

# DELAWARE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Section I

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PLANNING GUIDELINES

#### A. Policy Regarding Comprehensive Emergency Management

1. A wide variety of emergencies caused by nature, technology or human caused actions, result in loss of life, property and income, and disrupts the normal functions of government, communities and families, and cause human suffering.
2. County government must provide leadership and direction to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from dangers and problems arising from emergencies in the County.
3. Under authority of Section 23 of the New York State Executive Law, a county is authorized to develop a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. To meet this responsibility, Delaware County has developed this Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
4. This concept of Comprehensive Emergency Management includes three phases:
  - a) Risk Reduction (Prevention and Mitigation)
  - b) Response
  - c) Recovery
5. Risk Reduction (Prevention and Mitigation):
  - a) Prevention refers to those short or long-term activities, which eliminate or reduce the number of occurrences of disasters.
  - b) Mitigation refers to all activities, which reduce the effects of disasters when they do occur.
  - c) Section II of this Plan, Risk Reduction, describes activities to prevent or minimize the impact of hazards in Delaware County.
6. Response
  - a) Response operations may start before the emergency materializes, for example, on receipt of advisories that floods, blizzards, or ice storms could impact the jurisdiction. This increased readiness response phase may include such pre-impact operations as:
    - Detecting, monitoring, and assessment of the hazard
    - Alerting and warning of endangered populations
    - Protective actions for the public
    - Allocating/distributing of equipment/resources

- b) Most response activities follow the immediate impact of an emergency. Generally, they are designed to minimize casualties and protect property to the extent possible through emergency assistance. They seek to reduce the probability of secondary damage and speed recovery operations.
- c) Response operations in the affected area are the responsibility of and controlled by the local municipalities, supported by the county emergency operations as appropriate.
- d) If a municipality is unable to adequately respond, County response operations may be asked to assume a leadership role.

## 7. Recovery

Recovery activities are those following a disaster to restore the community to its pre-emergency state, to correct adverse conditions that may have led to the damage, and to protect and improve the quality of life in the community. It includes risk reduction actions to prevent or mitigate a recurrence of the emergency.

### B. Purpose and Objectives of the Plan

1. This Plan sets forth the basic requirements for managing emergencies in Delaware County:
2. The objectives of the Plan are:
  - a) To identify, assess and prioritize local and regional vulnerabilities to emergencies or disasters and the resources available to prevent or mitigate, respond to, and recover from them.
  - b) To outline short, medium and long range measures to improve the County's capability to manage hazards.
  - c) To provide that County and local governments will take appropriate actions to prevent or mitigate effects of hazards and be prepared to respond to and recover from them when an emergency or disaster occurs.
  - d) To provide for the efficient utilization of all available resources during an emergency.
  - e) To provide for the utilization and coordination of local government, state and federal programs to assist disaster victims, and to prioritize the response to the needs of the elderly, disabled, low income, and other groups which may be inordinately affected.
  - f) Provide for the utilization and coordination of state and federal programs for recovery from a disaster with attention to the development of mitigation programs.

### C. Legal Authority

This Plan, in whole or in part, may rely upon the following laws for the power necessary for its development and implementation.

1. New York State Executive Law, Article 2-B
2. New York State Defense Emergency Act, as amended
3. Federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
4. Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended

D. Concept of Operations

1. The primary responsibility for responding to emergencies rests with the local governments of towns and villages and with their Chief Executive.
2. Local governments and the emergency service organizations play an essential role as the first line of defense.
3. Responding to a disaster, local jurisdictions are required to utilize their own facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel and resources first.
4. The local chief executive has the authority to direct and coordinate disaster operations and may delegate this authority to a local coordinator.
5. When local resources are inadequate, the Chief Executive of a town, village or may obtain assistance from other political subdivisions and the County government.
6. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors may coordinate responses for requests for assistance for the local governments.
7. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has the authority to direct and coordinate County disaster operations.
8. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors may obtain assistance from other counties or the State when the emergency disaster is beyond the resources of Delaware County.
9. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has assigned the Director of the Department of Emergency Services the responsibility to coordinate County emergency management activities.
10. Delaware County will utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage all emergencies requiring multi-agency response. Delaware County recommends and encourages all local governments in Delaware County to utilize ICS.
11. A request for assistance to the State will be submitted, by the Director of Emergency Services, through the Region II Office of the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) located in Poughkeepsie, New York and presupposes the utilization and expenditure of personnel and resources at the local level.

12. State assistance is supplemental to local emergency efforts.
13. Direction and control of State risk reduction, response and recovery actions is exercised by New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC), coordinated by the State Emergency Management Office.
14. Upon the occurrence of an emergency or disaster clearly beyond the management capability and emergency resources of State and local governments, the Governor may find that federal assistance is required and may request assistance from the President by requesting a declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

E. Advisory and Plan Maintenance

1. The Director of the Department of Emergency Services is responsible for maintaining and updating this Plan.
2. This plan represents general guidelines, which can be modified by emergency personnel as appropriate.
3. This plan does not create any right or duty that is enforceable in a court of law.