

# SECTION IV

## FERGUS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

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**Hazard Specific Annexes** provide additional detailed information applicable to the performance of functions in the face of a specific hazard.

2019

# Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

## Aircraft Accident

Should an aircraft accident occur in Fergus County, life, health and safety will be of primary importance; and preservation of scene for future investigation will be secondary.

### DEFINITIONS

- Inner Perimeter: The area designated by the Fire-Rescue department (First Fire Department on scene) which encloses the wreckage and Fire-Rescue response activities.
- Outer Perimeter: The area designated by the Operations Section Chief which encloses and extends beyond the inner perimeter to provide sufficient space for the activities indicated in the site diagram.

### INCIDENT COMMAND:

An Aircraft Accident should be handled through a Unified Command with Fire-Rescue and Law Enforcement.

### OPERATING CONCEPT:

Operations for an aircraft accident shall be carried out using the Incident Command System. Fire and Law Enforcement will form a unified command. Medical assistance shall be carried out under standard triage practices. Depending on the type and ownership of the aircraft involved, accidents may require close coordination among a variety of agencies which, by law, have control over some aspects of the incident. These agencies could include, but are not limited to: Department of Military Affairs, National Board of Transportation, Montana Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration. The command structure should prepare to accommodate these agencies.

Notwithstanding the authority of other officials and agencies, the Unified Command will control activities in, and entrance to, the inner perimeter until fires and other hazards are suppressed and will control the outer perimeter. Consistent with site security policies, only authorized emergency service and airport individuals should be allowed on site with a check-in procedure.

### PROCEDURES:

- Alerts and dispatch shall be carried out under existing department policies, 9-1-1 procedures, and mutual aid agreements.
- Wreckage Documentation will be required
- Obtain aircraft registration number
- Obtain number of casualties
- Photograph or video the overall wreckage including cockpit, starting at the initial point of impact if possible.
- Coordinate with proper officials prior to removal of fatalities. Document the part of the scene to be disturbed, including switch/control positions, and instrument/gauge readings.
- People witnessing the incident need to be documented to include contact information.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Working within the Incident Command Structure

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

- Suppression efforts
- Inner perimeter control
- Triage efforts
- Outer perimeter security.
- Reporting incident to proper authority through quickest means available

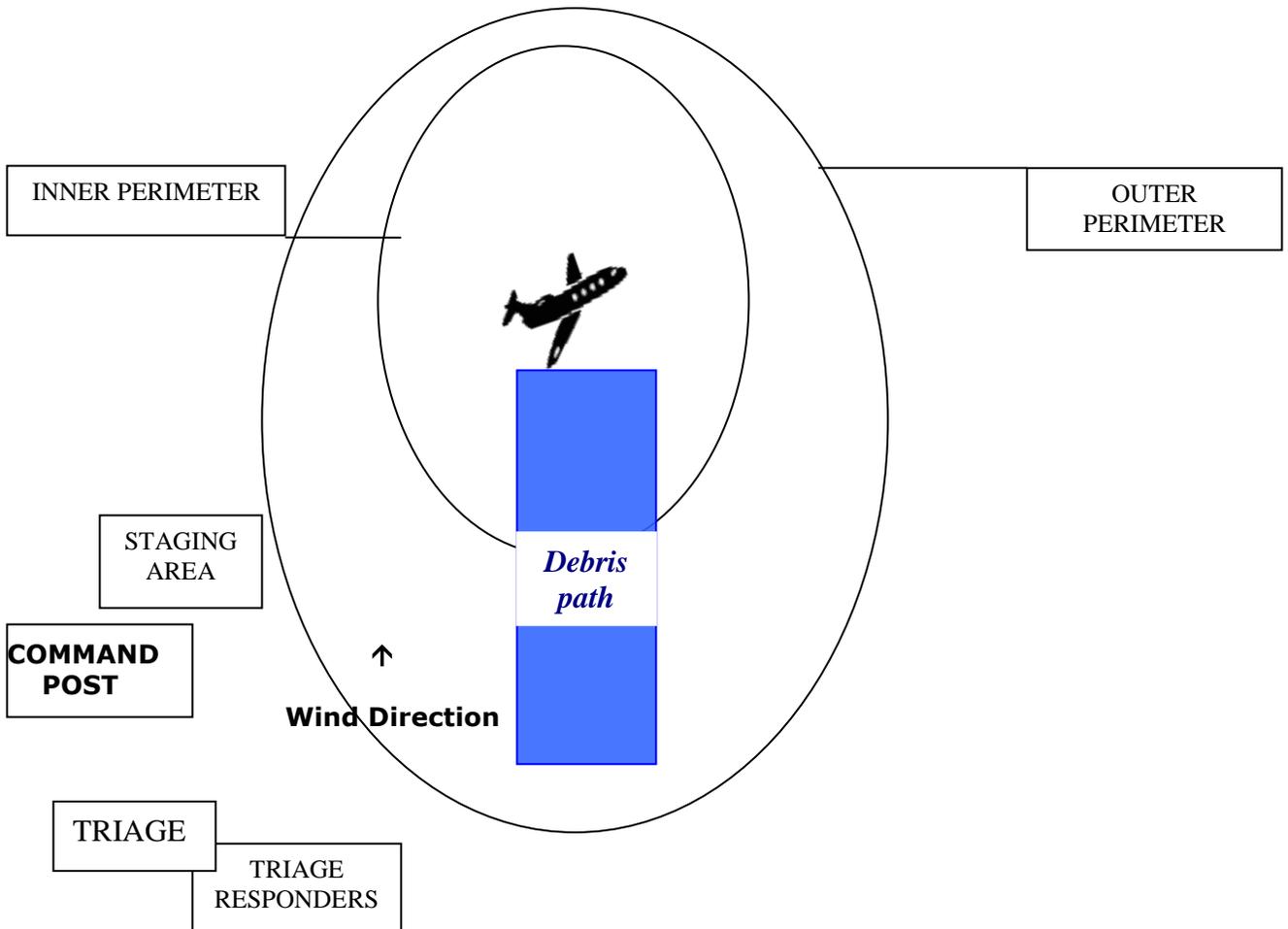
### MILITARY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

- Ensure Montana State DES is aware of the accident. DES will notify the proper military authority.
- Establish a secure perimeter around crash site.
- Refer all news media and photographers' requests to a military information officer.

### IDEAL SITE DIAGRAM FOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Inner Perimeter will contain hazardous materials. Careful control and monitoring of responders will be needed. Inner Perimeter will only be entered for life preservation and contain fire.

Outer Perimeter: Size and shape will be determined by debris pattern. No unauthorized personnel will be allowed past this area. Debris will remain as is. Law enforcement will establish patrols until proper authorities arrive on scene. Contact with the press will be done at the EOC until authorities arrive.



## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Bomb/Explosion

Effective response to a suspected bomb, bomb threat or bombing incidents requires the coordinated efforts of police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and dispatch. Each emergency response organization has its own unique set of objectives and capabilities. The overall success of emergency response operations depends on teamwork in responding to a bombing incident.

If the event is a bomb threat the decision to evacuate a building will be made by the building official with input provided by law enforcement and fire officials.

#### **INCIDENT COMMAND:**

A bomb threat or explosion will involve law enforcement and fire, operations for this type incident should be handled through Unified Command.

- Law enforcement will take the lead role in investigation and area security and evacuation.
- Fire will maintain control of any fire suppression efforts.
- EMTs will triage and transport individuals needing medical attention.
- Coroner will handle body identification and family notification.
- All involved departments to include both dispatch centers, DES, Central Montana Medical Center will have policy and procedures in place for response to these types of incidents.

Additional resources, which should be activated through the DES coordinator, include the Military Bomb Unit and Canine Unit; allowing for correct paperwork and notifications to be made. If Military Units are called directly, contact should still be made to the DES coordinator, for proper request and notification procedures.

#### **OPERATING CONCEPT:**

Most bomb response will focus on three scenarios.

- Pre-Detonation
  - Bomb Threat – credible or not a credible threat
  - Suspicious item observed
  - Evacuation
- Post-Detonation - Detonation has occurred upon notification or initially arrival on scene.
  - Responder Safety
  - Rescue and recovery
  - Scene control
  - Evidence recovery
  - Fire Suppression
  - Investigation
  - Suspect identification
- Continuing Explosive Incidents
  - Responder Safety
  - Release of hostage/victims
  - Fire Suppression
  - On scene medical treatment and evacuation
  - Scene control
  - Evidence recovery
  - Suspect apprehension

## **Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan**

### **Child Abduction/Amber Alert Plan**

In an abduction event, the first three hours after the child is abducted are the most critical. The purpose of this annex is to use all available community resources to facilitate the successful recovery of an abducted child. It is important to establish partnerships with local media in order to immediately broadcast critical information as quickly as possible. It is important to use the Emergency Alert System and the AMBER Alert Activations for a state-wide, nation-wide alerting system.

#### **INCIDENT COMMAND:**

Local Law Enforcement will be the Incident Commander during a child abduction event. Law Enforcement agencies should have procedures for handling the initial investigation.

Other Law Enforcement Agencies, local, state and federal, could be brought in to assist and provide additional man-power.

A Public Information Officer should be appointed as soon as it is confirmed to be an actual abduction. News Media will be asking for continual updates and a process needs to be in place should this become a nation-wide search.

An abduction of a child could possibly become a search and rescue or confined space rescue event. Search and Rescue operates under the request of the Sheriff. Lewistown Fire Rescue have the training and expertise for a confined space rescue.

#### **Montana AMBER Alert Criteria:**

To initiate an AMBER Alert, call 9-1-1 and provides local law enforcement agency the information about a suspected child abduction. To activate the program, all of the following criteria must be met:

- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement that a child has been abducted or has disappeared under suspicious circumstances.
- The missing child is age 17 years or younger, or has a proven mental or physical disability.
- The law enforcement agency believes the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer.

The AMBER Alert system is not used to track runaways, missing children or children involved in custody disputes. The program is restricted to child abduction cases that could be life threatening.

Montana's radio and television stations and law enforcement agencies voluntarily participate in the Montana AMBER Alert program.

## **Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan**

### **Civil Unrest**

A civil disorder event can occur at any time and are unlawful acts of violence by group(s) of two or more persons that causes immediate danger of or results in injury to the property or person(s). Law enforcement will be required to make an appropriate response to return a situation of civil disorder to normal. Various assistance may be required from Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement agencies.

#### **ASSUMPTIONS:**

Local Law Enforcement emergency operations during periods of civil disorder could require an expansion of normal functions and responsibilities. These responsibilities will include maintenance of Law and Order, traffic control, and crowd control ad determined by the IC. Law enforcement will provide security to other elements of local government if that determination is made. Support groups and other Law Enforcement personnel may be used to assist in traffic control and crowd control.

#### **INCIDENT COMMAND:**

Incident Commander will be the local Law Enforcement. In the event that the civil disorder situation becomes large enough to involve multiple Law Enforcement agencies, resources, and jurisdictional areas, the initial Incident Commander should consider the activation of a Unified Command system and a Multi-Agency Coordination Group.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Earthquake

Fergus County is not considered to be vulnerable to major earthquake activity; but secondary earthquake hazards could affect this area. Ground shaking may cause extra-ordinary wave action in lakes or dams. It may trigger an avalanche or land-slides. It can also change the mechanical properties of some fine grained, saturated soils, whereupon they liquefy and act as a fluid. A dramatic reduction in bearing strength of such soils can cause buried utilities to rupture and cause buildings to collapse. The major form of damage from most earthquakes is damage to construction. Bridges are particularly vulnerable to collapse. Dam failure may generate major downstream flooding. Buildings vary in susceptibility, dependent upon construction and the types of soils on which they are built.

#### **INCIDENT COMMAND:**

The need to prioritize response to a variety of incidents may require activation of a Unified Command. Due to the number of scenarios a major earthquake would create, no agency is named to be the Incident Commander. A Unified Command will be set up during the initial operations.

#### **OPERATING CONCEPTS:**

- It is essential for emergency response personnel to take immediate action to obtain damage assessment information. This information is needed to determine the severity and extent of injuries and damages.
- The USGS Website can provide the magnitude of the earthquake which will assist in the assessment process.
- Assessment information will provide decision makers data to prioritize response actions.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

- Removal of materials which block or hamper the performance of emergency response functions should be of highest priority.
- Restoration and repair of electrical power, water, sewer and telephone and other communications systems should be accomplished to minimize the impact on critical services and the public.
- Inspections of buildings and structures which are critical to emergency services operations/mass care activities or may threaten public safety. Designate those that may be occupied and identify/mark those that are unsafe.
- Area dams should be inspected as soon as possible.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ALERTS:**

- The flow of accurate and timely emergency information is critical to the protection of lives and property in the wake of an earthquake.
- Information which should be addressed include survival tips, warnings and advice on the continuing threat of fire, unsafe areas, building collapse, aftershocks and other hazards as may be noted from the assessment.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Flood/Dam Failure

#### DEFINITIONS

- Winter flood: Winter floods are caused by rain storms or unseasonably warm temperatures causing snow melt at lower elevations. Flood will have extreme magnitude and short duration. Ice jams occur frequently. There will be little time for advance preparation.
- Flash flood: Flash floods are caused by locally intense rain storms. Flood will have extreme magnitude and short duration on small drainage areas. There will be no time for advance preparation or flood fighting.
- Annual flood: Annual floods occur during May-June. Magnitude and duration are determined by accumulated snow, temperature during flood period and rain. Attention to these factors will allow a fairly accurate determination of flood potential and advance preparations.

#### INCIDENT COMMAND

The Incident Commander for public safety during a flood is local Law Enforcement with Public Works providing the Technical Assistance in regards to public facilities, streets, bridges and roads.

#### OPERATING CONCEPTS

The Fergus County, Lewistown and all but one incorporated town has qualified the jurisdiction for federal flood insurance. Because this insurance is available at moderate expense to all property owners, there is no programmed assistance to protect/restore private property. However, personnel of emergency service agencies (fire, law enforcement, public works) will provide services for public safety and will follow their own policies in regards to flood response.

Before and during a flood, City/County resources shall be directed at achieving the following objectives:

- Public safety
- Timely public information and warning on flood potential
- The efficient flow of all flood waters through the community
- Monitoring Seasonal flood potential and initiating phased flood fight preparations to protect public facilities, streets, roads and bridges
- Monitoring ice jams and providing public warning to downstream property owners.
- Safety dictates that water rescue be conducted by those individuals who are property equipped and the best trained for this type of operations. The Incident Commander shall assign responsibility for rescue operations
- The public shall not be allowed to sandbag, barricade or in any way obstruct a public right-of-way. If necessary, the Incident Commander shall request assistance to prevent such obstructions.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Hazardous Material Spill/Release

#### DEFINITION

- Hazardous Materials: Chemicals, petroleum products, radiological materials, or biological agents. Included are propane, transformer oil, fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners, solvents, paints or any unidentified substance or container. (Bombs and explosives are handled by law enforcement.)
- Incident: A report of any SUSPICIOUS OR HAZARDOUS substance, container, odor, spill, leak, discolored surface water, fish-kill, vapor, or vehicle accident with a spill or leak or fuel (50 gallons or more).
- Health Officer: an official of the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences or an official of the Central Montana Health District acting as an agent of the State.

#### INCIDENT COMMAND

- The Incident Commander for hazardous material incidents shall be the senior officer (at the scene) of a fire department with Hazardous Material Awareness and Operations level training.
- The Incident Commander shall have the authority and the duty to use all emergency powers and resources available to protect public health and safety.
- The Incident Commander may decide there is a need for a Unified Command; or the need for a Technician level response or a State Hazmat Team.
- A safety officer must be named at the scene of a hazmat incident.
- Law Enforcement will provide assistance to the incident, but without proper training and personal protective equipment they will need to keep at a safe distance (in the cold zone) from the hazardous material.
- Monitoring of personnel vitals will be done by EMS
- Coordinated Public Information releases will be issued to the public and should have consistent and accurate information on health and safety issues. This may be done by a designated PIO or through the EOC or Joint Information Center.

#### GENERAL RESPONSE

**NOTE:** All suspect materials are considered hazardous materials until RESPONSIBLE FIRE DEPARTMENT responds to the scene and determines the nature of the material. Fire department will not take responsibility for any contaminated material. All materials and tools which cannot be decontaminated will be left at the scene for disposal by the responsible party.

##### A. INITIAL RESPONSE

- If possible, the fire department classifies the substance and/or categorizes it as hazardous or nuisance material. If entry of any nuisance or hazardous material into waterways or storm sewer systems is imminent, responsible fire department notifies Public Works for stormwater management assistance immediately.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

- Proper personal protective equipment will be worn.
- Gross decontamination will be completed at the scene. No individual should be transported in an ambulance if contaminated or suspected of contamination. In the event of an incident-related death, all human remains will be considered contaminated until or unless medically proven otherwise.

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL** as determined by the Fire Department

- They will contain the substance as necessary. Responsible Fire Department requests other department and agency responses as required
- Responsible party notified by the Incident Commander.
  - Law Enforcement is responsible for perimeter control, traffic control, and evacuation or shelter in place.
  - Public works can assist the fire department with necessary dike materials and barricades; assists law enforcement with traffic control barricades.
  - Public Health provides technical assistance and initiates reporting.
  - Public Health can advise of any potential health risks and risks to the environment.
  - Disaster and Emergency Services notifies State DES and if requested by the IC places Montana Hazmat Team on alert.

### **NUISANCE MATERIALS** as determined by Responsible Fire Department and/or Public Health. Nuisance materials include such things as cargo of food items after an accident or unknown dumping into the waterways.

- Responsible Party is notified and is responsible for the clean-up and costs incurred by responders
  - Public Health provides technical assistance and recommends correct clean-up activity.
  - Public Health provides technical assistance and initiates reporting.
  - Public Health can advise of any potential health risks and risks to the environment.
  - Disaster and Emergency Services notifies State DES

### **B. CLEAN UP**

- The task of clean up rests with the responsible party and any of its contractors. All costs associated with the response and cleanup will be billed to the responsible party.
  - If the responsible party is a local jurisdiction, city, town, or county, clean-up costs rest with that entity.
- Public Health may hold the responsible party accountable, track progress of cleanup and assist with cleanup plan development. Responsible Fire Department, Public Works may also assist in the plan development.
- Where the responsible party is not known local jurisdictions will make every effort to clean up the contaminated area as soon as possible.

### **C. SPILL REPORTING**

- Regulations require that all hazardous materials events be reported to the applicable regulatory agencies for follow-up inspections, investigations and cost. Responsibility for making reports rests with the generator or responsible party.
- Public Health shall maintain a list of reporting requirements and deadlines that are applicable to the type of spill or release.
- Public Health will report all nuisance or hazardous materials released to the property regulatory agency and conduct any follow-up report.
- Fergus County DES will report all hazardous material or nuisance materials to State of Montana DES.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Pipeline Emergency

#### INCIDENT COMMAND:

The Incident Commander for a Pipeline Emergency would be the area fire department with Hazardous Material training. Technical Assistance will be provided by the responsible Pipeline owner/user.

#### OPERATING CONCEPT:

A pipeline emergency creates a dangerous situation for Emergency Responders. Pipeline operator will be required in order to resolve the incident safely. Responders' goal will be to minimize the level of risk to responders, the community and the environment.

If a pipeline is leaking, it is very likely that the pipeline system will need to be shut down these actions that should only be performed by pipeline company personnel. Actions shall be taken to contact the appropriate pipeline company as soon as it is practical.

If emergency contact information for the pipeline company is unknown, 9-1-1 personnel may call 8-1-1 to reach the local One Call Center and request emergency contact information for pipeline operators with facilities near the incident location.

Another way to obtain emergency contact information is to ask the responders to check for pipeline markers in the area. These markers normally contain: the company name, the product transported, and the emergency telephone number where the operator can be reached.

#### Common Indications of a Pipeline Leak:

- An odor like rotten eggs or a burnt match
- A loud roaring sound like a jet engine or a hissing/whistling noise
- A white vapor cloud that may look like smoke
- The pooling of liquid on the ground
- An odor like petroleum liquids or gasoline
- Fire coming out of or on top of the ground
- Dirt blowing from a hole in the ground
- Bubbling in pools of water on the ground or a sheen on the surface
- An area of frozen ground in the summer or an area of melted snow in the winter
- An area of dead vegetation

#### PROCEDURES:

- Call the 24 hour emergency pipeline number.
- Identify material in the pipeline and use the current Emergency Response Guide for appropriate response.
- Evacuate area.
- Set up safety area normally up hill and up wind.
- Be aware of the possibility of migrating gas or liquid. Gas or liquid will follow a path of least resistance.
- Don't park vehicles on manhole covers or storm drains. Never walk or drive into a vapor cloud or puddle of liquid
- Allow the primary fire to burn. Attempt to cool surrounding equipment.
- Pipeline will respond with appropriately trained individuals.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Severe Weather – Winter/Spring/Summer/Autumn

#### DEFINITIONS

- **Blizzard Warning:** Considerable falling and/or blowing snow and wind of at least 35 mph are expected for several hours
- **Heavy Snow Warning:** A snowfall of at least 4 inches in 12 hours or 6 inches in 24 hours is expected
- **High Wind Warning:** Winds of at least 40 mph are expected to last for at least 1 hour of strong gusting winds for shorter periods
- **Ice Storm Warning:** Potentially damaging ice accumulation is expected. Freezing rain or drizzle means precipitation is expected to freeze when it hits exposed surfaces.
- **Severe Blizzard Warning:** Considerable falling and/or blowing snow, winds of at least 45 mph, and temperatures of 10 degrees Fahrenheit or lower are expected for several hours.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** Severe winter weather conditions are imminent.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** Severe winter weather conditions may affect the area.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** outlines an area where an organized episode of hail 1 inch diameter or larger and/or damaging thunderstorm winds are expected during a three to eight hour period.
- **A Tornado Watch** includes the large hail and damaging wind threats, as well as the possibility of multiple tornadoes.

#### INCIDENT COMMAND:

Law Enforcement will assume the Incident Command with Public Works providing technical assistance and involved in Operations and Plans

#### OPERATING CONCEPT:

Severe weather will usually not require an Emergency Proclamation or a Disaster Declaration. In the absence of such declaration, the authority of the Incident Commander and the extent of services under the Severe Weather Guidelines are restricted to the following:

- Collecting and distributing information;
- Issuing advisories; and
- Coordinating the response and recovery actions of support agencies with authority independent of these Guidelines

In extreme situations, where an emergency has been proclaimed by the Chairman of the County Commissioners or the Chief Executive of a jurisdiction, the Incident Commander shall have the authority to activate such elements as may be necessary to protect lives, health, and property.

#### PROCEDURES:

- Initial notification of severe weather conditions is made by the National Weather Service to the 9-1-1 Center and Sheriff's Dispatch Center.
- The 9-1-1 Center shall notify Public Works and other officials deemed necessary. This may be through paging or other notifications.
- If appropriate, and required by emergency closure policies, the 9-1-1 Center or Sheriff's Dispatch should notify Fergus County DES Coordinator.
- DES Coordinator will provide State DES with situations reports verbally, by fax or provide a report using the 209 form located on State of Montana DES

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website.(Password required) Method may depend on conditions and equipment availability.

- The DES Coordinator shall provide National Weather Service reports or weather briefing information to 9-1-1 Center, Sheriff's Dispatch and school officials.
- The DES Coordinator shall track the progress of the storm by periodically collecting field reports from specified public spotters.
- The DES Coordinator shall forward field reports to the National Weather Service and State DES as soon as they are received.

### **EXTRAORDINARY POWERS**

- Evacuation
- Closure of Roads and Streets
- Closure of Public Places and Buildings
- Restricting Area Access

### **COLLATERAL PROCEDURES**

- School Closure: Decisions on closure, running buses, cancellations, etc., are the responsibility of the administrative authority of each school. Recommendations, as approved by the Incident Commander, may be released through the DES Coordinator to assist administrators in reaching a decision on closures.
- Plowing Priorities: The City, County and State should have established priorities for plowing and sanding roads and streets.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Terrorism Threat

Responding to terrorism involves instruments that provide crisis management and consequence management. The purpose of this annex is to ensure that the Fergus County Emergency Operation Plan is adequate to respond to the consequences of terrorism within Fergus County including terrorism involving Weapons of Mass Destructions (WMD).

#### DEFINITIONS:

- Crisis management refers to measures to identify, acquire, and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or act of terrorism.
- Consequence management refers to measures to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorist, the State of Montana and the Federal Government provide assistance as required. Consequence management is generally a multifunction response coordinated by emergency management.
- Technical operations include actions to identify, assess, dismantle, transfer, dispose of, or decontaminate personnel and property exposed to explosive ordinance or Weapons of Mass Destruction.(WMD)

#### PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS:

- No single agency at the local, State, Federal, or private-sector level possesses the authority and expertise to act unilaterally on many difficult issues that may arise in response to a threat or act of terrorism, particularly if WMD are involved.
- An act of terrorism, particularly an act involving WMD, may produce major consequences that would overwhelm the capabilities of many local and State governments almost immediately.
- Major consequences involving WMD may overwhelm existing Federal capabilities as well, particularly if multiple locations are affected.
- Local, State, and Federal responders will define working perimeters that may overlap. Perimeters may be used to control access to the area, target public information messages, assign operational sectors among responding organizations, and assess potential effects on the population and the environment. Control of these perimeters may be enforced by different authorities, which will impede the overall response if adequate coordination is not established.
- If appropriate personal protective equipment is not available, entry into a contaminated area (i.e., a hot zone) may be delayed until the material dissipates to levels that are safe for emergency response personnel.
- Responders should be prepared for secondary devices.
- The Fergus County Sheriff's Department, Fergus County Commissioners and Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services will establish and coordination resources as appropriate, based on the geographic areas involved.

#### SITUATION CONDITIONS:

- Law Enforcement's will make an assessment of a potential or credible consequence of terrorism within Fergus County.
- Requirements for assistance from other organizations will be coordinated through the Fergus County Law Enforcement agencies.

## **Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan**

### **INCIDENT COMMAND:**

- The Incident Commander will be local Law Enforcement until unified command is determined to be needed or in place.
- Local Law Enforcement will have procedures to notify CEO, Disaster and Emergency Services, other affected departments and other organizations providing direct support to the Sheriff's office of a credible threat of terrorism.

### **PROCEDURES:**

- A threat assessment process will be initiated by notifying State or Federal agencies with technical expertise, in order that those agencies may determine the viability of the threat from technical as well as tactical and behavioral standpoints.
- If warranted or directed by the State or Federal agency, Law Enforcement will implement a response and advise the appropriate organizations.
- The Fergus County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated. The Fergus County Commissioners will determine the appropriate agencies to staff the EOC, based on input from Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services.
- When warranted, the Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator and Fergus County Commissioners will consult immediately with Montana Disaster and Emergency Services to determine if State or Federal assistance is required and if the county is permitted to use authorities of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to mission-assign Federal consequence management agencies to pre-deploy assets to lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe. Responses will be coordinated with the Incident Commander
- An Information Center will be established and agencies will coordinate incident related information through a Joint Information Center. The Fergus County Commissioners and the Fergus County Sheriff's Department will ensure that appropriate spokespersons provide information concerning the incident. Release of information will be coordinated with other agencies prior to releasing to media.
- If an act of terrorism does not occur, the response agencies will disengage when the Fergus County Commissioners, in consultation with the Fergus County Sheriff's Department, issue a cancellation notification to appropriate officials.
- If an act of terrorism occurs that results in major consequences, each organization that is part of the incident will support the incident commander until the incident is stabilized and demobilization begins. Appropriate agencies and organizations may be required to support the affected locations with long-term hazard monitoring, environmental decontamination, and site restoration (clean-up).

## **Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan**

### **Utility Interruption**

#### **SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS:**

Fergus County may be subject to a substantial interruption in its supply of natural gas and/or electricity. If either interruption were to occur during extreme cold weather, (temperatures between +10 degrees F. or below) there would be an increased demand on all emergency services for assistance to the citizens of Fergus County. It could take days to completely repair or reroute the needed utility. Additional hardship may occur with water-lines breaking due to the extreme cold. Needed portions of the plan may be used for less threatening weather conditions.

A listing of residential and public facilities which are considered high priorities for maintaining electrical service and supplemental utility services has been identified by local responders and LEPC members.

Costs incurred as part of an event would be covered through a Disaster or Emergency Declaration and the implementation of an Emergency 2-mil levy, to be backed by State and/or Federal Disaster declarations according to MCA Title 10.

The vast majority of area residents will seek shelter with unaffected friends and family. Some will continue to heat with wood. Only about 10% of the population is expected to seek public sheltering.

#### **INCIDENT COMMAND:**

In the event of this type of incident the Incident Commander will be local Law Enforcement and/or Fire with technical assistance provided by Public Works and all affected utility companies.

#### **ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Upon discovery of serious loss of natural gas service or electricity notification will be made to the public utility company. Close contact will be kept with the utility company, 9-1-1, sheriff's dispatch and all emergency responders as well as the local radio station. Communications will be a major part in order to keep the public well informed as to the cause of outage, safety precautions to initiate and location of shelters.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

### Wildfire

#### INCIDENT COMMAND:

- Initially the senior officer of the first responding fire unit.
- Incident command authority may be passed to the senior fire officer when they arrive on scene.
- Fergus County Fire Warden may be designated as the IC if district fire department determines the need for assistance.
- The Incident Commander may initiate mutual aid with adjoining districts or counties.

#### OPERATING CONCEPT:

- The County is responsible for wildland fires on State and private lands and the Bureau of Land Management is responsible on BLM land. U.S Fish and Wildlife is responsible for fires on their lands.
- The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) will provide assistance at no cost to the County when a wildland fire in its jurisdiction is beyond the County's capability to control. BLM will provide support at no cost to the county for the first 24 hours of a fire within the county. (See DNRC and BLM mutual aid agreements).
- Any agency may take initial actions on a wildland fire while notification is being made to the agency with jurisdiction. The County, DNRC, and BLM should make every effort to utilize each other's resources as needed. Assisting agencies must meet the minimum qualifications and certifications set by the agency with jurisdiction.
- Radio communications will occur according to communication plan approved by the Fergus County Fire Council.

#### AUTHORITIES:

- The authority and responsibility to select specific response actions to contain and control a wildfire rests with the Incident Commander.

#### CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LAND:

- The local governing body may wish to coordinate its intentions with local representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Bureau of Land Management and private landowners prior to filing a closure notice.
- The local governing body reserves the right to post roads and streets with signs requesting the public not to enter state or federal lands because of fire danger.

#### COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION:

- During the wildlands fire season, federal, state and local fire agencies will review fire dangers, prevention programs, public information and mutual cooperation procedures according to the Fire Restrictions Guidelines.
- The DES Coordinator shall support all efforts of these agencies.

# Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

## Active Shooter

### General Information

Agencies and departments at all levels of government, churches, educational institutions, medical facilities, businesses, and any other place where people gather or congregate, should prepare, implement, and maintain their own active shooter plans. In the event an active shooter incident occurs, Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services will assist in coordinating the response and recovery efforts by communicating with other local and county-level departments and agencies, and those at the state level to help in obtaining the resources necessary to adequately respond to and recover from this type of violent incident.

Due to recent events in the United States, the need for active shooter preparedness and response planning has become an essential component to the overall completeness of emergency planning efforts.

### Definition

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) an active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. DHS also states that in most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no distinguishable pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are impossible to predict in regards to actual possible events and potential outcomes. These incidents evolve rapidly and leave no time for a lengthy decision making process. This is why it is critical to stress the importance of preparedness, mitigation, and prevention relating to this type of incident.

Active shooter incidents typically last only a short period of time and are usually over in less than 15 minutes. The immediate involvement, deployment, and rapid response of law enforcement personnel is essential in stopping the active shooter and mitigating further harm to victims.

Citizens should be prepared and instructed about how to deal with an active shooter situation prior to the arrival of law enforcement. This is to ensure the safety of victims, bystanders, and law enforcement personnel, as well as allowing for efficient response activities.

### Incident Command

The Fergus County Sheriff's Office and/or Lewistown Police Departments will assume command in accordance with Incident Command protocols. Fire, rescue, and EMS services and personnel will coordinate with law enforcement to preserve life and meet the needs of the overall incident.

Central Montana 9-1-1 and Fergus County Sheriff's Dispatch will assist in coordination and radio control. Both centers may be overwhelmed with calls from the public and radio traffic. Coordination and pre-planning between the two agencies will assist in providing clear communications during this type of incident.

Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services will provide assistance with the coordination and procurement of resources necessary to handle the incident. Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services will also provide assistance with the processing and dissemination of necessary and relevant information to local, state, federal and non-governmental partners.

## Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan

The need for a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be a high priority immediately following an incident involving an active shooting. Requests for information, correct and accurate, will quickly overwhelm all agencies involved in the incident. Additionally, legal counsel will need to be involved so information released will not impede the legal system.

### Public Preparedness Information

**Education:** Disaster and Emergency Services will assist other emergency service personnel and agencies, such as local and state law enforcement, in educating the citizens, visitors, and general public in Fergus County about what they should do when faced with an active shooter situation. All information to be disseminated will be approved by Fergus County Sheriff's Department and Lewistown Police Department. Public outreach in the form of pamphlets, web-based information dissemination, informative training videos and public speaking will be used in order to promote preparedness.

Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services will assist in conducting and reinforcing lessons learned from active shooter situational awareness and training. DES will also develop Standard Operating Guidelines for this type of incident. SOGs will include communication and coordination with local, state and federal government; and management of volunteers, and other organizations which could be activated as part of the recovery.

### Preparedness and Prevention

Response and recovery efforts can be greatly impacted by the level of preparedness and the amount of effort put forth into activities designed to promote prevention. There is a great opportunity to put into place community outreach and education activities that will strengthen the resiliency of the community when faced with an active shooter event.

Lessons learned from the 2014 Highland Park School Shooting Full Scale Exercise have been used to revise active shooter response planning on the local law enforcement level within Fergus County. Lessons learned from this exercise will also be used when planning future active shooter exercises and training within Fergus County.

Training with law enforcement and other emergency response personnel in a controlled setting will be promoted and encouraged. This will help to ensure an optimum state of preparedness for real-time active shooter events and a more resilient community overall.