

# ANNEX U TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

## HAZARD MITIGATION

### I. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

#### A. Purpose

To lessen the effects of a natural hazard on the population, property and government of Fairfield County.

#### B. Authority

1. Fairfield County Ordinance No. 487, signed May 9, 2005.
2. South Carolina Regulations 58-1, "Local Emergency Preparedness Standards," and 58-101, "State Emergency Preparedness Standards," May 22, 1982.
3. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Sub-Chapter 6, Public Law 103-337, Title VI, October 5, 1994.
4. Fairfield County Mitigation Plan

#### C. Definition

**MITIGATION**--Any action taken to eliminate permanently or reduce the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards.

### II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### A. Situation

1. According to continuous *Hazard Analysis* conducted under the aegis of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (*FEMA*) and the State of South Carolina, various natural hazards threaten Fairfield County at all times.
2. Our current *Hazard Analysis* indicates we are vulnerable and at risk from hazards that have caused, or have the potential for causing, loss of lives, personal injuries, and/or extensive property damage. We have suffered incidents, emergencies, and disasters in the past and are still vulnerable and at risk from future similar occurrences.

#### B. Assumptions

1. Exposure to risk from hazards exists whether or not an incident actually occurs.
2. The adverse impact of hazards can be directly affected by hazard mitigation actions accomplished prior to occurrence of an emergency situation. Effective post-event mitigation actions can also reduce the risk of repeat disasters.
3. Hazard mitigation planning and implementation activities are an on-going program/process and are an integral and complimentary part of our comprehensive emergency management program.

4. Mitigation actions to save lives and reduce damages can be achieved through properly coordinated group efforts. These efforts will require the cooperation of various levels of government and will be enhanced by the involvement and partnership of talented individuals with expertise in varying disciplines from both the public and private sectors.

5. The effective, long-term reduction of risks is a goal and responsibility shared by all residents.

### **III. MISSION**

**A.** State and local governments are responsible to lesson the effects of disasters by appropriate pre-disaster and post-disaster actions, and to employ hazard analyses to determine action(s) appropriate to mitigate or avoid hazards.

**B.** Based upon the vulnerability of Fairfield County to natural hazards, Fairfield County will develop standard operating procedures. When a natural disaster occurs, county authorities implement the County Emergency Operations Plan to include mitigation procedures.

### **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

#### **A. General**

This annex is not intended to describe in detail all aspects of our mitigation program. The achievement of hazard mitigation objectives is a priority, and all departments will seek out and implement risk reduction measures.

#### **B. Pre-Event and Post-Relationships**

##### **1. General**

a. Hazard mitigation activities are not only a response to an event and known hazard, but are also an active search for ways to prevent or reduce the impact from newly discovered hazards. The mitigation process is long-term in nature and, therefore, is an on-going element that directly influences preparedness, response, and recovery requirements. Mitigation activities can be initiated at any time, but are classified as either pre-event or post-event actions.

b. These actions are not fully mutually exclusive and will be merged into a coordinated, continuous mitigation process.

##### **2. Pre-Event Mitigation**

a. Activities that take place prior to the occurrence of an emergency situation. This time frame provides a more relaxed atmosphere for the development and implementation of long-term, multi-hazard oriented mitigation measures. This time frame is preferred and is the most appropriate for reducing risks and potential damages.

**b. Pre-Event Actions Include:**

1. **AVOIDANCE**--Eliminate the threat of a hazard through measures such as relocation or prohibition of construction within an area susceptible to risks or danger. This is a task for all elements of government and private sectors.
2. **CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES**--Develop codes, standards and specifications applicable to repairs, alterations or new construction of facilities or structures to lessen the effects of future disasters.
3. **EDUCATION**--A continuing educational process designed to keep local government and private industry personnel aware of changing conditions (*new construction, new industry, etc.*) in Fairfield County and make them aware that they must adhere to local codes and standards. Mitigation measures must be properly coordinated and administered.

**3. Post-Event Mitigation**

- a. Activities that take place after an emergency situation has occurred and already adversely affected this jurisdiction. These activities are a response and are too late to prevent or reduce impacts already suffered. Heightened hazard awareness and a desire for speedy recovery, provide an emphasis for conducting mitigation activities during this time frame. Mitigation opportunities can be identified and implemented which can be very effective in reducing damages from future events.

**b. Post-Disaster Actions Include:**

1. **MITIGATION**--Reducing the effects of a disaster is a function of both local government and the private sector including volunteer agencies.
2. **REDUCTION**--Diminishing the extent of damage or suffering is a cooperative effort of local government, industry and volunteer groups.
3. **CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES**--Mitigation funding is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (*FEMA*) upon submission of an approved Hazard Mitigation Grant Proposal following a President-declared disaster. Proposals must insure that projects are cost-effective, have long-term benefits and are environmentally safe. All local codes, standards and specifications must be met.

**C. Actions by Phases of Emergency Management**

Hazard mitigation actions are an on-going process, and are more appropriately classified and associated with the time frames before, during, and after occurrence of an emergency situation caused by a hazard. The following is a sequenced set of actions that should be taken by the HMT during each time frame:

## 1. **Preparedness**

- a. Develop and maintain *Hazard Analysis*.
- b. Conduct studies and implement mitigation projects.
- c. Provide vulnerability and risk data for use in community development planning, exercise design and emergency preparedness planning.

## 2. **Response**

- a. Assist decision makers and emergency responders to better understand potential impact, consequences and emergency response needs by providing detailed vulnerability and risk data for all sectors impacted by the incident.
- b. Provide assistance in conducting damage assessment operations.
- c. Conduct surveys in impacted areas and complete HMT Reports.
- d. Conduct site surveys to evaluate effectiveness of previously implemented mitigation measures.

## 3. **Recovery**

- a. Provide assistance in preparation of request for a state and/or federal disaster declaration by providing detailed incident impact data.
- b. Provide assistance to state and federal mitigation team activities once a disaster is declared.
- c. Assist designated Local Applicant's Agent(s) prepare and submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application(s), and monitor Public Assistance (PA) projects for inclusion of mitigation components once a state or federal disaster is declared.
- d. Review Hazard Mitigation Team Reports and update hazard analysis.
- e. Assist designated Local Agent(s) in implementing projects and administer HMGP and other mitigation grant programs.

## **V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

During all phases of disasters, all local government officials will undertake measures to reduce the threat of hazards.

### **A. Organization**

The Emergency Mitigation Program Manager, appointed by county government, organizes a County Hazard Mitigation Team involving county government, the private sector and volunteer organizations.

Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this Annex are checklists to be used by Fairfield County's Mitigation Team for their annual review.

In conjunction with the annual review of Fairfield County's Hazard Analysis, all local government officials and the Fairfield County Hazard Mitigation Team will review mitigation measures accomplished and proposed future mitigation measures. A copy of review will be submitted annually to Mitigation Officer, South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, Office of the Adjutant General, in conjunction with other state agencies and local governments, will monitor mitigation measures applicable to specific categories of disasters.

## **B. Responsibilities**

1. Coordinate all hazard mitigation related activities of this jurisdiction, to include development, distribution, and maintenance of the local Hazard Analysis and this annex.
2. Assist in selecting supporting agencies and individual members of the HMT, assign tasks, and manage the various activities of the team so as to accomplish mitigation functional responsibilities for the jurisdiction.
3. Insure development, distribution and retention of mitigation reports, records and associated correspondence, and manage implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.
4. Serve as point of contact and provide local assistance for Federal and State level mitigation program and planning activities.
5. Maintain this annex and insure that all component parts are updated and contain current data.
6. Serve as or provide assistance to the designated local agent(s) responsible for administering mitigation program grants.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

- A.** All required reports must be submitted on a timely basis by the Emergency Program Manager to county officials.
- B.** Fairfield County's Hazard Analysis shall be reviewed annual and up-dated every five (5) years.
- C.** Mitigation Team members will be selected based upon the vulnerability of Fairfield County to natural hazards.

**VII. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

The Emergency Mitigation Program Manager will manage the activities of the Hazard Mitigation Team and coordinate all hazard mitigation related activities of this jurisdiction.

**VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**A. Development**

The Emergency Mitigation Program Manager, appointed by county government, will be responsible for the development and maintenance of this annex.

**B. Maintenance**

1. This annex will be reviewed annually.
2. This annex will be updated, as necessary based upon deficiencies identified by drills and exercises, changes in local government structure, or technological changes, etc.

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Administrator, Fairfield County

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Date

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Director, Fairfield County Emergency  
Management Department

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Date