

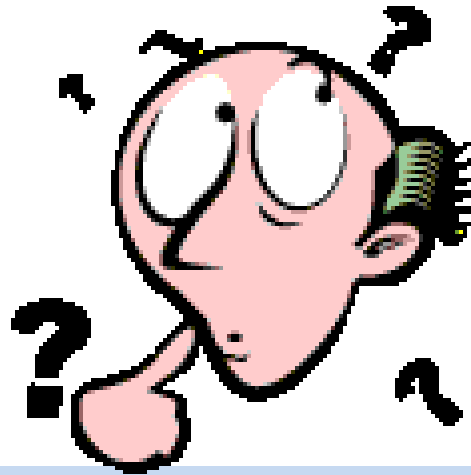


Elected Officials Guide to Emergency Management

WHY A GUIDE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS?



What is Emergency Management?



- Provide an overview of Emergency Management history
- List information specific to your agency.

What is Emergency Management?

Emergency Management is a network of government partners (local, state, and federal) working together with local volunteers, business, and others to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards affecting a community. Cullman County EMA is the local agency responsible for coordination of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to protect lives and property of the residents within the geographical boundaries of Cullman County.

Natural hazards affecting Cullman County include tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, lightning, flash flooding, winter storms, and wildfires. These events are both dangerous and unpredictable. Therefore it is important that you know what actions Emergency Management is taking before, during, and after an emergency. In addition, there are other manmade and technological hazards that pose an equal, if not greater threat to local citizens. These hazards require specific planning and programs.

These plans and programs have been developed to respond to both natural and manmade events:.....

About Cullman County EMA

Established by County Resolution on February 27, 1984

Located at 2020 Beech Ave SE Cullman (basement of
Cullman Co Water Dept Bldg)

Mailing address...P.O. Box 924 Cullman AL 35056-0924

Phone 256-739-5410

Fax 256-737-

0876

All-Hazards, Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Agency
Coordinating agency for Cullman County Disaster
Preparedness,

Mitigation, Response, and Recovery activities

Maintains and activates Cullman Co Outdoor Warning Sirens
Point of Contact and Records Repository for Local Emergency
Planning Committee (LEPC)

Local Point of Contact for Alabama Homeland Security
Member of the North Alabama Mutual Assistance
Association

Coordinating agency for the Alabama State Mortuary
Operations Team (SMORT)

Coordinating agency for Severe Weather Awareness Training

Coordinating agency for National Incident Management
System (NIMS) Compliance

Coordinating agency for special events pre-planning
/emergency response

Two (2) full-time staff members (on-call 24/7/365)

www.cullmanema.org



Define The Role of Elected Officials

- Stress the importance of executive leadership especially during a crisis

DURING TIMES OF CRISIS, elected officials can set the tone for the community by having a clear understanding of how government responds to emergencies and disasters, what resources are available, what types of assistance can be provided to citizens, and how much time it may take to deliver the assistance.



LEADERSHIP BEFORE A DISASTER STRIKES

- **VISIT** YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER.
- **MEET** WITH YOUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM TO LEARN ABOUT THE HAZARDS THAT THREATEN YOUR JURISDICTION AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ADDRESS THOSE HAZARDS.
- **LEARN** ABOUT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE SERVICES, AS WELL AS LIMITATIONS.
- **BECOME** FAMILIAR WITH THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ELECTED OFFICIALS TAKE THE FEMA INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE “IS-700 NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – AN INTRODUCTION” AND “IS-100 AN INTRODUCTION TO THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM” (AVAILABLE AT WWW.TRAINING.FEMA.GOV)
- **ENCOURAGE** ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO COORDINATE AND COLLABORATE WITH THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.
- **ENCOURAGE** INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND BUSINESSES TO DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY PLAN AND BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER.
- **PREPARE** TO BECOME A LEADER TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS DURING AN EMERGENCY.



PREPAREDNESS

ELECTED OFFICIALS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PUBLIC SAFETY. Your understanding and support of local emergency management is vital to the safety and well-being of the public and our communities. As an elected official, citizens will look to you for guidance and your message to “Be Prepared” will be a key component in protecting lives and property in your jurisdiction. Emergency management is a critical government function from mitigation through long-term disaster recovery and preparedness efforts. CCEMA can assist in getting your message out and getting citizens prepared.

- **BEFORE A DISASTER OCCURS**, elected officials are encouraged to meet with their local emergency management staff and establish solid relationships, request briefings on local preparedness efforts, learn about emergency plans and procedures, support training and preparedness efforts, and visit the emergency operations center.
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- **DURING TIMES OF CRISIS**, elected officials can set the tone for the community by having a clear understanding of how government responds to emergencies and disasters, what resources are available, what types of assistance can be provided to citizens, and how much time it may take to deliver the assistance.
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- **POLICY MAKERS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY** to make decisions that will ensure the safety of their constituents and communities. Land use and building code decisions that factor in fire and/or flood potential and other significant disaster hazards can help contribute to increased public safety.
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- **BE AWARE OF HAZARDS IN YOUR AREA.** Cullman County EMA uses multiple avenues to help keep you updated with emergency information and situation reports.

RESPONSE

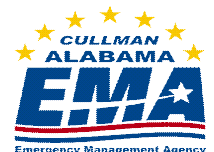
Response actions are taken during an emergency to save lives and prevent further property damage.

First – Know the priorities.

Second – Know who's in charge

Third – Know your powers and limitation.

Fourth – Understand the possibility for financial liability.



STANDING PRIORITIES

Establish communication with impacted areas

Search and Rescue/Security

Meet basic human needs (medical, water, food, shelter, emergency fuel – in that order)

Restore critical infrastructure

Open schools and local businesses as soon as possible

Begin the recovery process

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

- EMITS
- County-to-County Mutual Aid
- Regional Mutual Aid
- State Resources
- Federal Resources



Disaster Response & Declaration Process

- Overview – **ALL** disasters are local
- Disaster Declaration Process
 - Local Declaration of Emergency Conditions
 - State Declaration of Emergency
 - Federal Disaster Declaration

Local Declaration Request Process



- Windshield assessment of damage done by local EMA with assistance from other departments/agencies using damage reports as starting point.
- Request from responding agencies for estimated expenditures for emergency measures, debris removal, structural damage, etc.
- Submission of estimates to AEMA.
- Request for Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) by AEMA/FEMA if estimates are within range of the required threshold. (based on FEMA formula)
- Response/damage estimates updated as soon as possible and provided to CCEMA for submission to AEMA.
- If estimates are within range of the required threshold, CCEMA will work with AEMA/FEMA to schedule a PDA.
- Final determination for recommendation of inclusion in a Disaster Declaration is made by FEMA in conjunction with Alabama EMA following the PDA.
- If the county is denied, the County/Municipality can appeal the decision but must submit **NEW** information regarding damage and costs to justify the appeal.

Inclusion of a declaration for Individual Assistance requires at least 50 or more uninsured residences with major damage or destroyed to be considered by FEMA.



RECOVERY

- **Define** - the process for estimating the damage to your community
- **Explain** - the difference between a local disaster declaration, a State disaster declaration, and a Federal (Presidential) disaster declaration.
- **Describe** - the types of assistance that may be available and the thresholds that must be met to be eligible for federal disaster assistance.



MITIGATION

- Economic Importance of Mitigation
- Mitigation Programs
- Importance of Mitigation Planning & participation

Floodplain
Management

National Earthquake
Hazard Reduction Program

National
Dam Safety
Program

National Flood
Insurance Program

Environmental &
Historic Preservation

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS



- **DO** visit your local Emergency Operations Center and meet your local emergency management staff.
- **DON'T** assume a disaster automatically means your community will be eligible for assistance from FEMA
- **DO** remember that emergency preparedness is a civic responsibility but managing constituent expectations is your responsibility.
- **DON'T** wait until a disaster strikes to learn your role. Take advantage of your county's training and exercise programs to practice before a disaster occurs.
- **DO** remember that assistance is available if your jurisdiction is overwhelmed and that your local EMA staff is working to ensure that all needs are met.

Do's & Don'ts for EMA

- Don't assume that your elected officials will visit the EOC.
- Do remember to extend a personal invitation
- Don't wait until a disaster to open lines of communication. Invite officials to training, exercise, conferences, etc.
- Do remember that educating elected officials is your responsibility.
- Don't assume that your elected officials are not interested.
- Do take advantage of what time you can get to provide information.



Attachments

- Resolution establishing CCEMA
- EOC description w/activation levels
- Emergency Proclamation Checklist & Samples
- Termination of Emergency sample
- Glossary of EM terms
- Alabama EM Act
- Types of Federal Assistance descriptions
- CCEMA Contact Information
- Ten Steps of Crisis Communications
- State Division Map



Questions?



**Phyllis Little, Director
Cullman Co EMA**

plittle@cullmanema.org

256-739-5410