

SECTION II

FERGUS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Command and Control contains information on response and recovery efforts. This includes the National Incident Management System, Emergency Response Matrix and extra ordinary powers

2019

Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

SECTION II

COMMAND AND CONTROL

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was adopted in Fergus County in 2004 by the Fergus County Local Emergency Planning Committee, The Fergus County Board of Commissioners and The City of Lewistown.

NIMS is a comprehensive national approach to incident management that is applicable to all jurisdictions and across all functional disciplines. The intent of NIMS is to be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents and hazards regardless of size or complexity. It will enhance coordination and cooperation of all entities involved in a variety of domestic incidents management activities.

NIMS provides a framework for interoperability and compatibility by balancing flexibility and standardization.

NIMS Components:

There are several components that provide a framework for preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from emergency and disaster incidents.

These components include:

- Command and management.
- Preparedness.
- Resource management.
- Communications and information management.
- Supporting technologies.
- Ongoing management and maintenance.

NIMS employs two levels of incident management structures, depending on the nature of the incident; and provides for strategic coordination.

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION

Multi-agency Coordination Systems (MACS) are a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common framework coordinating and supporting incident management.

Multi-agency Coordination Entities:

- Ensure that each agency is providing situation and resource status information.
- Establish priorities between incidents and /or Area Commands.
- Acquire and allocate resources required by incident management personnel.
- Coordinate and identify future resource requirements.
- Coordinate and resolve policy issues.
- Provide Strategic coordination.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

Incident Command System (ICS) is an on scene all-hazard incident management system. ICS is interdisciplinary and organizationally flexible to meet the needs of any incident.

ICS Features:

- Common terminology.
- Organizational resources.
- Manageable span of control.
- Organizational facilities.
- Use of position titles.
- Reliance on an Incident Action Plan.
- Integrated communications.
- Accountability.

Unified Command is an application of ICS that is used when:

- There is more than one responding agency with responsibility for an incident.
- Incidents cross-political jurisdictions.

Under Unified Command agencies work together to analyze intelligence information and establish a common set of objectives and strategies.

Area Commands: are used when incidents are not site specific or are geographically dispersed. Area commands may become a unified Area Command when incidents are multi-jurisdictional. Area Commands are established to:

- Oversee the management of multiple incidents.
- Oversee the management of large incidents that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

ASSIGNMENT:

The County Commissioners/Mayor/Chief Executive Officer may assign incident command responsibility for a specific disaster to an agency officially judged to be best suited to respond.

- Such assignments shall follow statutory responsibilities when applicable.
- Assignments shall be based on consideration of the following factors:
 - Specific and implied statutory responsibility;
 - Expertise of the official and agency personnel;
 - Resources of the agency – equipment, materials and personnel; and
 - Willingness of the selected official to assume responsibility.

INCIDENT COMMANDER

Has overall management responsibility at the incident and establishes priorities based on the nature of the incident, available resources, and local policies; oversees tactical operations; assigns command staff and general staff as needed during the incident; implements Emergency Operations Procedures; authorizes media releases and media access and normally operates from the Incident Command Post (ICP) at the scene.

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SAFETY OFFICER

Monitors incident safety conditions both present and future, identifies unsafe conditions or practices, ensures safety compliance requirements are met, and develops measures for assuring the safety of all assigned personnel.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

A public information officer acts as the point of contact for the media or other organizations seeking information from the incident and coordinates the release of information about the incident.

LIAISON OFFICER

The liaison officer acts as primary contact between agencies to coordinate their involvement in the incident.

OPERATIONS

Develops the tactical organization and directs resources to carry out the action plan and coordinates the activities of the response units.

PLANNING

Develops the incident action plan to accomplish the incident objectives. Collects, records, and evaluates incident information and damage assessment information, and maintains status of assigned resources and significant incident events. Plans the mobilization and demobilization.

LOGISTICS

Provides or arranges for resources and services to support the incident (on-scene and EOC), including facilities, food, supplies, equipment, services, and other items.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

Monitors and tracks costs related to the incident, provides accounting, procurement, time recording, cost analysis, and overall fiscal guidance. Arranges administrative support.

TECHNICAL EXPERT

Certain incidents or events may require the use of Technical specialists who are individuals with specialized knowledge and expertise in a particular area and whose role

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in the response has not been previously planned for. There are no pre-determined qualifications as technical specialists, rather they should be experts in their field of work.

Extra-Ordinary Powers

PURPOSE:

In some instances there may be a need to exercise powers beyond the scope of the Incident Commander. These events must endanger the safety and well-being of the public, responders or there is an inability to locate the individual with the authority to exercise the power.

- Incident commanders decide when to use an extraordinary power.
- Notwithstanding questions of authority, Incident Commanders have a duty to immediately and unilaterally use powers identified in these Guidelines 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 the measures needed to 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.

DIRECTION, CONTROL COORDINATION

Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan assigns coordination, primary or supporting responsibilities to departments and agencies in the jurisdiction. The primary agency has significant authorities, roles, resources or capabilities related to a specific hazard or Emergency Support Function. Support agencies are those agencies with specific capabilities or resources that support the Primary agency in executing its mission during an emergency.

Normally, activation of the jurisdictions' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will result in the activation of the affected Emergency Support Function(s) (ESF). The EOC may sometimes co-locate at the Incident Command Post (ICP) during a single incident and coordinate support for the Incident Commander. However, during area emergencies involving multiple incidents or other resource/logistics demands; the EOC will serve as the location of Unified Command and will allocate additional support and replacement of the exhausted resources.