

The information contained in this Executive Summary has been taken directly from the Nueces County Emergency Management which has been designated as a CONFIDENTIAL document. The below information should be handled accordingly.

NUECES COUNTY ANNEX E- Evacuation

Commissioners Court Executive Summary

The purpose of this annex is to provide for the orderly and coordinated evacuation of all or any part of the population of Nueces County when evacuation is the most effective means available for protecting the population from the effects of an emergency.

Assumptions

- Most people at risk will evacuate when local officials recommend that they do so. A general estimate is 80 percent of those at risk will comply when local officials direct an evacuation. The proportion of the population that will evacuate typically increases as a threat becomes more obvious to the public or increases in severity.
- Some individuals will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat.
- When there is sufficient warning of a significant threat, many individuals who are not at risk will evacuate.
- Evacuation planning for known hazard areas can and should be done in advance.
- While some emergency situations are slow to develop, others occur without warning. Hence, there may be time for deliberate evacuation planning or an evacuation may have to be conducted with minimal preparation time. In the case of short notice evacuations, there may be little time to obtain personnel and equipment from external sources to support evacuation operations.
- The need to evacuate may become evident during the day or at night and there could be little control over the evacuation start time.
- In most emergency situations, the majority of evacuees will seek shelter with relatives or friends or in commercial accommodations rather than in public shelter facilities.
- Most evacuees will use their personal vehicles to evacuate; however, transportation may need to be provided for evacuees without personal vehicles.
- When confronting a major disaster or catastrophic incident, it may be necessary to employ all modes of transportation to include state and/or federal assistance to effectively evacuate our population.

Activities by Phases of Emergency Management

Prevention

- Where possible, undertake mitigation for known hazards causing previous evacuation.
- Discourage development, particularly residential construction, in potential risk areas, including floodplains, areas downstream from suspect dams and dikes, and areas adjacent to facilities that make, use, or store hazardous materials.
- Seek improvement to preplanned evacuation routes if needed.
- Enhance warning systems to increase warning times and reduce the need for hasty evacuations.

Preparedness

- Identify areas where previous major evacuations have occurred and additional areas that may require large-scale evacuation in the future due to known hazards. See Appendix 2 for potential major evacuation areas other than hazardous materials risk areas; hazardous materials risk areas are described in Annex Q, Hazardous Materials & Oil Spill Response. Determine the population of risk areas and identify facilities that may require special assistance during evacuation (hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.) to determine potential transportation requirements.
- To the extent possible, identify individuals with special needs who would require assistance in evacuating and maintain contact information for those individuals.
- Identify primary and alternate evacuation routes, taking into account road capacities.
- Review the disaster preparedness plans of special facilities and advise facility operators of any changes needed to make them more workable.
- Include evacuations in the scenario of periodic emergency drills and exercises.
- Conduct public information programs to increase citizen awareness of possible reasons for evacuation, preplanned evacuation routes, availability of transportation, the need to take appropriate food, clothing, and other disaster supplies during an evacuation, and the desirability of helping neighbors who may need assistance during an evacuation.
- Promulgate procedures for protecting government resources from known hazards by relocating them.

Response

- See the General Evacuation Checklist in Appendix 1.

Recovery

- Initiate return of evacuees, when it is safe to do so.
- Coordinate temporary housing for those who cannot return to their homes.
- Provide traffic control for return.
- Initiate recovery activities for evacuees who have suffered loss of or damage to their homes or businesses.
- Carry out appropriate public information activities.

Organization & Assignment of Responsibilities

General

Our normal emergency organization, described in Section VI.A of the Basic Plan and shown in Attachment 3 to the Basic Plan, will plan and carry out evacuations and the return of people to their homes or businesses.

Task Assignments:

1. County Judge
2. County EMC
3. Law Enforcement
4. Fire Service
5. PIO
6. Public Works Department
7. Transportation Officer
8. Shelter Officer
9. Health and Medical Officer
10. Animal Control