Emergency Operations Plan

November 2020
v1.8

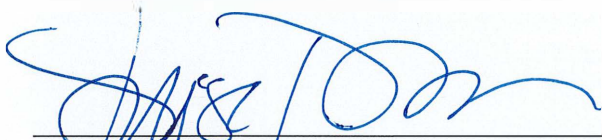This page intentionally left blank.

Approval

This Emergency Operations Plan addresses Hamilton County's planned response to extraordinary disaster situations associated with all hazards such as natural disasters, technological accidents and human-caused incidents. It is the principal guide for ensuring the protection of health, safety, and property of the public and aiding in short-term recovery operations for the agencies and jurisdictions that lie within. It is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, particularly among local, state, and federal agencies in emergency management, and establish a framework for an effective system of comprehensive emergency management.

This plan was developed using generally accepted emergency management principles and practices. Incorporated are planning elements derived from Federal Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Emergency Management Agency planning documents. Modifications to this plan may be made under the direction of the Director of the Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency. Adoption will occur following the established maintenance schedule; however, the plan may be modified in the interim without prior approval and formal adoption.

This plan is approved and endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency. The Executive Committee was created through a County-Wide Agreement, signed September 27, 1989 by the 49 jurisdictions in Hamilton County. The agreement is the legal basis through which the Executive Committee "shall have general direction of the Hamilton County Office of Emergency Management and Civil Defense and shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this agreement." The Agreement also states that Agency "is authorized to render the services of coordinating civil defense activities [...] consistent with State statutes and such regulations as have been or shall be promulgated by the Governor of the State."

This plan supersedes any previous versions.

_____   _____
Denise Driehaus, Chairperson   11/19/20
Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland   Date
Security Agency Executive Committee

_____   _____
Nick Crossley, Director   11/20/2020
Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland   Date
Security Agency

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Promulgation

Section 5502.26(A)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code requires the development of an all-hazards emergency operations plan. Chapter 4501:3-6 of the Ohio Administrative Code requires this plan to be authorized by the chief executive officer and to be consistent with published federal and state guidance and emergency operation plans. The Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan is an all-hazards plan that encourages a cooperative, seamless relationship between all the local, county, regional, state and federal agencies, boards, and organizations that have an emergency management function.

The Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan has been developed to establish the policies, guidance, and procedures that will provide the elected and appointed officials, administrative personnel, various government departments, and private and volunteer agencies with the information required to function in a coordinated and integrated fashion and to ensure a timely and organized management of the consequences arising from disasters.

This plan is a statement of policy regarding emergency management and assigns tasks and responsibilities to county department heads and various agencies and organizations specifying their roles during, before and after emergency or disaster situation. It is developed pursuant to Section 5502 and 3750 of the Ohio Revised Code, conforms to the National Incident Management System and all applicable Homeland Security and Presidential Policy Directives.

In order to execute this plan effectively and mobilize available resources, all implementing personnel must have knowledge of the procedures set forth in this plan and be trained in its use. Departments and agencies having roles and responsibilities established by this plan are expected to develop Standard Operating Guidelines and Procedures based on the provisions of this plan. In addition, these agencies should participate in training, exercises, and plan maintenance needed to support the plan.
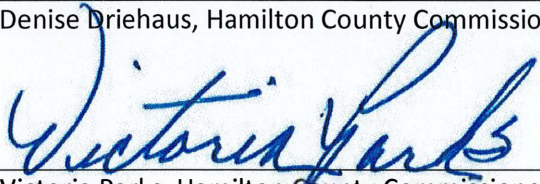
The welfare of those who reside and work within Hamilton County is the primary responsibility of the elected and appointed officials. Emergency management directly supports that responsibility with the goal of saving lives, protecting property and preserving the environment in the event of a disaster. As such, we support the activities of the Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency.

This plan is endorsed and adopted by a Joint Resolution of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. We direct all personnel involved to assume the roles and responsibilities and take appropriate actions as outlined herein.

_____   _____11/19/2020_____
Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner   Date

_____   _____11/19/2020_____
Victoria Parks, Hamilton County Commissioner   Date

_____   _____11/19/2020_____
Stephanie Summerow Dumas, Hamilton County Commissioner   Date

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Record of Change

#	Date	Section	Description of Change	Made By
1	11/25/2020	Communications & ESF #2	Added language to address potential operating environments	R. McEwan
2	10/15/2021	ESF #10 & Annex P	Annual required update to Hazardous Materials Response Plan	D. Witsken
3	7/12/2022	ESF #2	Revision to ESF #2 to include new supporting agencies and update to concept of operations	D. Jardin
4	10/17/2022	ESF #10 & Annex P	Annual required update to Hazardous Materials Response Plan	D. Witsken
5	11/15/2022	ESF #9	Revisions to ESF #9 to include new supporting agencies and updates to concept of operations	D. Jardin
6	2/24/2023	ESF #4	Revisions to ESF #4 to include new supporting agencies and updates to concept of operations	D. Jardin
7	07/27/2023	ESF #3	Revisions to ESF #3 to include updates to concept of operations and addition of Debris Management Plan	D. Jardin
8	10/25/2023	Base Plan & ESF #10	Updated the hazards list to align with *2023 Mitigation Plan*, updated Community Lifelines and References section. Annual required update to Hazardous Materials Response Plan	R. McEwan and D. Witsken

Record of Distribution

Upon adoption of the plan by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, an electronic copy of the final plan will be distributed to the heads of all county departments, a representative from every Coordinating and Supporting Agency listed in the plan, and a law enforcement, fire, and administrative representative from each jurisdiction within Hamilton County. A copy of the plan will also be sent to all contiguous county Emergency Management Agencies for their record as well as the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. A copy of this document will be made publicly available on our website (see below) and as such, a complete record of distribution cannot be maintained. Any additional requests for copies of the Emergency Operations Plan will be documented in the table below.

http://www.hcready.org

Name	Title	Organization	Date Distributed	Distribution Method

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Cover Image: Downtown Cincinnati from Mt. Adams at Sunset.
Photo Credit: Trip Wright

Introduction

The Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) is the central point for coordinating Hamilton County's emergency management program. Hamilton County takes a proactive role in mitigating, responding to, and recovering from potential natural, technological and man-made hazards. All parts of the county are monitored to determine if an event has occurred or could occur resulting in an emergency or disaster. It is the intent of Hamilton County to prevent hazards as much as possible and to facilitate an orderly and efficient response and recovery to all disasters.

Effective emergency management by Hamilton County is dependent upon its ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the impact of disasters. Lessons learned from previous disasters consistently underscore that defining organizational roles prior to an incident and pre-establishing relationships with organizations who have a role in the response effort support a more efficient response and recovery.

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was developed using these four phases to ensure a comprehensive response to an incident. This EOP complies with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Purpose

The purpose of the Hamilton County EOP is to outline countywide response and short-term recovery coordination efforts, define disaster-specific procedures, roles and responsibilities, and facilitate multiagency and multi-jurisdictional coordination between local, county, state and federal agencies. This plan predetermines, to the extent possible, actions to be taken by responsible agencies of Hamilton County including the local jurisdictions that are contained within the county, and the cooperating private and non-governmental organizations.

The intent of this plan is to:

- Reduce the impact from all hazards including loss of life, injury, or damage to property to individuals, communities and businesses within Hamilton County;
- Prepare for prompt and efficient response and recovery activities by identifying and describing emergency response policies, organization and tasks;
- Establish the legal authority and organizational basis for disaster operations in Hamilton County;
- Identify and assign roles and responsibilities to county departments and agencies as well as private and non-governmental organizations within the community;
- Ensure a coordinated and effective response using current response systems, plans and resources necessary;
- Ensure a coordinated and effective short-term recovery effort by providing for the rapid and orderly implementation of restoration of services, and rehabilitation programs for persons and property affected by hazards; and
- Synchronize (both vertically and horizontally) with relevant policies, plans, systems, and programs to ensure full integration and unity of effort.

The ultimate goal of any response, particularly at the local and county level, is to stabilize the seven community lifelines. A community lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and is essential to human health and safety as well as economic security. Together, the community lifelines frame incident information to provide decision makers with root cause and impact analysis. The seven community lifelines represent only the most basic services a community relies on and which, when stable, enable all other activity within a community.

Figure 1: Community Lifelines for Incident Stabilization

The concept of community lifelines was first introduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the *National Response Framework, Fourth Edition*. As explained later in this EOP, Hamilton County will work with local jurisdictions to stabilize the community lifelines throughout the county. When the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is active, the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) will manage information, manage resources, and manage consequences in support of both the incident objectives and to stabilize these community lifelines.

FEMA's Core Capabilities

➢ Throughout the plan will be multiple references to FEMA's Core Capabilities. The *National Preparedness Goal, Second Edition*, identifies 32 Core Capabilities which are the essential abilities that allow Hamilton County and its jurisdictions to have the capacity to Prevent, Protect, Mitigate, Respond, and Recover from all hazards.

➢ EMHSA evaluates the County's level of preparedness by comparing preparedness across the 32 Core Capabilities. The 32 Core Capabilities assist EMHSA is quantifying Hamilton County's level of preparedness. The stronger Hamilton County and its 32 Core Capabilities are, the more successfully the County can stabilize the community lifelines.

➢ The *2019 Hamilton County Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)* looks at each of the 32 Core Capabilities as they related to Hamilton County and describes the county's state of readiness with regard to the Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training and Exercises (POETE) needed based on target capabilities compared to current capabilities.

➢ Portions of the Plan that address how specific Core Capabilities are executed are described in a textbox labeled "FEMA's Core Capabilities."

The EOP is divided into three sections: Basic Plan, ESF annexes, and Hazard Specific annexes. The following is a brief description of the components of the Plan:

Basic Plan – the Basic Plan outlines in general terms how Hamilton County will respond to and begin to recover from a disaster. The Basic Plan addresses the different hazards the county is at risk from or vulnerable to, the responsibilities of the various government agencies, method of operations, financial management policies that will be adhered to in a disaster and continuity of government.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes – the Annexes to the Basic Plan assign certain county agencies with a coordinating role in the 15 ESFs. The ESF structure is patterned after the federal system as outlined in the National Response Framework and contains, at a minimum, the responsibilities of the coordinating and support organizations that will respond. The ESFs will also contain certain Support Attachments; these are stand-alone plans that support the primary functions detailed in the ESF Annexes.

Hazard-Specific Annexes – although the Plan is comprehensive in scope, the unique nature of specific hazards requires annexes for specialized response considerations. Any special circumstances and situations relevant to these hazard specific events will be detailed in the Hazard Specific Annexes.

Scope
When confronted with emergencies that don't exceed their day-to-day response capacity, the local jurisdictions respond with limited to no assistance from surrounding communities. However, disasters

often generate situations requiring planned, coordinated responses by multiple jurisdictions. Such disasters pose major threats to life and property and potentially have long-term economic, political, and/or environmental implications.

Effective emergency management requires trust and close working relationships among all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the general public. This plan applies to all stakeholders within Hamilton County and has been designed to take a Whole Community approach. The plan addresses roles and responsibilities of different agencies and organizations within the county and was written to recognize the needs of all individuals and population segments that may be impacted by disasters.

The scope of this plan is to address preparedness, response and short-term recovery activities for events (pre-planned or unplanned) that exceed normal emergency response capabilities; are so complex that they require the coordination of multiple jurisdictions; and/or are expected to last for an extended period of time. The plan is scalable and flexible depending on the needs of the event.

Whole Community

Hamilton County also recognizes that a government-centric approach to emergency management is not enough to meet the challenges posed by all hazards. Hamilton County EMHSA has and will continue to make every effort to incorporate all the resources of our collective team in our approach to disasters. Our planning efforts include incorporating not only county agencies but local, state and federal partners, non-governmental organizations including faith-based, non-profit groups and private sector industry, and individuals.

The composition of Hamilton County and the individual needs of community members must be considered when planning and implementing disaster strategies. When considering response and short-term recovery actions in the ESFs, Hamilton County made every effort to consider the needs of all individuals within Hamilton County. This includes individuals with children, individuals with pets, service animals, or livestock, and individuals with access or functional needs.

With all emergency planning, including this one, Hamilton County incorporates FEMA's Non-discrimination Principles of the Law.

Situation

Hamilton County consists of an area of 407.4 square miles and is located in the southwestern corner of Ohio. The county encompasses 19 cities, including the City of Cincinnati, 18 villages, and 12 townships. Hamilton County is situated in Southwest Ohio, and is bordered by Butler County to the north, Warren County to the northeast and Clermont County on the east. The County shares a border with Dearborn County, Indiana to the west. The Ohio River separates the southern edge of Hamilton County from Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties in Kentucky from river mile marker 455.2 to 490.0.
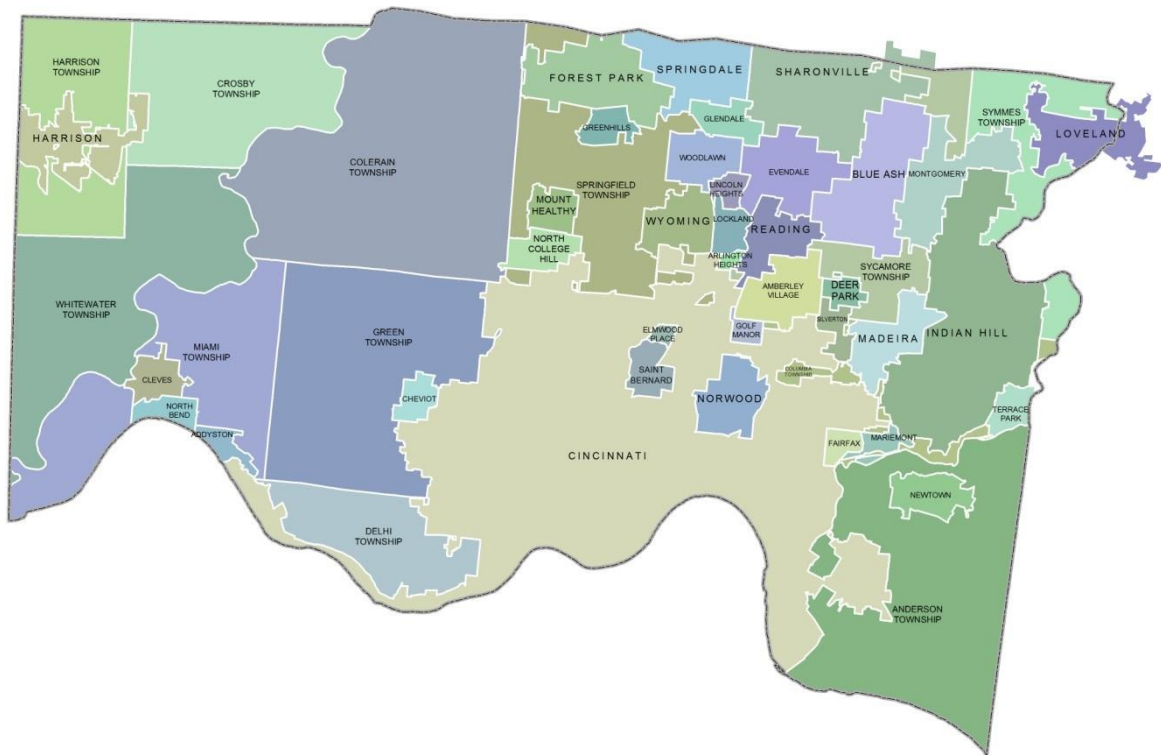
Figure 2: Map of Hamilton County, OH

Several major thoroughfares pass through Hamilton County including five interstates, 11 State Routes, and six U.S. Routes. There are six roadway bridges, two railroad bridges, and one pedestrian bridge connecting Hamilton County to northern Kentucky. Four major railroad companies operate in the county supporting both freight and passenger transportation. Hamilton County is also home to 16 hospitals and medical centers. The county is also host to four professional teams and eight large venues. There are 10 Class I Dams, which have a storage volume of greater than 5,000 acre-feet or a height greater than 60 feet.

Demographics

According to the 2020 U.S. Census there are 830,639 individuals, 381,691 housing units and 345,878 families in Hamilton County. Of the 345,878 families in Hamilton County, the population density is 2,048.9/mi^2. Hamilton County is 67.2% white, 26.6% black or African-American, 0.3% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 3.0% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 2.8% two or more races, and 4.1% Hispanic or Latino. In 2020, 6.1% of the population was under 5 years of age and 16.8% were 65 years and older. Additionally, Hamilton County is home to twelve colleges and universities with a student population that is higher from September to June.

Jurisdictions in Hamilton County		
Village of Addyston	City of Forest Park	Village of North Bend
Village of Amberley	Village of Glendale	City of North College Hill
Anderson Township	Village of Golf Manor	City of Norwood
Village of Arlington Heights	Green Township	City of Reading
City of Blue Ash	Village of Greenhills	Village of St. Bernard
City of Cheviot	City of Harrison	City of Sharonville (part)
City of Cincinnati	Harrison Township	Village of Silverton
Village of Cleves	Village of Lincoln Heights	City of Springdale

Jurisdictions in Hamilton County		
Colerain Township	Village of Lockland	Springfield Township
Columbia Township	City of Loveland (part)	Sycamore Township
Crosby Township	City of Madeira	Symmes Township
City of Deer Park	Village of Mariemont	Village of Terrace Park
Delhi Township	Miami Township	Whitewater Township
Village of Elmwood Place	City of Milford (part)	City of Village of Indian Hills
Village Evendale	City of Montgomery	Village of Woodlawn
Village of Fairfax	City of Mt. Healthy	City of Wyoming
	Village of Newtown	

Table 1: Jurisdictions in Hamilton County

Economic Profile

Hamilton County is home to the headquarters for five Fortune® 500 companies and fourteen of the Fortune® 1000 companies. The Greater Cincinnati area is home to over 450 foreign-owned firms, and 2,500 manufacturing companies. According to U.S. Census data, 66.7% of the population is in the civilian labor force, with an unemployment rate of 3.6%, below the 3.8% national average (according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as of June 2016). The median household income is $63,080 and the county has 15.7% of its population living in poverty.

Hazard Analysis

Hamilton County is subject to a wide range of hazards that could potentially result in disasters. These hazards fall into three categories: natural hazards, technological hazards, and human-caused hazards. Natural hazards result from acts of nature. Technological hazards result from accidents or failures of systems and structures. Lastly, human-caused incidents result from intentional actions of an adversary. To gain a better understanding of all the threats and hazards that Hamilton County faces, Hamilton County completed a full risk and consequence analysis as part of the *2023 Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

Part of the mitigation process was to develop a Total Risk Score for each of the identified hazards. The score is based on the probability of the hazard occurring in the county multiplied by the potential consequences of the hazard. Each hazard was evaluated using the sum of weighted extent factors, sum of weighted vulnerability factors, and tum of weighted impact factors, which were all combined to create a total consequence score. The Total Risk Scores were then normalized to 100.

The table below lists the 21 hazards that may potentially affect Hamilton County and their ranking relative to one another, including their Total Risk Score. If the Total Rank Score was the same, the hazards were then ranked based on their impact factors, then vulnerability factors, and finally the extent factors. The complete methodology and details for the rankings can be found in the *2023 Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*. This Plan is designed to serve as an all-hazards plan and can be used to address each of the hazards from the table below.

Hazard Rankings		
Rank	Hazard	Total Risk Score
1	High Wind & Tornado	80
2	Hazardous Materials Incident	72
3	Severe Winter Storm	71
4	Flash Flood	71
5	Extreme Cold Incident	68
6	Extreme Heat Incident	65

Hazard Rankings		
Rank	Hazard	Total Risk Score
7	Severe Thunderstorm	61
8	Infrastructure and Structural Failure	61
9	Urban Fire	54
10	Public Health Emergency	51
11	Mass Transportation Incident	41
12	Terrorism/Active Assailant	41
13	Riverine Flood	39
14	Civil Disorder/Riot	39
15	Cyber Incident	39
16	Landslide	33
17	Earthquake	33
18	Dam/Levee Failure	23
19	Land Loss	19
20	Drought	19
21	Wildfire	17

Table 2: Ranking of Threats and Hazards from the *2023 Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*

Capabilities Assessment

Hamilton County has been the recipient of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding. These programs have facilitated coordination between the 12 counties in our region (Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Clermont, Brown, Adams, Highland and Clinton Counties in Ohio; Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties in Kentucky; and Dearborn County in Indiana) and improved our ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from the hazards that may potentially impact our county.

Hamilton County and the local jurisdictions within the county have robust response and recovery capabilities. Limitations in these capabilities are identified through annual plan reviews, the THIRA process, and exercises. Specific details regarding Hamilton County's capabilities are detailed in the *2019 Hamilton County THIRA*.

Planning Assumptions

Planning requires assumptions based on statistics, history, behavior patterns and likely future trends. The following assumptions were made as consideration for the Hamilton County EOP:
- A hazard may occur with little or no warning and may escalate quicker than the ability of any single local response organization to handle.
- Hazard characters may differ by probability, magnitude, warning time and duration.
- Hazards may affect one or multiple jurisdictions within Hamilton County. Hazards may also extend beyond the borders of Hamilton County and may require a coordinated response and recovery effort between multiple jurisdictions at the local, county, or even state level.
- Hazards may have cascading effects that may require their own unique approaches for response and recovery.
- Hazards may result in numerous casualties; fatalities; displaced people; property loss; disruption of normal life support systems, essential public services, and basic infrastructure; and significant damage to the environment.

- Hazards may overwhelm the response and recovery capabilities of nongovernmental organizations, local jurisdictions, and/or Hamilton County.
- Response support from outside the county may take up to 72 hours to arrive. Even after outside support arrives, there may be a scarcity of resources available.
- Hazards may attract an influx of spontaneous volunteers and supplies.
- Response and recovery may include prolonged, sustained incident management activities.

Concept of Operations

General

It is the responsibility of local and county governments to reasonably protect life, property, and the environment from the effects of disasters. While most emergencies are handled by the local jurisdiction, Hamilton County is called upon to provide supplemental assistance and coordination whenever the consequences of a disaster exceed local capabilities. Additionally, local and county agencies may proactively take certain measures to prepare for pre-planned events. If needed, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) may be requested to provide assistance in a disaster or pre-planned event. Assistance may take the form of mobilizing state resources, activating specialized response teams, or providing equipment to support emergency operations.

While extensive effort and years of experience of responders have been brought into this plan to make it applicable and appropriate to emergency management activities, it should be recognized that this plan functions to provide guidance and should not be rigidly applied to every disaster or pre-planned event. Every situation will present different and unique challenges, complexities, and requirements. The specific tasks, assignments, and provisions contained within this plan may have to be modified to deal effectively with the actual situation at hand.

Prevention

As a mission area in the National Preparedness Goal, prevention is defined as *the capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism.* For the purposes of this plan however, prevention is defined as:

THE RESPONSIBILITIES, STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURES USED TO AVOID OR STOP A THREATENED OR ACTUAL HAZARD

With regards to prevention, there are two important concepts that must be understood. First, prevention is not the same thing as mitigation. Hazard mitigation is those actions that are taken to help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards, and mitigation strategies are outlined in the *2018 Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Second, not all hazards can be prevented. Of the twenty-five hazards that this plan addresses, natural hazards such as floods, landslides and high wind events cannot be prevented, only mitigated.

The most important strategy for prevention within Hamilton County is monitoring for potential hazards through intelligence activities including information sharing: the ability to exchange intelligence, information, data, or knowledge among government or private sector entities, as appropriate. Information sharing is conducted through three main procedures:

Information Sharing Procedures
Anticipate and identify emerging and/or imminent threats through the intelligence cycle.
Share relevant, timely, and actionable information and analysis with local, county, State, Federal and private sector partners and develop and disseminate appropriate classified/unclassified products.
Ensure local, county, State, Federal and private sector partners possess or have access to a mechanism to submit hazard-related information and/or suspicious activity reports (SARs).

When it comes to prevention, there are two agencies who share the responsibility for these information sharing procedures: The Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center (GCFC) and Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH). The GCFC addresses hazards with a law enforcement component such as cyberattacks, violent mass casualty incidents, and civil disorder. The HCPH addresses prevention for public health emergencies.

In conjunction with the Ohio Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center (STACC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the GCFC works to identify new trends and changing conditions to alert partners of emerging threats that may impact the Greater Cincinnati region, including Hamilton County. Information may be obtained from internal and external stakeholders. GCFC manages the Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Program, an information-sharing initiative designed to increase local, regional, and statewide relationships including with law enforcement, corrections, fire, emergency management, military, public health, hospital, educational, transportation and other private sector partners.

Using information obtained from these internal and external stakeholders, the GCFC will develop threat assessments for pre-planned events or other active threats that may impact the county and share the assessments with the appropriate partners. When GCFC staff receive intelligence on identified threats and hazards, they evaluate the risk and adjust the level of prevention activities. In the event of an activation of the EOC (see page 26), the GCFC can send personnel to lead the Intelligence Unit to monitor and share threat information directly with personnel in the EOC. For non-EOC activations, GCFC can extend their

Quarterly	• ILO Meetings
Monthly	• Threat Briefings • HCPA Meetings
Weekly	• Intelligence Bulletins • Narcotics Bulletins
As Needed/ Ongoing	• Threat Assessments • Awareness Reports • Event-Specific Briefings

normal operating hours to ensure analysts are available to monitor all identified threats and incoming information as well as share information that may be time sensitive. In addition, the GCFC will share information more regularly for pre-planned events with higher Special Event Assessment Ratings (SEAR) levels.

The GCFC may also be alerted to threats from the public through use of a 24-hour tip line and a web-based reporting portal. These threats, as well as other information supplied by local law enforcement agencies, evaluated by the GCFC to determine whether or not the SAR has any credibility, and if so, a nexus to terrorism. If the SAR is determined to be credible, the GCFC will supplement the report with information obtained from other law enforcement databases and sources and disseminate the information as appropriate.

Additionally, the City of Cincinnati Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) has personnel assigned to work as part of the GCFC, which allows for real time surveillance during EOC activations or other events of significance that occur within Hamilton County. This partnership includes the use of over 200 cameras spread throughout the city and along the Ohio River to gather intelligence and to surveil potential threats, as well

as to investigate previous crimes. The GCFC and RTCC work together to surveil potential threats by data mining: searching through large amounts of computerized data to find useful patterns or trends and analysis of social media accounts and activities. Hamilton County also participates in other surveillance programs that could provide early warning of a bioterrorist attack.

The GCFC shares their intelligence through multiple methods on an ongoing and regular basis as seen above. The distribution of information is based upon the sensitivity of the material, clearance level of the intended recipient as well as general "need to know."

In addition to the activities of the GCFC, HCPH works to prevent public health emergencies in conjunction with the three other local health departments (LHDs) in the County: City of Cincinnati Health District, City of Norwood Health Department, and City of Springdale Health Department. This is accomplished through public health intelligence gathering through surveillance programs and alert networks, conducting threat assessments, and sharing information with internal and external partners.

> ### FEMA's Core Capabilities
>
> ➢ Intelligence and Information Sharing – Providing timely, accurate, and actionable information is the foundation for this Core Capability. The Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center is the local agency tasked with developing law enforcement intelligence and has the primary responsibility for sharing information with the appropriate partners. For public health intelligence and information sharing, Hamilton County Public Health is the lead.

As outlined in the *Epidemiology Response Plan*, an annex to HCPH's *Emergency Response Plan*, routine intelligence is gathered through standard surveillance practices which include geographic distribution of notifiable infectious diseases, exposures documented from standard disease investigations, web-based tools for detecting statistically significant trends related to emergency department visits in Hamilton County and the contiguous counties (EpiCenter), and the occurrence of illness complains recorded by either HCPH's Environmental Health or Disease Prevention.

The level of prevention activities can be increased to include enhanced surveillance commensurate with risk during a public health emergency. Enhanced surveillance activities to measure the progression of the outbreak and the success of interventions may include using a telephone hotline staffed by HCPH personnel, electronic data collection via secure web-based or email systems, collection of illness logs from affected institutions, targeted telephone surveys, and/or daily contact with and report retrieval from local laboratories or medical practices.

In the event of a potential public health emergency, HCPH's Outbreak Management Team will coordinate the outbreak investigation in collaboration with local, county, State, Federal and private sector partners. The investigation will include a threat assessment to characterize the event in terms of agents involved, the populations that may be affected, and the environmental factors, as well as to discuss control measures that may prevent further spread of the disease. This information is shared with the appropriate internal and external stakeholders.

Pre-Planned Events

Throughout the year there are numerous pre-planned events that occur throughout Hamilton County. These events range from block parties to weekend-long music festivals, from 5Ks to major marathons, from local softball tournaments to Major League Baseball All-Star Games. Regardless of the event scale or scope, any gathering of individuals has an inherent risk due to the proximity of so many individuals to one another.

Each of these events is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction to support. However, for some of the larger events, the local jurisdiction may ask for support from Hamilton County. The type of support request can range from intelligence gathering to dissemination of public information, from vulnerability analyses to incident planning support. And while the local jurisdiction may not ask for any county support prior to the event occurring, maintaining awareness of these events allows the county to be better prepared to offer support or response should it be requested. Notification of these events may come from the City of Cincinnati Special Events Unit, the OEMA Watch Office, which includes daily briefings from the Ohio STACC, and the Events Page from local media.

One of the responsibilities of EMHSA is to maintain awareness of the larger events with greater potential for loss of human life. With advanced warning of these events, EMHSA can quickly react should these pre-planned events become emergency situations and can support the local jurisdictions in rapidly coordinating resources to support response efforts. Knowing details about the event such as what type of event it is, where the event is occurring, and how many people are in attendance can support EMHSA's decision to alter the level of monitoring the event may require. If the local jurisdiction has developed an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the event, having that document will facilitate communication between the Incident Command (IC) and EMHSA, and allow EMHSA to know which resources are already being utilized for the event.

Additionally, due to the size of Hamilton County, there may be multiple events taking place concurrently. Knowing where each event is can allow EMHSA to evaluate how the events may impact one another should an emergency occur, or how multiple events may be impacted should something like inclement weather or a hazardous material incident occur.

Information Gathering, Analysis, and Sharing

Communications and Information Management is one of the components of the NIMS. Gathering, collating, synthesizing and disseminating incident information helps responders to develop a common operating picture. The goal of Hamilton County's information management process is to enable the integration of information into the common operating picture. This includes identifying what information is essential and should be shared, who has the information and who needs the information, and how information will flow. Information disseminated to the public can help individuals make educated decisions regarding their own safety and can allow the public to share potentially helpful information with responders.

Information Collection

Within Hamilton County, the Hamilton County EMHSA acts as the primary agency responsible for collecting information to inform county leadership about potential threats or hazards and the discuss the potential need to act. Information pertaining to specific incidents or pre-planned events may come from a variety of sources. The source of information will depend on the type of hazard.

The primary source of information for weather-related events is the National Weather Service (NWS). The EMHSA Duty Officer monitors current and future weather from the NWS. In addition to reading the daily weather reports, the Duty Officer will monitor the Storm Prediction Center's Convective Outlook, and participates in NWSChat, an online communications tool that allows information sharing between the NWS, emergency management, storm spotters, the local media and other emergency responders. All EMHSA staff also subscribe to iNWS to receive electronic alerts to their mobile devices when watches and warnings are issued.

For most man-made hazards, the affected jurisdiction's public safety answering point (PSAP) will receive and document the initial notification in accordance with existing protocols and will dispatch resources as

appropriate. Certain events trigger the Hamilton County Communications Center (HCCC) and the City of Cincinnati Emergency Communications Center to notify the EMHSA for situational awareness.

If there is a hazardous materials release, the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will be notified in accordance with ORC 3750.06, which requires owners and operators to report a release or discharge whenever a regulated chemical exceeds its reportable quantities or leaves the property line. In addition, the Hamilton County LEPC is notified of releases by the National Response Center (NRC), the federal government's national communications center for reporting hazardous substance releases and spills. The Hamilton County LEPC, which is administered by the EMHSA, notifies the EMHSA of any spills that may require additional response or may affect life, property, or environmental safety.

The State of Ohio also generates a line of products for information sharing and situational awareness purposes. These products include *Watch Reports*, *Steady State Advisories*, *SPOT Reports*, and *First Looks*. In addition, the OEMA issues a near real-time display of potential and ongoing events in Ohio in WebEOC called *Ohio Watch*.
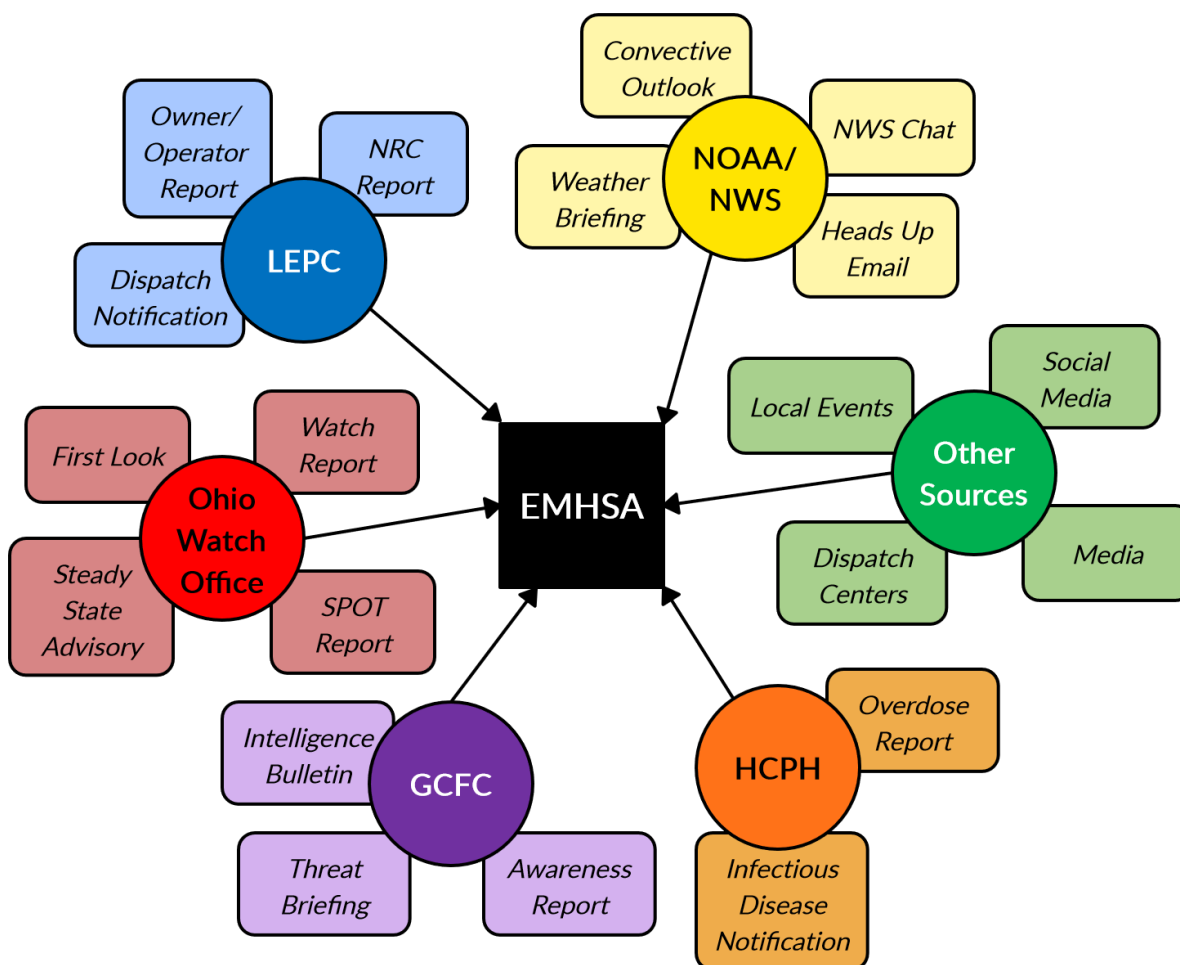
After a disaster has occurred the Hamilton County EOC may activate the Joint Information Center (JIC). ESF #15 members working within the JIC will monitor media and social media for additional information from the public. This information will be shared with the EOC as appropriate (see *Joint Information System (JIS) Guide* for additional information).

Analysis

Once the information has been collected by Hamilton County EMHSA, the situation needs to be analyzed to inform the Agency, and by extension county leadership, on what the appropriate actions are to take. The process for situational analysis is relatively straight-forward, but the more increasingly complex the threat or hazard is, the longer the analysis process may take. The process utilized for conducting situational analysis is the same process used by the local jurisdictions and by IC in evaluating threats and hazards. For the purposes of this EOP however, we will look at how specifically Hamilton County EMHSA conducts situational analysis in order to inform county leadership.

After EMHSA has been made aware of a potential or active threat or hazard from the sources described above, the first step is to confer with others to compare what is known about the threat or hazard. For EMHSA, this means meeting with other staff members or subject matter experts. The purpose of this meeting is to evaluate what is known about the threat or hazard.

When evaluating what is known about the threat or hazard, there is a long list of elements that must be taken into consideration. These elements address everything from the scope of the threat or hazard to the potential impacts and consequences. Hamilton County EMHSA has a list of questions that can be used to complete the evaluation.

Upon completing the initial evaluation, Agency personnel should determine if there is enough information to allow for informed decisions by leadership. Providing adequate information about the threat or hazard to decision makers allows them to better understand not just the situation, but the potential impacts and consequences of the actions that are selected. The more information that is given to decision makers, the more alternative responses can be explored and weighed against one another.

If enough information has been provided, then appropriate actions may be chosen and put into effect. However, if more information is needed, EMHSA will work to identify additional sources of information.

This process of situational analysis is a constant process as decisions that are made and put into action will affect the threat or hazard. EMHSA should continually reevaluate and reanalyze the situation until the threat or hazard is complete.

When the Hamilton County EOC is activated, it is the responsibility of the Planning Section to analyze information and determine how operational priorities may be impacted. This analysis should be reported to the EOC Coordinator and be included in the appropriate reports created by the Planning Section.

Dissemination

Sharing information during disaster response can lead to greater situational awareness, effective allocation of resources, and an overall enhanced response, among other things. Prior to a disaster information shared can lead to preparedness efforts that may even mitigate the hazard. After the disaster, sharing information can lead to a unified response.

One result of the information analysis is determining who needs the information and what communications systems will be used to share the information. Hamilton County EMHSA has multiple mediums for disseminating information depends on what information is being shared and with whom it is being shared.

The primary method for sharing information between emergency management partners in Hamilton County is email, which may be supplemented by WebEOC. WebEOC provides a single access point for the collection and dissemination of disaster or event-related information and may be accessed by agencies which have a coordinating and supporting role in the EOC, as well as other partners. As Hamilton County's

WebEOC license is provided by the State of Ohio, it is also connected to the OEMA's WebEOC which will allow state partners to have awareness of events in Hamilton County. Hamilton County EMHSA will begin using WebEOC at Emergency Activation Level 3 (see below).

Often information is disseminated from the source through Hamilton County's emergency management partners. The NWS puts out weather watches and warnings in the event of potential weather. Depending on the scale and scope of the watch/warning, Hamilton County EMHSA may also share this information to the public through social media and its website. The Ohio STACC and GCFC share threat information amongst appropriate agencies as part of their prevention activities.

Hamilton County EMHSA is also responsible for activating the Outdoor Warning Sirens in Hamilton County. The sirens are tested the first Wednesday of each month at noon unless inclement weather is imminent. The four basic criteria for activating the sirens is:
- The NWS issues a Tornado Warning for all or part of Hamilton County;
- A trained and certified weather spotter reports a tornado in Hamilton County;
- A tornado is reported by a local public safety official; or
- A dangerous situation occurs which requires Hamilton County residents to seek shelter immediately.

Hamilton County has the capability of activating all the sirens at once or to activate one or more of six established siren zones.

Hamilton County also has Public Alerting Authority complete as a part of the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS). IPAWS allows for the use of an integrated system that uses multiple mediums for alerting the public including Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radios from a single interface. The county also utilizes multiple systems for reverse 9-1-1. EMHSA or the HCCC can utilize Rave Mobile Safety for mass notification, while other jurisdictions and organizations use CodeRED, Nixel, or Rapid Notify.

For additional information about dissemination of information to the public, see the *JIS Guide*, attached to ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information.

Local Responsibilities

As stated above, most incidents are handled at the local level. This is because all disasters begin and end at the local level. County government serves as the administrative agent of the state. Due to this structure, each municipality and locality within Hamilton County innately initiates and takes ownership of their community's emergency response.

> MUNICIPALITIES SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE ALL POWERS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND TO ADOPT AND ENFORCE WITHIN THEIR LIMITS SUCH LOCAL POLICE, SANITARY AND OTHER SIMILAR REGULATIONS, AS ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH GENERAL LAWS
> Ohio Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 3

Within Hamilton County, each jurisdiction provides or has arranged for the provision of the initial emergency response. The local jurisdiction maintains control of all assets used in the response and recovery efforts, regardless of the source of those assets. Each jurisdiction within Hamilton County must plan and prepare for this role.

The forty-nine local jurisdictions provide emergency response services in order to protect life, property, and the environment, and to stabilize incidents. They may activate their local EOP or EOC, coordinate the response with public and private organizations and agencies, and activate necessary local governments and organizations that are signatories to mutual aid compacts.

Part of the incident response should include using local resources, expending local funds, and enacting local agreements to respond to incidents within their jurisdiction. When local resources are insufficient to address the needs of the situation, the local jurisdictions may request assistance from Hamilton County by contacting the Hamilton County EMHSA.

NIMS

On June 7, 2006, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) passed a resolution designating NIMS as the basis for all incident management within Hamilton County. Similar resolutions have been passed by all jurisdictions within Hamilton County. NIMS was also adopted by the State of Ohio as written in the *Ohio Revised Code 5502.28(C)*.

NIMS consists of three major components: Command and Coordination, Communication and Information Management, and Resource Management. Utilizing this system allows Hamilton County's Emergency Management Program to analyze emergency situations and provide for clear and effective response and recovery.

Command and Coordination

Command and Coordination, which can also be described as direction, control and coordination, describes leadership roles, processes, and recommended organization structures for incident management at the operational and incident support levels and explains how these structures interact to manage incidents effectively and efficiently.

Regardless of the size, complexity, or scope of the incident, effective command and coordination using flexible and standard processes and systems helps save lives and stabilize the situation. Command and Coordination includes several characteristics that contribute to the strength and efficiency of the overall system:

NIMS Management Characteristics	
Common Terminology	Modular Organization
Management by Objectives	Incident Action Planning
Manageable Span of Control	Incident Facilities and Locations
Comprehensive Resource Management	Integrated Communications
Establishment and Transfer of Command	Unified Command
Chain of Command and Unity of Command	Accountability
Dispatch/Deployment	Information and Intelligence Management

Each of these characteristics are discussed in more detail in *National Incident Management System, Third Edition, October 2017*. Several characteristics will be discussed in more detail in the sections below and their applicability to Hamilton County and the response of its forty-nine jurisdictions.

Incident Command System

All jurisdictions within Hamilton County utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) for on-scene incident management. ICS specifies an organizational structure for incident management that integrates and coordinates a combination of procedures, personnel, equipment, facilities, and communications.

When an incident occurs within a single jurisdiction and without jurisdictional or functional agency overlap, the appropriate authority designates a single Incident Commander (IC) who has overall incident management responsibilities, including overseeing command and coordination. Within Hamilton County, each jurisdiction will usually appropriate this authority to the fire chief or police chief who covers that jurisdiction, unless there is another functional agency that is more appropriate to assume this role. When the Hamilton County EOC is activated, county-level command and coordination is the responsibility of the EOC Coordinator, who works to support ICs in the field.

In a multijurisdictional or multiagency incident, there may be a unity of effort by establishing Unified Command. The use of Unified Command enables jurisdictions and those with authority or functional responsibility for the incident to jointly manage and direct incident activities through the establishment of a common set of incident objectives, strategies, and a single IAP. Within Hamilton County, many fire and police departments cover more than one jurisdiction. While some incidents may be multijurisdictional, there may only be a single functional agency with the authority for managing the incident.

ICS also provides a common hierarchy within which personnel from multiple organizations can be effective. ICS organizational structures develop in a modular fashion based on an incident's size, complexity, and hazard environment. Responsibility for establishing and expanding ICS organizations ultimately rest with the IC (or Unified Command), and when active, the EOC Coordinator. Having modular organization, both on-scene and within the EOC, allows expansion for additional functional responsibilities to address increases in incident complexity.
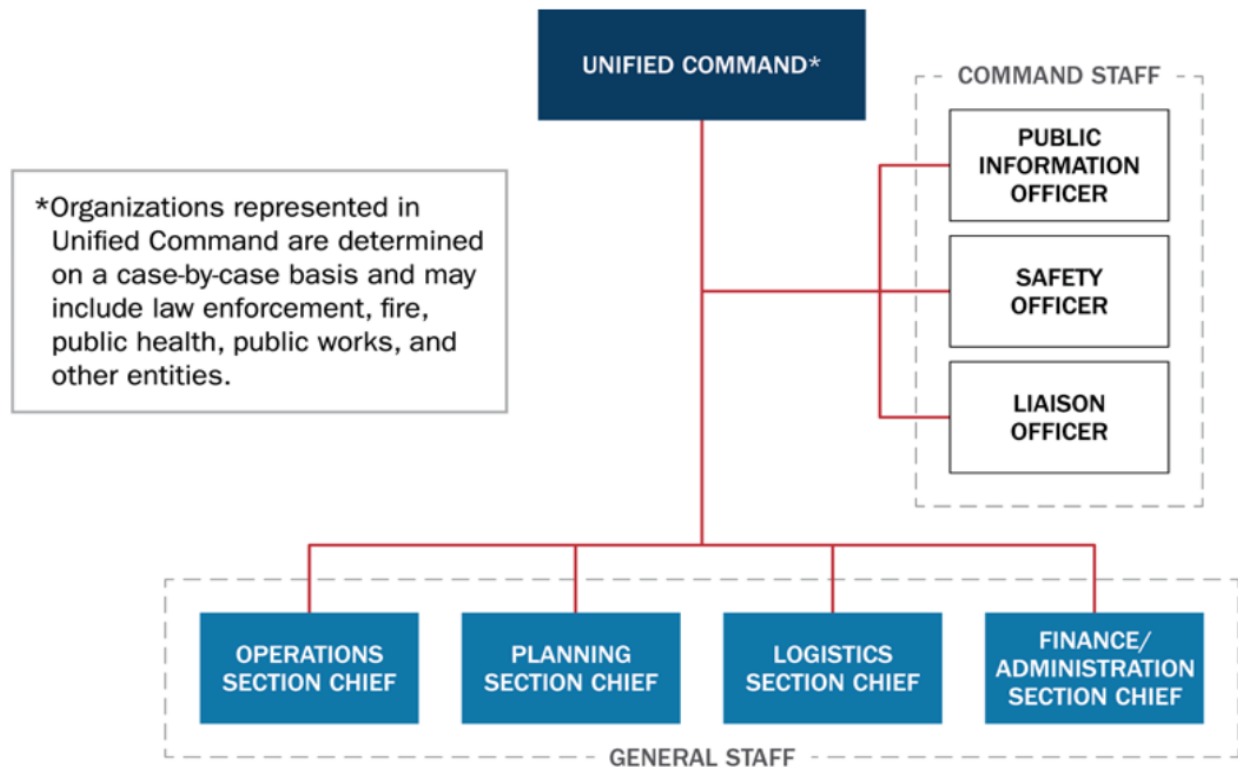
Figure 3: Modular organization that may be used in ICS with Unified Command

This method of organization also allows IC to have a manageable span of control, which helps to ensure effective and efficient incident management operations. It enables management within the ICS structure to direct and supervise subordinates and to communicate with and manage all resources under their control. As in other places, in Hamilton County the optimal span of control for incident management is

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one supervisor to five subordinates, however, the type of incident, nature of the task, hazards and safety factors, experience of the supervisor and subordinates, and communication access between the subordinates and the supervisor are all factors that may change this ratio.

The Hamilton County EOC and EOC Team can be activated in a modular organization that mirrors the organizational structure utilized by on-scene ICS, allowing for the Hamilton County EOC to most effectively support IC.

Incident Facilities

Incident Command Post (ICP)	Staging Area(s)	Incident Base	Emergency Operations Center
• Facility of tactical-level, on-scene incident command organization • Typically located near the incident site • Operations, Command, and Planning Functions • Agency Representatives present	• Facility in which personnel, supplies, and equipment await assignment • Established by Operations Section Chief • Supported by the Logistics Section	• Facility that accommodates primary support activities including sleeping and feeding • May be co-located with the ICP	• Facility from which staff provide information management, resource allocation and tracking, and/or advanced planning support to personnel on scene

Depending on the incident size and complexity, the IC, Unified Command, and/or the EOC Coordinator may establish support facilities for a variety of purposes and direct their identification and location based on the incident. While some facilities in and around the incident area will be determined by the incident, other facilities have been pre-designated.

As described in the graphic above, there are multiple types of facilities that can be utilized to support incident response. The Incident Command Post (ICP) is typically established by the IC near the incident site and therefore cannot be pre-determined. Other facilities, like Staging Areas, have been pre-determined. As seen in Attachment #1, Hamilton County has pre-designated 13 Staging Areas spread across five sections of the County. Another important pre-designated facility that supports incident operations is the Hamilton County EOC, located at the Regional Operations Center (ROC), 2000 Radcliff Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45204. This location also houses the Hamilton County JIC, the City of Cincinnati EOC, and the City of Cincinnati Emergency Communications Center.

Communication and Information Management

Communications
One important concept utilized within Hamilton County is the importance of integrated communications. Leadership at the incident level and in the EOC facilitates communications through the development and use of a common communications plan, interoperable communications process, and systems that include voice and data links. Integrated communications provide and maintain contact among and between

incident resources, enable connectivity between various levels of government, enhance situational awareness, and facilitate information sharing.

Hamilton County and its first response organizations uses the Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS), an 800 MHz radio and data network that utilizes state-of-the-art trunked technology to provide statewide interoperability in digital clarity to its subscribers throughout Ohio. Ohio MARCS is used for interoperable communications for response agencies both within Hamilton County and in the neighboring Ohio jurisdictions.

The *Ohio Homeland Security Region 6 Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan* (RTICP) documents the interoperable communications resources available within Hamilton County, who controls each resource, and what rules of use or operational procedures exist for the activation and deactivation of each resource. The HCCC participates in the maintenance the RTICP. Incident-specific communication plans are developed by IC and may be documented using ICS Form 205 – Incident Radio Communications Plan.

> ## FEMA's Core Capabilities
>
> ➢ Operational Communications – Ensuring the capacity for timely communications in support of security, situational awareness, and operations, by any and all means available, among and between affected communities in the impact area and all response forces. This capability is met through existing communications infrastructure that is utilized by first responders and communities daily. Should the need arise, this capability may be enhanced by the Hamilton County EOC and the HCCC.

Hamilton County also utilizes Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) for radio communications. ARES consists of licensed amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. ARES may be used during EOC activation for communication assistance, and they may also help establish radio communications at shelters, staging areas, ICPs, public health Points of Dispensing Sites (PODS), and trainings.

One of the primary methods of communication during response and short-term recovery is WebEOC. WebEOC has multiple boards for sharing information specific to different aspects of the response. WebEOC also has the capability for sending messages to other WebEOC users. In addition to WebEOC, Hamilton County also uses landline phones, cellular phones, fax, and e-mail as a means of communication within the Hamilton County EOC to agencies outside the EOC. All Coordinating and Supporting Agencies listed in the EOP are responsible for maintaining a notification roster with multiple forms of contact for those who may have a role during an EOC activation. Hamilton County EMHSA has multiple Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) access cards from the U.S. DHS, Office of Emergency Communications that prioritizes calls over wireline networks.

In addition to the mechanisms used for communications, NIMS emphasizes the importance of utilizing common terminology that allows diverse incident management and support organizations to work together across a wide variety of functions. Common terminology covers organizational functions, resource descriptions and incident facilities with pre-designated names and definitions which is standard and consistent.

Documentation
Responding agencies should keep documentation of actions taken using the ICS Activity Log (ICS Form 214) or another suitable log. The Hamilton County EMHSA will document activities via situation reports, common operating pictures, and in WebEOC. All personnel within the Hamilton County EOC are required to use WebEOC for documentation. WebEOC mirrors the ICS Forms, and users can use the Position Log in

lieu of ICS Form 214. Users can also scan and upload documents onto the Incident Documents Board for any forms used before the incident was created in WebEOC. This information will be tracked by the Documentation Unit if activated, or by Hamilton County EMHSA serving as the Coordinating Agency under ESF #5 – Information & Planning. Such documentation is crucial for the following reasons:

- Documentation is the key to recovering emergency response and recovery costs. Damage assessment documentation will be critical in establishing the basis for eligibility of disaster assistance programs.
- Documentation provides a legal account of the actions which took place before, during, and after an emergency.
- Documentation provides for a historical record which could be used during after action reviews (AARs) to improve response operations in the future.

For larger incidents, Hamilton County EMHSA may conduct an AAR with the full participation of all agencies involved in the response or short-term recovery. The AAR will be used to identify:

- Actions taken (or not taken)
- Resources expended
- Economic and human impacts
- Lessons learned and possible improvements
- Possible mitigation measures that could be taken
- Key impacts and damages

Additional details about AARs can be found in the *2021-2023 Hamilton County Multi-Year Training & Exercise Plan*.

Incident Action Planning

Coordinated incident action planning guides incident management activities. IAPs represent concise, coherent means of capturing and communicating incident objectives, tactics, and assignments for operational and support activities.

Part of adopting NIMS within Hamilton County includes utilizing IAPs. While every incident should have an action plan, not all incidents require written plans. The necessity for written plans depends on incident complexity, command decisions, and legal requirements. Formal IAPs are not always developed for the initial operation period of no-notice incidents. However, if an incident is likely to extend beyond one operational period, becomes more complex, or involves multiple jurisdictions and/or agencies, preparing a written IAP becomes increasingly important to maintain unity of effort and effective, efficient, and safe operations.

The process for developing IAPs is described in detail in FEMA's *Incident Action Planning Guide, Revision 1 (July 2015)*. This is the process utilized by first responders within Hamilton County.

When the Hamilton County EOC is activated in support of a pre-planned event or incident, the EOC will develop an EOC Action Plan (EOC-AP) to guide their activities during specified periods, though these are typically more strategic than IAPs. The main purpose of the EOC-AP is to document how the EOC will support the incident and the impacted jurisdictions. Procedures for developing the EOC-AP are documented in the *Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center Manual*.

Resource Management

Comprehensive resource management involves the systems for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely, efficient, and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident. Hamilton County utilizes the resource management concepts outlined in NIMS.

NIMS Resource Management Concepts
Resource Management & Preparedness
- Identifying and typing resources as appropriate   - Example: Fire apparatus and specialty teams are typed and documented in the Ohio Emergency Response Plan which can be accessed on the Communication & Information Management System (CIMS). Typed terminology can be utilized as needed but is not regularly used during routine requests.   - Qualifying, certifying, and credentialing personnel as appropriate   - Example: Hamilton County has identified personnel to serve on the EOC team, has established EOC team training requirements, and maintains a list of these individuals to track training progress and verify their qualification.   - Planning for Resources   - Example: Hamilton County conducts a workshop and develops a THIRA. The THIRA establishes resource needs/requirements and identifies resource gaps. The resource management system is documented in the EOP.   - Acquiring, storing, and inventorying resources   - Example: Grant recipients are responsible for storing and maintaining grant purchased equipment. EMHSA maintains an inventory of grant purchased equipment which can be accessed in Archibus.
Resource Management During an Incident
- Involves identifying, ordering, requesting, prioritizing, locating, acquiring, sustaining, distributing, and tracking resources   - Includes the process for mobilizing, dispatching, and demobilizing resources   - This system is described later in this section.
Mutual Aid
- Involves sharing resources and services between jurisdictions or organizations.   - Mutual aid in Hamilton County is described later in this section.

This section outlines the resource management system used during response and short-term recovery operations in an emergency. This system may be used before or after an emergency or pre-planned event. It is applicable to any resources for pre-incident preparation, such as raising flood gates or making and placing sandbags before an impending flood, and for response and short-term recovery operations such as search and rescue efforts and mass care activities.

Resources

Types and Sources of Resources			
Resources can include personnel, teams, facilities, equipment and supplies. Resources can be acquired through a variety of sources including:			
Established Agreements	Purchases	Donations	External / Outside of Hamilton County Resources
These resources may be provided by local, county, regional, state, or federal government partners, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, voluntary agencies, or the private sector.			

Resource management starts locally and progresses to also include the county, state and national level as required. Local jurisdictions and organizations first employ local resources, then utilize mutual aid or resources established with other agreements. This includes jurisdiction or department internal resources and any established agreements. As needed, local jurisdictions or organizations may also purchase additional resources. Additionally, dispatch centers routinely support on-scene operations by fulfilling resource requests. The local jurisdictions, County departments and other partner organizations manage response and recovery resources being utilized through their established systems.

When an incident exceeds local capacity in size and/or complexity, local jurisdictions may require additional resources beyond their capabilities. Any request that goes beyond local resources or established agreements may be sent to the Hamilton County EMHSA or the County's EOC, if activated. Upon request from the requesting jurisdiction/organization who is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), the County, through the EMHSA or the County EOC will coordinate obtaining additional resources and support resource management. In the EOC, the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF#7 – Resource Management supports resource management and coordinates activities related to providing logistical and resource support for response and short-term recovery operations.

The EMHSA or the Hamilton County EOC, if activated, has a critical role in managing and acquiring resources, managing and distributing information, and setting response priorities. Requesting resources through the EOC allows for greater accountability and will ensure that situational awareness is maintained at all levels.

Resource Management System Elements

Resources used in response and short-short term recovery operations will utilize the Resource Management System for Hamilton County. This system includes eight components. While all components support the resource management system, they are not phases or stages, and all components are not applicable to all resources.

Components of the Resource Management System	
1. Identifying Resources	5. Acquiring Resources and Purchasing Resources, if Needed
2. Ordering & Requesting Resources	6. Sustaining Resources
3. Prioritizing Resource Requests	7. Distributing Resources
4. Locating Resources	8. Tracking Resources

Identifying Resources

Identifying resources entails determining what resources are still needed for an effective response and defining any resource requirements. Resource needs are identified by those responding to the incident and may include the IC, on-scene logistics section (if established), local jurisdiction, County department, emergency management partner, other responding organization, or, under certain circumstances, the EOC. Resource requirements are additional information about the resource need including understanding any additional support for resources. The following should be considered when defining resource requirements:
- What mission or activity the resource is addressing,
- What capability is required,
- Whether the resource is typed,
- When and where it is needed, and
- How the resource will be supported (i.e. how it will be transported, sustained, and/or distributed).

The Operations Coordination Section in the EOC may assist with identifying resource requirements.

Ordering & Requesting Resources

Initially resource ordering is performed by on-scene responders, the local jurisdiction, the County department, an emergency management partner, or other responding organization. After a resource need has been identified, the organization responding will order a resource. If the resource cannot be ordered or filled using internal resources, existing agreements or local/organization methods, a resource request will be submitted to EMHSA or the County EOC, if activated.

On-Scene Operations Resource Ordering:
Resource ordering on-scene follows the ICS structure, as appropriate, and will likely be performed by the on-scene logistics section, if established. If additional resources are being requested, it will likely be through the established dispatch centers.

Local Jurisdiction, County Department, Emergency Management Partner or Other Responding Organization Resource Ordering:
Resource ordering follows the jurisdiction's, department's, or organization's internal resource ordering procedures.

Unfilled Resource Requests:
If a resource request cannot be filled using the established methods, the request will be sent to the Hamilton County EMHSA or the EOC, if activated. A resource request may come from the IC, the logistics section on-scene, local jurisdiction, county department, emergency management partner or other responding organization. Anyone who requests a resource is referred to as the requesting jurisdiction/organization.

The resource request can be communicated to Hamilton County EMHSA or the EOC, if activated, using different platforms. In some instances, the request may be made verbally over the phone or radio. A request may also be sent through one of the dispatch centers on behalf of the requesting jurisdiction/organization. Often when there is not an EOC activation, this request will come to the EMHSA Duty Officer through the HCCC. A request may also be submitted in writing via email or WebEOC.

During large incidents when multiple requests are being received, a specific process or system unique to the incident may be established to ensure all resource requests are documented and managed. It is the responsibility of the EMHSA staff member who receives the request to gather appropriate information and document the request. If there is an EOC activation, the EOC and ESF #7 – Resource Management will establish the process to receive and document requests as well as their track resource status. Upon the initial request, the following information should be gathered as appropriate.

Information to Gather During Resource Requests (As Applicable)	
• Date and time the request was made, • Name, title, organization and contact information for the person requesting the resource, • Problem to be resolved/task to be accomplished, • Description of the resources using plain language, • Indicate whether the requested resource is typed using NIMS,	• Quantity needed, • Suggested or suitable resources, • Any support requirements for the resource, • Any special shipping instructions, if applicable, • Date and time the resource is needed, • Priority level, and • Delivery location and point of contact for delivery.

All resource requests must be documented. This may be done using forms, WebEOC, a survey tool, or some other method. The Hamilton County EMHSA or ESF #7, if the EOC is activated, will determine what information needs to be documented and how based on the resource(s) being requested, number of requests, duration of the event and incident information. Gathering needed information as well as documenting the request, the status of the request and the status of the resource being used to fill the request are related and may use be accomplished through the same documentation process.

Requesting State Assets
All requests for outside resources from the State of Ohio must be coordinated through the EMHSA, or the Hamilton County EOC, if activated. Requests will be relayed to the OEMA, who will forward the requests to the appropriate agency or organization.

Prioritizing Resource Requests
If multiple resource requests are received or if there is not a sufficient amount of resources to fill all requests, resources requests will need to be prioritized. This is to ensure resources are obtained and allocated in the most efficient manner possible to support the response and recovery effort. Prioritization strategies may include prioritizing who receives resources, prioritizing when requests are filled (i.e. which requests are filled first), or limiting the amount of resources being used to fill individual requests. The EOC, if activated, will establish priorities with direction from County leadership or the Policy Group in the EOC. Requests should be filled, as appropriate, using the established priorities. More information about the process for establishing priorities is in ESF #7.

Locating Resources
Upon receiving a resource request, the EMHSA or the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7, if the EOC is activated, will locate potential resources to fill the request. Potential resources are located by coordinating with emergency management partners as EMHSA does not likely own resources that would fill requests. If the EOC is not activated, EMHSA will coordinate with emergency management partners, use institutional knowledge of available resources, search inventory databases, work with Hamilton County Purchasing or use another method to identify potential resources. If the EOC is activated, the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7 will work with the Operations Section, the ESF Coordinating Agencies, county departments or other organizations as applicable to locate potential resources. Inventory databases or other platforms may also be utilized. Resources may be located from multiple sources including:
- Local available resources
- Agreements
- Procurements
- Local donations which include unsolicited and solicited goods, materials, services, personnel, financial resources and facilities
- Regional assets
- External Resources / Resources Outside of Hamilton County

Hamilton County Resource Request Process
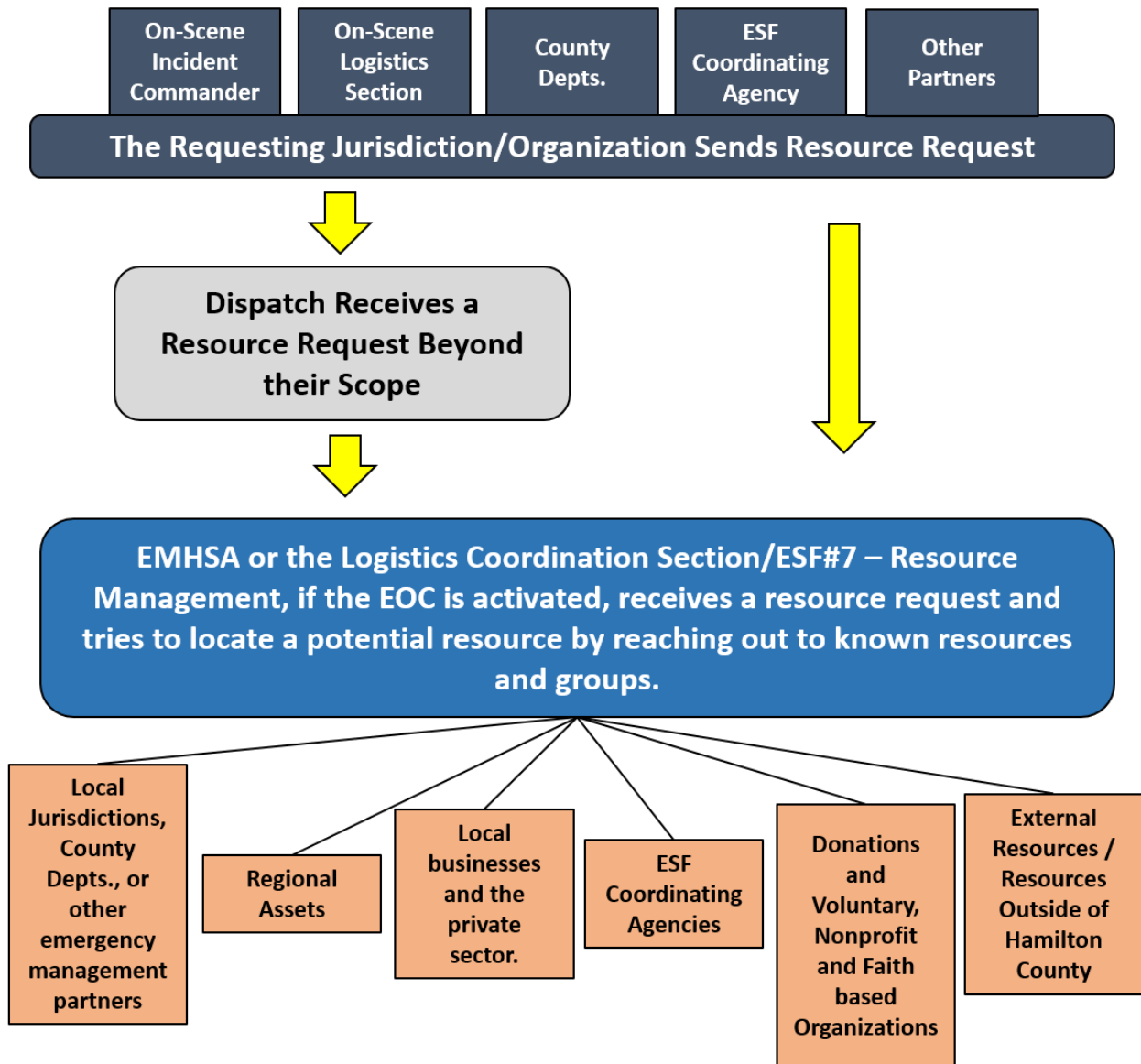
While locating potential resources, EMHSA or the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7 may also need to vet products or vendors to ensure the quality of the resource. EMHSA or the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7 may consult with subject matter experts who are more familiar with the service or product being requested to evaluate quality. Especially in disasters where there is a shortage of resources, fraudulent or counterfeit products may be produced and offered. Additionally, during large scale disasters, many businesses or organizations may reach out preemptively to offer their products or services. Documenting their information as they are received may benefit a future resource request.

Acquiring Resources and Purchasing Resources, if Needed

Once a potential resource is located, the proposed solution will be communicated and confirmed by the requesting jurisdiction/organizations. Once confirmed, actions will be taken to acquire the resource. Acquiring includes any actions needed to obtain the resource. Actions that may be taken include, but are not limited to:

- Purchasing the resource,
- Formally requesting the resource,

- Dispatching the resource,
- Supporting resource mobilization, or
- Accepting a donation.

During less complex events, EMHSA or the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7 may locate a potential resource and the requesting jurisdiction or organization acquires the resource. For example, if a County department needed additionally phones to run a call center, the EMHSA may use an existing relationship to locate a vendor to supply phone. This information would be shared with the requesting county department who would coordinate acquiring the resource internally.

The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for paying for or purchasing the resource unless specified otherwise. It is the responsibility of the requesting jurisdiction/organization to follow their internal purchasing and financial procedures. Additionally, the requesting jurisdiction/organization will track their overall costs for the incident.

Hamilton County will follow the emergency purchasing procedures outlined in the Ohio Revised Code and in the Hamilton County Purchasing Policy Manual. The Hamilton County Purchasing Department will provide guidance and advise on purchases made for the County. Additionally, during some disasters, Hamilton County may make purchases for the overall response effort.

When making a purchase, it is important to track all costs and evaluate cost against the available budget. For this reason, coordination will occur with the Hamilton County Office of Budget & Strategic Initiatives and the Finance Coordination Section, if activated, when purchases are made.

Sustaining Resources

Resources involved in response operations must be sustained or supported as appropriate to ensure proper functioning. What is needed for resource sustainment varies depending on the resource. Some resources may need regular upkeep, while others are self-sufficient and need little support. For example, debris removal equipment may need fuel for operation while specialty teams bring resources to be self-sufficient. Sustainment activities may include providing nourishment, sheltering responding personnel and teams, storing resources, maintaining resources or testing resources.

Resource Sustainment Activities	
Nourishment:	• Personnel and specialty teams performing response and short-term recovery operations will need to have access to food and water. • The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for supporting the resource(s) including providing food/feeding and water, as applicable. • Example: First responders on-scene may need canteening operations.
Sheltering:	• Personnel and specialty teams, especially resources from outside the area, may need sheltering. • The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for supporting the resource(s) including providing sheltering, as applicable. • Example: A voluntary organization based outside of Hamilton County may be requested to assist with debris removal operations for several days. The voluntary organization may request a location for volunteers to stay and rest between operations.

Resource Sustainment Activities	
Providing Supplies & Equipment:	• Personnel and specialty teams, especially resources from outside the area, may need supplies or equipment to operate. • The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for supporting the resource(s) including providing any needed supplies and equipment, as applicable. • Example: Specialized search and rescue teams from outside the region may be requested to assist with search and rescue operations. These personnel may need radios to communicate with responders on-scene.
Storing:	• Supplies and equipment may need to be stored when not being operated or distributed. • The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for supporting the resource(s) including storing the resource(s), as applicable. • Example: Flood cleanup kits or tarps may need to be stored indoors until distributed to residents.
Maintaining:	• Most resources are routinely maintained as part of day-to-day operations prior to an emergency occurring. The organization who owns the resource is responsible for maintaining the resource on the schedule they establish. Type of maintenance and its frequency will vary and depend on the resource. • In addition to this, some supplies and equipment may need to be maintained during an emergency when not in service. This may include routine service or upkeep. • The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for supporting the resource including performing maintenance, as applicable. • Examples: Radios may need to be regularly recharged. Additionally, when in staging, hand tools kept on fire apparatus such as chains saws or electric saws may need to be cleaned after being used.
Testing:	• Most resources are routinely tested as part of day-to-day operations prior to an emergency occurring. The organization who owns the resource is responsible for testing the resource to ensure it is operational on a schedule they establish. How it is tested, and the frequency of testing will vary and depend on the resource. • In addition to this, some supplies and equipment may need to be tested during an emergency when not in service. • The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for supporting the resource including testing, as applicable. • Example: If a hose on a fire truck was damaged or run over, the section of hose would need to be replaced and tested prior to returning to service.

It is the responsibility of the requesting jurisdiction/organization to provide resource sustainment. If requested, the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7 may support. Other ESFs may support areas of resource sustainment. For example, ESF #6 – Mass Care supports canteening operations for responders. Specific ESF responsibilities are listed in the ESF Annexes. During a large event with numerous resource requests, ESF #7 may coordinate resource sustainment to support a more streamlined and efficient process and ensure limited available resources are being utilized to sustain as many responding resources as possible.

Distributing Resources

After a resource has been obtained, it may need to be distributed to either responders or residents impacted by the emergency. The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for distributing the requested resources. The requesting jurisdiction/organization may request assistance with distribution.

Depending on the scope and scale of the incident, Hamilton County may establish a centralized distribution system. When evaluating whether to utilize a centralized distribution system, consider the anticipated duration of the distribution effort, length of time resources would need to be stored, incident information, and types of resources being distributed. ESF #7 will coordinate establishing the centralized distribution system if resources are being distributed to response personnel. ESF #6 – Mass Care will coordinate establishing a centralized distribution system if resources are being distributed to impacted residents with support from ESF #7.

Tracking Resources

Resources being utilized during emergency response and short-term recovery operations are tracked by the local jurisdiction or responding agency or department. Hamilton County departments are responsible for tracking any resources they utilize. For on-scene operations, generally ICS is used. Within ICS the Resource Unit Leader under the Planning Section, if established, is responsible for tracking resources. Many methods and strategies can be used to aid in resource tracking including using T-Cards, establishing a check-in, and utilizing a staging area.

If there are resource requests to the County, the EMHSA or the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7, if the EOC is activated, tracks the status of the resource request and the resource from the initial request through demobilization. The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for resource tracking and providing updates on the resource status to the EMHSA or EOC as the status changes. Additionally, contact will likely be made with requested resources routinely based upon the established operational period to ensure current status information is accurate.

Mobilizing, Dispatch, and Demobilization or Recall of Resources

When resources are utilized, they are mobilized, dispatched and either demobilized or recalled.

- Mobilization is the process and any activities related to preparing, assembling, organizing and/or transporting resources that will be utilized in the response.
- Dispatching is the activation and assignment of a resource to the response.
- Demobilization is the process and any activities related to discharging and releasing resources from a response effort.
- Recalling is the process to bring resources back into operation after it was demobilized.

Prior to a large-scale emergency, this process occurs for routine incidents that occur within the County. Additionally, for incidents or events where there is advanced notice such as flooding or a large pre-planned event, resources can be mobilized and dispatched in advance of an emergency. Depending on the event, resources may also be demobilized prior to an emergency as more information is learned. For example, resources may be mobilized and dispatched for forecasted flooding. However, as the forecast changes these resources may be demobilized due to a lower forecasted river level or lower forecasted rainfall amount. Similarly, resources may later be recalled if information is learned indicating that these resources will be needed.

Mobilizing, dispatching, demobilizing or recalling resources follows the same process prior to and during an emergency and is described below.

Procedures for the Mobilization, Dispatch, and Demobilization or Recall of Resources	

Mobilizing Resources	• Upon being notified of a potential response, resources may begin preparing for a possible response. This may include preparing equipment and organizing teams.
	• After being dispatched, resources will begin to mobilize, as appropriate.
	• During mobilization, the following actions should take place:
	    ○ The resource will organize its deployment.
	    ○ The resource will prepare any equipment, personnel, and supplies it will need to respond.
	    ○ The resource will verify the site where check-in will occur.
	    ○ As appropriate, the resource will verify the working conditions and what support will be provided.
	    ○ The resource will travel to the specified site reported during dispatch.

Dispatching Resources	• Resources are routinely dispatched using the established dispatch centers within Hamilton County.
	• Hamilton County has three PSAPs which dispatch resources. In addition, multiple departments have a dispatch capability for department resources. Some operate 24 hours a day; others have specific operating hours and are supplemented by other facilities when not open.
	• If a nonroutine resource is needed, a resource request can be submitted to EMHSA or the Hamilton County EOC, if activated. Upon locating a suitable resource, it will be assigned to the specific activity or mission and dispatched.
	• During dispatch the following actions will take place:
	    ○ The resource should wait to deploy until being dispatched.
	    ○ The resource will receive its assignment.
	    ○ The resource will verify its check-in location before arriving.

Demobilizing Resources	• The requesting jurisdiction/organization is responsible for releasing the resource from current operations. On-scene operations will conduct demobilization actions as necessary for the specific response effort.
	• To ensure resource tracking and accountability, if a resource is requested through the EMHSA or the Hamilton County EOC, it will also check out and report its status to the EMHSA or the Logistics Coordination Section/ESF #7 before being fully released from the response and short-term recovery effort. This is to mitigate releasing a potential resource that may be able to satisfy another resource request.
	• During demobilization the following actions will occur:
	    ○ The resource should stay on-scene or at staging until being authorized to leave.
	    ○ All resources will be debriefed prior to leaving.
	    ○ The resource will work with the requesting jurisdiction/organization for any support items needed during demobilization such as travel arrangements, food or water.
	    ○ Check-in/Return any supplies provided to the resource, as applicable.
	    ○ Follow any demobilization actions specific to the incident.

Recalling Resources	• Due to the unpredictability of disasters, resources sometimes need to be recalled to further support the response and short-term recovery effort. • If it is determined that a resource needs to be recalled, it will be recalled using the same process for dispatching a resource.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid involves sharing resources and services between jurisdictions and organizations. Mutual aid agreements are one source of assistance during a disaster response. Most, if not all the local jurisdictions within Hamilton County have mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions for support in the form of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs). Many local jurisdictions or organizations who identify a resource need and establish mutual aid to fulfill. The local jurisdiction or organization is responsible for maintaining those agreements.

All fire departments and emergency medical services in Hamilton County are part of a *Mutual Aid Plan* that is designed to allow for the dispatch of fire and medical units from multiple departments based on different factors. Mutual aid may be utilized to dispatch the closest resources, to respond to a large incident that utilizes all resources from one department, or to call for specialized equipment or apparatus. The Plan is maintained by the Hamilton County Fire Chief's Association. Additionally, the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association created the Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response System to provide local jurisdictions with a method to quickly summon additional fire service resources within the state to handle major emergencies when local mutual aid capabilities have been exhausted. The System provides for the rapid activation, mobilization, and response of aid to a community in the event of a localized disaster.

Law enforcement agencies in Hamilton County participate in the Hamilton County, Ohio Mutual Aid Agreement for Law Enforcement. This agreement enables law enforcement agencies to provide reciprocal police services across jurisdictional lines to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement for the protection of citizens and property throughout Hamilton County. This includes special public safety incidents which require additional law enforcement personnel.

Multiple jurisdictions participate in the *Public Works Mutual Aid Pact* managed by the Center for Local Government (CLG). In the event of a disaster in which additional public works resources are needed, requests for aid, assistance, manpower or equipment may be made to supplement the response. The CLG develops the Public Works Mutual Aid Manual which includes a list of the participating jurisdictions with contact information, a selective inventory of each jurisdiction's public works equipment, and an appendix which details frequently asked questions about the pact and includes a copy of the agreement.

Hamilton County participates in the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC), which is detailed under ORC 5502.41. IMAC is a mutual aid agreement among participating government subdivisions in Ohio, which was enacted by the Ohio legislature to complement mutual aid agreements among local jurisdictions. All political subdivisions are automatically included in the IMAC agreement but may choose to opt out by passing legislation declaring that it does not intend to participate. All local jurisdictions in Hamilton County, including the county itself, may request assistance from any other participating political subdivision in response to and in recovery from a disaster. Before requests can be made, the local jurisdiction or Hamilton County must formally declare a state of emergency. Ohio maintains the IMAC system including developing the Ohio IMAC Operations Manual. The Manual details the procedures and guidelines for utilizing IMAC in Ohio, includes forms and checklists that would be utilized and outlines the roles and responsibilities for implementation. Hamilton County supports this by performing the responsibilities outlined in the Manual as appropriate.

Another source of mutual aid is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which is a nationwide mutual aid agreement to facilitate government resource sharing between states. Like IMAC, EMAC is designed to complement existing inter-state mutual aid agreements. States may obtain resources through EMAC in lieu of, or in conjunction with, federal assistance. Unlike IMAC's opt-out system, EMAC

is an opt-in program. All 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have enacted legislation to join EMAC. In Ohio, EMAC is managed by the OEMA.

Other Agreements

Grant equipment is regularly used throughout the region. All grant purchased equipment may be used throughout the region as requested. Hamilton County is the fiscal agent for Region 6 for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). EMHSA maintains the agreements and regularly updates them. The grant recipients are responsible for equipment maintenance and upkeep.

Supplemental County Staffing

Certain disasters may require more personnel than are readily available. It may be necessary to augment Hamilton County's available personnel by requesting county employees from other departments and divisions to aid in the response and short-term recovery. As such, the Hamilton County BoCC passed a Resolution on June 13, 2016, allowing for Hamilton County EMHSA and HCPH to request volunteers during a declared State of Emergency. These volunteers may serve in a variety of capacities and will receive the required training necessary for their volunteer assignments from either Hamilton County EMHSA or HCPH. As a resolution, there is no regular maintenance for this agreement. The Hamilton County Human Resources department has incorporated this agreement in County policies.

County Operations

It is the responsibility of local and county governments to reasonably protect life, property, and the environment from the effects of disasters. While most emergencies are handled by the local jurisdiction, Hamilton County is called upon to provide supplemental assistance and coordination whenever the consequences of a disaster exceed local capabilities. Additionally, local and county agencies may proactively take certain measures to prepare for pre-planned events. If needed, the OEMA may be requested to assist in a disaster or pre-planned event. Assistance may take the form of mobilizing state resources, activating specialized response teams, or providing equipment to support emergency operations.

One of the most important roles that Hamilton County plays in supporting the local jurisdictions is leading multiagency coordination. NIMS describes multiagency coordination as a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system with responsibilities for coordinating and supporting domestic incident management activities. NIMS goes on to state that the primary functions of multiagency coordination systems are to support incident management policies and priorities, facilitate logistics support and resource tracking, inform resource allocation decisions using incident management priorities, coordinate incident related information, and coordinate interagency and intergovernmental issues regarding incident management policies, priorities, and strategies.

Multiagency coordination may be as simple as a teleconference or more complex requiring an assembled group and associated support systems. In Hamilton County, EMHSA is the agency responsible for executing multiagency coordination. This process occurs by following the concepts described in the sections above. When this coordination process needs a physical location where staff from multiple agencies and organizations can come together to address these imminent threats and hazards and to provide coordinated support to IC, on-scene personnel and/or other jurisdictions, the Hamilton County EOC is activated.

An important part of multiagency coordination conducted by Hamilton County EMHSA is to manage coordination activities not just at the county level, but among all personnel with emergency response roles including higher (e.g. OEMA, FEMA), lateral (e.g. BoCC, County Administration), subordinate (e.g. 49

jurisdictions within Hamilton County, LHDs, etc.), and neighboring jurisdictions (e.g. Boone County, Warren County, etc.).

Emergency Operations Center

The Hamilton County EOC is located at the City of Cincinnati-Hamilton County ROC, a permanent facility located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The ROC is the physical location at which the EMHSA coordinates with all appropriate agencies involved in the response in order to provide interagency coordination, develop a common operating picture, and share information with executives who have the authority to make decisions in support of incident response. The three primary functions of the Hamilton County EOC are to manage information, manage resources, and manage consequences.

The Hamilton County EOC is organized using a hybrid model that combines elements of ICS with ESFs, which are functional areas responsible for supporting one component of the response. Each ESF is led by a Coordinating Agency and supported by multiple Support Agencies. The Coordinating Agencies are responsible for orchestrating the county's support for the local jurisdictions within their respective function and serve as the coordinating link between Hamilton County and other operational units. Supporting Agencies are agencies and organizations whose expertise, resources, and/or statutory responsibility or authority make them invaluable partners in supporting response operations across the county.

Each ESF is described in an ESF Annex – individual chapters that focus on an emergency function (e.g. communications, mass care). These annexes describe the actions, roles, and responsibilities of Coordinating and Supporting Agencies in more detail. There are 15 ESFs in total:

Hamilton County Emergency Support Functions		
#	Name	Coordinating Agency
ESF #1	Transportation Infrastructure	Hamilton County Engineer's Office
ESF #2	Communications	Hamilton County Communications Center
ESF #3	Public Works	Hamilton County Environmental Services
ESF #4	Fire & EMS	Hamilton County Fire Chief's Association
ESF #5	Information & Planning	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
ESF #6	Mass Care	Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services
ESF #7	Resource Management	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
ESF #8	Public Health & Healthcare Providers	Hamilton County Public Health
ESF #9	Search & Rescue	Hamilton County Urban Search & Rescue
ESF #10	Hazardous Materials	Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Hamilton County Emergency Support Functions		
#	**Name**	**Coordinating Agency**
ESF #11	Animals & Agriculture	Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
ESF #12	Energy	Hamilton County Engineer's Office
ESF #13	Law Enforcement	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
ESF #14	Private Sector & Infrastructure	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
ESF #15	Emergency Public Information	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

While multiagency coordination can greatly benefit from having partners physically working alongside one another within the EOC, it is by no means the only method for multiagency coordination to occur. The EOC may operate in a virtual environment when Coordinating and Supporting Agencies are not be able to have a physical presence at the ROC, usually due to limitations of the incident (i.e. debris has cut off access to the facility or a public health emergency where social distancing is required, etc.). Virtual EOC operations may be augmented by utilizing WebEOC, a web-based information management system that provides a single access point for the collection and dissemination of disaster or event-related information.

The Hamilton County EOC Organization Chart is attached to this EOP as Attachment #2.

The Hamilton County EOC is organized to maximize each of the characteristics of an effective organization. While ICS is one component of NIMS, providing the functional structure for actively managing any type of incident faced by responders, it is not the optimal structure for an EOC environment. Under the ICS structure, ICs have several critical needs with which EOC personnel can assist. These needs may include:
1. A Common Operating Picture: Critical during large or complex incidents or incidents involving personnel from multiple response agencies.
2. Policy Direction: Critical when jurisdictions with differing policies are involved in a response.
3. Communication Support: Critical in large, complex incidents or when multiple jurisdictions are involved in a response.
4. Resources: Includes people, equipment, and supplies required for a response.
5. Strategic Planning: Allows the IC to focus on tactics.
6. Legal and Financial Support: Frees on-scene resources to focus on the response.

More specific details on operations of the Hamilton County EOC are discussed in the *Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center Manual*.

Emergency Activation Levels (EALs)
Large-scale emergencies, such as a tornado or terrorist incident, may require the immediate activation of the Hamilton County EOC. Other emergencies that are slower in onset may not require that all response capabilities be activated. The EMHSA utilizes a graduated system that ensures the level of response scales to the scope of the disaster. The following levels describe the response activities Hamilton County may undertake. Response operations may transition from one level to the next without formal pronouncement.

Level 4 – Steady State

The EMHSA operates out of the ROC during regular business hours. At all times the EMHSA has a Primary and Back-up Duty Officer assigned to monitor for potential emergencies in and around Hamilton County. This includes, but is not limited to, monitoring the weather daily, being aware of upcoming pre-planned events, and monitoring local emergencies that have the potential to exceed local response capabilities.

Level 3 – Situational Assessment and Monitoring

The EMHSA has been alerted to a specific hazard or event that has the potential to require a response. The EMHSA coordinates with agencies that may have knowledge of the hazard or event to determine if any assistance may be required. Coordinating and Supporting Agencies may be put on standby in the event they are requested to respond to the Hamilton County EOC. The Primary or Alternate Duty Officer has the responsibility for sharing event-specific information with the EMHSA Director or his/her designee and appropriate response partners.

Level 2 – Partial Activation of the EOC

The EMHSA Director or his/her designee activates the EOC. Activation of the EOC may occur at the request of the IC, fire chief, law enforcement chief, or a local executive administrator. Appropriate Coordinating and Supporting Agencies are requested to respond to the ROC to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in this EOP based on the needs of the disaster.

A proclamation of a local State of Emergency may be made at this time by the chief elected official of the affected local jurisdiction or by other legally designated personnel. The EMHSA Director or his/her designee will notify the OEMA of the incident and the activation of the Hamilton County EOC. Ongoing communications and documentation of damage and needs assessment information will be maintained between the Hamilton County EOC and the OEMA. OEMA staff may be sent to the ROC to coordinate with the Hamilton County EOC.

The EMHSA Director, his/her designee, or the EOC Coordinator will evaluate the status of the EOC including whether to maintaining current operations, progress to Level 1 or deactivate to Level 3 or below.

Level 1 – Full Activation of the EOC

The EMHSA Director, his/her designee, or the EOC Coordinator will request all Coordinating and Supporting Agencies respond to the ROC. A proclamation of a local State of Emergency may be made by multiple jurisdictions within the county and Hamilton County may declare a State of Emergency as well. The EMHSA Director or his/her designee will request assistance from the OEMA. Ongoing communications and documentation of damage and needs assessment information will be maintained between the affected jurisdiction, the Hamilton County EOC, and the OEMA.

Hamilton County will prepare to receive state and federal assistance once confirmation and approval of the request has been received. Activities may include:
- Identification of staging areas for state and federal resources
- Identification of the state and/or federal missions that need to be addressed
- Identification of local liaisons to state and federal ESF representatives
- Coordinating state and federal assessment briefings
- Processing appropriate local documentation required for declaration/assistance

The EMHSA Director, his/her designee, or the EOC Coordinator will evaluate the status of the EOC including whether to maintain current operations or deactivate to Level 3 or below.

It is possible for multiple unrelated incidents to occur within Hamilton County simultaneously. For example, a hazardous materials incident may occur during riverine flooding, or a high wind and tornado event could occur during a pre-planned event. Though the two incidents alone would require different EALs to reflect the response, when occurring simultaneously Hamilton County's EAL will remain at whichever level is higher until the incidents are resolved.
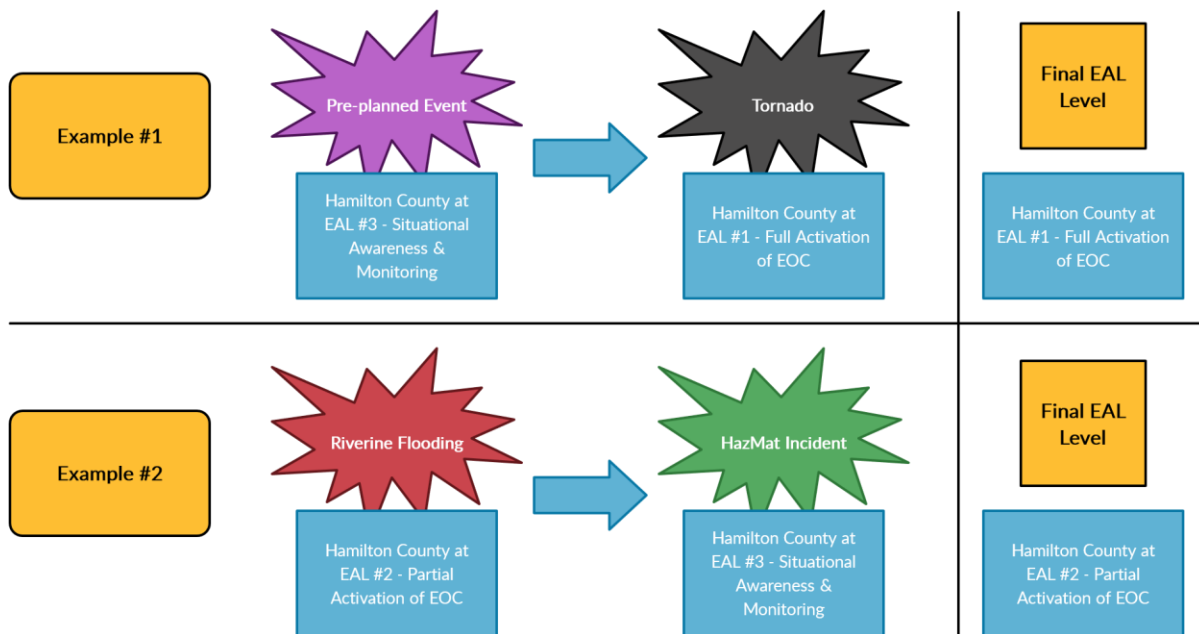
Administration and Finance

Emergency management operations will be supported by administration and finance procedures, processes, resources, and personnel. In many cases, department representatives will use the same procedures and processes during emergency operations that are used during daily operations to manage similar functions. In other cases, unique emergency-related procedures and protocols may be accessed or developed to meet the needs of the emergency.

Hamilton County EMHSA will serve as the subject matter expert on issues addressing disaster administration and finance. In addition to finding answers to questions related to disaster administration and finance on behalf of the local jurisdictions, Hamilton County EMHSA will work closely with Hamilton County departments to ensure the county is following all administrative and finance issues appropriately. This may include working with Hamilton County Administration, particularly Human Resources and the Office of Budget and Strategic Initiatives, as well as Hamilton County Purchasing, including the Office of Procurement.

Response and short-term recovery efforts will generate increased costs for Hamilton County. These costs will primarily result from the deployment of personnel and equipment in support of emergency operations. While some personnel and equipment costs may be recoverable from state and federal agencies, it is unlikely that all costs will be reimbursed. To ensure reimbursement, county and local jurisdictions must document all costs associated with an incident.

Costs will be documented by the Finance Section in the EOC, if activated by the EOC Coordinator. If the Finance Section is not activated, documentation of cost will be the responsibility of the agency that makes the request, which shall be submitted to the Hamilton County EMHSA and logged in WebEOC. Additional

information regarding financial record keeping responsibilities can be found in the Hamilton County EOC Position Manual. Documentation should be provided to the Finance Section in order to:

- Provide cost breakdowns for all personnel hours worked to include straight time and overtime
- Provide cost breakdowns for all equipment purchased and/or leased
- Provide cost breakdowns for all professional services acquired
- Provide timely updated reports to the EOC Leadership Group
- Coordinate activities and resources with the OEMA

In order to obtain federal reimbursement for a disaster, the incident must be declared an emergency by the federal government. Reimbursement may be obtained from the State of Ohio without a declared emergency through Individual or Public Assistance Programs. The process is initiated through Hamilton County after a local or county declaration is made. This is consistent with the requirements as outlined in the Robert T. Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288).

The amount of reimbursement is based on several factors. However, in most instances, FEMA reimburses 75% of eligible costs. The remaining 25% is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction. If funding is available, the 25% may be split between the local jurisdiction, Hamilton County, and the State of Ohio.

Even with a state or federal disaster declaration, financial support for individuals affected by the disaster may be limited. Additional federal programs may be available to assist individuals such as low-interest loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration. Assistance may also be available through charitable organizations, volunteer donations, and insurance coverage.

Emergency Declarations

Declarations of a State of Emergency may be made when a disaster has reached a level where additional resources will be needed, or it is anticipated that the scale of the disaster shall exceed the capabilities of the jurisdiction. Emergency declarations may be made by any of the jurisdictions within Hamilton County as well as by Hamilton County itself. Hamilton County may declare a State of Emergency even if none of the jurisdictions within the county have done so. Whenever a local jurisdiction has declared a State of Emergency, EMHSA should be notified as soon as possible so it may begin determining what level of response may be required by the county to support the impacted jurisdiction.

While outside resources may be obtained through mutual aid agreements that do not necessitate a declaration, declaring a State of Emergency will facilitate the process of obtaining State, and possibly Federal, assets.

A State of Emergency may be verbally declared by the President of the BoCC upon finding that a disaster has occurred or the threat of a disaster is imminent within Hamilton County. If the President of the BoCC is absent from the county or incapacitated in any way, the Vice President may declare in the President's absence. If the President and Vice President of the BoCC is absent, the remaining County Commissioner may declare in their absence. A formally executed resolution shall then be prepared for the Board's signatures. A sample resolution can be found in Attachment #3 to this EOP.

Upon declaration of a State of Emergency the Hamilton County BoCC shall have certain powers as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Sections 307 – Board of County Commissioners – Powers, and 5502 – Department of Public Safety. The State of Emergency shall identify a specific number of days it will last and should not exceed that period unless renewed by a majority vote of the Hamilton County BoCC.

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

The following represents basic responsibilities accepted by elected officials, managers, departments and community agencies in response to a disaster. Law mandates some duties, while others are developed by departments and agencies to support continuity in emergency response efforts. Responsibilities listed are not all inclusive but should cover most major emergency operations. The roles and responsibilities of all positions within the Hamilton County EOC are outlined in the EOC Operations Manual.

Individual Jurisdictional Responsibilities

In order to facilitate coordination and to support the local jurisdictions before, during and after an incident, Hamilton County EMHSA has requested each of the 49 jurisdictions for the following:

- Designate an emergency management coordinator and/or a designated point of contact who can work with Hamilton County EMHSA on emergency management before, during and after disasters and who will communicate emergency management information to your jurisdiction as needed (send information to management, public works, police, fire, etc.).
- Create and maintain an EOP that addresses how the jurisdiction will respond to and recovery from hazards that are natural, technological, or man-made.
- Identify a place (EOC) to coordinate disaster response within the jurisdiction, a location where the response and recovery actions of the jurisdiction can be coordinated. Identify and train a team to staff the local EOC.
- Notify Hamilton County EMHSA if a local State of Emergency is declared or needed.
- Conduct and/or participate in regular trainings and exercises so all local government staff understand what their role will be in a disaster.
- Invite Hamilton County EMHSA to participate in public safety fairs, expos, etc. to share preparedness information with residents.
- Identify a damage assessment coordinator to lead the local damage assessment in the jurisdiction and share damage assessments with Hamilton County EMHSA. A damage assessment is required to begin the process to receive Individual and Public Assistance either from the state or FEMA.

Elected Officials in Hamilton County

Whether they are locally elected officials or county-level officials, elected officials plan an important leadership role within Hamilton County as stakeholders who represent the interests of those who elected them to office. During all phases of the emergency management cycle, they play an important role. However, as stakeholders some elected officials may have a limited role in the Hamilton County EOC, in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest from competing response priorities and the allocation of limited resources. In support of disaster operations, elected officials should:

- Maintain situational awareness
- Consult with senior public safety officials and determine if Declaring a State of Emergency is necessary
- Understand the Federal Disaster Declaration Process and what funding may be available to assist with recovery
- Understand the resource request process and work within the system to avoid competing or conflicting requests
- Coordinate public messages with the Public Information Officer/JIC to ensure a coordinated message

Comprehensive Responsibilities

The following list of responsibilities is applicable to all agencies, organizations, and individuals who have a defined role as outlined in this EOP. This includes, but is not limited to, all Coordinating and Supporting

Agencies, the EOC Leadership Group, the EOC Coordinator, the EOC Liaison, all EOC Section Chiefs, and the chief elected and appointed officials within Hamilton County:

- Develop, maintain, and implement internal emergency operations procedures including relevant Standard Operating Procedures/Standard Operating Guides (SOPs/SOGs)
- Incorporate operational priorities into response activities
- Maintain an accurate alert roster for mobilizing during an EOC Activation
- Develop and regularly update internal resource listings of personnel, equipment, supplies, and services that would be used by the agency during emergencies. Ensure that emergency resources are operational and available
- Participate in Hamilton County's comprehensive training and exercise program

EOC Coordinator

The EOC Coordinator is ultimately response for managing the activities within the EOC. The EOC Coordinator may be a member of the Hamilton County EMHSA or a senior public safety official. Responsibilities for the EOC Coordinator may include:
- Ensure appropriate staffing levels for the Hamilton County EOC
- Ensure all required functions and processes are implemented and accomplished
- Continuously monitor organizational effectiveness ensuring that appropriate modifications occur as required
- Exercise overall management responsibility for coordination between the local jurisdictions, Hamilton County, OEMA or the federal government
- Assist in setting priorities for response efforts
- Approve documents produced in the EOC including the EOC-AP and Situation Report
- Approve requests for additional resources or for the release of resources
- Authorize release of information to the media

EOC Policy Group

The EOC Policy Group provides support to all the activities of the Hamilton County EOC. The Policy Group may have the authority or information necessary to expedite response actions. Responsibilities for the EOC Policy Group may include:
- Provide operational guidance for the EOC during activation
- Authorize additional fiscal resources required for the response
- Address legal questions or issues that arise as a result of preparedness, response, or recovery actions
- Maintain on-going communications with local executive elected officials in the affected jurisdictions
- Serve as spokesperson for the EOC if requested by the Public Information Officer/JIC
- Resolve potential conflicts that may arise if multiple jurisdictions are affected or there is a scarcity of resources

The EOC Policy Group shall be comprised of experienced or authorized individuals including, but not limited to, elected county officials, senior county decision makers, senior public safety officials, and high-level subject matter experts. The make-up of the Policy Group may change from incident to incident.

EOC General Staff

The EOC General Staff is comprised of the Section Chiefs who oversee the Operations, Planning, Logistics or Finance Sections within the EOC. These positions may be activated as needed at the discretion of the EOC Coordinator. When activated, Section Chiefs will ensure the coordination of activities between

Hamilton County and IC or, if activated, any local jurisdictional EOCs. The specific responsibilities for the EOC Section Chiefs are outlined in the Hamilton County EOC Position Manuals.

Emergency Support Functions

Responsibilities specific to each ESF can be found in the annexes below. Regardless or the ESF, every Coordinating and Supporting Agency has broad responsibilities listed below:

Coordinating Agencies

Coordinating Agencies provide overall coordination of the functional activities within each ESF. Responsibilities for Coordinating Agencies include:

- Designate sufficient representatives (no less than three) to support/staff 24-hour operations at the Hamilton County EOC. Maintain listings of these personnel, 24-hour contact information, and directions for contacting them in the event of communication outages
- Coordinate the activities of Supporting Agencies within their ESF to fulfill operational objectives
- Direct the activities of the ESF in conjunction with assistance from ESFs at the local, State, or Federal levels as applicable
- Collaborate with other Coordinating Agencies to ensure an effective response between ESFs
- Share ESF activity information with appropriate EOC personnel
- Stay informed to the ongoing activities of the agency/organization they represent

Supporting Agencies

Supporting Agencies provide support of the functional activities within each ESF. Supporting Agencies may have specific information or resources necessary to fulfill ESF activities. Responsibilities for Supporting Agencies include:
- Designate sufficient representatives (no less than three) to support/staff 24-hour operations at the Hamilton County EOC. Maintain listings of these personnel, 24-hour contact information, and directions for contacting them in the event of communication outages
- Inform ESF Coordinating Agency of response actions in support of operational objectives
- Assist the Coordinating Agencies in the completion of ESF activities as directed
- Stay informed to the ongoing activities of the agency/organization they represent

Plan Implementation

The Hamilton County EOP is unique compared to other plans utilized by Hamilton County to address different elements of disasters because the concepts discussed above are always ongoing as Hamilton County is constantly monitoring for threats, taking prevention actions, and coordinating information with our partners. There is no activation or deactivation of the plan.

Because the plan is always active, the concepts listed throughout the plan are implemented daily. Steps for implementing these concepts can be found in the *Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency Duty Officer Manual* as well as in the *Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center Manual*. These two documents outline procedural actions taken by Hamilton County EMHSA to implement the concepts discussed in the plan above.

Logistics Support and Resource Requirements

In order to implement this plan, logistics support and resources may be needed. Logistical support includes support that may be provided by the organizations who provide support services such as communications support or safeguarding vital records. Examples include:

- The HCCC which maintains the County's email system, and
- The Hamilton County Auditor's Office which supports safeguarding vital records by supporting server sustainment.

Resource requirements focus on resources that are needed for daily operations of Hamilton County EMHSA which may include facilities for daily operations, communication equipment to notify and communicate with individuals regarding potential and actual incidents, and vital records.

Plan Development

The Hamilton County EOP was developed to be consistent with best practices in Emergency Management and utilized the guidance for developing EOPs as found in Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101. The plan structure mirrors the National Response Framework and the State of Ohio EOP in order to facilitate a coordinated response between Hamilton County, the State of Ohio, and the Federal Government.

Local jurisdictions in Hamilton County are given the opportunity to develop their local EOPs with staff from the Hamilton County EMHSA in order to ensure their plans can function in coordination with the Hamilton County EOP. The jurisdictions in Hamilton County are encouraged to also utilize CPG 101 for consistency and clarity in their planning efforts.

Hamilton County EMHSA is the primary agency responsible for coordinating the development, maintenance, and implementation of the Hamilton County EOP. A Core Committee was created to oversee updates to the Hamilton County EOP, with membership from all Coordinating Agencies identified in the plan as well as multiple Supporting Agencies. In addition, representatives from special segments of Hamilton County's population were included in the Core Committee to ensure a whole community approach. The Core Committee Members is listed in Attachment #4.

Over a multi-year period, Hamilton County EMHSA oversaw plan development by developing draft language for each section of the plan and administering meetings with external partners to review the concepts and language throughout the plan. Upon completion of a final draft of the plan, all Coordinating Agencies were sent a copy of the EOP to review and provide comment.

The Hamilton County EMHSA also submitted the plan to OEMA for review and approval. Upon approval by the OEMA and following the review from external organizations, the plan was discussed with the Hamilton County EMHSA Executive Committee and a draft was sent for review. The Hamilton County EMHSA Executive Committee is listed in Attachment #5.

Following review by the Hamilton County EMHSA Executive Committee, the plan was sent to the Hamilton County BoCC for promulgation. The Promulgation can be found at the front of the plan.

Once the plan has been approved and promulgated, a copy is sent to all Coordinating and Supporting Agencies identified in the plan. These agencies are responsible for reviewing the plan, and for maintenance of internal plans, SOGs, notification rosters, and resource data to ensure prompt and effective response to emergencies. The Hamilton County EMHSA will provide assistance for disaster planning activities as needed and facilitate all ESF meetings.

The plan was distributed as outlined in the Record of Distribution at the front of the plan.

Plan Maintenance

Evaluation

The EOP will be evaluated through periodic reviews of the plan and when the plan is implemented during exercises and real-world events. Elements to consider when reviewing the plan include:

- Whether any changes have occurred to personnel identified in the plan with responsibilities,
- Whether there were any changes to applicable state or local legislation, and/or
- Whether any specific areas of improvement where identified after the plan was implemented during exercises and real-world events.

The Hamilton County EMHSA is responsible for initiating a review of this plan annually. These reviews may occur more frequently. Reviews will be documented in the Revision History section of this plan.

Revision

The EOP will be revised by the Hamilton County EMHSA when plan updates are identified during plan reviews. Plan updates may be based on changes to policy or county structure and/or based on lessons learned and areas of improvement identified through events, drills, exercises, or after-action reviews. Any changes to this plan will be documented in the Revision section of this plan.

Major revisions, those which significantly alter or establish new policy, must be reviewed and approved by the Hamilton County EOP Core Committee, which should meet at least one per year regardless of whether any changes are required. Any changes to individual ESF annexes should be reviewed and approved by the Coordinating Agency of that ESF. Minor revisions may be made by the Hamilton County EMHSA as needed.

Plan revision will occur at least annually in accordance with the review of the plan; however, plan updates may occur more frequently than this timeline. This plan revision should include a review of at least three ESFs and the Basic Plan. And complete revision of the EOP should occur every four years and include review by the OEMA.

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Emergency Planning and Notification, 40 C.F.R. § 355 (2012).

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5

Presidential Policy Directive 8 – National Preparedness

33 U.S.C. 1342 – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Public Law 92-500 – Clean Water Drinking Act

Public Law 100-707 – Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

Public Law 104-182 – Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996

Public Law 104-321 – Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Public Law 106-390 – Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

Public Law 107-296 – Homeland Security Act of 2002

Public Law 109-295 – Title VI – Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006

Public Law 109-308 – Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006

State
Ohio Administrative Code 1301:7-7-01(D)(11) – Authority at Fires and Other Emergencies

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29 – Sewage Treatment Systems

Ohio Administrative Code 3750-20 – Emergency Planning

Ohio Administrative Code 4123:1-21-07 – Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health

Ohio Administrative Code 4501:3 – Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Revised Code 149.433 – Exempting Security and Infrastructure Records

Ohio Revised Code 161 – Emergency Interim Government

Ohio Revised Code 305 – Board of County Commissioners – Generally

Ohio Revised Code 307 – Board of County Commissioners – Powers

Ohio Revised Code 329 – County Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Revised Code 2305.2310 – Civil immunity for architects, contractors, engineers, surveyors, and tradespersons providing volunteer services

Ohio Revised Code 3345.26 – Board of Trustees or President May Declare State of Emergency

Ohio Revised Code 3701 – Department of Health

Ohio Revised Code 3707.01 – Powers of board – abatement of nuisances

Ohio Revised Code 3718 – Sewage Treatment Systems

Ohio Revised Code 3750 – Emergency Planning

Ohio Revised Code 3781.03 – Enforcement – supervision – records

Ohio Revised Code 5502 – Department of Public Safety

Local
Hamilton County Resolution dated September 27, 1989 – Resolution Authorizing the Enactment of County Emergency Management Agreements

Hamilton County Resolution dated June 7, 2006 – Designation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the Basis for All Incident Management in Hamilton County

Hamilton County Resolution dated June 20, 2023 – Resolution Endorsing the Participation of County Employees in Assisting with Responding and Recovering During a Declared Emergency or Disaster

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Acronyms and Glossary

Acronyms

AAR	After Action Review
ACC	Alternative Care Centers
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AHJ	Authority Having Jurisdiction
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
ARU	Aerial Reconnaissance Unit
B+I	Building + Inspections
BoCC	Board of County Commissioners
CAD	Computer-Aided Dispatch
CAGIS	Cincinnati Area Geographic Information Systems
CAMEO	Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
CART	County Animal Response Team
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive
CCS	County Control Station
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CFD	Cincinnati Fire Department
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHEMTREC	Chemical Transportation Emergency Center
CIKR	Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource
CIMS	Communications & Information Management System
CMBP	Charles M. Bolton Wellfield
COAD	Community Organizations Active in Disaster
CLG	Center for Local Government
CPG	Comprehensive Preparedness Guide
CRD	Compact Rapid Deployable
CVR2	Community Vulnerability Risk and Resiliency
DAT	Damage Assessment Team
DFO	Disaster Field Office
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DMCA	Debris Management Coordinating Agency
EAL	Emergency Activation Level
EAS	Emergency Alert System
ECC	City of Cincinnati Emergency Communications Center
EHS	Extremely Hazardous Substance
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMHSA	Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EOC	Emergency Operation Center
EOC-AP	Emergency Operations Center Action Plan
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency

EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
ERG	US DOT Emergency Response Guidebook
ERS	Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response System
ESF	Emergency Support Function
ETS	City of Cincinnati Enterprise Technology Solutions
FAC	Family Assistance Center
FE	Functional Exercise
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FSE	Full Scale Exercise
GCFC	Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center
GCHMCC	Greater Cincinnati Harbor & Maritime Cooperative Committeef
GCHMU	Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Material Unit
GCWW	Greater Cincinnati Water Works
GETS	Government Emergency Telecommunications Service
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLO	Guard Liaison Officer
HazMat	Hazardous Material(s)
HAZWOPER	Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
HCCC	Hamilton County Communications Center
HCDOES	Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
HCEO	Hamilton County Engineer's Office
HCFCA	Hamilton County Fire Chief's Association
HCPH	Hamilton County Public Health
HCSO	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
HMO	Hazardous Materials Officer
HMRS	Hazardous Materials Research Specialist
HMSO	Hazardous Materials Safety Officer
HSGP	Homeland Security Grant Program
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Command(er)
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
ILO	Intelligence Liaison Officer
IMAAC	Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center
IMAC	Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact
IMAT	Incident Management Assistant Team
IMT	Incident Management Team
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
JFS	Job & Family Services
JIC	Joint Information Center
JIS	Joint Information System
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
LHD	Local Health Department
MAA	Mutual Aid Agreement

MARCS	Multi-Agency Radio Communication System
MCI	Mass Casualty Incident
MHRSB	Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSD	Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRC	National Response Center
NWS	National Weather Service
OAC	Ohio Administrative Code
ODNR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
ODOT	Ohio Department of Transportation
ODRC	Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
OEMA	Ohio Emergency Management Agency
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OFCA	Ohio Fire Chief's Association
Ohio WARN	Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network
OHM-EEM	Ohio Hazardous Material Exercise and Evaluation Manual
OHTF-1	Ohio Task Force One
ONG	Ohio National Guard
ORC	Ohio Revised Code
ORS	Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response System
ORWA	Ohio Rural Water Association
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
OSHA	Occupational Health and Safety
OTS	Official Traffic Stations
PIO	Public Information Officer
PODS	Points of Dispensing
POETE	Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training & Exercise
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSAP	Public Service Answering Point
R2R	Ready to Recover
ROC	City of Cincinnati – Hamilton County Regional Operation Center
RTCC	Real Time Crime Center
RTICP	Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
SAR	Search and Rescue/Suspicious Activity Report
SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act
SatCOLT	Satellite Cell on Light Truck
SDS	Safety Data Sheets
SEAR	Special Event Assessment Rating
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
SHSP	State Homeland Security Program
SitRep	Situation Report
SME	Subject Matter Expert

SNS	Strategic National Stockpile
SOG	Standard Operating Guide
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOSINK	Southern Ohio, Southeastern Indiana, and Northern Kentucky Region
STACC	Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TF-1	Loveland-Symmes Task Force 1
THIRA	Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
TOW	Tower on Wheels
TPQ	Threshold Planning Quantity
TTX	Tabletop Exercise
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UASI	Urban Area Security Initiative
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UC	Unified Command
UHF	Ultra-High Frequency
USAR	Urban Search & Rescue
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. DOT	United States Department of Transportation
VHF	Very High Frequency
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VRC	Volunteer Reception Center
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
WPS	Wireless Priority Service

Glossary

Aerial Search and Rescue - Aerial search and rescue is the use of drones, helicopters and/or other flying equipment to search for missing persons. This technique is particularly useful in mountainous or difficult to access terrains or geographically dispersed search areas.

Assembly Point – A location outside the evacuated area that can accommodate many vehicles and serves as the initial gathering place for those individuals who have withdrawn from the risk area.

Capability Assessment – After conducting a Hazards Analysis, "[t]he next step for the jurisdiction is to assess its current capability for dealing with the hazards that have been identified… Current capability is determined against standards and criteria FEMA has established as necessary to perform basic emergency management functions, e.g., alerting and warning, evacuation, emergency communications. The resulting information provides a summary of the capabilities that exist and upon which current plans should be prepared…and leads to the identification of the jurisdiction's weaknesses."

Catchment – A catchment is an area where water is collected by the natural landscape.

Certificate of Occupancy – The certificate issued by the Building Official which permits the use of a building in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, and which certifies compliance with the provisions of law for the use of occupancy of the building in its several parts together with any special stipulations or conditions of the building permit.

Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC) – A program providing information and/or assistance to emergency responders. CHEMTREC contacts the shipper or producer of the material for more detailed information, including on-scene assistance when feasible. CHEMTREC can be reached 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-424-9300.

Cleanup Actions – Actions taken to deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health and/or the environment. Broadly describes various response actions or remedial actions such as investigations or studies.

Combined Sewer System – A combined sewer is a type of gravity sewer with a system of pipes, tunnels, pump stations, etc. to transport sewage and urban runoff together to a sewage treatment plant or disposal site. This means that during rain events, the sewage gets diluted, resulting in higher flowrates at the treatment site.

Command Post – Facility located at a safe distance upwind from an accident site where the on-scene coordinator, responders, and technical representatives can make response decisions, deploy manpower and equipment, maintain liaison with media, and handle communications.

Communication(s) – The transference of information and may involve the representation, transfer, interpretation, and processing of data among persons, places, and machines. The term may also refer to the transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signals, writing, images, and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical, or other electromagnetic systems

Coordinating Agency – An ESF coordinating agency is a county entity with significant authorities, roles, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF. ESFs may have multiple Coordinating Agencies, and the specific responsibilities of those agencies are articulated within the relevant ESF Annex.

Cost Recovery – A legal process where potential responsible parties can be required to pay back responders money spent on response/cleanup.

Critical Facilities – Facilities essential to emergency response, such as fire stations, police stations, hospitals, and communication centers.

Debris Management Coordinating Agency – The single point of contact responsible for managing, overseeing, and coordinating debris operations for the county.

Debris Management Site – A location for local jurisdictions to temporarily store, reduce, segregate, and/or process debris before it is hauled to its final disposition. It is frequently used to increase the operational flexibility when landfill space is limited or when the landfill is not in close proximity to the debris removal area.

Debris Removal – Process involving waste collection, separating, hauling, and disposal.

Demolition – The act or process of reducing a structure, as defined by State or local code, to a collapsed state.

Disaster – An event in which a community undergoes severe danger and incurs, or is threatened to incur, such losses to persons and/or property that the resources available within the community are exceeded. In disasters, resources from beyond the local jurisdiction, that is State or Federal level, are required to meet the disaster demands.

Dry Well – An underground structure that disposes of unwanted water, most commonly surface runoff and stormwater and in some cases greywater. It is a gravity-fed, vertical underground system that captures surface water from impervious surfaces, then stores and gradually infiltrates the water into the groundwater aquifer.

Emergency – An unexpected event which places life and/or property in danger and requires an immediate response through the use of routine community resources and procedures. Emergencies occur daily within Hamilton County and can usually be addressed by the resources of the local jurisdiction. Though the impact to individuals may be great, emergencies are not necessarily a disaster.

Emergency Alert System – The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers, and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers to provide the communications capability to the President to address the American public during a national emergency. The system also may be used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information, such as AMBER alerts and weather information targeted to specific areas.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact – The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is the nation's state to state mutual aid system. EMAC has been ratified by Congress and is law in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOCs may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, and medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., Federal, State, regional, tribal, city, county), or some combination thereof.

Emergency Operations Plan – EOPs are multi-hazard, functional plans that treat emergency management activities generically. EOPs provide for as much generally applicable capability as possible without reference to any particular hazard. Unique aspects of individual disasters are addressed in hazard-specific appendices.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 – Specifies requirements for organizing the planning process at the State and local levels for specified extremely hazardous substances; minimum plan content; requirements for fixed facility owners and operators to inform officials about extremely hazardous substances present at the facilities; and mechanisms for making information about extremely hazardous substances available to citizens.

Emergency Support Function – Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) is the grouping of governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation, and services that are most likely needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following domestic incidents.

Evacuation – The temporary movement of people in response to community threats, damage, or disruptions. Evacuation is the movement of people when an unacceptable degree of risk in perceived FROM someplace, TO someplace, FOR some period of time, and RETURN.

Evacuation Zone – A geographically defined are that includes the fire service Hazard Zone and an extended area that could or would be at risk during a hazardous material release.

Exercise – A simulated accident or release set up to test emergency response methods and for use as a training tool.

Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) – A list of chemicals identified by EPA on the basis of toxicity, and listed under Title III of SARA.

Facility – Defined in Section 302 of Title III of SARA as all buildings, equipment, structures, and other stationary items which are located on a single site or on contiguous or adjacent sites and which are owned or operated by the same person (or by any person which controls, is controlled by, or under common control with such person). For purposes of emergency release notification, the term includes motor vehicles, rolling stock, and aircraft.

Fire/Rescue Response – A response by the Fire Department, any of its personnel, or any of its equipment arising from a call from any person, property owner, law enforcement agency, fire or emergency response unit of another governmental entity, emergency medical response unit (public or private) or as dispatched by the Fire Department itself. A fire/rescue response shall include, but not limited to response for fire, motor vehicle accident, hazardous material release or discharge, structure collapse or explosion.

Franchise Agreement – A contract under which the franchisor grants the franchisee the right to operate a business, or offer, sell, or distribute goods or services identified or associated with the franchisor's trademark.

Functional and Access Needs Groups – of people that may be more susceptible than the general population (due to preexisting health conditions (e.g., asthmatics) or age (e.g., infants and the elderly) to the toxic effects of an accidental release.

Geographic Information System – Geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

Hamilton County Communications Center – The Hamilton County Communications Center (HCCC) is a 24-hour, 7-day a week public safety communication system that provides emergency dispatch services and 9-1-1 call answering for 42 jurisdictions in Hamilton County. Additionally, HCCC coordinates communications for 105 police, fire and EMS departments. HCCC may also issue Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts for the County and AMBER Alert broadcasts.

Hazard – A Hazard is a natural, technological or social phenomenon that poses a threat to people and their surroundings (in terms of both the natural and the built environment) that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Hazard Analysis –Hazard analysis is the process of recognizing hazards that may arise from a system or its environment, documenting their unwanted consequences and analyzing their potential causes. For a hazardous materials release, this means the procedure for identifying potential sources of a hazardous materials release, determining the vulnerability of an area to a hazardous materials release, and comparing hazards to determine risks to a community.

Hazards Identification – A method of identification that provides information on which facilities have extremely hazardous substances (EHSs) what those chemicals are, and how much there is at each facility. The system also provides information on how the chemicals are stored and whether they are used at high temperatures. Mandatory facility reporting under Title III will provide most of the information needed for hazards identification.

Hazardous Material – Any substance or material in a quantity or form which may by harmful to humans, animals, crops, water systems, or other elements of the environment if accidentally released. Hazardous materials include: explosives, gases (compressed, liquefied, or dissolved), flammable and combustible liquids, flammable solids or substances, oxidizing substances, poisonous and infectious substances, radioactive materials, and corrosives.

Hazardous Substances – Any material that poses a threat to public health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are materials that are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.

Incident Command Post – The field location at which the primary tactical-level, on-scene incident command functions are performed.

Incident Commander – The individual in charge of the incident as defined by SOP or appropriate authority. In an evacuation, it is possible that Incident Command may be passed from a fire official to another government representative once the source of the threat has been neutralized and fire apparatus is released from the scene.

Incident Command System – The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.

Incident Management Team/Incident Management Assistance Team – A group assembled for the purpose of completing and/or enhancing the incident command system at the local or state level. The purpose of the IMT is to provide a valuable resource for state and local Incident Command/Unified Command staff at the scene of an emergency or disaster. The IMT does not assume or divide authority, they support the Incident Commander.

Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact – The Ohio Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC), Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.41, was updated on July 3, 2012. IMAC is mutual aid agreement through which all political subdivisions can request and receive assistance from any other political subdivisions in the state; many of the administrative and legal issues are resolved in advance of an incident. All political subdivisions are automatically part of IMAC. The definition of political subdivision is broad and includes not only counties, municipal corporations, villages and townships, but also port authorities, local health districts, joint fire districts, and state institutions of higher education.

Joint Information Center – The Joint Information Center (JIC) is a central location that facilitates operation of the Joint Information System. A location where personnel with public information responsibilities perform critical emergency information functions, crisis communications, and public affairs functions.

Joint Information System – The Joint Information System (JIS) provides the mechanism to organize, integrate, and coordinate information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging across multiple jurisdictions and/or disciplines with nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – A committee appointed by the State Emergency Response commission (SERC), as required by Title III of SARA, to formulate a comprehensive hazardous materials emergency plan for its district.

Local Jurisdictions – In Hamilton County, local jurisdiction refers to cities, villages and townships that are a part of Hamilton County. Disasters begin and end at the local level. Local jurisdictions must plan and prepare for disasters in the same way Hamilton County, the State of Ohio, and the federal government

do. While they may not have the resources that the county, state, or federal government have, local jurisdictions will still be the first provider of emergency services.

Maritime/Coastal/Waterborne Search and Rescue – Waterborne search and rescue consist of searching navigable waters, lakes, rivers, and swamps for overdue boats, ships, personal watercraft, swimmers, kayakers, etc. Waterborne Search and Rescue is primarily conducted by watercraft and aircraft.

Mass Notification – A mass notification system is defined as a platform to deliver a message to a small or large group of people. Traditionally these systems offered one-way message delivery via email, text message or reverse 911 calling mechanisms.

Mutual Aid – In emergency services, mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response that exceeds local resources, such as a disaster or a multiple-alarm fire. Mutual aid may be ad hoc, requested only when such an emergency occurs. It may also be a formal standing agreement for cooperative emergency management on a continuing basis, such as ensuring that resources are dispatched from the nearest fire station, regardless of which side of the jurisdictional boundary the incident is on.

Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) / Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – A formal (written) or informal understanding between jurisdictions or agencies that describes methods and types as assistance available between two or more entities during emergencies.

National Incident Management System – The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together seamlessly and manage incidents involving all threats and hazards—regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity—in order to reduce loss of life, property and harm to the environment. The NIMS is the essential foundation to the National Preparedness System (NPS) and provides the template for the management of incidents and operations in support of all five National Planning Frameworks.

Occupancy – The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is used.

Ohio Homeland Security Region 6 – The State of Ohio is divided into eight Homeland Security Planning Regions. Hamilton County is a part of Region 6 which includes Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Highland, and Warren Counties.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) – The OSC is the pre-designated agent of the EPA to provide direction and coordination of pollution control efforts at the scent of a spill or release The OSC determines pertinent facts about the spill, such as the nature, amount and location, direction the material is traveling, resources and installations that may be effected and methods of protection. The OSC shall coordinate the needed resources for containment and cleanup operations.

Potable Water – Water which is approved for drinking purposes by the state or local authority having jurisdiction.

Plume – Effluent cloud resulting from a continuous source release.

Reception Center – Location set aside for registering, monitoring, decontamination (if needed) and assigning to a shelter, members of the evacuating public.

Reconnaissance – A preliminary survey to gain information.

Response – The efforts to minimize the risks created in an emergency by protecting the people, the environment, and property, and the efforts to return the scene to normal pre-emergency conditions.

Right-of-Way – The right or rights-of-way are the portions of land over which facilities such as highways, railroads, or power lines are built. It includes land on both sides of the facility up to the private property line.

Risk – A measure of the probability that damage to life, property, and/or the environment will occur if a hazard manifests itself; this measure includes the severity of anticipated consequences to people.

Risk Analysis – Assessment of the probable damage that may be caused to the community by a hazardous substance release.

Rural Fire – A rural fire is the unplanned and uncontrolled fire of combustible vegetation (e.g., trees, grass and peat) in areas with limited populations and structures. These fires start in rural areas and can extend to wildland, suburban and urban ones.

Sanitary Sewers – An underground pipe or tunnel system for transporting sewage from houses and commercial buildings (but not stormwater) to a sewage treatment plant for disposal.

Settling Reservoir – A basin or series of basins that are used to suspend impurities from liquids by gravity precipitation at decreased flow rates.

Shelter – A facility used to protect, hose, and supply the essential needs of designated individuals during the period of an emergency. A shelter may or may not be specifically constructed for such use, depending on the type of emergency and the specific programmatic requirements.

Staging Area – An area designated by the Incident Commander for the temporary assignment of equipment or human resources that could be used during an incident.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) – Commission appointed by each State governor according to the requirements of Title III of SARA. Duties of the commission include designating emergency planning districts, appointing local emergency planning committees (LEPCs), supervising and coordinating the activities of planning committees, reviewing emergency plans, receiving chemical release notifications, and establishing procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – A checklist or set of procedures that instruct the user of the document on how to accomplish a given task, i.e., proper procedures for decontaminating personnel and equipment. SOPs are generally written in step-by-step formats.

Storm Sewers – Infrastructure designed to drain excess rain and ground water from impervious surfaces such as paved streets, car parks, parking lots, footpaths, sidewalks, and roofs. Some storm drains mix stormwater (rainwater) with sewage, either intentionally in the case of combined sewers, or unintentionally.

Structural Collapse – A structural collapse is when structures whose ability to remain self-supporting have been compromised, either partially or entirely. It often threatens human life and health.

Structural Firefighting – Structural firefighting means the activities of rescue, fire suppression, and property conservation in buildings, enclosed structures, or like properties that are involved in a fire or emergency-situation.

Suburban Fire – A suburban fire occurs in the expanse between urban and rural areas and can expand to either. Suburban areas consist of a wide variety of structures such as residential dwellings, mid- and high-rise buildings, commercial areas, and industrial buildings.

Superfund – The common name used for the Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act. A trust fund established to provide money the OSC can use during a cleanup.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) – Modifications to the CERCLA enacted on October 17, 1986.

Supporting Agency – Support Agencies are those entities with specific capabilities or resources that support the Coordinating Agency in executing the mission of the ESF.

Surface Water Rescue – Surface water rescue, also called top water rescue, is defined as the rescue of a person who is afloat on the surface of a body of water.

Swiftwater Rescue – Swiftwater rescue is a technical rescue specialty that consists of rescuing stranded and/or trapped victims from water moving at speeds more than 1.5 knots. Swiftwater operations can be conducted from the ground, with boats and/or aerial assets.

Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment – The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) is a 3-step common risk assessment process that helps the Whole Community—including individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations, nonprofit groups, schools and academia and all levels of government—understand its risks and estimate capability requirements. The THIRA process helps communities map their risks to the core capabilities, enabling them to determine whole-community informed desired outcomes, capability targets, and resources required to achieve their Capability Targets.

Threshold Planning Quantity – A quantity designated for each chemical on the Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) that triggers notification by facilities to the State Emergency Response commission (SERC) that such facilities are subject to emergency planning under Title III of SARA.

Trench Rescue – Trench rescues consist of narrow excavation below the surface of the earth where the depth is greater than the width at the bottom.

Urban Fire – Urban fire occurs primarily in cities or towns with the potential to rapidly spread to adjoining structures. These fires damage and destroy homes, schools, commercial buildings, and vehicles.

Unified Command – In the Incident Command System, a Unified Command is an authority structure in which the role of incident commander is shared by two or more individuals, each already having authority in a different responding agency.

Urban Search and Rescue – USAR includes but is not limited to locating, extracting, and providing immediate emergency medical assistance to victims trapped in a collapsed structure.

Vulnerability Analysis – Assessment of elements in the community that are subject to damage should a hazardous material release occur; includes gathering information on the extent of the vulnerable zone,

conditions that influence the zone, size and type of the population within the zone, private and public property that might he damaged, and the environment that might be affected.

Water Rescue – Locating and removing persons from moving or standing bodies of water both surface and subsurface.

Wet Weather Facilities – Used to treat an excess flow of water, generally rainwater, that inundates collection and treatment plants. These facilities are utilized during severe weather that results in a magnitude of water larger than routinely managed.

Wildfire/Wildland Fire – A wildfire or wildland fire is any non-structural fire, other than prescribed fire (controlled burning), that occurs in areas of combustible vegetation on land that has not been cultivated, especially land set aside and protected as wilderness. Depending on the type and location of impacted vegetation, a wildfire can also be classified more specifically as a forest fire, brush fire, bush fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire, or vegetation fire.

Wildland Urban Interface – The zone of transition between occupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

Attachment #1 – Hamilton County Staging Areas

| North Staging Sites			
#	Name/Address	Longitude	Latitude
1	Forest Fair/ Cincinnati Mills Mall Parking Lot 600 Cincinnati Mills Drive – Forest Park	84°30'54.11"W	39°18'08.62"N
2	Hamilton County Communications Center – Civic Center Drive 2377 Civic Center Drive – Area by Comm Center/Library/Sheriff's Office	84°33'58.30"W	39°16'47.48"N
3	Springdale Municipal Complex – 12147 Lawnview Avenue Near Exit 41 off of I-275 – Next to Station 90	84°29'03.21"W	39°17'22.80"N

West Staging Sites			
#	Name/Address	Longitude	Latitude
1	Whitewater Crossing Christian Church 5771 State Route 128 – Whitewater Township	84°44'00.56"W	39°12'18.65"N
2	Blue Rock Road @ I-275 Exit 31 off I-275	84°37'41.19"W	39°14'06.10"N
3	Kilby Road @ I-275 Kilby Road Area at Interchange Exit 21 off I-275	84°46'41.64"W	39°11'10.50"N

Central Staging Sites			
#	Name/Address	Longitude	Latitude
1	Hamilton County Fairground 77th Street and Vine Street - Carthage	84°28'26.89"W	39°12'02.58"N
2	Princeton High School Complex – 100 Viking Way Sharon Road and Chester Road – Exit 15 off I-75	84°26'40.07"W	39°16'14.70"N

East Staging Sites			
#	Name/Address	Longitude	Latitude
1	Coney Island/Riverbend/River Downs/Belterra Kellogg Avenue and Sutton Avenue – Anderson Township	84°25'00.45"W	39°03'22.05"N
2	Loveland Madeira Road @ I-275 Exit 52 off I-275 – Area by Lake Isabella Park	84°18'05.07"W	39°14'20.86"N
3	Milford Parkway @ I-275 Milford Parkway Interchange, Exit 59 off I-275	84°15'57.54"W	39°09'31.24"N

South Staging Sites			
#	Name/Address	Longitude	Latitude
1	The Cincinnati Museum Center Union Terminal – 1301 Western Avenue – Cincinnati	84°31'57.06"W	39°06'33.65"N
2	West 2nd Street @ Elm Street – Transportation Center 2nd Street area at Northeast side of Paul Brown Stadium	84°30'55.14"W	39°05'50.77"N

Attachment #2 – EOC Organization Chart

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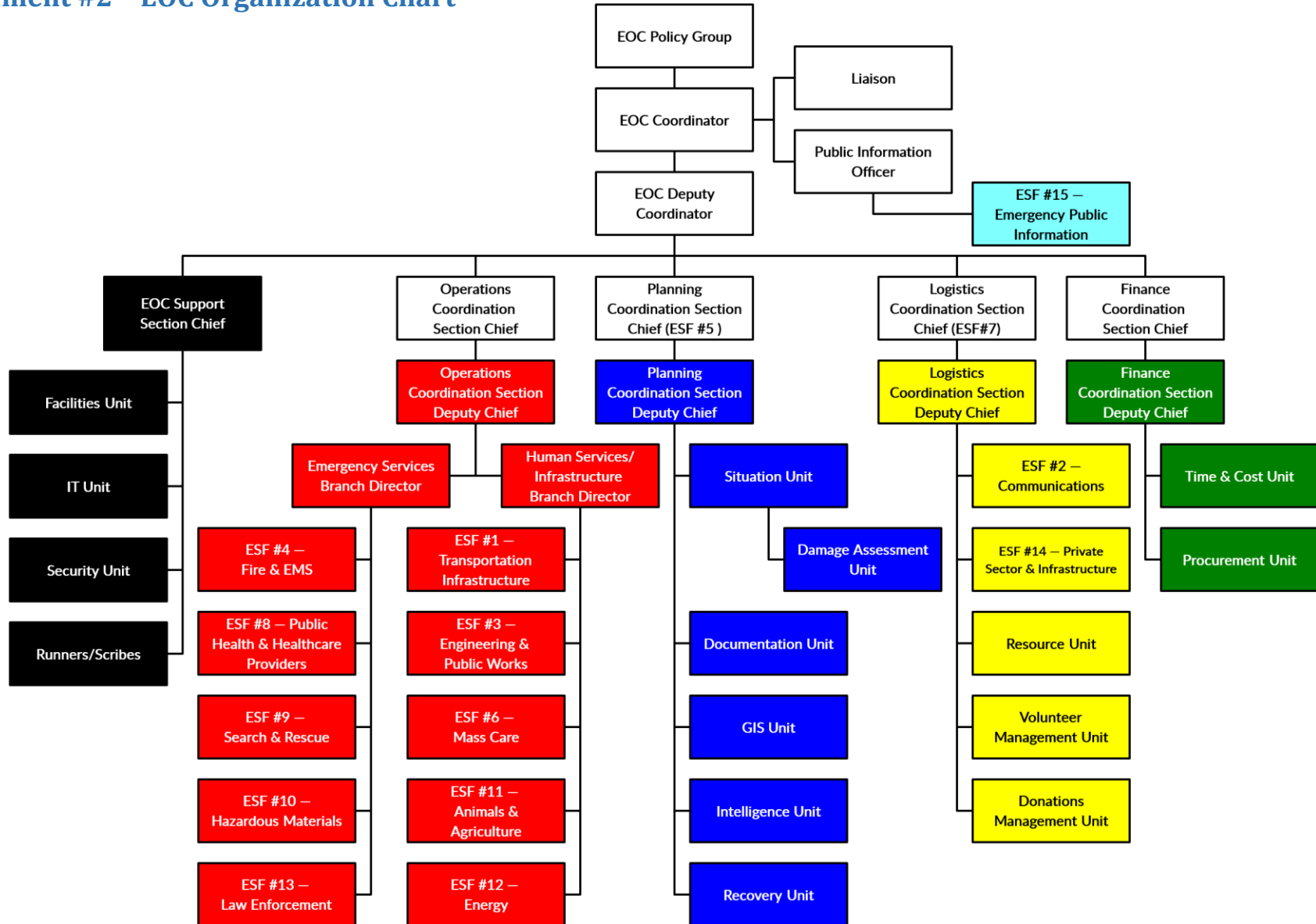
Attachment #3 – Sample Emergency Declaration

Declaration of State of Emergency

WHEREAS, Hamilton County, Ohio, has been affected by _____[*type of hazard*]_____ on _____[*date & time*]_____ which has _____[*brief summary of the damage and situation assessment from the hazard*] _____, and;

WHEREAS, such conditions can endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the border of Hamilton County, Ohio and;

WHEREAS, the event may exceed all locally available public and private resources available to alleviate the effects of this disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, declares a State of Emergency exists in Hamilton County and that we hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Ohio Revised Code, which are applicable to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this proclamation, to be in full force and effort in the county for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of the lives and property of the people of Hamilton County, and the restoration of local government with a minimum of interruption.

This declaration of a State of Emergency shall activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans which are applicable to Hamilton County, Ohio and shall initiate the rendering of aid and assistance thereunder as needed.

Reference is hereby made to the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan and all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances and resolutions, and particularly Sections 5502.21 – 5502.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Any rights or powers lawfully exercised, or any actions taken pursuant to local disaster emergency plans shall continue and have full force and effect as authorized by law unless modified or terminated in the manner prescribed by law.

FURTHERMORE, the State of Emergency shall end in seven days unless renewed by a majority vote of this Board.

In witness, whereof, we have hereunto set our hand this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____	_____	_____
Commissioner	Commissioner	Commissioner
Driehaus	Summerow Dumas	Reece

Attachment #4 – EOP Core Committee

Name	Title	Organization
Nathanael Moccabee	Disaster Program Manager	American Red Cross
Rick Martin	Fire Chief	Anderson Township Fire & Rescue Department
Carolyn Evans	Executive Director	Cincinnati Animal CARE Humane Society
Matt Flagler	District Chief	Cincinnati Fire Department
Hugh Hains	District Chief	Cincinnati Fire Department
Tom Lakamp	Assistant Chief	Cincinnati Fire Department
Sherman Smith	Assistant Chief	Cincinnati Fire Department – Emergency Management Bureau
Polly Doran	Government Relations Manager	Council on Aging
Aaron Tillman III	Chief of Police	Woodlawn Police Department
Kevin Hardwick	Fire Chief	Glendale Fire Department
Ted Sampson	Director	Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center
Nick Warnecke	Intelligence Analyst	Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center
Brooke Matzen	Office Administrator	Greater Cincinnati HazMat Unit
Ray Gemmell	Emergency Planner	Green Township Fire & EMS
Jeff Aluotto	County Administrator	Hamilton County
Andy Knapp	Director	Hamilton County Communications Center
Scott Brown	Operations Manager	Hamilton County Communications Center
Jennie Flowers	Director, Major Unusual Incident and Prevention	Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services
Nick Crossley	Director	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
Emily Johnson	Community Outreach Specialist	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
Ryan McEwan	Assistant Director	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
Matt Moynihan	Training & Exercise Specialist	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

Name	Title	Organization
Morgan Peterson	Operations Manager	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
David Swadener	Grants and Resource Manager	Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
Brad Johnson	Director	Hamilton County Environmental Services
Tim McCartney	Director	Hamilton County Job & Family Services
Doug Witsken	Information Coordinator	Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee
Eric Beck	County Engineer	Hamilton County Office of the County Engineer
Todd Gadbury	Planning & Design Engineer	Hamilton County Office of the County Engineer
Greg Kesterman	Health Commissioner	Hamilton County Public Health
John Sherrard	Emergency Response Coordinator	Hamilton County Public Health
Robin Thomas	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Hamilton County Public Health
JoAnn Cramer	Purchasing Director	Hamilton County Purchasing Department
Gina Richmond	Purchasing Agent	Hamilton County Purchasing Department
Rick Neville	Captain	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
Steve Sabers	Sergeant	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
John Nelson	Executive Director	Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Mark Dowd	Director of Community Service	Jewish Federation of Cincinnati
Paul Wright	Fire Chief	Montgomery Fire Department
Phillip Clayton	Southwest Region Supervisor	Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Sam Reed	Emergency Management Specialist	Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Deborah Carney	County Extension Director	Ohio State University Extension
Robert Leininger	Fire Chief	Springfield Township Fire Department
Christa Hyson	Assistant Director	The Health Collaborative
Jill Ernst	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	The Health Collaborative

Name	Title	Organization
Robert Klenk	Major	The Salvation Army
Jim Dinkel	Chair	Tri-State Community Organizations Active in Disaster
Damien Oxier	Executive Director	Tri-State County Animal Response Team
Greg Howard	Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Specialist	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Edward Dadosky	Director of Business Continuity	University of Cincinnati
Dennis Bruzina	Director of Facilities	Vineyard Cincinnati

Attachment #5 – EMHSA Executive Committee

Name	Title	Organization
Alicia Reece	President	Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners
Denise Driehaus	Vice President	Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners
Stephanie Summerow Dumas	County Commissioners	Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners
Jeffrey Bronson	Chief of Police	Village of Fairfax
Triffon Callos	Trustee	Green Township
Mike Donohue	Citizen-at-Large	Hamilton County
Ryan Grubbs	Council Member	City of Harrison
Craig Margolis	Mayor	City of Montgomery
Dennis Meador II	Fire Chief	Deer Park Silverton Joint Fire District
Mark Sanders	Assistant Fire Chief	Cincinnati Fire Department
Cheryl Sieve	Trustee	Delhi Township
Tom Weidman	Trustee	Sycamore Township