

Chapter 8 – Security

The world has come to understand, since September 11, 2001, that our security is of utmost importance. We are fortunate to have a very active and comprehensive Emergency Management Office in Washington County

Washington County Emergency Management

The Washington County Emergency Management Office has developed an Emergency Management Plan and is currently working on an update of that plan. The plan includes a County response to a variety of emergency situations which may occur in and around our communities. An evacuation Annex portion of the plan identifies procedures to coordinate evacuation needs during times of a natural, man-made, technological, Homeland Security emergencies or disaster.

The portion of the Washington County Emergency Management Plan as it relates to transportation coordination and which is referred to as the Evacuation Annex is summarized below

Assumptions

Highway and roadway evacuation capacities may be reduced significantly because of overload, accidents, stalled vehicles, road construction, and weather conditions, or by the event itself, which may either directly or indirectly impact the integrity of our infrastructure.

Preparation

Evaluate and establish potential evacuation routes, identify congestion points (areas under construction and repair, etc.).

Response

Identify as closely as possible the specific number of people to be evacuated, and provide the means of transportation if necessary. In any event define the routes to be taken and identify shelter sites which are available.

Direction and Control

The ultimate authority for protective action decision-making in Washington County rests with the Board of County Commissions or their designated representative(s).

Responsibilities

Washington County Council on Aging

Provides a Transportation Branch Director to coordinate Emergency Support Functions as a member of the Emergency Operation Center staff.

Evacuation planning also will include consideration of:

1. The area to be evacuated.
2. Pick-up points where persons without private transportation will gather for evacuation by public transport.
3. Designated evacuation routes to be used by all vehicles during the evacuation.
4. Location of traffic control points.
5. Safe areas or buildings which provide some temporary measure of protection for evacuees from an actual or threatening disaster.
6. Location of reception centers where evacuees will be sent prior to moving to shelters or mass care shelters.
7. Designated mass care shelters that provide emergency sheltering and feeding of large numbers of evacuees.
8. Location of medical aid stations on evacuation routes, at temporary safe areas, and mass care shelters.
9. The time available for a reasonably risk-free evacuation.
10. Any personal belongings for the evacuated public.

Coordination with professional emergency managers

It is important to reach out to potential partners and develop a relationship in order to develop and foster a solid and lasting relationship. Building a network of professionals that work in the areas of security and emergency management that coordinates on a routine basis, regardless of whether a specific project is being developed, is critical to being able to smoothly incorporate these partners when beginning a new project.

The Washington County Emergency Management Office has worked diligently over the years to coordinate with all emergency management professionals.

Objective and Goals

To help to maintain a safe and secure environment the Dixie MPO will work towards meeting goals in cooperation with the Washington County Emergency Management Office and as stated below.

Objective

Work within existing networks to support the efforts of the Washington County Emergency Management Office.

Goals

- 1 Become more aware of the efforts of the Washington County Emergency Management Office.
- 2 Use the County Emergency Management contact list to begin a dialogue regarding evacuation planning for applicable projects.
- 3 Work with emergency managers to identify the best evacuation routes through the transportation network.