

## **Appendix K Power Outage**

### **PRIMARY AGENCIES**

Mohave County Emergency Management  
Mohave County Public Health  
Mohave County Sheriff's Office  
Incorporated Cities  
Tribal Government  
Mohave Electric  
Unisource Electric  
Dixie Escalante Electric  
Centennial Park Utilities

### **SUPPORT AGENCIES**

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs  
American Red Cross  
The Salvation Army  
Mohave County COAD  
Mohave County AUXCOMM

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

### ***Purpose***

- The Mohave County Power Outage Action Plan has been prepared to aid local officials and affiliated emergency response organizations in responding to emergency electric outage events located throughout Mohave County.
- This Plan establishes procedures for the warning, control, and possible shelter of functional needs populations at risk who reside in the outage area.
- The Plan provides for marshaling expert assistance and resources as necessary from local governments and the State of Arizona. Provision is made in the Plan for mutual aid agreements between the County and other appropriate State and Local governmental agencies.

### ***Scope***

- The Mohave County Power Outage Action Plan is intended to help local Public Safety Officials save lives and reduce property damage in the event of a large electric outage by providing for the coordination, and deployment of emergency resources to the community located in the affected area in a timely manner.

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

- A major power outage poses a public safety hazard to the public located in the affected areas.

- Populations, groups, and facilities most vulnerable because of an electric outage are residents, senior citizens, children, and health care facilities located inside the affected area.
- The County capabilities to cope with emergency conditions caused by electric outages over large areas will become overwhelmed.
- The County may need to request assistance from neighboring local governments and/or the State of Arizona in responding to a large area electric outage affecting Mohave County.

## **II. Concept of Operations**

The local government emergency response system is designed to minimize the loss of life in the event of a large area electric outage. To provide such protection, actions must be taken promptly and effectively by one or more Public Safety Agencies.

Effective response requires that the following three conditions exist:

- When information is received regarding an emergency event, it will be analyzed, and the source of the information will be validated as soon as possible to determine the types of emergency actions required.
- Emergency personnel and equipment will be available for deployment to affected areas to be able to effectively deploy resources as needed to the community at risk.
- Emergency response will be conducted in a coordinated, as well as timely manner. Good coordination is imperative in order that the proper personnel and equipment are mobilized and utilized effectively. In cases where outside assistance is necessary, emergency resources will be coordinated to minimize duplication of effort and interference as well as to ensure that appropriate expertise and equipment is utilized at precisely the correct time.

### ***Response Levels***

The following Response Level System has been developed specifically for County response to emergency incidents involving a major electrical outage located in Mohave County. Upon being informed of a potential emergency the Division of Emergency Management will activate to one of the three levels of emergency response readiness listed below.

- **Response Level 1** – Response Level 1 means that there is no present emergency requiring a County Response, but the potential exists for a more serious situation based on existing or developing conditions, such as:
  - Verification from a utility company of an electrical system outage that may have an outage duration of sufficient duration under the existing climatological

conditions to potentially threaten life safety or property located within Mohave County.

- **Response Level 2** – Response Level 2 means that no emergency conditions exist yet, but a more severe situation is anticipated. Emergency response readiness at Response Level 2 requires the County Departments and other outside public service agencies to monitor the situation in anticipation that the situation could get worse. Mohave County Public Health and other support agencies should be notified of the current situation and encouraged to review their response readiness plans. Initiating Conditions for Response Level 2 include:
  - Additional information is obtained from a utility company that an outage may extend beyond a 4-hour duration, and existing/expected climatological conditions for an event of that duration could create a threat to public safety.
  - Information is obtained from a local public safety agency about the possible need for mutual aid to assist in protective actions for public safety during the event.
- **Response Level 3** – Response Level 3 means that the situation will likely escalate or has escalated into a local emergency. Upon notification of Response Level 3, County and other local, tribal, and state agencies will be encouraged to mobilize resources and position them in preparation for deployment into the community as needed. Initiating Conditions for Response Level 3 include:
  - Information has been obtained from a local utility company affected by an outage stating that a localized emergency condition exists or causing Emergency Management to conclude that an emergency exists or is imminent.
  - An official request for mutual aid has been received from a local public safety agency.
  - MCEM will recommend that the County Administrator concur with a move to Response Level 3.

### ***Alerts and Warnings***

Notification to local public safety agencies should consist of the use of e-mails, public telephone, and public safety two-way radio systems. If primary systems are out of service because of the electric outage, other telecommunication and/or amateur radio systems should be considered. For the release of public information, AM/FM radio stations should be contacted to assist in public service announcements. Public Warnings will be broadcast through the Mohave County Emergency Alert System, the RAVE automated telephone public call down system, and/or the Wireless Emergency Alert system (WEA) via IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System). Alternate means of notification in the event of communication system backup power failures include postings in public buildings and door to door notifications.

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

## ***Organization***

- Field Incident Command will be established by the agency with primary functional and/or jurisdictional authority for consequence management. The utility will have primary responsibility for restoring power; the local incident commander will establish a command post either including a representative of the utility's incident commander or with direct, redundant communications with the utility official supervising utility response.
- Mohave County Emergency Management, upon notice of a significant power disruption, may integrate into the field incident command, recommend a DOC or EOC activation for incident command support, and/or establish direct communication with utility official supervising utility response.

## ***Assignment of Responsibilities***

- The first Mohave County or other Public Safety Official to be notified of an emergency condition affecting a community from an electric outage should be prepared to:
  - Assess the situation.
  - Activate this Plan.
  - Take initial actions to protect the public.
- **The Mohave County Sheriff's Office will:**
  - Direct county road closures and diversions as needed for public safety.
  - Provide traffic control or request traffic control assistance from Mohave County Public Works.
  - Notify MCEM of significant outages causing public safety issues.
  - Coordinate road closures/diversions and/or establish joint Incident Command with other jurisdictions during cross-jurisdictional or multi-jurisdictional events.
- **Mohave County Public Works will:**
  - Provide traffic control.
  - Provide barricades, personnel, and vehicles to the extent necessary.
  - Utilize electronic message boards for prompt notice of closures and diversions.

- Coordinate road closures/diversions and/or establish joint Incident Command with other jurisdictions during cross-jurisdictional or multi-jurisdictional events.
- Provide access to their two-way radio system for emergency communications.
- Maintain its communication system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.
- Coordinate response tasks to support improvement district needs.
- **Local police departments and public works departments will:**
  - Be responsible for road closures/diversions and traffic control for local roads and streets.
  - Conduct response tasks in accordance with their jurisdictional response plan, which may include some of the tasks detailed above.
  - Coordinate road closures/diversions and/or establish joint Incident Command with other jurisdictions during cross-jurisdictional or multi-jurisdictional events.
- **The Arizona Department of Public Safety and Arizona Department of Transportation will:**
  - Be responsible for road closures/diversions and traffic control for state roads.
  - Conduct response tasks in accordance with their jurisdictional response plan, which may include some of the tasks detailed above.
  - Coordinate road closures/diversions and/or establish joint Incident Command with other jurisdictions during cross-jurisdictional or multi-jurisdictional events.
- **Mohave County Emergency Management will:**
  - Establish liaison with Incident Command or public utility as needed.
  - Respond to Command Post or local DOC and/or EOC to provide staff assistance as needed.
  - Conduct damage assessment.

- Arrange for neighborhood welfare checks or cooling stations as needed.
- Contact American Red Cross to arrange shelter activation if needed.
- Keep DS Director and County informed; recommend DOC or EOC activation as needed.
- Activate AUXCOMM to support Emergency Communication needs.
- **Mohave County Department of Public Health will:**
  - Ensure safety of food provided by public establishments for duration of the outage (see ESF #11).
  - Coordinate with area nursing homes and hospitals on the care and or possible transfer of patients.
  - Open a department DOC and or EOC to assist communities with high risk populations.
  - Coordinate with Emergency Management and the American Red Cross for the activation of emergency functional needs facilities and services.
- **The American Red Cross will:**
  - Activate shelters as needed.
- **Community Emergency Response Teams will, if activated by MCEM:**
  - Provide damage assessment and welfare check assistance.
  - Provide shelter support as requested.

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

- Upon the activation of this Plan, all affected agency representatives should convene at a designated location (Incident Command Post) and mutually agree to:
  - Work under a Unified Command Structure.
  - Establish and staff as needed an Incident Command Post (Fixed or Mobile).
  - Direct and coordinate emergency response operations.
  - Supervise all notifications.

- Provide recommendations for local authorities concerning the deployment of Emergency Resources.
- Recommend activation of supporting jurisdictional EOC's as needed, including joint local EOC's for localized power outages.
- A local EOC may be selected for primary support and operate under a Unified Command Structure consisting of key local or multiple jurisdictional officials and support staff at a central location where emergency response activities may be coordinated in an efficient and orderly manner, in lieu of activating multiple jurisdictional EOC's. The Emergency Operations Center will:
  - Provide general support to both on-scene and off-site emergency activities.
  - Assist in the mobilization and dispatching of emergency resources.
  - Issue or direct public information.
  - Maintain communications and receive regular reports on the status of emergency operations.
  - Record the utilization of personnel, equipment and supplies during emergency operations, in order to provide proper accounting of resources and expenditures.
  - Utilize pre-recorded inventories and locations of critical equipment, supplies, emergency shelters, and other resources to facilitate mobilization and direction of emergency response agencies and public protective actions.
  - Determine when an emergency is concluded.
  - Prepare and present a comprehensive report including an accounting of resources utilized and expenses incurred during emergency operations.

#### **IV.Information Collection and Dissemination**

- Upon notice from the public or local first responders of an outage, the jurisdictional law enforcement 911 dispatch center will communicate with the public utility to determine geographic extent, number of customers affected, and estimated outage duration.
- The dispatch center will notify appropriate first responder agencies and local or county Emergency Management if the outage is anticipated to have widespread area impact and/or relatively long duration (over 6 hours).

- The Incident Commander will coordinate with Emergency Management and/or the local EOC (if activated) on the need for public information releases.
- The designated Department Director or their designee will oversee public information releases for events in the unincorporated county and will coordinate with local PIO's for joint information releases for multiple jurisdictional events.
- Public information releases will receive prior approval from the Incident Commander and be coordinated in advance with the affected public utility.
- The designated Department Director or their designee, acting in the Public Information Officer role, will assist emergency operations staff to provide public information concerning protective actions to the local media (radio, television, cable), and through the County Emergency Alert System for public dissemination.
- The designated Department Director or their designee will serve as the spokesperson for the County during emergency incidents and will provide continuing information updates to the media, as appropriate.

## **VI. Communications**

- Emergency Communications systems that may be utilized to notify local governmental agencies or the public regarding emergency protective actions and the deployment of emergency resources include:
  - Fire, Police, Public Works, and Emergency Management Communications Systems
  - RAVE automated phone messaging
  - Wireless Emergency Alert system text messages
  - Satellite Telephone Service
  - Inter-Net & video conferencing systems
  - NAWAS- National Warning System
  - EAS - Mohave County Emergency Alert System
  - NOAA Weather Radio System
  - RACES / ARES – Amateur Radio
- Communications between the City and County Emergency Operations Centers will utilize telephone, internet, and two-way radios as appropriate.



## **VII. Administration, Finance, and Logistics**

- Agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities will provide logistics support to accomplish their designated duties in accordance with their established procedures.
- Support for the designated EOC will be provided by the local jurisdiction, which may request staff and other resource personnel from other jurisdictions affected by the event.
- Additional resources after local resources are exhausted will be requested by Incident Command or local EOC to County EOC (if activated) or MCEM.
- Affected utility will request assistance as needed from other utilities under mutual aid agreements.
- All agencies will track and document expenditures and employee time for future reference.