

Appendix G Evacuation / Shelter in Place

PRIMARY AGENCIES

Mohave County Sheriff's Office – Lead for unincorporated areas
City Emergency Managers
Local Law Enforcement
Local Fire Departments
Mohave County Emergency Management
Arizona Department of Public Safety

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Mohave County Public Health (MCDPH)
Mohave County Department of Public Works
American Red Cross
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
Arizona Department of Economic Security

I. Purpose, Scope, Situation, and Assumptions

A Mohave County Evacuation Plan was finalized in March 2021, as a standalone document including most of the information in this annex along with attachments detailing specific plans for Colorado River Communities, Hualapai Mountain, and Beaver Dam/Littlefield evacuations.

Purpose

- Describe the organization, assign responsibilities, and specify the actions required to conduct emergency evacuation or shelter in place of an area affected by an emergency/disaster.

Scope

- The scope of activities covered in an evacuation or shelter in place action may be limited to a small segment of a community due to a hazardous materials incident, flooding, or law enforcement incident. Evacuation may be expanded to include an entire community or even the entire county. The county may also be the recipient of evacuees from other areas of the state or other states.

Situation and Assumptions

- Evacuation of the affected area may be the most effective means of safeguarding lives.
- For certain events, such as hazardous materials incidents or suspected terrorist acts involving chemical or biological weapons, sheltering in place of populations within the affected area may be best option to avoid exposing people to harmful agents.
- Individuals and families may be deprived of food, clothing, shelter, and medical services. Families may become separated and unable to locate each other. Individuals may have serious personal or psychological problems requiring specialized social services.
- Counties/cities/towns could become the evacuated area or the sheltering community.
- The need to evacuate or shelter emergency/disaster victims may vary from only a few persons/families to a mass evacuation.

II. Concept of Operations

General

- **Local Government**
 - Will establish procedures to identify the emergency/disaster area, warn public, establish evacuation routes, provide transport, identify shelter areas, control access and affected area, and provide an orderly and safe return to the affected areas and mutual aid.
 - The first responder agency, usually law enforcement or fire, will assess the situation and advise supervisory officials. These officials will decide a course of action and implement evacuation or shelter in place of the affected area.
- **County Government**
 - County government will establish procedures to identify the disaster area located within unincorporated area, warn the public, establish evacuation routes, provide transportation, identify shelter areas, control access to the affected area, and provide for an orderly and safe reentry.

- If the situation and time elements are critical, the responding sheriff's deputy or on-scene fire official will initiate an evacuation and identify a safe location for evacuees to assemble.
- Evacuation warnings will be disseminated through Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center activation of the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS, which includes the RAVE phone warning system, Wireless Emergency Alert system for cell phone texts, and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to break into commercial radio broadcasts, and door to door notices by first responders.
- MCEM will be immediately notified of evacuations or shelter-in-place activities involving multiple families or businesses anywhere in the county, will determine the need for a recommendation to activate the MCEOC, and will initiate joint planning with the American Red Cross and MCDPH for potential activation of reception centers and shelters.
- Shelters will be established and operated in a coordinated effort with neighboring jurisdictions and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) if required. General Population Shelters will provide services for all, including those with disabilities, access and functional needs, and Service Animals. Law enforcement agencies and local fire departments will work with shelter providers to identify and protect at risk populations in the event of a terrorism alert.
- Consideration of animals is critical. If people cannot take pets or Service Animals with them, they may choose not to evacuate. Arrangements will be made for pet shelters as close to general population shelters as possible.
- If the situation is of such magnitude and/or time permits, the Chair of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors or successor will be notified of the situation and will decide the course of action; otherwise, the Chair will be informed of actions initiated by the Incident Commander as soon as possible.

- **State Government**

- State government will assist in traffic control on state or federal highways. The State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) may be activated to provide direction, control, and resource assistance.
- Department of Public Safety (DPS) will assist in traffic control and security of the evacuated areas.
- Department of Transportation (ADOT) will assist in providing and staffing roadblocks.

- Department of Economic Security will provide information on clients in the affected area and assist in contacting them.
- Other state agencies will aid as requested by the SEOC.
- **Private/Volunteer Agencies**
 - Private/volunteer agencies such as the American Red Cross (ARC), Mohave County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (MCCOAD) and Salvation Army, will provide sheltering, feeding and medical care. MCCOAD is composed of volunteer agencies located throughout the county. The Salvation Army can aid with feeding and clothing.

Shelter in Place

The decision to issue shelter in place instructions is based primarily upon the nature of the hazard as well as meteorological data. Public who are sheltering in place will be informed of protective actions through communication systems.

- **Access and Functional Needs Populations:**
 - Mohave County incorporates Access and Functional Needs (AFN) planning through coordination between Emergency Management, Public Health, and partner agencies. These efforts promote communication with AFN populations and first responders and support the development of preparedness strategies-including caregiver outreach, emergency transportation planning, and voluntary support registries.
 - AFN coordination is further supported through regional healthcare coalitions and state-level initiatives, including guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), which provide planning frameworks, training opportunities, and integration tools for inclusive emergency response.
 - The majority of the general population is assumed to be capable of evacuation under their own power, using personal vehicles and traveling with friends and family; however, there is a significant portion of the population that would require some level of assistance to evacuate during an emergency situation.
- **Moderate Level of Assistance:**

- Those requiring assistance at this level could include persons with debilitating medical conditions that reside in a care facility, those persons that do not have personal vehicles, and the homeless population. Animals and pets may also require special assistance.
- **Highest Level of Assistance:**
 - This would include persons that are hospitalized or incarcerated.
 - The inability to transport those requiring continuous medical attention, in a timely manner will force those individuals caring for them to consider sheltering in place until a more appropriate form of transportation becomes available.
 - Health care facilities have a legal responsibility to evacuate individuals to equivalent care facilities in the event of an emergency; however, these plans typically detail procedures for evacuating to another location within the immediate geographical area which may also be affected. Such plans should consider more distant alternate sites and pre-designating of transportation means. First responder agencies may be unable to assist facilities due to other emergency commitments.
 - Every effort will be made to ensure that access and functional needs individuals are not separated from caregivers, mobility devices, other durable medical equipment and/or Service Animals during an evacuation.

Reception of Out of County Evacuees

- The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has developed a plan for evacuation routes from a major disaster in the Phoenix metro area that can also be applied (in reverse) to evacuations from other states into Arizona. Department of Emergency and Military Affairs and County EM's are working on comprehensive evacuation planning.
- Mohave County Emergency Management has developed details of the county portion of ADOT's plan to include:
- Activation of evacuee assistance centers at I-40 and Highway 95 (for eastbound evacuees) and I-40 and DW Ranch Road (for westbound evacuees).
- Assistance at the centers that will include access to fuel and food; EMS care as needed; directions to general population shelters, hospitals, or other facilities; decontamination facilities (if evacuees have been potentially exposed to radiation or hazardous chemicals); and other functions.

- Establishment of Incident/Unified Command at the assistance centers under direction of fire departments, Sheriff's Office, or County Emergency Management.
- Activation of the County EOC to provide support and overall policy direction as well as direct communication via on site liaisons, MS Teams EOC, radio, or telephone with ADOT District personnel and the State EOC.

III. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

- **Local/County Government**

- **Mohave County Sheriff's Office for the county, city police departments for the incorporated cities, and Tribal/Bureau of Indian Affairs police for the Tribal Nations will:**
 - Be the lead agency for evacuations with authority to initiate evacuations and shelter in place orders.
 - Identify, in coordination with local fire department, the boundaries of the affected area and designate evacuation routes.
 - Provide evacuation or shelter in place warnings through Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center activation of IPAWS, EAS, and automated phone warnings and door to door contacts with residents.
 - Provide traffic control and security for the evacuated area.
 - Coordinate with Arizona Department of Transportation on Emergency Highway Traffic Regulation (EHTR) procedures.
- **Mohave County Emergency Management (MCEM) will:**
 - Provide liaison as needed to Incident Commander.
 - Aid in defining affected area and distributing warnings to affected populations.
 - Coordinate with American Red Cross for activation and operation of shelters.
 - Aid in mobilizing transportation assets to aid evacuation.
 - Activate the Mohave County Emergency Operations Center to provide coordination and resource support if required/requested.

- Coordinate maintenance of documentation of all operational expenses.
- **Mohave County Public Health will:**
 - Identify, monitor, and mitigate environmental and public health issues related to the incident and related evacuations.
 - Provide health services assistance to mass care shelters if requested.
- **Local Fire Departments will:**
 - Provide technical assistance in identifying affected area boundaries, establishment of hot and cold zones, perimeter monitoring of chemical concentrations, and plume modeling.
 - Aid in door-to-door warnings and evacuation of access and functional needs populations.
- **County GIS Coordinator will:**
 - Assist in GIS mapping of affected areas.
- **County Public Works will:**
 - Aid in establishing and maintaining evacuation routes, detours, alternate routes, and roadblocks for closed roads, including provision for emergency signage.
- **State Government**
 - **National Guard** may be requested to aid as required.
 - **Department of Health Services** may assist county health departments in providing health services to the evacuees.
 - **DPS will:**
 - Assist local jurisdictions with traffic control and security of the evacuated area.
 - Coordinate with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) on Emergency Highway Traffic Regulation (EHTR) procedures.

- **ADOT will:**
 - Assist local jurisdictions with access control resources.
 - Coordinate with DPS on the establishment of EHTRs.
- **Volunteer Agencies**
 - **ARC will:**
 - Provide shelter services, i.e., sheltering, feeding, minor health care, locator services, counseling, etc., (see ESF #6).
 - **Mohave Community Organizations Active in Disasters (MCCOAD) will:**
 - Provide evacuation assistance as described in ESF #6.
 - **Mental health care providers and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Network (Arizona Chapter) may:**
 - Assist the ARC with critical incident stress debriefing in shelters or reception and care centers and coordinate follow-up treatment.

IV. Direction, Control, and Coordination

- The decision to implement an evacuation may be made by the executive head of government in coordination with law enforcement, fire, and emergency management officials.
- If time does not permit, the first responder (typically the SO in unincorporated areas) will decide to initiate the evacuation and notify public officials as soon as possible.
- People within the affected area will be notified of the emergency/disaster and instructed on what actions to take.
- Evacuation routes will be identified and established by law enforcement personnel in coordination with the executive head of government, fire, and emergency management officials.
- Shelter facilities and safe areas will be identified by the county/community emergency management coordinator in coordination with school districts, ARC, parks and recreation, churches, and local volunteer groups. Assistance agreements for possible use of schools and churches for shelter purposes should be prepared in advance. Law enforcement and fire officials should be familiar

with the designated shelter facilities and safe areas to assist evacuees more readily (see ESF # 6).

- Primary modes of transportation for evacuees will normally be privately owned vehicles. Additional transportation resources will be identified by the local emergency management director in coordination with school districts, area mass transit authorities, public works departments, ARC, and local volunteer groups. Consideration in developing additional resources must include transportation requirement for the disabled, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, jails, etc.
- MCEM will coordinate with the PH Department, fire departments, State Department of Economic Security, and other appropriate community agencies to aid in identifying, locating, and evacuating access and functional needs persons so that the needs of these populations are considered.
- Access control and security will be provided by local law enforcement. Law enforcement will also coordinate access control resources of the local highway department/public works and the county engineer. Protection of responders in the evacuated area must be of the highest priority.
- Reentry to an effected area will be permitted only when the area has been declared safe by appropriate officials.

V. Information Collection and Dissemination

- MCEM and ARC will coordinate with those agencies performing the evacuation to obtain the names, address evacuated, address evacuees are going to (if not an established shelter) and maintain a log of this information. The ARC's Safe and Well website will be utilized to disseminate information on evacuees to family members.
- Instructions for shelter in place actions will be broadcasted through the Emergency Alert System commercial radio network, which includes the National Weather Service; sent in automated emergency phone system calls to landlines and cell phones that are pre-registered in the call down system database; and included in text messages to cell phones sent through IPAWS.

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.