

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

A. General

It is the policy of Chester County to be prepared for any emergency or disaster. Emergency response personnel, equipment, and facilities will be maintained in a state of readiness to save lives, prevent or minimize damage to property, and provide assistance to all people who are threatened by an emergency or who become victims of any disaster. Emergency operations will be coordinated to the maximum extent with municipal and county agencies, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and other state agencies, the federal government, and private agencies of every type. The level and duration of any state commitment of resources shall be determined by the Governor.

B. Specific

The plan establishes the policies and procedures by which Chester County will coordinate response to emergencies and disasters impacting Chester County and its citizens. The plan describes how Chester County will mobilize resources and conduct activities regarding preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation planning. Chester County utilizes the Emergency Support Function Annexes (ESF) as outlined by the State of South Carolina. All agencies with ESF responsibilities will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and will integrate those principles into all ESF planning and response operations. NIMS is a nationwide template enabling Federal, state, local, tribal governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations to work together effectively to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents regardless of cause, size or complexity.

C. Mission

Chester County will provide for the protection of the people and resources in the county in order to minimize damage, injury, and loss of life resulting from any type of emergency or disaster; provide for the continuity of government; and provide for survey of damage,

private and public, and damage assessment resulting from such emergency or disaster. Chester County will accomplish this mission through a five-fold process:

- i. Provide warning to citizens of impending danger.
- ii. Provide disaster operations with timely, effective deployment of county resources.
- iii. Through the public information process, keep affected citizens informed about the situation and how they can protect themselves.
- iv. Coordinate and direct restoration and recovery operations efficiently and effectively.
- v. Assess local needs and coordinate support from adjacent county agencies, as well as state and federal governmental agencies as deemed necessary and appropriate.