

Flooding Incident Annex

Flooding

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

The purpose of this appendix is to describe the policies and procedures that will be implemented when responding to disasters with flooding damage.

B. Scope

This appendix covers all areas within the State of Mississippi. The types of flooding in Mississippi are: Riverine Flooding, Flash Flooding, Coastal Inundation Flooding and Dam Failure Flooding.

II. Situation and Assumptions

A. Situation

- All counties in Mississippi can be affected by flooding.
- There may be little or no advanced warning that flooding is eminent.
- Flooding is the disaster that occurs most frequently and causes the greatest amount in aggregate dollar losses in Mississippi.
- Increasing development in flood hazard areas will expose greater numbers of individuals and property to flood related damages.
- Past structural mitigation projects may well exacerbate flood damages wrought by a major flooding event.

B. Assumptions

- Local resources may be rendered useless or severely degraded as the result of a flood.
- Large numbers of flood evacuees requiring mass care are possible.
- Local infrastructure may be compromised as a result of flooding.

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- Flood related hazmat spills are common and pose an eminent threat to public safety.
- Widespread contamination of potable water supplies may occur as a result of flooding.
- Waste water and/or sewer system breaches by flood waters will create toxic environmental and public health hazards.
- Recovery of pets and livestock may be required. Additionally, retrieval and disposal of animal carcasses may be required to ensure both public and animal health.
- Debris removal will be required to facilitate response and recovery efforts.
- Mortuary services may be required in a mass casualty event. Federal assistance may be needed.
- Flooding can create increased demands for emergency medical services.
- Health care facilities may be impacted by damage, potentially limiting the number of hospital beds and supplies that are available immediately following a severe flood.
- The number of health care professionals available may also be limited in the aftermath of a flood because some professionals may be isolated from their work places, as well as among the dead and injured.
- A damaging flood may cause a serious loss of employment, which could impact economic factors at the local level.
- Following a flood, the affected area may be isolated from surrounding areas. Therefore, planning and coordination among communities in the affected area is essential for effective emergency response.
- In the event rubble and debris resulting from a flood prevent access to the affected area for a prolonged time, helicopters may be used to bring rescue teams in and remove casualties from the area.

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- Food supply lines could break down.
- The first few hours following a flood are critical in saving the lives of people trapped in vehicles, trees, atop structures, etc. Therefore, the use of local resources during the initial response period will be essential until State and Federal support is available.
- It may be several hours before personnel and equipment can be mobilized and initial teams deployed to affected areas. Therefore, State and local resources will be relied upon heavily in the period immediately following the flood.

III. Mission

To establish basic policies for direction and control of emergency operations in response to a flood.

A. Direction and Control

Any required State Direction and Control for flood operations is exercised by the Governor, through his designated representative. Federal resources, which supplement State efforts. Will be directed by the State in coordination with the Federal government agency that supplies them.

B. Concept of Operations

- Emergency responsibilities assigned to State agencies for flood response parallel those for other disaster operations. All agencies will utilize the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System structure to exercise command and control during incident operations.
- When a flood occurs, local authorities within damaged areas will use available resources to protect life and property and reduce, to the extent possible, the suffering and hardships on individuals. If local resources prove to be inadequate or are exhausted, assistance will be requested from other jurisdictions through mutual aid procedures.
- These procedures need to be in place before the incident to insure legal and financial conditions are delineated. Jurisdictions in the areas sustaining little or no damage will be called upon to support the affected areas.

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- When requirements are beyond the capability of local government, requests for assistance will be forwarded to MEMA in accordance with this plan.
- When resource requirements cannot be met with State resources, MEMA will request Federal assistance in accordance with applicable Federal laws, policies, procedures, and plans.
- Emergency operations will begin with the occurrence of a damaging flood and continue until emergency operations are no longer required.
- Operations and missions required as a result of a flood will be carried out during the response and recovery phases.

- **The Response Phase**

The Response Phase occurs prior to, or in the event of a dam failure immediately after, from the onset of the flood and lasts until lifeline systems are at least partially restored. During this phase, functions which are critical to lifesaving, protection of the populace, meeting basic human needs, securing critical infrastructure, and safeguarding State records are performed.

- **The Recovery Phase**

There are usually no clear distinctions between when the Response Phase ends and the Recovery Phase begins. There is typically a time period after the flood in which both phases are in effect simultaneously. The Recovery Phase begins a few days after the flood and can last as long as two years. During this phase, the Federal government provides disaster relief upon Presidential Disaster Declaration. Functions during this phase include Federal relief under PL 93-288 for public and individual assistance, establishment of Disaster Assistance Centers, establishment of temporary housing facilities, and federal disaster loans and grants. Long-term recovery includes restoration of affected areas to their normal or to an improved State.

IV. Administrative Support

A. Each State agency will have to develop internal staffs and procedures for administrative support.