

DELAWARE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This plan results from the recognition on the part of local government and state officials that a comprehensive plan is needed to enhance Delaware County's (the County) ability to manage emergency/disaster situations. It was prepared by County officials working as a team in a planning effort recommended by the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO). This plan constitutes an integral part of a statewide emergency management program and contributes to its effectiveness. Authority to undertake this effort is provided by both Article 2-B of State Executive Law and New York State Defense Emergency Act.

The development of this plan included an analysis of potential hazards that could affect the county and an assessment of the capabilities existing in the county to deal with potential problems.

Comprehensive Approach

Dealing with disasters is an ongoing and complex undertaking. Through implementation of risk reduction measures before a disaster or emergency occurs, timely and effective response during an actual occurrence, and provision of both short and long term recovery assistance after the occurrence of a disaster, lives can be saved and property damage minimized.

This process is called Comprehensive Emergency Management to emphasize the interrelationship of activities, functions, and expertise necessary to deal with emergencies. The plan contains three sections to deal separately with each part of this ongoing process.

Management Responsibilities

County departments' and agencies' emergency management responsibilities are outlined in this plan. Assignments are made within the framework of the present County capability and existing organizational responsibilities. The Department of Emergency Services is designated to coordinate all emergency management activities of the County.

Delaware County intends to use the Incident Command System (ICS) to respond to emergencies. ICS is a management tool for the command, control, and coordination of resources and personnel in an emergency.

County responsibilities are closely related to the responsibility of the local levels of government within the County (cities, towns and villages) to manage all phases of an emergency. The County has the responsibility to assist the local governments in the event that they have fully committed their resources and are still unable to cope with any disaster. Similarly, New York State is obligated to provide assistance to the county after resources have been exhausted and the County is unable to cope with the disaster.

The plan describes in detail the centralized direction of requests for assistance and the understanding that the governmental jurisdiction most affected by an emergency is required to involve itself prior to requesting assistance.

Specific emergency management guidance for situations requiring special knowledge, technical expertise, and resources may be addressed in separate annexes attached to the plan. Examples of this type of situation are emergencies resulting from hazardous chemical releases, dam failure, and power outage.

Conclusion

The plan provides a general all-hazards management guidance, using existing organizations, to allow the County to meet its responsibilities before, during and after an emergency.