

GADSDEN COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



RECOVERY ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of a disaster, there are many critical post-disaster concerns that must be addressed. Resolving these issues requires a coordinated response from all levels of the government as well as the private sector. Although resources are limited in Gadsden County, recovery from small incidents is generally possible with little or no support from agencies outside the county. However, medium and large-scale disasters quickly overwhelm local capabilities and require the mobilization of resources from local, state, federal and not for profit organizations. This section of the Gadsden Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) provides a framework for managing recovery resources to allow the county to return to normal as soon as possible.

The focus during recovery is to address life safety concerns, assess property and infrastructure damage, assure continuity of government services, provide access to disaster areas by relief agencies, facilitate debris removal and ensure proper reconstruction of damaged structures. The Gadsden County Emergency Management Department views the recovery process as one that should be tied closely to mitigation in order to reduce the severity of future disasters.

II. GENERAL

A. Responsibility for Recovery Operations

Disaster recovery is the responsibility of the Gadsden County EM Director or his designee and the EM Department. The EM Director will be responsible for activating the Gadsden County EOC for recovery activities and, with support from Gadsden EM staff, managing all recovery operation in the EOC and coordinating recovery operations with the cities of Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway and Quincy. The city managers for each municipality will serve as municipal recovery liaisons. It is important to note that given the rural nature of Gadsden County, recovery resources are scarce, with many responsibilities falling on only a few agencies.

In order to support extensive, prolonged recovery operation, Gadsden County will require additional supporting resources from the state and federal government. The EM Coordinator or his designee will serve as liaison with the Disaster Field Office and state recovery staff assisting in recovery efforts.

B. Lead and Support Agencies

Lead and support agencies for recovery operations are described in Exhibit 1.1. The roles and responsibilities of lead and support agencies during recovery operations are outlined in each of the recovery function guides available as part of the Gadsden County Recovery Element.

Exhibit 1.1: Agency Responsibilities in the Recovery Phase for Major Events

| | Damage Assessment | Debris Removal | Information & Planning | Resource Support | Community Relations | Unmet Needs | Emergency Housing | Disaster Recovery Centers | Public Assistance Program | Business Continuity |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| American Red Cross | S | | | S | P | P | P | S | | |
| Bell South | S | | | | | | | | | |
| Florida Power | S | | | | | | | | | |
| Gadsden Recycling | | | | | | | | | S | |
| Gadsden County Churches | | | | | | S | | | | |
| Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce | | | | | | | | | | S |
| Gadsden Clerk of the Court | S | S | S | S | | S | S | S | S | |
| Gadsden Emergency Mngt. | P | S | P | P | S | S | S | P | P | P |
| Gadsden EMS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gadsden Planning Department | S | | | | | | | | S | |
| Gadsden Public Works Department | S | P | | | | | | | S | |
| Gadsden School Board | | | | | | | S | | | |
| GT Com | S | | | | | | | | | |
| Municipal Police Departments | | | | | | | | | | |
| Municipal Road and Bridge Departments | S | S | | | | | | | S | |
| Municipal Water and Sewer Departments | S | | | | | | | | S | |
| Salvation Army | | | | | | S | | | | |
| Senior Citizen's Association | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sheriff's Office | | | S | S | | | | | | |
| Sprint | S | | | | | | | | | |
| Talquin Electric | S | | | | | | | | | |
| TDS Telecom | S | | | | | | | | | |
| Volunteer Fire Departments | S | S | | S | | | | S | | |

P = Primary Agency

S = Support Agency

The Gadsden County EM Department is responsible for many tasks during recovery operations including information and planning, resource support, establishing disaster recovery centers, coordinating the damage assessment process and coordinating the County's participation in the public assistance program. Other lead agencies involved in recovery activities include the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) (coordinating emergency housing activities, community relations and unmet needs), the Gadsden County Community Development Administration (coordinating long-term housing) and the Gadsden County Public Works Department (managing debris removal operations). Additional information describing agency responsibilities is provided in each agency's EOC procedure available from the Gadsden EM Department.

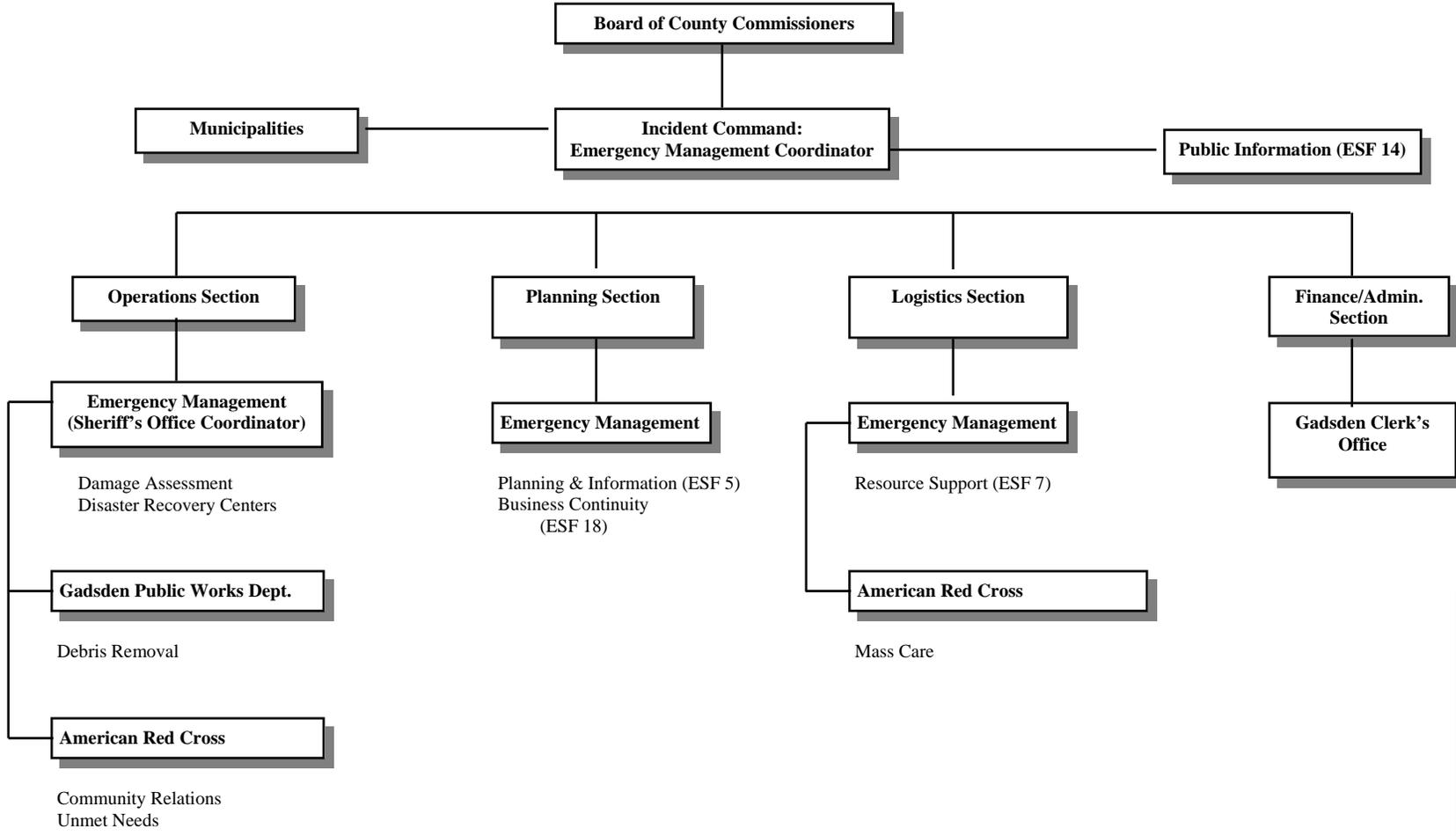
C. Concept of Operations

This section of the plan provides an overview of the management of recovery operations in Gadsden County. The purpose is to provide guidance for the implementation of critical actions necessary for Gadsden County to recover from natural or technological disasters. It is critical to coordinate recovery activities in order to restore essential public, social and economic services following a disaster.

Exhibit 1.2 depicts the organizational structure used during recovery operations in Gadsden County. The four ICS Sections – Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance Administration are described in detail in the following paragraphs.

Exhibit 1.2

ICS Recovery Phase Org Chart



ESF Reference List

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| ESF 1 | Transportation |
| ESF 2 | Communications |
| ESF 3 | Public Works |
| ESF 4 | Fire Fighting |
| ESF 5 | Info and Planning |
| ESF 6 | Mass Care |
| ESF 7 | Resource Support |
| ESF 8 | Health and Medical |
| ESF 9 | Search and Rescue |
| ESF 10 | Hazardous Materials |
| ESF 11 | Food and Water |
| ESF 12 | Energy |
| ESF 13 | Military Support |
| ESF 14 | Public Information |
| ESF 15 | Volunteer and Donations |
| ESF 16 | Law Enforcement |
| ESF 17 | Animal Protection |
| ESF 18 | Business Continuity |

1. Operations Section

Three agencies, the Gadsden County Emergency Management Department, the Gadsden County Public Works Department and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross staff the Operations Section during the recovery phase of a disaster.

(a) Gadsden County Emergency Management Department

The Gadsden County EM Department will serve as the lead agency for establishing disaster recovery centers, coordinating the damage assessment process and coordinating the County's participation in the public assistance program.

(1) Disaster Recovery Centers

The EM Department is responsible for assisting in establishing and providing local support for disaster recovery centers. The American Red Cross and the volunteer fire departments will provide local support, if necessary. Additional information is provided in the disaster Recovery Guide.

(2) Damage Assessment

The EM Department will coordinate the post-disaster damage assessment process. The Gadsden County Property Appraiser's Office will conduct the actual damage assessment for homes and businesses. Additional information is provided in the Damage Assessment Guide.

(3) Public Assistance Program

The EM Department is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the Public Assistance Program following a disaster. The Public Assistance Program is a federal program that supports the efforts of local and state governments to repair and restore public facilities, infrastructure or services that have been damaged or destroyed. Local road, water, sewer and solid waste departments will provide support. Additional information is provided in the Public Assistance Program Guide.

(b) Gadsden County Public Works Department

The Gadsden County Public Works Department will determine if local resources are sufficient to manage debris removal operations. The County has a contract with Grubb's Construction Company to manage debris removal operations for disasters that overwhelm local capabilities. Additional information is available in the Debris Management Guide.

(c) Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross

The Capital Area Chapter of the ARC is responsible for three primary activities during the recovery phase of a disaster. These include coordinating community relations, unmet needs and emergency housing.

(1) Community Relations

The Capital Area Chapter of the ARC is responsible for coordinating community relations following a disaster to ensure that critical recovery information is available for the benefit of the entire affected community. The community relations function also identifies human needs (food, water, shelter etc.) that must be addressed in the community following a disaster. Additional information is provided in the Community Relations Guide.

(2) Unmet Needs

The Capital Area Chapter of the ARC is responsible for coordinating activities to address individual and community needs that remain after governmental assistance has been exhausted following a disaster. Additional information is provided in the Unmet Needs Guide.

(3) Emergency Housing

The Capital Area Chapter of the ARC is responsible for providing, to the extent possible, for the provision of short-term emergency housing. Given the resource constraints that exist in Gadsden County, the scope of this function is limited to the provision of temporary housing in the form of emergency shelters, hotels and motels and the identification of areas suitable for temporary placement of tents and manufactured homes by state and federal agencies. The Gadsden County Community Development Administration is responsible for coordinating long-term housing efforts. Additional information is available in the Emergency Housing Guide.

2. Planning Section

The Planning Section is responsible for coordinating planning activities (ESF 5) necessary for meeting the needs created by a disaster. The Gadsden County EM Department staffs the Planning Section.

3. Logistics Section

The Logistics Section is responsible for logistical support (ESF 7) for all lead and support agencies during all phases of disaster operations. This includes obtaining the equipment and personnel resources required to address local needs from public, private and non-profit organizations. The Gadsden County EM Department staffs the Logistics Section. The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce will provide assistance by serving as a liaison with the business community.

4. Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Section is staffed by the Clerk of the Court and is responsible for tracking expenditures, reimbursement and general administrative support.

D. Direction and Control

1. Notification and Communication

The Gadsden County EM Director or designee will serve as the Incident Commander for recovery operations. The IC will be responsible for determining which agencies are required to participate in recovery operations. The IC will notify all agencies regarding their participation in recovery activities as far in advance as possible given the constraints of the incident. Typically, in events that have long pre-planning periods such as hurricanes, agencies will be notified 72 hours and 48 hours prior to storm landfall. All agencies which will be needed for recovery operations are contacted by the EM Department and informed when and where to report.

In the event that Gadsden County is impacted by a disaster without warning, recovery activities will begin as soon as it is safe for recovery personnel to go out in the field. All agencies required for recovery activities will be contacted by the EM Department and notified as to its role in recovery operations. Given the rural nature of the county and the relatively small number of agencies involved in recovery activities, notifications can be made quickly via telephone using the Notification Directory located in the EOC.

2. Coordination with Municipalities

The IC will be responsible for coordinating recovery activities with Gadsden County's municipalities and the State EOC. The city manager or mayor of each municipality will be updated throughout the response and recovery phases of any disaster. The State EOC will be updated using the State EM Tracker program and/or the Groove program at least once daily or more frequently should the situation warrant.

3. Transition from Response to Recovery

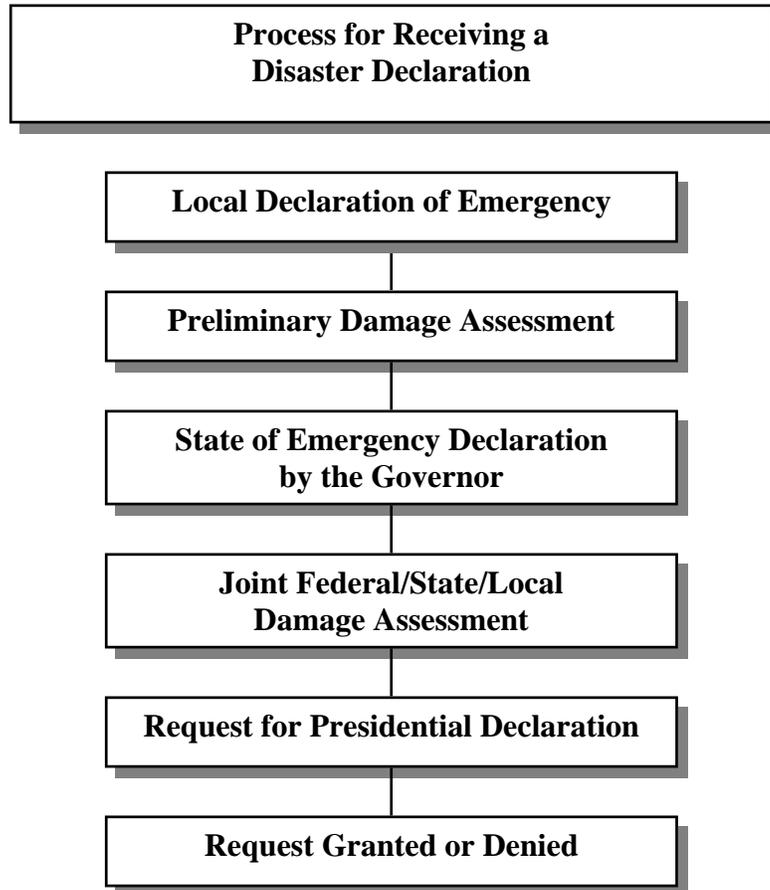
The transition from response activities to recovery operations will occur as dictated by the circumstances of each incident. While each emergency situation is unique and demands flexibility, generally recovery operations will begin as soon as it is safe for emergency personnel to enter the field.

4. Coordination with the Disaster Field Office

The EM Director or designee will be responsible for coordinating with federal and state authorities at the DFO.

5. Obtaining Disaster Assistance

The process for obtaining state and federal disaster assistance in the county generally follows the flowchart below. For events that occur with minimal lead time, such as a tornado, it is likely that a local state of emergency will not be declared until after the event has occurred and the preliminary damage assessment has taken place. Once disaster assistance has been obtained, the Gadsden County EM Department has the responsibility for administering disaster recovery grants. The Planning and Building Department has administered Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grants from past disaster.



6. Recovery Activities for Declared and Undeclared Events

The county will to the best of its ability and to the limitation of its resources, assist in recovery activities for disaster which do not receive declarations. The county will work with the Capital Area Chapter of the ARC, the Salvation Army, local churches, non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies to address the needs of individuals affected by and undeclared disaster.

Recovery activities for declared disasters will conform to the rules and requirements of the assistance programs and will address damage caused by the disaster. Previous public assistance recovery activities have focused on debris removal, road clearing and regarding and culvert repair. Previous individual assistance activities have included Small Business Administration assistance, Individual and Family assistance through FEMA and Farmer's Home Administration assistance.