

ANNEX B**MASS EVACUATION****1. GENERAL****1.1 PURPOSE**

- Establish County, City and other agency responsibilities and concept of operation for support of a mass vehicular evacuation moving within or through the County that has been caused by a disaster or incident occurring outside of Nevada County.
- Support the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Mutual Aid Region IV Movement Operations Plan for incidents within Region IV.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate Operational Area (OA) emergency support of evacuees in any extraordinary vehicular evacuation moving within or through the County on Interstate-80, State Highway 20 and 49 that is caused by an emergency incident or event occurring outside of the County.
- Support law enforcement traffic control by providing shelter assistance and public information dissemination.
- Describe differences, additions and changes from the basic plan to ensure preparedness by response organizations.

1.3 SCOPE

The policies, procedures, and provisions of this Annex are applicable to the cities as well as to the unincorporated County inasmuch as a mass evacuation affects multiple political jurisdictions. Therefore, coordination of support of a mass evacuation impacting Nevada County will be managed as an Operational Area task as defined in the California Emergency Services Act. "Mass evacuation" is defined as a movement of a significant number of persons, by vehicle into and through Nevada County such that the sheer numbers of vehicles threatens to overwhelm the ability of CHP, the Sheriff and city police to control traffic by normal means, and may require use of innovative traffic control methods and roadside support to maintain the flow of traffic.

1.4 AUTHORITIES SPECIFIC TO MASS EVACUATION

- Governor's Office of Emergency Services Mutual Aid Region IV Movement Operations Plan.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact §179, Article 10, CA Emergency Services Act

2. THREAT SUMMARY

2.1 GENERAL

Mass evacuations normally occur due to incidents or disasters that cause large numbers of people to flee the area in all types of vehicles over all roads regardless of size or legal restrictions. The evacuation is marked by a sense of panic among the evacuees and stress and fear levels are high. Individuals, groups, and families, including pets, evacuate as quickly as possible and, usually only after finding themselves in traffic jams, do they consider the need for food, water, clothing, medical care and possibly, shelter. Depending on the emergency, e.g., flood, fire or terrorist incident, the stressed state of mind of evacuees complicates action by law enforcement and local authorities to control traffic, the ultimate goal of which is to affect a safe, efficient and timely evacuation and ultimately, a safe return.

2.2 EVACUEE NEEDS

Some evacuees will in all likelihood start out without adequately considering their needs on the road especially as the duration of an evacuation is unknown. They might neglect to carry food, water, or medications for themselves, their children and pets. In addition, incidents such as mechanical breakdowns or running out of gas can occur. If automotive repairs are estimated to be extensive, evacuees could be faced with not having a functioning vehicle, far from home family and friends, in a potentially unfamiliar area, and possibly even, in inclement weather. Finally, overnight accommodations or shelter could be problematic merely due to the significant numbers of people and the limited number of (already) overwhelmed hotels and motels along the evacuation route.

Therefore, in order to facilitate the onward movement of evacuees, the OA will coordinate support of law enforcement and provide limited support to evacuees. It will coordinate emergency medical care, (i.e., ambulance service) and emergency automotive assistance and towing to ensure traffic flow. It will assist in enabling evacuee to access retail businesses to satisfy the need for food and water and, hopefully lodging. However, if shelter mutual aid is requested for an impacted County, the ESO will coordinate with the American Red Cross to open a number of temporary emergency shelters. It is important to note that direct OA action in a mass evacuation response is minimal and based primarily on maintaining onward movement of evacuees. A Local Emergency may be declared.

2.3 ASSUMPTIONS

- The incident occurs in another county or state causing movement of evacuees through Nevada County. In winter months, I-80 eastbound traffic may be stopped at Applegate and I-80 westbound traffic may be stopped at the Town of Truckee.
- The incident is multi-jurisdictional and causes Level-3 ESO activation.
- Retail and commercial establishments, churches, and government offices along the major evacuation corridors are open and available to evacuees.
- There will be some warning or preparation period in which to prepare for natural disaster caused evacuations such as extensive rainfall, or periods of excessively hot, dry weather causing explosive fire danger, etc.
- There is a period of chaos at the outset of the evacuation that mitigates over time.

- Some evacuees will attempt to traverse the County area on surface streets.
- The majority of evacuees find shelter with friends, relatives or in commercial accommodations and does not require shelter support.

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

3.1 RESPONSE – THE OA supports a mass evacuation primarily through law enforcement directing and facilitating the continued movement of evacuees within and through the County. Fire departments and fire protection districts may be requested to assist law enforcement with traffic control and the provision of engine company Advanced Life Support. Normal emergency medical services as well as emergency automotive repair and towing are also provided by a combination of public and private entities. The OA coordinates with Red Cross to establish temporary shelters if requested to do so by the REOC.

3.2 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - The role of the Operational Area in a mass evacuation is to support law enforcement, i.e., CHP, the Sheriff and city police departments which are providing the operational response and Incident Command.

3.3 ASSIST IN FACILITATING MOVEMENT – Ultimate authority for movement control on roadways rests with California Highway Patrol (CHP), and secondarily with other law enforcement agencies such as the Sheriff or city police departments operating as mutual aid to CHP. Depending on the scale of the evacuation, CHP and even local law enforcement may not have adequate personnel to completely

manage a large mass evacuation. Additional law enforcement assistance will be coordinated via normal law enforcement mutual aid channels. Requests of the ESO are projected to be primarily for signage, stanchions, physical barriers, or staffing, etc. for use in Traffic Control Points (TCP) to expedite traffic flow, traffic work-arounds, and prevent gridlock. The underlying principle of a mass evacuation is to keep evacuees moving as smoothly and as safely as possible, without assistance, into safe areas in or adjacent to the County.

3.4 ORGANIZE AND COORDINATE MOVEMENT - Time permitting CHP and any mutual aid law enforcement resources plan and execute a mass evacuation in such a manner as to preclude the problems mentioned above. Priority for movement will be to evacuees from areas in the most immediate danger, a decision that is the responsibility of the Incident Commander. For spontaneous evacuations, Incident Command requests assistance through the ESO once it is established. The ECAP, once established, is another probable source of requests and the probable location for the provision of support. If a shortage of local resources is encountered, the ESO prioritizes local resource requests and requests State support through the REOC.

3.6 SECURE EVACUATED AREAS - As the population vacates large areas of homes and businesses, law enforcement secures those areas pending return of residents. Security requirements exceeding the resources available within the OA are requested by the Law Enforcement Coordinator in the ESO.

3.7 PROVIDE SUPPORT INCLUDING TEMPORARY SHELTER - Provision of support to evacuees, other than emergency medical services or minor automotive repair or towing on the highway, is minimal and most often will take the form of directions

and access to commercial restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, hospitals, gas stations, etc. Other OA assistance is limited to coordinating temporary shelters which in most cases will only have food if provided by volunteer groups or non-profit agencies such as churches or the Salvation Army. Shelters most often do provide rest areas, minimal sleeping arrangements, and access to toilet facilities.

4. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES SPECIFIC TO MASS EVACUATIONS

4.1 GENERAL

The principal activities for the OA in response to a mass evacuation are warning, evacuation, traffic control, rescue/recovery, movement support and temporary shelter. Responsibility for each of these functions is delineated in the basic plan, but some are repeated here for clarification and continuity.

4.2 COUNTY AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES UNIQUE TO A MASS EVACUATION

4.2.1 Sheriff's Office

- a. Provide Incident Command for the unincorporated County.
- c. Establish and operate traffic control points on State highways or Interstate 80 in response to CHP requests
- d. Ensure surface street traffic control measures facilitate movement of evacuees into overall CHP movement plans

4.2.2 Nevada County Fire Districts

- a. Respond to requests for support to ensure smooth flow of evacuees into and through County.
- b. Provide field intelligence to the ESO by reporting damage and other vital information such as bridge/road failures, numbers of evacuees, bottlenecks, etc.

4.2.3 Department of Public Works

- a. Provide personnel and resources to assist in traffic control and road closures, as requested by Incident Command.
- b. Prioritize maintaining County Roads in passable condition for both evacuees and emergency vehicles.

4.2.4 Department of Social Services

- a. Coordinate with American Red Cross to ensure opening of emergency shelters as and if requested.
- b. Ensure all shelter facilities (if required) and warning processes are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.