

## **Appendix H Severe Weather**

### **PRIMARY AGENCIES**

Mohave County Emergency Management  
Mohave County Flood Control  
Mohave County Sheriff's Office  
Mohave County Public Works  
National Weather Service – Las Vegas  
City Emergency Managers  
City Public Works  
City Police Departments  
City Fire Departments  
Arizona Department of Public Safety  
County Fire Districts

### **SUPPORT AGENCIES**

Mohave County Public Health (MCDPH)  
American Red Cross  
Salvation Army  
Mohave County Community Organizations Active in Disasters

### **Available through the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs**

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Network – Arizona Chapter  
Arizona National Guard  
Arizona Department of Transportation

## **I. Purpose, Scope, Situation, and Assumptions**

### ***Purpose***

- Describe the organization, assign responsibilities, and specify the actions required for severe weather alerts to the public and effective and rapid response to severe weather events that have caused casualties and/or property damage.

### ***Scope***

- The impact of a severe weather event is likely to be limited to a small portion of the county; however widespread damage in various locations throughout the county is possible, depending on the nature and extent of the weather system.

### ***Situation and Assumptions***

- Mohave County is subject annually to monsoon weather events which generate short-term road closures, utility outages, and potential damage to residences and

other facilities. In addition, the county periodically experiences microbursts and windstorms that have caused moderate to severe damage to homes, businesses, RV parks, power lines, and infrastructure. Extensive storm events have caused widespread damage that resulted in Presidential Disaster Declarations in 2005 (twice) and 2007 and a State Declaration in 2010.

- Winter storms have historically caused numerous short-term closures of Hualapai Mountain Road and I-40 east of Kingman.

## **II. Concept of Operations**

- The National Weather Service – Las Vegas provides forecasts, watches, and warnings for Mohave County, which are received and transmitted to designated county personnel by the Alert Flood Warning System.
- Mohave County Flood Control Division maintains the Alert Flood Warning System (AFWS) of over 209 weather sensor sites which provide near real time precipitation and streamflow data via radio links to a control center in Kingman. This system sends automated alarms via e-mails and texting to designated Flood Control, Emergency Management, and Public Works personnel when precipitation amounts, or streamflow volumes exceed preset threshold levels indicating a possible developing flood event.
- When NWS or AFWS warnings or reports from the public or MCSO indicate potential flooding or winter storm conditions, Public Works Road Division supervisors will deploy to their areas of operation to check road conditions, close roads, establish detours with appropriate signage, and deploy appropriate road equipment to clear debris or snow. The Road Department Operations Center may be activated if needed to provide support or area command.
- Public Works Engineering and Road Divisions will work together to conduct damage assessment in the immediate post-storm period and document damage and response expenditures for possible reimbursement if disaster declarations occur.
- If necessary, evacuations may be directed by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.
- In the case of Beaver Dam / Littlefield, a flood warning plan has been developed which includes:
  - Early warning by a network of sensors in Beaver Dam Wash extending 40 miles upstream of the communities.

- Defined flood warning phases and threshold precipitation amounts and streamflow volumes for activation of each phase.
- Designation of responsibility, including multiple redundancies, for activating each warning phase and the associated public warning steps and action measures.
- Designation of responsibility for activating the flood siren in Beaver Dam and conducting actual evacuation of threatened residences.
- A Beaver Dam / Littlefield Plan has been developed and is evaluated annually in tabletop exercises.
- If homes or businesses are flooded or damaged by storms, Mohave County Emergency Management and City Emergency Managers will deploy disaster assessment teams or coordinate activation and operation of mass care shelters with the Red Cross.

### **III. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities**

- **Mohave County**

- **Mohave County AFWS Supervisor will:**

- Maintain the AFWS equipment, software, procedures, and communications modes.
- Manage AFWS operations daily and during emergency events.
- Participate in decisions on activating phases and associated emergency measures of the Beaver Dam Flood Warning Plan.

- **Mohave County Emergency Management will:**

- Provide additional severe weather warning information and pre-event coordination as needed.
- Provide liaison to Incident Command or incident support as needed, including recommending activation of the County EOC.
- Direct and coordinate disaster assessment teams and activities:
- Coordinate with City Emergency Managers to provide or request mutual aid assistance when needed.

- Provide DEMA status reports and request state resources when county resources are overwhelmed.
  - Participate in decisions on activating phases and associated emergency measures of the Beaver Dam Flood Warning Plan.
- **Mohave County Public Works will, as needed:**
  - Close county roads establish detours and warning signage and provide incident command for flooding or snow events on county roadways.
  - Provide debris removal and establish traffic control where necessary.
  - Oversee county flood fight operations as needed and directed by the County Board of Supervisors.
  - Conduct rapid and follow-up detailed damage assessment of county infrastructure.
  - Conduct rapid repairs and follow-up permanent repairs on county infrastructure.
- **City Government**
  - **City Emergency Managers will:**
    - Provide liaison to Incident Command or incident support as needed, including recommending activation of the City EOC.
    - Activate public warnings and participate with Incident Commanders in evacuation or shelter in place decisions.
    - Direct and coordinate disaster assessment teams and activities:
    - Coordinate with County Emergency Management to provide or request mutual aid assistance when needed.
  - **City Public Works will:**
    - Close roads establish detours and warning signage and provide or participate in incident command for severe weather events impacting city roadways.

- Oversee flood fight operations as needed and directed by city government.
- Conduct rapid and follow-up detailed damage assessment of city infrastructure.
- Conduct rapid repairs and follow-up permanent repairs on city infrastructure.

#### **IV. Direction, Control, and Coordination**

- Direction and Control will be provided through Incident or Unified Command with Commanders supplied by those agencies with primary functional responsibilities for the response activities as detailed in other sections of this plan.

#### **V. Information Collection and Dissemination**

- For public warnings involving multiple jurisdictions, Incident Commanders and Emergency Management will coordinate among jurisdictions to develop a common warning message, if time allows.
- Incident information will be compiled by Incident Command and forwarded to EOC's if activated. The designated jurisdiction Public Information Officer will develop news releases which will be approved by the Incident Commander prior to release. For multi-jurisdictional events, the Joint Information System will be utilized to ensure a common public message from all involved jurisdictions.

#### **VI. Communications**

- The MCEOC and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office 911 Center is responsible for identifying, maintaining, and operating primary, secondary and alternate county public safety communication systems which will allow local and state government to collect and disseminate information, receive request for assistance, and direct, control and coordinate disaster response and recovery operations through continuing communications with local jurisdictions, state agencies and the federal government. Emergency Communications is handled through ESF#2 – Communications.

