,223 square miles in the western part of Montana. The estimated population in 2015 was 4,251 persons with an average density of 3.5 persons per square mile. Approximately 83% of the land area in Mineral County is managed by the federal government through the Lolo National Forest. These forested lands border each side of the Clark Fork River Valley and the St. Regis River valley. Most of the development and population within the County reside along these two river valleys. The County seat is in the Town of Superior, the largest community in the County. The Towns of Superior and Alberton are the only incorporated towns in the County. Other relatively populated areas are located at St Regis, De Borgia, Haugan, and Saltese. These towns and areas are located along the river valleys paralleling Interstate Highway 90. The governing body of Mineral County is a Board of County Commissioners, with three commissioners elected to staggered six-year terms.

Interstate 90 provides major highway access through the County.

Rail service is provided by Montana Rail Link.

Medical facilities include one hospital in Superior, the Mineral Community Hospital and the Mineral Regional Health Center The ambulance services are, Superior Ambulance Service located in Superior and St Regis and Frenchtown Fire located in Alberton and assisted by Quick response units at West End VFD and St Regis VFD. Regional Hospitals are located in Missoula with both helicopter and fixed wing ambulances available.

Fire response agencies include the West End VFD; St Regis VFD; Superior VFD (City and Rural); and Frenchtown VFD.

The Mineral County Sheriff is the primary law and order agency in the County. There are no local municipal police departments in the incorporated towns. The Montana Highway Patrol is responsible for managing highway traffic safety on state and federal highways. The U.S. Forest Service provides law enforcement on the National Forest, and Montana Fish and Wildlife has a Game Warden stationed in the County.

Emergency operations centers are located in the Mineral County Courthouse in Superior and in several other locations around the County.

The County Highway Maintenance garage is located in Superior and is responsible for County roads.

The State Highway district garages are located in Alberton, Superior, and Saltese and are responsible for State and Federal highways.

The Towns of Alberton and Superior have maintenance departments for streets, parks, water, and sewer.

There are elementary and High Schools in St Regis, Superior, and Alberton. School buses transport the students.

Primary industries in County are timber related, tourism, government work, and services.

Superior is the Mineral County seat with another incorporated town of Alberton.

FIGURE 1-1 MINERAL COUNTY OVERVIEW MAP

Critical Facilities and Vulnerable Populations

Critical facilities are defined as facilities critical to government response and recovery activities (i.e., life safety and property and environmental protection). Critical facilities include:

- 911 emergency call centers,
- emergency operations centers,
- law enforcement and fire stations,
- public works facilities,
- sewer and water facilities,
- electric and communication service facilities,
- bridges and roads,
- shelters;
- and facilities that, if damaged, could cause serious secondary impacts.

Critical facilities also include those facilities that are vital to the continued delivery of community services or have large vulnerable populations. These facilities may include:

- buildings such as government offices,

- public service buildings,
- adult and juvenile detention centers,
- hospitals,
- nursing homes,
- schools,
- and other public facilities such as fuel and food outlets.

Vulnerable populations include
- the elderly,
- people with disabilities,
- and young children.

All these groups are vulnerable due to
- financial constraints,
- a lack of available resources and services,
- and insufficient awareness of their situations.

They often find it difficult to provide for all their needs themselves, and must rely on others for at least some support services.

"Special needs" populations include people with disabilities. They are individuals living in the community who may require assistance with transportation, child care, health care, personal care activities, and language comprehension. They can have any number of characteristics – medical, cultural, cognitive, racial, physical, or a combination thereof – that sets them apart from other individuals in terms of needs. People with special needs can be found in their own residences, adult day-care facilities, assisted living facilities, foster or group homes, long-term facilities, and hospitals. Special needs populations can also have distinct cultural, ethnic, or racial characteristics or language differences. Such people may find protective action orders or recommendations difficult to understand or to comply with in a timely manner.

Hazard Analysis, from the Mineral County Pre Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM)

Many types of hazards have the potential to cause casualties and losses throughout Mineral County. Damage and casualties, in both location and severity, will vary between hazards. Hazards were identified and profiled through several different means. A history of past events and their impacts was compiled to assess the potential for future events. These past occurrences and the losses associated with them are used to make comparisons between hazards. Where possible, hazard zones were inventoried, along with the relative impact on structures, infrastructure, and business losses within those hazard zones. The intent is to determine the possible damage that can be expected by a hazard event and compares the relative risk and losses between hazards.

The hazards considered in the PDM Plan are shown in the following Table. The level of detail for each hazard is based on the priorities established by the Mitigation Planning Committee (see meeting notes in file) and is limited on the amount of data available. Other hazards considered, but dismissed from detailed analysis included: aircraft accidents, civil disorder, drought, radiological or biological incident, communicable disease outbreak, and structure fires.

Table 1 Mineral County Hazards

Hazard	Background Sources	Loss Estimation Methods
Earthquake	Montana Bureau of Geology and Mines **HAZUS®MH** Earthquake model USGS National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project USGS National Earthquake Information Center State MDES	**HAZUS®MH** Earthquake model Montana CAMA Data
Flooding	State MDES Mineral County DES FEMA National Weather Service National Climatic Data Center COE Cold Climate Research & Engineering Lab	Loss Estimate in Mapped Floodplains FEMA Flood Loss Estimation Tables Historic Losses
Hazardous Material/ Transportation Accidents	Missoulian National Transportation Safety Board	Historic Losses
Landslide	USGS National Study USDA Forest Service Land System Inventory	Landslide History Landslide Prone areas
Utility/Communication Disruption	US Census Bureau	Not estimated
Volcano	State MDES Cascades Volcano Observatory (USGS, 2003)	Historic Losses
Weather (Storms and Wind)	State MDES National Climatic Data Center National Weather Service Western Regional Climate Center	Historic Frequency and Losses
Wildfire	State MDES USDA Forest Service (2003)	Mapped Fire Crown Potential Zones Montana CAMA data

The following hazards are often encountered (high occurrence), or low occurrence/high risk hazards that require planning and preparation for.

National Emergency (low occurrence/high risk)

National emergencies, including possible terrorist attacks are not likely, but since the County is dependent on outside resources and transportation for a large percentage of food and fuel supplies, any situation which might affect this system could have a severe impact upon the County' population.

Drought (high occurrence/moderate risk)

Drought is an extended period of unusually dry weather. The effects of drought become apparent with a longer duration because more and more moisture-related activities are affected. In periods of severe drought, wildland fires can destroy the economic potential of the agricultural industry, and wildlife habitat in, and adjacent to, the fire areas. Under extreme drought conditions, reservoirs, and rivers can be subject to severe water shortages. Insect infestation is an additional hazard resulting from drought.

Earthquakes (low occurrence/high risk)

Mineral County is located within the Intermountain Seismic Belt, an area of seismic activity in western Montana. Earthquakes may cause landslides and interrupt transportation. Severe earthquakes destroy power and telephone lines, and sewer, or

water mains, which, in turn, may set off fires and/or hinder firefighting or rescue efforts. Earthquakes also may cause buildings and bridges to collapse. Mineral County is considered vulnerable to a major earthquake. Earthquakes have a low rating for probability, but very high ratings for impact and management difficulty.

Flooding (low occurrence/moderate risk)

Mineral County contains miles of rivers and streams. Typically during spring runoff, stream flows increase dramatically and periodically cause flooding. Winter floods are caused by rain on snow events or unseasonably warm temperatures causing snow melt at lower elevations. Ice jams occur when water builds up behind a blockage of ice. Flash floods caused by locally intense rain storms may affect small drainage areas. The magnitude and duration of annual floods are determined by accumulated snow, temperature during flood period, and rain. Attention to these factors allows a fairly accurate determination of flood potential and advance preparations.

Hazardous Material Incidents (high occurrence/high risk)

A hazardous material release is the contamination of the environment (i.e. air, water, soil) by any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics threatens human health, the environment, or property. Hazardous materials, including industrial and agricultural chemicals, are commonly stored and used in Mineral County and are regularly transported via the regions roadways, and railroads. A release of hazardous materials from both fixed and transportation incidents pose probable threats to Mineral County. Hazards range from small spills to major transportation releases on roadways or railways.

Severe Weather – Wind/Hail/Tornadoes (high occurrence/moderate risk)

Thunderstorms can produce deadly and damaging tornadoes, hailstorms, intense downburst and microburst wind, lightning, and flash floods. Windstorms affect forested areas as well as areas with exposed property, major infrastructure, and aboveground utility lines. Strong winds are common in Mineral County and when combined with blowing dirt or snow, cause a threat to traffic and can damage homes, businesses, crops and utilities. Severe hailstorms can cause considerable damage to buildings and automobiles, but rarely result in loss of life. Occasionally, these events occur without warning.

Terrorism (low occurrence/high risk)

Terrorism refers to intentional, criminal, malicious acts involving the use of biological, chemical, nuclear, and/or radiological weapons; arson, incendiary, explosive, and armed attacks; industrial sabotage and intentional hazardous materials releases; and/or "cyber terrorism". Montana has traditionally attracted activist/extremist individuals and groups because of its low population, large geographic area, and relative isolation. Groups active in Montana vary from white supremacists to single issue groups such as environmental extremists.

Volcanic Ash (low occurrence/high risk)

The volcanic center most apt to affect Mineral County is the Cascade Range of Washington and Oregon. The primary effect of the Cascade volcanic eruptions would be ash fall. The distribution of ash from a violent eruption is a function of the weather, particularly wind direction and speed and atmospheric stability, and the duration of the eruption. Volcanic ash can cause failure of electronic components, especially high-voltage circuits and transformers. and can cause internal-combustion engines to stall by clogging air filters. Roads, highways, and airport runways can be made treacherous or impassable because ash is slippery and may reduce visibility to near zero. Cars driving faster than 5 miles per hour on ash-covered roads stir up thick clouds of ash, reducing visibility and causing accidents. Volcanic ash also poses a health risk, especially to children, the elderly, and people with cardiac or respiratory conditions. All these effects were demonstrated by the Mt Saint Helens eruption in 1980.

Wildfire (high occurrence/high risk)

Forest covers most of the land base of Mineral County. Private residences become threatened when fire enters the wildland-urban interface (WUI). WUI communities in Mineral County are in close proximity to federal lands, with concentrations of manmade structures in close proximity to wildland fuels. The probability and severity of fires are highly dependent upon weather conditions and fuel conditions and thus will change from year to year. Montana and other western states are experiencing forest health challenges due to drought, insects, unusual warm temperatures, disease and past fire suppression activities that have created more severe wildfire conditions. Fires remain the single greatest threat to Mineral County with the greatest potential for exhausting local resources.

Winter Storms (low occurrence/high risk)

Winter storms and blizzards follow a seasonal pattern that often begins in late fall and lasts until early spring. These storms have the potential to destroy property, kill livestock and people. Winter storms may be categorized as sleet, ice storms or freezing rain, heavy snowfall or blizzards. Severe winter storms create conditions that disrupt essential regional systems such as public utilities, telecommunications, and transportation routes. Motorists can become stranded in their vehicles and subjected to extreme temperatures. Access to special needs populations who require medical attention can also be compromised.

Transportation/Transient Incidents (high occurrence/moderate risk)
I-90, a major East-West transportation corridor, and railways provide significant problems with potential mass casualty incidents, overwhelming local services through blockage of transport routes, and potential criminal or terroristic actions by transients.

Mineral County recognizes that, as the built environment expands (infrastructures, homes and businesses) and use of transportation corridors increases, the potential for disaster increases.

Capability Assessment

Mineral County's capabilities to respond to emergency situations and implement mitigation projects include personnel, regulatory ordinances, and equipment and facility resources. Local government personnel resources include Elected Officials, DES Coordinator, Public Information Officer, Communications and Warning Officers, County Fire Warden, County Sheriff's Department, Health and Medical Officers, Planner, and Finance Managers. These resources have the responsibility to provide overview of past, current, and ongoing pre and post-disaster mitigation planning projects including capital improvement programs, wildfire mitigation programs, and storm-water management programs. The goals and objectives used to mitigate natural and technological hazards builds on the community's existing capabilities. Federal, state and county resources are available through mutual aid agreements. Non-governmental organizations and non-profits such as the Red Cross also provide capabilities to Mineral County in the event of an emergency.

The Mineral County DES Coordinator develops and opens an EOC when and where needed. An EOC is a designated area established for facilitating the overall management of an emergency or disaster incident. The EOC provides a multi-agency coordination center where elected officials and senior agency representatives gather to manage coordination, communications, data and information collection, disseminate public information, provide the primary link to the state and federal agencies, and engage in strategic decision-making.

The DES Coordinator plans, organizes and manages the County's emergency preparedness program; evaluates, improves and promotes comprehensive disaster planning efforts; organizes and facilitates effective operation of multi-jurisdiction, multi-discipline work groups and task forces; promotes interagency coordination; and, develops and reviews policies, contracts and interagency agreements. These efforts are designed to enhance the capacity of the County government to plan for, respond to, mitigate and recover from the consequences of threats and disasters using an all-hazard framework. Overall, the DES Coordinator emphasizes prevention, mitigation, and preparedness in addressing potential natural threats (earthquakes, wildfire, flooding).

Mineral County determines its capabilities and limitations to prepare for and respond to disaster at its regularly scheduled Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC) meetings and through this EOP update process.

Planning Assumptions

Disasters vary along several dimensions. Some provide little or no warning (earthquake, flash flood), others might be preceded by substantial warning (volcanic ash, winter storm). Some disasters affect large geographic areas, others rather small areas; some strike with great impact, others with less impact. Consistent with these variables,

disasters can cause significant loss of life, environmental, and economic damage. As part of the EOP revision process, the following planning assumptions were developed:

- Mineral County will continue to experience natural, technological, or human-caused incidents, emergencies, or disasters requiring local government response.
- The Local Government's response during incidents, emergencies, or disasters is based on the availability of resources. If the response requirements go beyond local capabilities, state assistance will be requested.
- The County's resources may be requested to assist other local governments, counties, or the State of Montana.
- Local resources, available through public, volunteer and commercial means will be utilized first. State and Federal support will augment ongoing disaster operations.
- Local jurisdictions will enter into mutual aid agreements with each other as necessary to most effectively use their resources in response to emergencies and disasters.
- Incidents, emergencies, or disasters will require varying levels of response. It is anticipated that the local response will be conducted at the lowest possible activation level to effectively and efficiently handle the situation using the Incident Command System (ICS).
- At times, elected officials and government department directors or administrators will not be available to perform their duties. The lines of succession for elected officials will be according to the guidelines outlined in the Montana code. Local government department heads and administrators will identify the lines of succession for key positions in their respective agencies.
- Local government departments will have sufficient training in this Plan and second tier supervisors will be able to function if primary supervisory levels are not available.
- When the EOP is activated, all or parts of the Plan may be implemented.
- The EOC will be partially or fully activated to support operations in the field during a disaster or emergency.
- Local government may need to operate without outside assistance given the nature of the incident for extended periods of time.

Concept of Operations

It is the responsibility of government to undertake comprehensive management of emergencies in order to protect life and property from the effects of hazardous events. This Plan is based upon the concept that the emergency functions performed by various groups responding to an emergency should generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources should be employed in both cases.

- Operations conducted under this plan require a rapid and coordinated response by every County/Town agency, private institution, and other non-governmental agencies.
- Implementation of operations must be as self-triggering as possible and not dependent upon the presence of a particular individual.
- The Mineral County DES Coordinator will be the coordinator for Emergency

Management activity.

- The Governing Body (Board of County Commissioners in the event of a county incident or The Mayor and Town Council in the event of a municipal incident) or their designees will be responsible for the execution of the plan and for minimizing the disaster effects.
- Central control from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provides the requisite direction and coordination. The primary EOC is located in the County Courthouse.

Plan Activation

Activation of the plan is triggered when;

- The Governing Body, the Sheriff, the DES Coordinator, or a Fire Chief or a designated representative, determines that the severity or length of the situation warrants plan implementation to reduce the threat to life and/or property to a minimum

- The Governing Body issues an Emergency Proclamation, or Disaster Declaration.

Activation of the plan includes;

- Alert and order the mobilization of the emergency management organization.
- Activate the Jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Center. Size and composition of the Staff is to be determined by the magnitude of the incident.
- Alert the general population of the incident or impending disaster.
- Arrange for the evacuation of threatened areas.
- Establish temporary shelter, food, and medical for the evacuees and responders as necessary, including evacuees from threatened areas outside of the Jurisdiction.
- Notify those public and private agencies dedicated to the relief of distress and suffering, i.e., Red Cross and Salvation Army, and establish liaison as necessary.
- Alert State emergency management offices and request assistance and coordination with other State agencies with disaster capabilities.
- Notify local industries, public utility companies, schools, etc., of the incident or pending disaster as necessary.

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery are general responsibilities of all levels of government working together to provide a delivery system to meet the needs of

the public. The following outlines the responsibilities of Mineral County to comply with these requirements.

Mitigation

Mitigation consists of actions taken in advance to reduce or eliminate the degree of long-term risk to human life, health, property, and the environment from natural and technological hazards. Mitigation assumes communities are exposed to risks whether or not an emergency occurs. Mitigation measures may include:

- Building codes.
- Health and sanitation rules and inspections.
- Disaster insurance,
- Hazard information systems.
- Land use management
- Hazard analysis.
- Land acquisition, monitoring and inspection.
- Public education, research, relocation.
- Risk mapping.
- Safety codes, statutes and ordinances.
- Tax incentives and disincentives.
- Seismic strengthening.
- Stocking of emergency supplies.

Preparedness

Preparedness activities are any action taken prior to the emergency that facilitates the implementation of a coordinated response. Examples of preparedness efforts include but are not limited to:

- Hazard identification
- Developing emergency plans and procedures.
- Continuity of government decisions.
- Testing and maintaining equipment.
- Establishing, equipping and maintaining the EOC.
- Participating in training, drills, and exercises.
- Coordination of sirens and Emergency Alert System (EAS) utilization.

Response

Response activities are any actions taken immediately before, during or directly after an emergency to save lives, minimize damage to property and increase the effectiveness of recovery efforts. Examples of response include, but are not limited to:

- Implement the EOP when an emergency occurs, or at the request of the Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or upon a declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor.
- Use all available local and regional resources to respond to an emergency including pre-established mutual aid agreements.
- Coordinate emergency medical services, law enforcement services, and fire and rescue services.

- Utilize the County EOC as the central clearinghouse for information collection and coordination of response and recovery resources.

Recovery

Recovery is the phase that involves restoring systems to normal. Short-term recovery actions are taken to assess damage and reestablish vital life-support systems; long term recovery actions may continue for years. Examples of recovery actions include, but are not limited to:

- Damage assessment.
- Debris clearance.
- Decontamination.
- Counseling.
- Disaster assistance.
- Temporary housing

Operations

Responsibility for response to a County emergency resides with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the DES Coordinator (DES). These entities will authorize and coordinate agencies and departments to mobilize pursuant to this Plan. In the event of a terrorist threat or incident, the County will coordinate their response with the State of Montana and U.S. Department of Justice.

Field Operations

The Incident Commander (IC) is the first responder on a given scene until relieved by a higher authority or by mutual agreement. The IC is responsible for the immediate tactical actions to control the incident. The determination of which department is responsible for assuming field command, or becoming the lead agency, for a particular type of hazard response is codified in some instances in State, County, or Municipal law. If, at any time, there is disagreement or uncertainty on the part of field supervisors over which department/jurisdiction is the responsible lead agency it should be resolved by immediate referral to the EOC. It then will be up to the EOC Director to confer with the appropriate department/jurisdiction head, or their designate, to arrive at a determination. This safeguard is established to ensure that prudent life-safety measures by local government will never be delayed or jeopardized by indecision.
Some incidents may involve more than one hazard, but the one that should be considered primary is the hazard with the potential for causing the most serious harm. Hence, the department responsible for the primary hazard should be the lead agency. As the incident evolves and as the original hazard is downgraded and supplanted by a different hazard, a lead agency transfer from one department to another may occur. Whenever a hazard is discovered, the senior person from the department first on-scene should assume initial command of the situation. This person should immediately establish a command post, and through his/her dispatch/control center will:

- Report an initial size-up (problem identification and assessment),
- Request initial notifications that need to be made (including contact with the lead agency, if appropriate),
- Take steps to isolate the area, if necessary,

- As soon as first response units from the lead agency arrive on scene, the most senior official from that department will accept the position of Incident Commander and request activation the EOC, if needed.
- It is then up to each department to decide if, and when, command is transferred should a more senior department official come to the scene.
- Should the IC determine the need for a multiple County or Municipal agency response, the IC will determine;
    - What additional agencies are needed,
    - The specific roles each of these agencies is to assume,
    - The force levels and types of equipment each should respond with,
    - The official they are to report to,
    - The approach route they are to use to travel to and ingress the designated staging area(s), and
    - Any other information about conditions or precautions that dispatchers/ communication personnel should give responders.

The Incident Commander will submit the foregoing information to the EOC, if activated, or to the dispatch center, where it will be communicated to the other agencies requested to respond.

In the event that multiple sites are affected at the same time, during a widespread event, and the primary hazard varies from site to site, there could be more than one department/jurisdiction serving as a lead agency, or IC. This may require the establishment of a unified command to mediate competition for scarce resources and eliminate the potential for conflicting or duplicated efforts.

Control Centers

All the County's departments and agencies, and outside support agencies are served by a central Enhanced 911 (E-911) dispatch center. The role of the E-911 center is to dispatch and support field personnel and their equipment. In an emergency, these control centers are responsible for similar actions, which should be guided by emergency protocols calling for;

- Notification of key officials,
- The call out of additional personnel for incident requirements,
- Dispatching specialized teams or technicians that are part of an automatic response, or when specifically requested,
- Alerting other agencies of impending dangers that could affect their resources,
- Supporting all other agencies requested by the senior department official in the field,
- Notifying the public of the emergency, as needed, prior to the establishment of the Joint Information Center (JIC) that will be part of the EOC.

Emergency Operations Center

While the Incident Command System is employed at almost every response event, the EOC is activated only in those events which exceed the normal capabilities of the responding agencies or involve multiple agencies and a coordination effort is required. Flooding, wildfires, winter storms, earthquakes, or severe weather could be examples of the need for EOC support to an incident or multiple incident scenes.
The sequence of events that would require EOC activations would normally be;

- Event occurs.
- Event requires multiple agency response.
- EOC is activated upon request of the IC, DES Coordinator, or the BOCC.
- The IC, assisted by the EOC Manager, decides and notifies what staffing is required to support the incident.
- The EOC provides coordination, support, and executive guidance as necessary to support the Incident.
- The event concludes or becomes manageable by local agencies and EOC de-activates.

The EOC will organize using ICS/NIMS principles in support of field operations. The EOC will maintain open communications and close coordination with the on-scene Incident Command Post (ICP) at all times. To the extent possible, all tactical and operational decisions will be made in the field, while policy and coordination functions will be accomplished from the EOC. The EOC is made up of personnel with varied skills and functions from county, city, and private organizations and groups, and managed by the EOC Manager (normally the DES Coordinator).
The success of the EOC and the Incident Command Team (ICT) depends on teamwork, training, and exercising.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section provides an overview of the key functions and procedures local agencies should accomplish during an emergency, including the roles that local, tribal, state, federal, and private agencies should take to support County operations.

GOVERNMENT (policy group)

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

- Responsible for establishing an emergency management organization.
- Provides for continuity of operations.
- Establishes lines of succession for key positions.
- Designates departmental emergency operating centers and alternatives.
- Establishes, equips and staffs the EOC.
- Appoints a DES Coordinator who may act on their behalf, if necessary.
- Issues declarations of disaster or emergency if the situation warrants.
- Applies for federal disaster funds, as available.

County Attorney

- The County Attorney's office is the official legal center for Mineral County. The office handles all legal issues relating to the county.

- During Emergencies or disasters, the County Attorney assists the BOCC and the EOC where needed with proclamations, declarations, and other matters.

County Sheriff

- The Mineral County Sheriff is the sole local law enforcement agency in Mineral County, and has control of E-911 dispatch, The County Jail, and the County Search and Rescue.

- The Sheriff is under contract with the Towns of Superior and Alberton for Law enforcement activities.

- The Sheriff coordinates with, assists, and receives assistance from the Montana Highway Patrol, Montana Game Warden, USFS law enforcement, and numerous other State and Federal Agencies.

- The Sheriff provides for Public Safety through Enforcement of Laws, Security of impacted areas, traffic control, and investigation.

- The Sheriff protects the population before, during and after disasters by establishing evacuation routes, safe areas, transportation and coordination with shelters and otherwise implementing evacuation plans.

County Finance Officer

The Clerk and recorder's emergency and disaster duties include:

- Advising on, assisting with, or performing records management for incidents.
- Assisting Incident Command Teams with financial accounting on incidents.
- Pursuing training to act as Finance Chief on Incident Management Teams.

DES Coordinator

- Prepares and maintains an EOP for the County subject to the direction of the elected officials and with the assistance of the LEPC.
- Reviews and updates the EOP as needed.
- Maintains coordination with Montana DES and with other County Coordinators to provide assistance or request assistance as necessary.
- Identifies hazards and vulnerabilities that may affect Mineral County.
- Identifies resources within the County that can be used to respond to a major emergency or disaster situation and locates and requests needed resources.
- Develops and maintains a trained staff and current emergency response checklist appropriate for the emergency needs and resources of the community.
- Mobilizes the EOC and acts as the management function within the EOC during an emergency.
- Acts as ESF Coordinator.
- Compiles cost figures for emergency operations above normal operating cost.
- Attends training and workshops to maintain proficiency and currency in emergency management and emergency response planning and procedures.

County Planner/Sanitarian

- Assists all agencies in assuring safety and security of food and water.
- Provides maps and other GIS information to all agencies and IMTs.

Superintendent of Schools:

- Provides public shelters when possible.
- Provides buses for transportation during disaster relief operations, as available.
- Develops, Maintains, and Exercises an emergency plan for the school in with assistance from the LEPC, in accordance with MCA 20-1-401.

County Road Department

- The County Road Department will develop and maintain an attachment to this plan consisting of a resource list identifying the type (Including NIMS typing) and locality of major pieces of equipment and a roster of personnel including qualifications and training level.
- Road Department resources will assist with all phases of emergency or disaster as directed by the BOCC.
- Road Department personnel will not be expected to perform emergency duties other than types of work expected of them in the regular performance of their positions.

Town and Rural Fire Departments

Situation and Assumptions:

- The Fire Department of each Fire District has the primary responsibility of responding to emergencies where fire or threat of fire, or hazardous material exposure may exist.
- Performs crash Rescue operations at accident scenes as needed.
- It has a responsibility of responding to fire emergencies outside their District through mutual aid compacts with other fire districts
- The Fire Department can expect assistance from other agencies and departments upon request.
- Fire Department personnel assisted in the development of hazard analysis for the County. Occurrence of an emergency in any of these priority areas, or other hazards not identified, could require a major response from the Department or have an effect on their capability to respond to other emergencies.

Mission:

- To limit or prevent loss of life and property from fires or threat of fires.
- To assist in warning and evacuation.
- To assist and cooperate with other agencies and departments responding to medical and other life threatening emergencies.

Administration:

- The Fire Department is headed by a Chief appointed by the Fire District Board or The Town Council..
- A copy of the resource inventory from each department will be developed and included as an Attachment to this plan. This inventory identifies the type (Including NIMS typing) and locality of major pieces of equipment and a roster of personnel including qualifications and training level.

- The Fire Chief has responsibility for updating this resource inventory attachment on an annual or as needed basis and coordinating changes with the DES Coordinator.

Concept of Operations:

- Operations of the Fire Department require a rapid and coordinated response.
- Implementation must be as self-triggering as possible and not dependent upon the presence of a particular individual.
- The Fire Officer in charge of the incident has responsibility for requesting additional assistance.
- Initial Response will include an evaluation of the on-scene situation, establishment of a command post, if necessary, and identification of a staging area if additional assistance is required.

Responsibilities:

A. Fire Chief or Designee:

- Responding to fire or threat of fire.
- Any rescue work needed, then protecting exposures as required and extinguishing fires.
- Assisting other agencies, if requested, when life or property is threatened.
- Assisting in dissemination of warning.
- Recommending and assisting in evacuation if situation warrants.
- Requesting assistance from Mutual Aid System and other agencies/ departments.
- Keeping proper authorities informed of situation.
- Normal operation of the Fire Department.

B. Fire Department Officers

- Must have ability and knowledge to serve as officer-in-charge at an incident until superior officer or chief is on-scene and assumes control.
- Knowledge and skills to perform day-to-day operations as described in staff duties.
- Other specific or related fire response duties as assigned by the Chief or Officer-in-Charge at the scene or as indicated in standard operations procedures.

Training and Exercises

The Fire Chief has the responsibility for on-going training and exercising of the Department and maintenance or records of training and qualifications.

County Fire Warden

The Fire Warden is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and is responsible for the following:

- Represents the Board of Commissioners in matters pertaining to wildland fire management in the county. As such, the Board delegates authority to the fire warden who serves as the county's "line officer" (line of authority from the commissioners to the fire warden).

- Coordinates wildland fire protection for all lands on which the county is required to provide fire protection. This primarily applies to the unprotected land outside of established protection jurisdictions, including Fire Service Areas without a resolution of intent to fight wildland fire, but it can also include lands in the rural fire districts during a countywide or large fire event.
- Monitors the county fire situation, and insures that adequate resources are mobilized to suppress fires. The fire warden does not need to be in command of incident operations, but instead is responsible for securing resources in place to handle the fire. This person is responsible for countywide operations, and therefore should not be tied down to any one incident. For fires within fire district boundaries, the fire warden becomes involved when the fire exceeds their capabilities.
- Keeps the Board of Commissioners informed of wildfire situations in the county and bring such matters before the board for their consideration.
- Attend meetings of the Mineral County Fire Council. The fire warden acts as a liaison between the commissioners and the council.
- Serves as the primary contact between the county and the State Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) regarding wildland fire. When the county's capability to handle fire suppression is exceeded, the fire warden has the authority to request assistance from the state. (If such authority is delegated by the commissioners) The fire warden also works with the state in planning, prevention, training, and procuring equipment.
- Ensures that wildland fire equipment on loan to the county is properly identified, maintained, and fire ready. The fire warden handles requests from rural fire districts and fire service areas, for excess fire equipment, and forwards the requests to the state. State provided equipment will be distributed by the fire warden, with recommendations from the fire council. The equipment should be located in the County Co-Op protection area, however the precise location can be negotiated between the county fire warden, the rural fire council, and the DNRC.
- Represents the county and its fire organizations in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NTCG), a regional organization of wildland firefighting agencies. This is accomplished by membership in the Montana County Fire Wardens Association and participation with the Local Zone Mobilizations Board.
- At the request of the County commissioners, ensures that land developers address wildland fire concerns during the subdivision review process on residential projects.
- Provides leadership in the development and implementation of plans and activities.

County Fire Council

Acts as an advisory body to the Board of County Commissioners and Fire Warden. The functions of the County Fire Council include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provide expertise to the Board of County Commissioners in matters relating to fire management. These issues may include such items as fire seasons, burning permit guidelines, fire restrictions, road closures, subdivisions, and planning reviews.

- Identify and work toward resolving fire related problems with a goal of preventing destructive wildfires and assuring that all members work cooperatively in providing the most effective fire suppression service possible.
- Make recommendations to the County commissioners for appointment of a Fire Warden and assistant wardens if needed.
- Identify equipment and training needed for the safe and efficient control of wildfires, structural fires and recommend assignment or dispersal of equipment received by the county under the State/County Co-Op fire program. Individual Fire Districts may become involved in addressing Hazardous Materials.
- Participates in the development of the Cooperative Fire Management Plan, and works to ensure compliance by all participating agencies and organizations.

County Health Department

The Mineral County Health Department is responsible for protecting and promoting the health of county citizens and the environment through programs including:

- Environmental Health
- Immunization
- WIC nutrition services
- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Health School Visitation
- Communicable Disease surveillance and treatment

In cooperation with Mineral DES and the LEPC, Mineral Public Health has developed an emergency health plan to include SOPs for Public Health. This plan is available on the County website.

MSU Extension, Mineral County

- Assist and advise with evacuation of livestock, pets, or other animals.
- Assist and advise with development of and implementation of agreements with County Fair board and local ranches for sheltering evacuated animals.
- Assist and advise with procurement of feed, water, and care for evacuated animals.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Mayor and Town Council

- Responsible for establishing emergency management procedures.
- Provide for continuity of operations.
- Establishes lines of succession for key positions.
- Adopts this County EOP for guidance in emergencies.
- Issues declarations of emergency/ disaster if the situation warrants.
- Applies for County, State or federal disaster funds, as available.

Town Public Works

- Public works for both Towns will develop and maintain an attachment to this plan consisting of a resource list identifying the type (Including NIMS typing) and locality of major pieces of equipment and a roster of personnel including qualifications and training level.
- Public works resources will assist with all phases of emergency or disaster as directed by Town government.
- Public works personnel will not be expected to perform emergency duties other than types of work expected of them in the regular performance of their positions.

State Government

Governor

As a State's chief executive, the Governor is responsible for the public safety and welfare of the people of Montana. The Governor:

- Is responsible for coordinating State resources to address the full spectrum of actions to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents in an all-hazards context to include terrorism, natural disasters, accidents, and other contingencies.
- Under a Governor's declaration has the power to make, amend, and rescind orders and regulations.
- Provides leadership and plays a key role in communicating to the public and in helping people, businesses, and organizations cope with the consequences of any type of declared emergency within State jurisdiction.
- Encourages participation in mutual aid and implements authorities for the State to enter into mutual aid agreements with other states, tribes, and territories to facilitate resource sharing.
- Is the Commander-in-Chief of State military forces (National Guard when in State Active Duty and the authorized State Militia?
- Requests federal assistance when it becomes clear that state or tribal capabilities will be insufficient or have been exceeded or exhausted.

Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

Mineral County hosts a detachment of the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP). The following is taken from MHP website and reflects some of the assistance they may offer in emergencies and disasters.

In the course of a typical day, troopers are called upon to do many things, all of which contribute to a safer society and help prevent loss of life, personal injury and property destruction. They may:

- *patrol Montana's highways to enforce federal, state and local traffic laws*
- *respond to and investigate crashes, crimes, natural disasters and potential safety hazards on and off Montana's roads*
- *apprehend criminals, including those who transport drugs*
- *provide humanitarian aid to citizens*

- *perform emergency transportation of blood, drugs or other medical supplies*
- *transport prisoners*

Montana Department of Disaster and Emergency Services

The Montana Department of Disaster and Emergency Services is responsible for implementing all State policy decisions relating to emergency management. These decisions are then relayed to the tasked state agencies. Those emergencies relating to local matters shall be coordinated with local DES coordinators.

Federal Government

- Provides emergency response on federally-owned or controlled property.
- Provides federal assistance as directed by the President of the United States under the coordination of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and in accordance with federal emergency plans.
- Identifies and coordinates provision of assistance under other federal statutory authorities.
- Provides assistance to the state and local governments for response to and recovery from incidents consistent with guidelines as established in the National Response Framework (NRF).

Non-Governmental and Volunteer Organizations

Non-governmental (NGOs) collaborate with first responders, governments at all levels, and other agencies and organizations providing relief services to sustain life, reduce physical and emotional distress, and promote recovery of disaster victims when assistance is not available from other sources. For example, the American Red Cross is an NGO that provides relief at the local level and also coordinates the Mass Care element of ESF-6 at both the state and federal level. Community-based organizations receive government funding to provide essential public health services.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Superior Ambulance Service provides on scene emergency medical technicians and transport of patients. Currently have three ambulances for transport.
- Frenchtown Ambulance provides on scene emergency medical technicians and transport of patients, primarily to the East end of the County including the Alberton Area.
- All County Fire Departments may provide on scene emergency medical technicians and crash rescue equipment
- Mineral Community Hospital provides emergency room services to receive and treat patients and arranges ground or helicopter transport of patients needing care not available at this facility.
- Northwest Med-Star provides medical helicopter and air ambulance service to both St. Pat's and Community Hospitals on request.
- Sanders County provides ambulance service on request.

- EMS is usually available from Idaho for the West end of the county.

American Red Cross

- Provides reception, care, food, lodging and welfare assistance throughout the region.
- Coordinates all personnel relief activities for any type disaster.
- Operates shelters for disaster relief.
- Provides limited damage assessment of private property.
- Provides First Aid supports and blood supply to disaster relief medical operations.
- Provides counseling service.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster including local RSVP

- Coordinates volunteer agency response and volunteer manpower.
- Supports shelter care operations.
- Provides field canteens.
- Provides counseling service.
- Assists with recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Private Sector

Primary and support agencies coordinate with the private sector to effectively share information, form courses of action, and incorporate available resources to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies.
The roles, responsibilities, and participation of the private sector during an emergency vary based on the nature of the organization and the type and impact of the incident. Certain organizations are required by existing law and regulation to bear the cost of planning and response to incidents, regardless of cause.
Unless the response role is inherently governmental (e.g., law enforcement, etc.), private-sector organizations are encouraged to develop and maintain capabilities to respond to, recover from and manage a complete spectrum of incidents and emergencies.

Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

Disaster response resources are organized by ESFs. Each ESF is comprised of numerous agencies/organizations that manage and coordinate specific categories of assistance common to all disaster/emergency events. A primary agency/organization is designated for each ESF to coordinate the delivery of goods and services to the incident. An ESF Coordinator, who has ongoing responsibility through the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery phases of incident management, is assigned in addition to the primary and support agencies. The roles and responsibilities of these functions are described below. The following is a brief summary of the purpose of each ESF.

ESF Coordinator

- Pre-incident planning and coordination,
- Maintain ongoing contract with ESF primary and support agencies,
- Conduct periodic ESF meetings,
- Coordinate efforts with corresponding private-sector organization, and
- Coordinate ESF activities relating incident planning and critical infrastructure preparedness.

ESF Primary Agency

- Provide staff for the operations functions,
- Notify and request assistance from support agencies,
- Manage mission assignments and coordinate with support agencies,
- Work with appropriate private-sector organizations to maximize use of all available resources,
- Support and keep other ESFs informed of operational priorities and activities,
- Execute contracts and procure goods and services as needed,
- Manage financial and property accountability for ESF activities,
- Plan for short-term and long-term incident management and recovery operations,
- Establish and maintain procedures for agency personnel to be available on a 24-hour basis for EOC staffing and emergency assignment and provide this information to the DES Coordinator,
- Maintain a current inventory of key agency personnel, facilities and equipment, and establish procedures so this information can be accessed from the EOC,
- Establish procedures for assessing damage to department facilities and injury to personnel, and
- Maintain trained personnel to support interagency emergency response and support teams.

ESF Support Agencies

- Conduct operations, when requested using their own authorities, subject-matter experts, capabilities or resources.
- Participate in planning for short-term and long term incident management and recovery operations.
- Assist in the conduct of situational assessments.
- Provide staff, equipment or other resource support as requested.
- Provide input to periodic readiness assessments.
- Participate in training and exercises.
- Identify new equipment or capabilities required to prevent or respond to new or emerging threats and hazards. and
- Provide information or intelligence regarding their agency's area of expertise.

The designated ESF Coordinator and Primary Agency, as well as the non-governmental, state and federal agencies responsible for each ESF are listed in each ESF.

ESF Summary

The core of the emergency response system relies on 15 functional modules called Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). The DES Coordinator, with approval of the

BOCC designates the primary agencies for each ESF to coordinate the activities of that function. The ESFs provide the structure for coordinating interagency support for both human-caused and naturally occurring disasters/emergencies. Primary agency or agencies are identified as follows and are subject to change when the identified agency lacks capability or resources to perform or supervise the function.

ESF 1 – Transportation
Primary: County Road Dept.
Secondary: Public works, ambulance service, Montana DOT, and school boards

- Coordinate and process transportation resources and people (evacuation)
- Report damage to transportation infrastructure
- Coordinate alternate transportation service
- Coordinate the restoration and recovery of the transportation infrastructure

ESF 2 – Communications
Primary: Sheriff / DES
Secondary: Incident Management Team (IMT) and Montana DES

- Provide temporary communications to support incident management
- Facilitate the development, maintenance, and restoration of the communications infrastructure
- Support all agencies in the procurement and coordination of communications services during an incident response.

ESF 3 - Public Works and Engineering
Primary: County and Town public works
Secondary: County Road Dept., Montana DOT, and DES

- Infrastructure protection and emergency restoration
- Emergency assistance and support for first responders
- Engineering and construction services
- Liaison with state and federal resources
- Debris management

ESF 4 – Fire Fighting
Primary: County Fire Warden, Fire Chiefs, and US Forest Service
Secondary: Montana DNRC

- Fire prevention and suppression activities
- Fire mutual aid and resource augmentation
- Fire command and control structure

ESF 5 - Emergency Management
Primary: DES
Secondary: IMT and EOC Staff

- EOC activation, configuration, management and staffing
- On-scene command control structure and interface with the EOC
- Emergency decision making and the local declaration process

- Requesting state and federal assistance
- Overall coordination of mutual aid and regional operations
- Information collection and database creation and management
- Analysis and dissemination of information
- Issuing situation reports, bulletins and advisories
- Notification and updating of staff and elected officials
- Science and technology support (GIS mapping, modeling)
- *Incident Action Plans* and resource tracking

ESF 6 - Mass Care
Primary: Red Cross
Secondary: School Boards, Public Health

- Mass care operating including sheltering, feeding and other essential human needs
- Housing resources
- In-place shelter operations
- Special needs populations

ESF 7 - Resource Support
Primary: DES
Secondary: EOC staff and/or IMT

- Resource identification
- Resource coordination and support
- Resource procurement
- Personnel augmentation
- Logistics management

ESF 8 - Public Health and Medical Services
Primary: Public Health Dept.
Secondary: Planner/Sanitarian, Hospital/Clinic, MT DPHHS, CDC

- Assessment of public health and medical needs
- Public health surveillance
- Medical care personnel
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Assurance of food safety and security
- Develop, maintain, and exercise the Public Health Plan

ESF 9 - Search and Rescue
Primary: Search and Rescue
Secondary: Sheriff and DES

- Resources needed to conduct search and rescue activities
- Awareness of State and federal resources available to augment local search and rescue efforts
- Awareness of Aerial and ground search resources

- Assist, where possible, with other emergencies as directed by the Sheriff.

ESF 10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
Primary: Fire Departments
Secondary: DES, Regional Haz-Mat Team, MT National Guard Civil Support Team

- Coordinated response to oil and hazardous materials incidents
- Specialized local, regional, state and federal mutual aid resources
- Hazardous materials planning and reporting requirements
- Short and long-term environmental cleanup

ESF 11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources
Primary: County Extension Service

- Advise and coordinate with appropriate agencies for control and eradication of any outbreak of a devastating animal or plant disease
- Natural resource protection and restoration

ESF 12 – Energy
Primary: Public works
Secondary: DES, North Western Energy Inc., Missoula Electric Co-Op

- Energy system assessment, repair and restoration
- Water services (water, sewer and storm water)
- Private utilities industry coordination
- Energy forecasting
- Power outages

ESF 13 - Public Safety
Primary: Sheriff
Secondary: MHP, MT Game Warden, and USFS Law

- Law enforcement activities
- Operational and personnel security, including planning for and directing evacuations.
- Controlling ingress and egress to emergency and disaster scene(s)
- Liaison between response operations and criminal investigation activities
- Coordination with federal and State law enforcement agencies

ESF 14 - Long-term Community Recovery
Primary: BOCC/ Town Government
Secondary: DES

- Community recovery operations
- Economic assessment, protection and restoration
- Mitigation analysis and program implementation
- Coordination with the private sector
- Coordination with federal community assistance programs

ESF 15 – Public Information
Primary: BOCC
Secondary: DES and IMT

- Emergency public information
- Protective action guidance
- Ongoing emergency information
- Inter-departmental coordination
- Establishing media and community relations
- Governmental and public information

INCIDENT OPERATIONS

Incident Command System

The Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be used to coordinate emergency response and recovery operations. The ICS/NIMS provides a framework designed to standardize incident management for all types of hazards and across all levels of government. ICS is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications that operates with a common organizational structure and is designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. ICS is applicable to small as well as large/complex incidents. If used effectively, it should improve coordination between different agencies, levels of government and the private sector.

Incident Commander

The Incident Commander (IC) is the person in charge at the incident, and should be fully qualified to manage the incident. The IC is responsible for establishing command of the incident, maintaining a size-up of the incident, and assessing three critical incident priorities: life safety of the first responders and the public; incident stabilization; and, property and environmental conservation.

As incidents grow in size or become more complex, a more highly qualified IC may be assigned by the responsible jurisdiction or agency. The IC may have one or more deputies from the same agency or from other agencies or jurisdictions. These deputies must have the same qualifications as the person for whom they work, as they must be ready to take over that position at any time.

Responsibilities include:

- Assess the situation and/or obtain a briefing from the prior Incident Commander.
- Determine Incident Objectives and strategy.
- Establish the immediate priorities.
- Establish an Incident Command Post (ICP).
- Establish an appropriate organization by filling command and general staff positions required to meet objectives.
- Coordinate planning meetings as required.

- Assure that all members of the team have a common operating picture.
- Approve and authorize the implementation of an *Incident Action Plan.*
- Promote that adequate safety measures be implemented.
- Coordinate activity for all command and General Staff.
- Coordinate with key people and officials.
- Approve requests for additional resources or for the release of resources.
- Keep agency administrator informed of incident status.
- Approve the use of trainees, volunteers, and auxiliary personnel.
- Authorize release of information to the news media.
- Order the demobilization of the incident when appropriate.

General Staff Positions

Operations

- Responsible for the operational activities, resources, and assignments pertaining to the incident.

Planning

- Collects, evaluates and provides information about the incident/event,
- Determines status of resources,
- Establishes information requirements and reporting schedules,
- Supervises preparation of an *Incident Action Plan* (IAP); and
- Assembles information on alternative strategies.

Logistics

- Provides staff, materials, services and facilities in support of the emergency event,
- Develops and implements procedures for rapidly ordering personnel, supplies, and equipment and to track their delivery, use, and return, and
- Participates in the preparation of the *Incident Action Plan* (IAP).

Finance

- Maintains oversight of all financial and cost analysis activities associated with the emergency, and
- Tracks cost and personnel time records.

Command Staff

Public Information Officer

- Develops and maintains a checklist for the Public Information function (ESF-15),
- Assists in the development, review and maintenance of the EOP,
- Responds to the EOC or the field, as needed,
- Coordinates public information to the media, and

- Advises elected officials and the DES Coordinator on public information activities.
- Establishes Joint Information Center (JIC) utilizing Joint Information System (JIS)

Safety Officer

- Monitors and assesses hazardous and unsafe situations associated with the incident.
- Develops measures for assuring personal safety.
- Exercises authority to stop or prevent unsafe actions on the incident through the designated lines of authority.
- Participates in planning meetings.
- Reviews the Incident Action Plan for safety implications.
- Investigates accidents that have occurred within the incident area.
- Assigns assistants as needed.
- Reviews and approves the medical plan.

Liaison Officer

- Point of contact for personnel assigned to the incident by assisting or cooperating agencies.
- Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and Agency Representatives.
- Assist in establishing and coordinating interagency contacts.
- Keep agencies supporting the incident aware of incident status.
- Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential inter organizational problems.
- Participate in planning meetings, providing current resource status, including limitations and capability of assisting agency resources.

Agency Representative

In many large incidents, an agency or jurisdiction will send a representative to assist in coordination efforts. An Agency Representative is an individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Responsibilities include;

- Encourages that all agency resources be properly checked-in at the incident.
- Obtains briefing from the Liaison Officer or Incident Commander.
- Informs assisting or cooperating agency personnel on the incident that the Agency Representative position for that agency has been filled.
- Attends briefings and planning meetings as required.
- Provides input on the use of agency resources unless resource technical specialists are assigned from the agency.
- Cooperates fully with the Incident Commander and the general staff on agency involvement at the incident.
- Assures the well-being of agency personnel assigned to the incident.
- Advises the Liaison Officer of any special agency needs or requirements.
- Reports to home agency dispatch or headquarters on a prearranged schedule.
- Coordinates the proper accounting and release of all agency personnel and equipment prior to departure.

- Manages the completion of all required agency forms, reports and documents prior to departure.
- Has a debriefing session with the Liaison Officer or Incident Commander prior to departure.

DIRECTION AND CONTROL

The final responsibility for all emergency management belongs to the elected officials on the BOCC, or the Town Mayor/Council. This group is the decision making group for all broad policy level decisions. During response operations, they should also be available to constituents to address non-routine matters.
Executive responsibility for emergency management is vested in the Chairman of the BOCC or the Town Mayor. As chief administrative officer and head of the administrative branch of the local government, he/she shall execute the laws and ordinances and administer the government of Mineral County or the Town.

The County DES Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the emergency management program. He/she makes routine decisions and advises the BOCC and Town Councils on alternatives when major decisions are required of that body. During emergency operations, he/she is responsible for the proper functioning of the EOC and its staff. The DES Coordinator also acts as liaison with other county, tribal, state and federal emergency management agencies.

Specific persons in departments/agencies are responsible for fulfilling their responsibilities as stated in this Basic Plan and the annexes thereto. Department Supervisors, or their designee, will retain control of their employees and equipment during response operations. Standard operating procedures should be developed for each department having responsibilities in this plan. These SOPs should include:

- Recall of personnel during non-duty hours.
- Prioritization of tasks to guide recovery work.
- Procedures to be followed which deviate from normal.
- Specific emergency authorities that may be assumed by the designated successor during emergency situations.
- During some periods of an emergency, Department Supervisors may be required to remain in the EOC and direct their departments from that facility.

Continuity of Government

Continuity of Government (COG) is an essential function of emergency management and is vital during an emergency/disaster situation. All levels of government (federal, tribal, state, and local) share a constitutional responsibility to preserve the life and property of their citizens. Continuity of government is defined as the preservation, maintenance, or reconstitution of the civil government's ability to carry out its constitutional responsibilities.

Succession of Authority

Chairman of the Board of County Commissions:
In the event the Chairman is not available, BOCC members, by order, are designated as Chairman.

Town Mayor:
In the event the Mayor is not available, Town Council members, by established order, are designated as Mayor.

Line of succession for each agency/department head is according to the department rules and/or SOPs established by each department.

Delegations of Emergency Authority

The authority to use an extraordinary power is given in a disaster situation. Notwithstanding questions of authority, the Incident Commander has the duty to immediately and unilaterally use powers identified in this Plan whenever all of the following conditions exist:

- Persons or property are directly exposed to severe danger,
- The impact of the danger is in progress or is imminent, and
- The time lost in obtaining approval from authorities would prevent successful protective measures.

The use of an extraordinary power which has not been approved by specified authorities shall be limited to those measures which will eliminate the immediate danger. Having used an extraordinary power without the benefit of approval, the Incident Commander shall immediately seek confirmation from the specified authority.

Preservation of Records:

In order to provide normal government operations following a disaster, vital records must be protected. The principal causes of damage to records are fire and water.

In order to provide normal government operations following an emergency or disaster, essential records i.e., vital statistics, deeds, corporation papers, operational plans, resource data, authorities, personnel and payroll rosters, succession lists, supplies and equipment lists, laws, charters and financial records must be protected by each county/municipal department or agency.

Heads of each county/municipal agency/department are encouraged to inventory and prioritize vital records in his/her custody. Each agency retains copies to work with day to day while the master copy is preserved in a central storage facility. Each agency/department should arrange safekeeping for those records it deems important, but which were not selected for the priority protection.

County/municipal agency personnel must have access to and be able to use these records and systems in conducting their essential functions. Plans should account for the identification and protection of vital records, systems, and data management

software and equipment, to include classified or sensitive data as applicable, necessary to perform essential functions and activities, and to reconstitute normal agency operations after the emergency. To the extent possible, agencies should regularly update duplicate records or back-up electronic files.

Protection of Government Resources:

Essential functions are those that enable county/municipal agencies to provide vital services, exercise civil authority, maintain the safety and well-being of the general populace, and sustain the industrial/economic base in emergencies. The success of agency operations at an alternate facility is absolutely dependent upon the availability and redundancy of critical communications systems to support connectivity to internal organizations, other agencies, critical customers, and the public. When identifying communications requirements, agencies should take maximum advantage of the entire spectrum of communications media likely to be available in any emergency situation. These services may include, but are not limited to, secure and/or non-secure voice, fax, and data connectivity, internet access, and e-mail.

Continuity of Operations (COOP)

The identification of individual department/agency activities and sub-components are key to ensure that essential COOP functions critical to County functions are performed. Agencies are required to:

- Establish COOP plans and procedures that delineate mission essential functions.
- Specify succession to office and the emergency delegation of authority.
- Provide for the safekeeping of vital records and databases.
- Identify alternate operating facilities.
- Provide for interoperable communications.
- Validate the capability to continue essential functions through tests, training, and exercises.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Primary - The Mineral County EOC is the facility from which support to on-scene response to emergencies is coordinated. The EOC is staffed by representatives of county/municipal agencies and other personnel, as required.
Alternate - All county/municipal agencies should prepare for the possibility of unannounced relocation of the County EOC, essential functions and/or continuity of government contingency staffs to alternate facilities. Alternate facilities should be capable of supporting operations in a threat-free environment, as determined by the geographical location of the facility, a favorable assessment of the local threat, and/or the collective protection characteristics of the facility.
Additionally, all county/municipal agencies, regardless of location, are encouraged to have in place a viable COOP capability for continued performance of all essential functions from alternate operating sites during any emergency or situation that may disrupt normal operations. *Example: If EOC is located in the BOCC or Town Council meeting room, their regular scheduled meetings will be relocated to another location.*

Mineral County lacks a dedicated facility for an EOC at present. Various facilities at various locations have been identified for possible use, depending on incident type, location, and duration. These include, but are not limited to;

- Commissioner's Superior (another room in the courthouse would be used for BOCC meetings for the duration of the incident).
- Fire Department facilities where available and suitable with the permission of the Fire Chief of the Department.
- St. Regis Work Center, U.S. Forest Service (requires permission from USFS, often used for large fire camp).
- Savenac Nursery, Haugan, U. S. Forest Service (requires permission from USFS)
- Local school buildings (when school not in session, with permission of Superintendent).

INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Information Planning:

In order to effectively respond to disasters affecting Mineral County, the County DES Coordinator should develop facts and assumptions that allow for the effective collection of disaster intelligence for response and recovery operations. The areas that should be considered when developing response and recovery plans are detailed below.

- The type of disaster determines the overall response to the event. Specific plans for several hazards are in place and outline the approach Mineral County should take as it responds.
- The severity of the disaster should determine how Mineral County will respond. Computer based planning aids such as Hazards United States (HAZUS) allow planners to estimate damages from natural hazards disasters based on severity.
- The possible effects on the citizenry are critical information in planning for medical and sheltering requirements both pre- and post-events. The prepositioning of medicines, response personnel and the opening of shelters require complete and accurate information.
- Critical infrastructure damage information is important so that resources may be prioritized in order to restore key infrastructure facilities and equipment.
- Resources available for response at all levels of government are vital in emergency planning. Their location, capabilities, quantity and response time is information needed in order to develop action plans, identify shortfalls and manage resources.

Information Flow

As disaster data is obtained in the field, or other sources, it is made available to the DES Coordinator or the EOC Manager. The data is analyzed and validated to produce the

intelligence necessary to provide a common operating picture to response agencies, policy makers, and the general public. Information flow is dependent upon the activation level of the EOC.

In the event the EOC is not activated at the time of the disaster, data will be received from sources throughout Mineral County. The DES Coordinator will notify county/municipal agencies and departments, ESF coordinators, and volunteer groups as required for further action.
When the EOC is activated, disaster data should flow internally between and among various sources including county/municipal agencies, mutual aid partners, and personnel in the field. Information received is disseminated and acted upon in accordance with the ESF-15 – Public Information

Public Information Dissemination

Providing emergency information to the public and all levels of government is essential to avoid or minimize loss of life and property if a disaster is imminent or has occurred.

Warning of emergency-related events includes information and reports and the surveillance of threatening conditions. Mineral County's warning communication capabilities include:

- Land-line telephone system
- Cellular phones
- Satellite phones
- Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN)
- E-911
- National Warning System (NAWAS), as backup if CJIN unavailable
- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- County Website
- Town Hall Meetings

The DES Coordinator should coordinate with all appropriate departments/agencies and organizations for timely warning readiness in case of a human-caused or natural disaster or emergency. Personnel and facilities shall be organized and exercised to provide warning capability on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

In the event of an imminent or actual disaster, DES Coordinator should initiate actions to warn agencies and departments by all means necessary.

The DES Coordinator should maintain surveillance of storms and severe weather using the web, including National Weather Sites and e-mail. This information should be communicated to county/municipal government as needed.

Notification to mutual aid county emergency management organizations should be initiated whenever the potential for an emergency exists.

Alternate warning systems should be developed maintained and tested for use in the event that the existing primary system is damaged and rendered inoperable.

Specific public information functions and program details are outlined in *ESF 15 – Public Information.*

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

A large scale emergency or disaster will place great demands on the resources of Mineral County. Distribution of required resources may be made more difficult by the emergency itself. Initially, priority for the distribution of supplies should be given to food, water and medication. Additional requirements should be identified and resources provided as soon as possible. Coordination between Mineral County and mutual aid partners is essential for an effective response. Administrative procedures should be conducted in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

Logistics

All agreements and understandings entered into for the purchase, lease, or otherwise use of equipment and services should be in accordance with the provision of Montana law and procedures. The declaration of a local emergency, issued by the BOCC, or Town Council may suspend selected rules and regulations that impede emergency response and recovery operations.
For major/catastrophic events, a logistical staging area will be established.

Funding and Accounting:

Costs of response and recovery from human caused incidents are usually paid by the "responsible party", or their insurance agency. If no "responsible party" can be identified, or if they have no means or insurance to pay, the local government may have to pay the costs.
Local Government is responsible for the costs of emergencies up to the value of a two mill levy. If an incident exceeds that amount a disaster declaration will be made by the Local Government and emergency financial assistance will be requested. Towns may request assistance from the County and the County may request assistance from the State of Montana.

Federal and/or state funds may be made available to the County or Town pursuant to an emergency or disaster program. Use of federal or state funds is subject to audit and verification by government auditors. County and Town government will establish systems to report on and account for any public funds used for emergency or disaster purposes. During disaster operations, all county/Town agencies must:

- Maintain records of all expenditures to provide clear and reasonable justification for budget requests or reimbursement.
- Develop procedures so financial records clearly and unambiguously identify disaster-related expenditures.
- Use available resources and personnel to cope with the emergency situation.
- Maintain sight of the mission when taking actions and incurring costs.

- Required reports should be submitted to the appropriate authorities in accordance with instructions in annexes to this plan.
- All records of emergency management activities should be maintained at the EOC.

Liability of Public Employees and Officials

Montana's Tort Claims Act is found in Chapter 9, Title 2, Montana Code Annotated. It makes it clear that public officers and employees are not personally liable for any negligent torts committed in the course of their employment. The law mandates that the appropriate governmental employer be joined as a party to any negligence lawsuits against employees and further requires that employee's judgment and legal expenses be paid by the governmental entity. See also 2-9-101 and 2-9-305, Montana Code Annotated.

Protection of the Environment

All actions taken pursuant to repair and restoration by a government agency, individual, or private entity will comply with state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding the environment.

Consumer Protection

Consumer complaints pertaining to alleged unfair or illegal business practices would be referred to the Montana Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

Use of Local Firms

When major disaster assistance activities are carried out by contract or agreement with private organizations, firms or individuals, preference will be given, to the extent feasible and workable, to those organizations, firms and individuals residing or doing business primarily in the areas affected.

Nondiscrimination

Discrimination against persons on the basis of age, color, economic status, nationality, race, religion, sex or handicap in the administration of emergency services or disaster relief is prohibited. This policy applies to all levels of government, contractors, and labor unions. Complaints of discrimination in emergency operations or disaster relief will be made to the local emergency management organizations for investigation and further action.

Duplication of Benefits

No person will receive assistance with respect to any loss for which he has received financial assistance under any other program or for which he/she has received insurance or other compensation. This also applies to business concerns or other entities.

After Action Review

In consultation with appropriate support agencies, the agency having primary lead responsibility will develop a written critique report following the conclusion of a significant emergency event/incident or exercise, which will be provided to the DES Coordinator. The critique conducted should entail both written and verbal input from all appropriate participants, including field personnel.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Governing officials, dedicated citizens, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) developed this Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for Mineral County. All individuals and organizations with assignments or responsibilities in the plan will be notified and made aware of the plan and their responsibilities. Participants have agreed to perform emergency response functions to the best of their ability within the guidelines provided.

It is intended that this EOP be the primary outline for emergency or disaster operations.

PLAN MAINTENANCE

The DES Coordinator, with assistance from the LEPC, will be responsible for keeping this plan up-to-date by an annual review. Following any exercise or actual emergency or disaster, the Coordinator will compare response activities with the appropriate sections of the plan to determine if operations were within the spirit of the plan. The Coordinator or the LEPC may call a meeting of response personnel in order to adjust the plan to reflect emergency actions, or recommend changes in procedure to improve effectiveness.

This plan will be revised whenever any significant change occurs, or if there is a proposal received that will enhance emergency response capability.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

For the County's emergency management program to be successful, an effective and comprehensive training and exercise program is essential.

The County's training program should ensure the operational readiness of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and local governmental responders.

Training should include emergency management courses, and professional development seminars and workshops. In addition, hazard and function specific exercises should be conducted to test established plans and procedures that are activated during an emergency situation at all levels of the emergency management system.

APPENDIX 1: AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

Authorities and Directives

Various statutory authorities, regulations and policies provide the basis for actions and activities in the context of domestic incident management. Nothing in the EOP alters the existing authorities of individual departments and agencies. The EOP establishes the coordinating structures, processes, and protocols required to integrate the specific statutory and policy authorities of various departments and agencies in a collective framework for action to include preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities.

Local

- Homeland Security Strategic Plan
- Mineral County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (2005)
- Wildland Fire Operating Plan
- Wildfire Evacuation Plan
- Terrorism Plan
- Mineral County Hazardous Material Plan
- NIMS Plan

State

- Montana Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, 2004. The State's emergency response framework which adopts the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the state's official disaster and emergency management model. This system is used to develop Montana's approach to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, domestic incidents, regardless of the cause, size, or complexity.
- State of Montana Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and State-wide Hazard Assessment, 2007. Developed to comply with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be updated every three years.
- Montana Homeland Security Strategic Plan (2003), developed with the purpose to "identify strategic direction for enhancing local, tribal, regional, and state capability and capacity to prevent and reduce Montana's vulnerability to Weapons of Mass Destruction terrorism incidents".
- Montana Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) Plan (2006), an agency-wide effort to ensure the continued performance of essential government functions during times of natural disaster, security intrusions and/or acts of terrorism.

- Montana State Homeland Security Strategy (2010) developed to provide overall direction for enhancing local, tribal, regional, and state capability and capacity to prepare against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all-hazard incidents including man-caused disasters.
- Human Disease and Public Health Pandemic Influenza Emergency Plan (2006) describes preparedness efforts for responding to an outbreak and having measures in place to protect citizens.
- Montana Floodplain Management Strategic Plan, for mapping and coordinating the management of floodplains under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Map Modernization Program.
- Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 20-1-401 "Disaster drills to be conducted regularly (School) districts to identify disaster risks and adopt school safety plan".

Federal

- National Response Framework (NRF). This plan establishes a comprehensive all hazards approach to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents. It forms the basis of how federal departments and agencies will work together and how the federal government will coordinate with state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector during incidents. It establishes protocols to help protect the nation from terrorist attacks and other major disasters.
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) – 5: Management of Domestic Incidents. This directive is intended to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, *Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection*, December 17, 2003.
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) – 8: National Preparedness. This directive establishes policies to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent and respond to threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies requiring a national domestic all-hazards preparedness goal, establishing mechanisms for improved delivery of federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments, and outlining actions to strengthen preparedness capabilities of federal, state, and local entities.
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8, Annex I, *National Planning*, February 2008.
- National Incident Management System (NIMS). A system mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, local and tribal governments; the private sector; and non-governmental organizations to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.
- Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, Public Law 88-352
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112.
- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Public Law 106-390.
- Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135. This Act established the Department of Homeland Security with the mandate and legal authority to protect the American people from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

- Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, Public Law 109-295.
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-161.
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, Public Law 110-325.
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, as amended, 42 U.S.C., Public Law 93-288, as amended by Public Law 100-707. This act provides the authority for the provisioning of disaster relief and assistance by the federal government. It also establishes roles and responsibilities for state and local governments during federally declared emergencies and disasters.
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, 42 U. S.C. 5121, et seq., as amended.
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Chapter 1, Federal Agency, October 1, 2009. Emergency Management
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. (Public Law 99-499, October 17, 1986), Title III of the Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act (SARA). This federal legislation outlines the requirements for emergency planning and notifications pertaining to emergencies involving hazardous materials (HAZMAT).
- FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101. Establishes non-regulatory guidance for developing and maintaining state, territorial, tribal, and local government Emergency Operations Plans.
- Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006, Public Law 109-308.
- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Public Law 99-149, as amended.
- Executive Order 13166, *Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency*, August 11, 2000.
- Executive Order 13347, *Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness*, July 26, 2004.
- National Security Presidential Directive 51/ Homeland Security Presidential Directive 20, *National Continuity Policy*, May 4, 2007.

References:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 2009. Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101. Developing and Maintaining State, Territorial, Tribal and Local Government Emergency Plans. March, 2009.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Mineral County, Montana. March, 2011.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010. Demographic Information.

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

Acronyms

AAR After-Action Report
CBRNE Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive
CERT Community Emergency Response Team
CIKR Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources
CJIN Criminal Justice Information Network
CDC Center for Disease Control
COG Continuity of Government
CONOPS Concept of Operations
COOP Continuity of Operations
CPG Comprehensive Preparedness Guide
DAP Disaster Assistance Policy
DES Disaster and Emergency Services
DHS U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DPHHS Montana Department of Health and Human Resources
EAS Emergency Alert System
EMS Emergency Medical Services
EOC Emergency Operations Center
EOP Emergency Operations Plan
ESF Emergency Support Function
FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOG Field Operations Guide
HAZMAT Hazardous Material(s)
HAZUS Hazards United States
IC Incident Commander
ICS Incident Command System
ICP Incident Command Post
IMT Incident Management Team
JFO Joint Field Office
JIC Joint Information Center
LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee
MAA Mutual Aid Agreement
MOA Memorandum of Agreement
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
NAWAS National Warning System
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
NIMS National Incident Management System
NRF National Response Framework
NRP National Response Plan
PDM Pre Disaster Mitigation
P.L. Public law
SOG Standard Operating Guideline
SOP Standard Operating Procedure
U.S.C. United States Code
VFD Volunteer Fire Department

Glossary

Access and Functional Needs

Those actions, services, accommodations, and programmatic, architectural, and communication modifications that a covered entity must undertake or provide to afford individuals with disabilities a full and equal opportunity to use and enjoy programs, services, activities, goods, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations in the most integrated setting. These actions are in light of the exigent circumstances of the emergency and the legal obligation to undertake advance planning and prepare to meet the disability-related needs of individuals who have disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110-325, and those associated with them.

Access and functional needs may include modifications to programs, policies, procedures, architecture, equipment, services, supplies, and communication methods. Examples of "access and functional needs" services may include a reasonable modification of a policy, practice, or procedure or the provision of auxiliary aids and services to achieve effective communication, including but not limited to:

An exception for service animals in an emergency shelter where there is a no-pets policy

The provision of way-finding assistance to someone who is blind to orient to new surroundings

The transferring and provision of toileting assistance to an individual with a mobility disability

The provision of an interpreter to someone who is deaf and seeks to fill out paperwork for public benefits.

American Red Cross

A nongovernmental humanitarian organization led by volunteers that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. The American Red Cross accomplishes this through services that are consistent with its Congressional Charter and the Principles of the International Red Cross Movement.

Attack

A hostile action taken against the United States by foreign forces or terrorists, resulting in the destruction of or damage to military targets, injury or death to the civilian population, or damage to or destruction of public and private property.

Capabilities-based Planning

Planning, under uncertainty, to provide capabilities suitable for a wide range of threats and hazards while working within an economic framework that necessitates prioritization and choice. Capabilities-based planning addresses uncertainty by analyzing a wide range of scenarios to identify required capabilities.

Checklist

Written (or computerized) enumeration of actions to be taken by an individual or organization meant to aid memory rather than provide detailed instruction.

Citizen Corps

A community-based program, administered by FEMA, which includes Citizen Corps councils and other programs that bring government and nongovernmental entities together to conduct all-hazards emergency preparedness and operations. Through its network of state, territorial, tribal and local councils, Citizen Corps increases community preparedness and response capabilities through collaborative planning, public education, outreach, training, and volunteer service. Additionally, programs like the Community Emergency Response Team Program train members of the public in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Community

Community has more than one definition. Each use depends on the context:

A political or geographical entity that has the authority to adopt and enforce laws and ordinances for the area under its jurisdiction. In most cases, the community is an incorporated town, city, township, village, or unincorporated area of a county. However, each state defines its own political subdivisions and forms of government.

A group of individuals (community of interest) who have a religion, a lifestyle, activity interests, an interest in volunteer organizations, or other characteristics in common. These communities may belong to more than one geographic community. Examples include: faith-based and social organizations; nongovernmental and volunteer organizations; private service providers; critical infrastructure operators; and local and regional corporations.

Consequence

An effect of an incident or occurrence.

Dam

A barrier built across a watercourse for the purpose of impounding, controlling, or diverting the flow of water.

Damage Assessment

The process used to appraise or determine the number of injuries and deaths, damage to public and private property, and status of key facilities and services (e.g., hospitals and other health care facilities, fire and police stations, communications networks, water and sanitation systems, utilities, transportation networks) resulting from a human-caused or natural disaster.

Disability

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the term "individual with a disability" refers to "a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is regarded by others as having such an impairment." The term

"disability" has the same meaning as that used in the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110-325, as incorporated into the Americans with Disabilities Act. See http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm for the definition and specific changes to the text of the Americans with Disabilities Act. State laws and local ordinances may also include individuals outside the Federal definition.

Disaster

An occurrence of a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human-caused incident that has resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries. As used in this Guide, a "large-scale disaster" is one that exceeds the response capability of the local jurisdiction and requires state, and potentially Federal, involvement. As used in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), a "major disaster" is "any natural catastrophe [...] or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under [the] Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby" (Stafford Act, Sec. 102(2), 42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).

Earthquake

The sudden motion or trembling of the ground produced by abrupt displacement of rock masses, usually within the upper 10 to 20 miles of the earth's surface.

Emergency

Any incident, whether natural or human-caused, that requires responsive action to protect life or property. Under the Stafford Act, an emergency "means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States" (Stafford Act, Sec. 102(1), 42 U.S.C. 5122(1)).

Emergency Assistance

According to the National Response Framework, emergency assistance is "[a]ssistance required by individuals, families, and their communities to ensure that immediate needs beyond the scope of the traditional 'mass care' services provided at the local level are addressed. These services include: support to evacuations (including registration and tracking of evacuees); reunification of families; provision of aid and services to special needs populations; evacuation, sheltering, and other emergency services for household pets and services animals; support to specialized shelters; support to medical shelters; nonconventional shelter management; coordination of donated goods and services; and coordination of voluntary agency assistance."

Emergency Medical Services

Services, including personnel, facilities, and equipment, required to ensure proper medical care for the sick and injured from the time of injury to the time of final disposition (which includes medical disposition within a hospital, temporary medical facility, or special care facility; release from the site; or being declared dead). Further, emergency

medical services specifically includes those services immediately required to ensure proper medical care and specialized treatment for patients in a hospital and coordination of related hospital services.

Emergency Operations Center

The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. An Emergency Operations Center may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. Emergency Operations Centers may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., Federal, state, tribal, regional, city, county), or by some combination thereof.

Emergency Operations Plan

The ongoing plan maintained by various jurisdictional levels for responding to a wide variety of potential hazards. It describes how people and property will be protected; details who is responsible for carrying out specific actions; identifies the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available; and outlines how all actions will be coordinated.

Emergency Support Function

Used by the Federal Government and many state governments as the primary mechanism at the operational level to organize and provide assistance. Emergency Support Functions align categories of resources and provide strategic objectives for their use. Emergency Support Functions use standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventorying, and tracking to facilitate the dispatch, deployment, and recovery of resources before, during, and after an incident.

Evacuation

The organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

A spontaneous evacuation occurs when residents or citizens in the threatened areas observe an incident or receive unofficial word of an actual or perceived threat and, without receiving instructions to do so, elect to evacuate the area. Their movement, means, and direction of travel are unorganized and unsupervised.

A voluntary evacuation is a warning to persons within a designated area that a threat to life and property exists or is likely to exist in the immediate future. Individuals issued this type of warning or order are *not required* to evacuate; however, it would be to their advantage to do so.

A mandatory or directed evacuation is a warning to persons within the designated area that an imminent threat to life and property exists and individuals *must* evacuate in accordance with the instructions of local officials.

Evacuees

All persons removed or moving from areas threatened or struck by a disaster.

Federal Coordinating Officer

The official appointed by the President to execute Stafford Act authorities, including the commitment of FEMA resources and mission assignments of other Federal departments or agencies. In all cases, the Federal Coordinating Officer represents the FEMA Administrator in the field to discharge all FEMA responsibilities for the response and recovery efforts underway. For Stafford Act incidents, the Federal Coordinating Officer is the primary Federal representative with whom the State Coordinating Officer and other response officials interface to determine the most urgent needs and to set objectives for an effective response in collaboration with the Unified Coordination Group.

Flood

A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from overflow of inland or tidal waters, unusual or rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters, or mudslides/mudflows caused by accumulation of water.

Governor's Authorized Representative

An individual empowered by a Governor to: (1) execute all necessary documents for disaster assistance on behalf of the state, including certification of applications for public assistance; (2) represent the Governor of the impacted state in the Unified Coordination Group, when required; (3) coordinate and supervise the state disaster assistance program to include serving as its grant administrator; and (4) identify, in coordination with the State Coordinating Officer, the state's critical information needs for incorporation into a list of Essential Elements of Information.

Hazard

A natural, technological, or human-caused source or cause of harm or difficulty.

Hazardous Material

Any substance or material that, when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. These substances and materials include explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizers, toxins, and corrosive materials.

Household Pet

According to FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9253.19, "[a] domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle, that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes." This definition is used by FEMA to determine assistance that FEMA will reimburse and is the definition used in the production of this Guide. Individual jurisdictions may have different definitions based on other criteria.

Hurricane

A tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or eye. Circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Incident

An occurrence or event—natural, technological, or human-caused—that requires a response to protect life, property, or the environment (e.g., major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, civil unrest, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, tsunamis, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, other occurrences requiring an emergency response).

Incident Command System

A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. The Incident Command System is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure and designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small, as well as large and complex, incidents. The Incident Command System is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.

Incident Management Assistance Team

A national-based or regional-based team composed of SMEs and incident management professionals, usually composed of personnel from multiple Federal departments and agencies, which provide incident management support during a major incident.

Joint Field Office

The primary Federal incident management field structure. The Joint Field Office is a temporary Federal facility that provides a central location for the coordination of Federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local governments and private sector and nongovernmental organizations with primary responsibility for response and recovery. The Joint Field Office structure is organized, staffed, and managed in a manner consistent with National Incident Management System principles and is led by the Unified Coordination Group. Although the Joint Field Office uses an Incident Command System structure, the Joint Field Office does not manage on-scene operations. Instead, the Joint Field Office focuses on providing support to on-scene efforts and conducting broader support operations that may extend beyond the incident site.

Joint Information Center

A facility established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news media. Public information officials from all participating agencies should co-locate at the Joint Information Center.

Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction has more than one definition. Each use depends on the context:

A range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g., city, county, tribal, state, or Federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., law enforcement, public health).

A political subdivision (e.g., Federal, state, county, parish, municipality) with the responsibility for ensuring public safety, health, and welfare within its legal authorities and geographic boundaries.

Likelihood

Estimate of the potential for an incident's occurrence.

Limited English Proficiency

Persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

Mass Care

The actions that are taken to protect evacuees and other disaster victims from the effects of the disaster. Activities include mass evacuation, mass sheltering, mass feeding, access and functional needs support, and household pet and service animal coordination.

Mitigation

Activities providing a critical foundation in the effort to reduce the loss of life and property from natural and/or human-caused disasters by avoiding or lessening the impact of a disaster and providing value to the public by creating safer communities. Mitigation seeks to fix the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. These activities or actions, in most cases, will have a long-term sustained effect.

National Incident Management System

A set of principles that provides a systematic, proactive approach guiding government agencies at all levels, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life or property and harm to the environment.

National Response Framework

This document establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. It serves as a guide to enable responders at all levels of government and beyond to provide a unified national response to a disaster. It defines the key principles, roles, and structures that organize the way U.S. jurisdictions plan and respond.

Nongovernmental Organization

An entity with an association that is based on the interests of its members, individuals, or institutions. It is not created by a government, but it may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose and are not for private benefit. Examples of nongovernmental organizations include faith-based charity organizations and the American Red Cross.

Planning Assumptions

Parameters that are expected and used as a context, basis, or requirement for the development of response and recovery plans, processes, and procedures. If a planning assumption is not valid for a specific incident's circumstances, the plan may not be adequate to ensure response success. Alternative methods may be needed. For example, if a decontamination capability is based on the planning assumption that the facility is not within the zone of release, this assumption must be verified at the beginning of the response.

Preparedness

Actions that involve a combination of planning, resources, training, exercising, and organizing to build, sustain, and improve operational capabilities. Preparedness is the process of identifying the personnel, training, and equipment needed for a wide range of potential incidents, and developing jurisdiction-specific plans for delivering capabilities when needed for an incident.

Prevention

Actions to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Protected Group

A group of people qualified for special protection by a law, policy, or similar authority. For example, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects against discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.

Protection

Actions to reduce or eliminate a threat to people, property, and the environment. Primarily focused on adversarial incidents, the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources is vital to local jurisdictions, national security, public health and safety, and economic vitality. Protective actions may occur before, during, or after an incident and prevent, minimize, or contain the impact of an incident.

Recovery

The development, coordination, and execution of service and site restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private sector, nongovernmental, and public assistance programs to provide housing and to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; post-incident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

Resource Management

A system for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely, efficient, and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident. Resource management under the National Incident Management System includes mutual aid and assistance agreements; the use of special Federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local teams; and resource mobilization protocols.

Response

Immediate actions to save and sustain lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of plans and actions to support short-term recovery.

Risk

The potential for an unwanted outcome resulting from an incident or occurrence, as determined by its likelihood and the associated consequences.

Risk Analysis

A systematic examination of the components and characteristics of risk.

Risk Assessment

A product or process that collects information and assigns values to risks for the purpose of informing priorities, developing or comparing courses of action, and informing decision making.

Risk Identification

The process of finding, recognizing, and describing potential risks.

Risk Management

The process of identifying, analyzing, assessing, and communicating risk and accepting, avoiding, transferring, or controlling it to an acceptable level at an acceptable cost.

Scenario

Hypothetical situation composed of a hazard, an entity impacted by that hazard, and associated conditions including consequences when appropriate.

Scenario-based Planning

A planning approach that uses a hazard vulnerability assessment to assess the hazard's impact on an organization on the basis of various threats that the organization could encounter. These threats (e.g., hurricane, terrorist attack) become the basis of the scenario.

Senior Official

The elected or appointed official who, by statute, is charged with implementing and administering laws, ordinances, and regulations for a jurisdiction. He or she may be a mayor, city manager, etc.

Service Animal

Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to assist an individual with a disability. Service animals' jobs include, but are not limited to:

Guiding individuals with impaired vision or individuals with impaired hearing

Pulling a wheelchair

Retrieving dropped items

Alerting people of impending seizures

Assisting people who have mobility disabilities with balance or stability.

Standard Operating Procedure/Guideline

A reference document or operations manual that provides the purpose, authorities, duration, and details for the preferred method of performing a single function or a number of interrelated functions in a uniform manner.

State Coordinating Officer

The individual appointed by the Governor to coordinate state disaster assistance efforts with those of the Federal Government. The State Coordinating Officer plays a critical role in managing the state response and recovery operations following Stafford Act declarations. The Governor of the affected state appoints the State Coordinating Officer, and lines of authority flow from the Governor to the State Coordinating Officer, following the state's policies and laws.

Storm Surge

A dome of sea water created by strong winds and low barometric pressure in a hurricane that causes severe coastal flooding as the hurricane strikes land.

Terrorism

Activity that involves an act that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States; and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

Tornado

A local atmospheric storm, generally of short duration, formed by winds rotating at very high speeds, usually in a counter-clockwise direction. The vortex, up to several hundred yards wide, is visible to the observer as a whirlpool-like column of winds rotating about a hollow cavity or funnel. Winds can be as low as 65 miles per hour, but may reach 300 miles per hour or higher.

Tsunami

Sea waves produced by an undersea earthquake. Such sea waves can reach a significant height resulting in damage or devastation to coastal cities and low-lying coastal areas.

Uncertainty

The degree to which a calculated, estimated, or observed value may deviate from the true value.

Vulnerability

A physical feature or operational attribute that renders an entity open to exploitation or susceptible to a given hazard.

Warning

The alerting of emergency response personnel and the public to the threat of extraordinary danger and the related effects that specific hazards may cause.