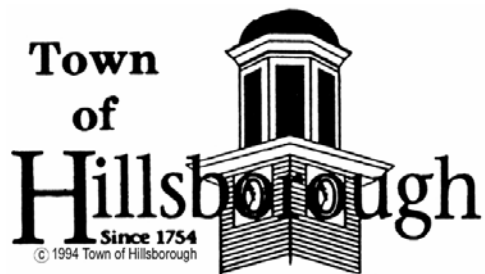


Orange County, North Carolina  
Elected Governing Officials Guide to Emergencies And  
Disasters



Prepared by Orange County Emergency Services in cooperation with  
Carrboro Fire, Chapel Hill Fire, and the Town of Hillsborough

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## **Introduction:**

Responding effectively to disasters requires a coordinated community-wide effort. As an elected governing official, you have a significant role in the County/Town's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and your response to disasters is an important part of the continuity of government within the County of Orange. Your actions influence community members, as well as employees, and directly impact the local government's ability to protect lives and property. This guide is designed to provide you information relating to your role during disasters and to help you make more detailed informed decisions.

The County/Town's EOP clearly spells out how the various local government agencies, individually and collectively, mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. This integrated emergency management system is based on an “**all-hazards approach**” to dealing with disasters, which allows the County to manage these events in a consistent and professional manner. It also provides an effective response for dealing with any type of disaster that we may face.

This guide has been developed for the elected governing officials within Orange County for your use before, during, and after disasters. This guide is divided into several main categories including:

- Disaster Declarations
- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery
- Media Guide

This guide also includes a list of important phone numbers and tips for working with the media. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about emergency management, please contact us at (919) 968-2050. Thank you for the service that you provide the citizens of Orange County.



# National Incident Management System

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, much has been done to improve mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities and coordination processes across the country. A comprehensive national approach to incident management, applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines, would further improve the effectiveness of emergency response providers and incident management organizations across a full spectrum of potential incidents and hazard scenarios. Such an approach would also improve coordination and cooperation between public and private entities in a variety of domestic incident management activities. For purposes of this document, incidents can include acts of terrorism, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, other severe weather, war-related disasters, etc.

On February 28, 2003, the President issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, which directs the Security of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS).

## **NIMS makes America safer, from our Nation to our neighborhoods:**

NIMS establishes standardized incident management process, protocols, and procedures that all responders—Federal, state, tribal, and local—will use to coordinate and conduct response actions. With responders using the same standardized procedures, they will all share a common focus, and will be able to place full emphasis on incident management—whether terrorism, man-made, or natural disaster. In addition, national preparedness and readiness in responding to and recovering from an incident is enhanced since all of the Nation’s emergency teams and authorities are using a common language and set of procedures.

## **Advantages of NIMS:**

NIMS incorporates incident management best practices developed and proven by thousands of responders and authorities across America. These practices, coupled with consistency and national standardization, will now be carried forward throughout all incident management processes: exercises, qualification and certification, communications interoperability, doctrinal changes, training, publications, public affairs, equipment resources, evaluating, and incident management. All of these measures unify the response community as never before.

## **NIMS was created by representatives across America including:**

- Federal government
- States
- Territories
- Cities, counties, and townships
- Tribal officials
- First responders



## **Key features of NIMS:**

- **Incident Command System (ICS).** NIMS establishes ICS as a standard incident management organization with five functional areas—command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration—for management of all major incidents. To ensure further coordination, and during incidents involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies, the principle of unified command has been universally incorporated into NIMS. This unified command not only coordinates the efforts of many jurisdictions, but also provides for and assures joint decisions on objectives, strategies, plans, priorities, and public communications.
- **Communications and Information Management.** Standardized communications during an incident are essential and NIMS prescribes interoperable communication systems for both incident and information management. Responders and managers across all agencies and jurisdictions must have a common operating picture for a more efficient and effective incident response.
- **Preparedness.** Preparedness incorporates a range of measures, actions, and processes accomplished before an incident happens. NIMS preparedness measures include planning, training, exercises, qualification and certification, equipment acquisition and typing, and publication management. All of these serve to ensure that pre-incident actions are standardized and consistent with mutually agreed doctrine. NIMS further places emphasis on mitigation activities to enhance preparedness. Mitigation includes public education and outreach, structural modifications to lessen the loss of life or destruction of property, code enforcement in support of zoning rules, land management, development of building codes, flood insurance program, and property buy-out for frequently flooded areas.
- **Joint Information System (JIS).** NIMS organizational measures enhance the public communication effort. The Joint Information System provides the public with timely and accurate incident information and unified public messages. This system employs Joint Information Centers (JIC) and brings incident communicators together during an incident to develop, coordinate, and deliver a unified message. This will ensure that Federal, state, and local levels of government are releasing the same information during an incident.

## NIMS Compliance for FY2007

**Background:** Under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) *Management of Domestic Incidents* calls for the establishment of a single, comprehensive National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is a system that improves response operations using the Incident Command System (ICS), other standard procedures, and preparedness measures. NIMS also promotes the development of multi-jurisdictional, statewide, and interstate regional mechanisms for coordinating incident management and obtaining assistance during large-scale or complex incidents.

*HSPD-5 dictated that Federal departments and agencies shall make adoption of NIMS a requirement for the provision of Federal preparedness assistance funds.*

*Under section 20 of HSPD-5, the program is mandated to states and localities. If states and localities do not adopt NIMS, the respective jurisdiction will no longer be eligible for Federal preparedness assistance through grants, contracts, or other activities.*

On May 11, 2005, Governor Easley signed a proclamation adopting NIMS throughout the state, and directed all counties and localities to do the same.

In an Orange County Board of Commissioners meeting, dated June 23, 2005, the Board approved the proclamation adopting NIMS as the countywide Incident Management System for response to all-hazards.

The following is a list of required actions for compliance from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007.

- Completion of **IS-700** by: entry-level first responders and disaster workers, first line supervisors, middle management, command, and general staff.
- Completion of **IS-800** by: Emergency Management personnel in middle management and those in command and general staff.
- Completion of **ICS-100** by: entry-level first responders and disaster workers, first line supervisors, middle management, command, and general staff.
- Completion of **ICS-200** by: first line supervisors, middle management, command, and general staff.
- Completion of **ICS-300** by: middle management, command, and general staff.
- Completion of **ICS-400** by: command and general staff.
- Revise and update plans, standard operating guidelines (SOG), and standard operating procedures (SOPs) so that they are consistent with NIMS and the National Response Plan (NRP).

# **Top Seven Things Local Government Elected Officials Must Know:**

## **1. Work through the Incident Commander and NIMS**

On site of a large emergency, there will be an Incident Commander. They will usually be identified by an Incident Commander vest and will most likely be located at or near the command post. Access to the site, on scene information, safety concerns, and other important data can be obtained from the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will most likely be a Fire Chief Officer or a ranking Police Officer. All personnel on an emergency scene must coordinate through the on scene Incident Commander. If there is a question where the Incident Commander is located, please inquire through the County/Town Manager's Office.



## **2. Review Incident Action Plans**

In all significant emergency events, Orange County Emergency Services (OCES) and municipalities will issue Incident Action Plans (IAPs). The plans indicate what the specifics of the event are and support information. Usually, a geographical type briefing will be available for key agency staff.

## **3. Attend briefings**

In a major emergency event, there will be periodic briefings of key town and county staff. Authority rests with the chief local agency official as to when, where, and how these briefings take place. These meetings discuss the issues, facts and planned approaches to problem resolution. Generally, these may be joint town/county briefings. Overall incident needs and strategies are usually discussed during briefings. Briefing information can also be distributed electronically. The briefings are usually held in large town/county meeting rooms or in the form of conference calls and NOT at the Emergency Operations Centers.

#### **4. Ask questions**

As you have questions about what operations staff are doing or not doing, inquire through the County/Town Manager or Assistant County/Town Manager. Staff welcomes the opportunity to share with the elected officials the strategies that are being employed. Contact numbers are listed in this document for your reference



#### **5. Help spread a consistent message**

Generally, during large emergencies, there are key points that need to be communicated to the public each day. These may be progress steps or focus areas for that particular day. Presenting a clear, unified message is important to accomplishing the mission.

#### **6. Understand that Agencies will work within their established priorities**

In an emergency, each department will conduct their work under established priorities. Generally, priorities are 1) Life safety, 2) incident stabilization, and 3) property conservation.

#### **7. Work through the NC Emergency Management system**

Requests for resources must go through county to state to federal governments. This is to ensure delivery and qualify for potential reimbursement. The town/county requests are generally coordinated between the emergency operating centers and local area resources should always be exhausted before requesting resources through the State.

## **Chain of Events**

Typically, Orange County and its Towns, manage emergency events occurring on a daily basis. Thousands of emergency responses occur every year that are managed by the county and town staff members in their entirety.

When events necessitate resources beyond the town's usual resources, they first reach out within Orange County for agencies that can offer specialized equipment, personnel, and resources. These agreements are pre-existing and are recognized as "mutual aid" type agreements between agencies. The towns and county use mutual aid agreements on a frequent basis, both



from within and with surrounding county agencies. These agencies include fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement agencies, as well as non-profit community partner agencies (Non-Governmental Organizations or NGO's), such as the American Red Cross.

When resources beyond Orange County are necessary, all requests for additional resources or aid are made through Orange County Emergency Services, who in turn makes requests through North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). NCEM can assist in the procurement of logistical supplies, additional or specialized equipment, personnel or specialized teams, and technical experts. The North Carolina National Guard is also activated through this system, but only at the decision or request of the Governor. North Carolina can also receive assistance from other southeastern states through a mutual aid pact or Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

If resources are needed beyond state resources, NCEM makes requests through EMAC or Federal agencies, such as Homeland Security (DHS) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for additional assistance.

## Declarations



Local government has direct responsibility for the safety of its residents. Orange County Emergency Services (OCES) is officially responsible for emergency management activities inside Orange County and is recognized by the state as such. State government has additional legal responsibilities for emergency response and recovery. OCES serves as the point of contact between the Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and NCEM. Federal government also has legal authorities and is a source of fiscal resources, as well as specialized personnel and equipment.

Specific areas of authority and responsibilities for emergency management are clearly stated in state law and local ordinances. These laws provide for a specific line of succession for elected officials to ensure continuity of government and leadership during an emergency. The County Attorney's Office provides legal guidance as needed throughout the process.

In Orange County a Chief Officer is on duty 24/7 so when an emergency occurs, appropriate resources are immediately activated. OCES also communicates regularly with neighboring jurisdictions, as well as the State of North Carolina, to monitor conditions in and around Orange County.

When conditions warrant, the county and town's emergency operating center (EOC) is activated and serves as the coordination point for the appropriate response. Working around the clock, staff from various agency departments coordinate response plans and develop continuing actions until the event concludes.

**State of emergency defined.** (G.S. 14-288) Condition that exists whenever, during times of public crisis, disaster, rioting, catastrophe, or similar public emergency, public safety authorities are unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property, or whenever the occurrence of any such event is imminent.

**Who can declare.** Governor, mayor, municipal official, chairman of the board of commissioners or county official, any chief executive official or military commanding "acting under the authority of any other applicable statute or provision of the common law to preserve the public peace in a state of emergency."

**What it means.** Activates local ordinances and any and all applicable local plans, mutual assistance compacts, and agreements. Also authorizes the furnishing of assistance. Local ordinances may restrict or prohibit movement of people in public places; operation of businesses; possession, transportation, sale, purchase, and consumption of alcoholic beverages, dangerous weapons, substances, and gasoline, as well as "other reasonably necessary" measures.

Within Orange County Government Staff, the emergency operations chain of command is typically as follows: County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Director of Emergency Services, Deputy Director/Fire Marshal, Deputy Director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Deputy Director of Communications.

### **The Declaration Process**

- Step 1:** Conditions indicate a local disaster is likely to occur or has already occurred.
- Step 2:** The Chair/Vice Chair of the Board issues a Proclamation of Emergency.
- Step 3:** The Chair/Vice Chair of the Board requests declaration from Governor.
- Step 4:** The Governor requests Presidential Declaration.

The above steps are required to ultimately receive Federal assistance. While the County Manager can issue a Declaration of Emergency, the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board can only issue the proclamation that will start the process to ask for Federal involvement. The various county departments, as well as municipal officials, will play key roles in providing information that will be needed for such a proclamation and will be involved throughout the entire process.

In many situations, the municipalities and the County can issue coordinated or combined proclamations when an event is affecting both governmental bodies equally. This should be given consideration since assistance we will receive from the Federal Government will be coordinated by the State through Orange County Emergency Services, then to the municipalities.



## Mitigation

Disasters are a reality of living in the natural world. Despite human attempts to control nature, dating back to the early Egyptians and continuing to this century's massive flooding control effects, natural hazards continue.

Mitigation is defined as a sustained action to reduce or eliminate risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. The function of mitigation differs from the other emergency management disciplines because it looks at the long-term solutions to reducing risk as opposed to preparedness for hazards, the immediate response to a hazard, or the short-term recovery from a hazard event.

The primary intent of mitigation is to ensure that fewer communities and individuals become victims of disasters. The goal of mitigation is to create economically secure, socially stable, better built, and more environmentally sound communities that are out of harm's way. Some widely accepted mitigation tools used to reduce risk are:

- Hazard identification and mapping (GIS)
- Design and construction applications (codes)
- Land-use planning (storm water management)
- Financial incentives (grants, special tax assessments)
- Insurance (National Flood Insurance Program)
- Structural controls (levees)

As part of our mitigation strategy, we have identified the following mitigation priorities:

- Identify existing and potential mitigation projects
- Look for funding support that can be used for identified mitigation projects.
- Pursue mitigation projects that improve the resiliency of our critical infrastructure.
- Compile a list of high-risk areas within Orange County
- Continue outreach to the critical communities that are at risk during disasters.



# Preparedness

Preparedness within the field of emergency management can be best defined as a state of readiness to respond to a disaster, crisis, or any other type of emergency. FEMA defines preparedness as the leadership, training, readiness and exercise support, and technical, financial assistance to strengthen citizens and communities, state, local, tribal governments, and professional emergency workers; as they prepare for disasters, mitigate the effects of disasters, respond to community needs after a disaster, and launch effective recovery efforts. ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov))

Preparedness deals with the functional aspects, such as the response to and recovery from an incident or disaster, whereas mitigation attempts to lessen these effects through predisaster actions. The process of preparedness is systematic and cyclical, where we are constantly assessing, planning, preparing, and evaluating. It is also a dynamic state and can either improve or diminish in a short time, due to the fact that both natural and technological threats change constantly.

Most preparedness activities, such as planning, community education, training, and exercises, are done before an incident or disaster happens. It is important that you be prepared by having plans and supplies for both your home and workplace. Equally important is in communicating and practicing those plans with your family and co-workers.

- Make sure you have developed an adequate emergency preparedness plan for you and your family. OCES can provide you with information on disaster preparedness.
- Discuss emergency preparedness with your staff.
- Have water, non-perishable food, and other supplies on hand to be able to be self-sufficient for 72 to 96 hours.
- Have all important phone numbers readily available. Include critical community leaders you may want to contact during an event.
- Make sure your personal vehicle is ready to go (chains, fuel, tires, etc.).
- Decide ahead of time where you want to be during the incident or disaster.
- Get a briefing on preparedness activities from the appropriate official.
- Attend training, either locally or online through FEMA at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS>



## Response

The scenes of disasters or emergencies involve significant risks to your safety and welfare. Natural disasters, such as floods, tornadoes, or hurricanes, involve contaminated floodwater and debris that can produce a myriad of slipping and falling hazards. Major fires produce smoke, toxic atmospheres and the possibility of structural collapse. Hazardous materials events usually involve toxic materials that can cause numerous types of health hazards. Terrorism threats can involve chemical, biological, radiological, or explosive devices.

We generally recommend that you do not respond to disaster scenes because of safety concerns for you as well as emergency responders working at the scene. However, if you choose to respond to the scene, we ask that you follow these guidelines:



- The Fire or Police Department will establish a “Hot Zone,” where only persons with the proper protective clothing and training are allowed to enter due to hazards, either to health or safety issues.
- Park your car in a safe place away from the incident and in an area where your vehicle does not obstruct the road. Blocked roads may slow emergency vehicles from reaching their destination.
- Always respond uphill and upwind.
- Report to the Incident Commander as soon as you arrive at the scene. This person is responsible for directing all activities at the scene. The Incident Commander should be located at the Command Post and should be wearing official identification.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Cars strike many responders every year because they are operating in the roadways where drivers are easily distracted by the disaster or incident.
- Watch where you step. The scene may contain hazardous materials that can wind up on your shoes, which can then wind up in your car, home, or business. Do not walk into or touch spilled material. Avoid inhaling fumes, smoke, and vapors. Avoid floodwater as it may be contaminated and never drive through a flooded roadway.
- Remember, the scene of an act of terrorism is an area where someone intended to harm people; it is also a potential crime scene.

During a disaster or incident, you are likely to receive calls from your constituents. Through these conversations, you may be able to collect information from residents and businesses that you can funnel to the right department for action through the appropriate channels.

It is up to everyone to help manage public expectations about what government can or cannot provide during or after a disaster or incident. It is helpful when you assure constituents that local government is still functioning and ensure them that we will work very hard to get back to normal as quickly as possible.



## Recovery

Recovery involves all of the cleanup activities that are necessary to be able to return the area to normal. This involves decisions and actions relative to rebuilding homes, debris removal, replacing property, resuming employment, restoring businesses, and permanently repairing and rebuilding infrastructure. The process also requires balancing the more immediate need to return the community to normalcy with the longer-term goal of reducing future vulnerability. Recovery is often the hardest part of the response to disasters and may continue for an extended period of time. As soon as it is safe to do so, the County, with assistance from the municipalities and local community groups, will conduct preliminary damage assessments to determine the level of property damage and the parts of the critical infrastructure that may be damaged.

During the recovery phase, you may find it helpful to get briefings from County/Town staff as to the extent of the damage and status of the recovery process. These briefings will be held regularly and scheduled, as the conditions require.

The overall priority for service is the same across all jurisdictional lines. These would include:

- Life safety
- Critical facilities/ Incident stabilization
- Property damage

Residents have their own priorities, which may be different from those of the County. The citizens are often unaware of the scope of the disaster or incident, which they may have unrealistic expectations about what local government can do for them as everyone works to recover. Some of the biggest issues that occur after the disaster or incident involve the following:

- **Debris Removal:** Debris removal on private property is typically not covered by FEMA or the County and is the property owner's responsibility. If you have a constituent who has a significant problem with debris removal, call Orange County Emergency Services. We may be able to find solutions to help.
- **Rebuilding:** Residents may want to rebuild their house or business in the flood plain. This brings up zoning and ordinance issues.
- **Response Time:** Residents may think that government is slow to respond. It typically takes the federal government at least 72 to 96 hours to respond to a local emergency.
- **Public Information:** Residents may report difficulty getting critical information about the disaster or incident from the news media. Despite our efforts to communicate through the media, by issuing regular news releases, local media often choose to edit the information significantly, which can make it inaccurate, or not use it at all in their reports. However, we are continuing our efforts to foster a positive working relationship with all facets of the media. These positive relationships are critical during times of disasters, and the communications staff is working diligently to ensure information is getting to our residents.

During the recovery phase, the County and municipalities might be able to provide drinking water, food, emergency shelter, and ice through local and state resources. We normally do not provide batteries, flashlights, generators, sandbags, and medicine, but these items might be purchased through retail establishments. These items normally should be included in your personal disaster plan before a disaster or incident occurs. It is best for residents to have enough basic supplies on hand before an emergency to be self-sufficient for 72 to 96 hours.

FEMA's role in providing individual assistance involves assisting citizens in filling out paperwork to get a low-cost loan from the Small Business Administration, providing temporary housing in the form of trailers, and providing some grants to replace items not covered by insurance. One of the most important contributions that elected officials can make is to point your constituents in the right direction for the information they need—that might be to a FEMA tele-registration number or a disaster field office, or there might be a need for volunteers to help with debris removal or other cleanup activities. If you have a constituent who has a special need for items or services, contact the County/Town Manager or Orange County Emergency Services.



## Media Guide

During a disaster or incident, all media requests should come through the designated Public Information Officer (PIO) or communications staff first, so that information that is released is consistent and accurate. The on-scene Incident Commander or PIO can be with you during an interview if needed. If you cultivate good relationships with the media before an emergency, you will get better support from them during an emergency.



**Use the following tips when responding to questions from the media:**

- Answer all questions directly and as completely as possible.
- If you do not know the question to an answer, say so. Do not guess or exaggerate. Erroneous information can damage your credibility and can cause the public to make bad choices. Get the reporter's contact information, and call back when you have the answer.
- Avoid using "no comment." No comment gives the impression that you have something to hide.
- There is no such thing as "off the record." Anything you say to a reporter is fair game.
- Never argue with reporters or lose your cool. Do not be rude even if the reporter appears to doubt your credibility.
- Be sure the reporter understands your answers and is not putting words in your mouth.
- Avoid answering speculative "what if" questions. Be sure to emphasize positive points you want to make.
- Speak naturally and use terms the public can understand. Avoid using acronyms and jargon.
- Say the most important thing first and then elaborate if necessary. Be clear and concise in your responses.
- Make one point at a time. During times of high stress, people are generally only able to remember short, concise bits of information.
- If you must read a prepared statement, review the information before going to the press. Read in a relaxed manner.
- Be believable, personable, and conversational. Credibility is vital to getting your message across.
- Coordinate any requests to tour the scene with the Incident Commander or PIO before making any promises to the media.
- Let the County/Town Manager, OCES, and the PIO know if you talk with the media. This is important so that accurate and consistent information is being disseminated in a coordinated manner.

**There are three main types of interviews: Television, radio, and print.**

**Television:** It is natural to become anxious when a TV personality requests an interview. Do not think you have to have the on-air demeanor of a TV personality-the public knows that this is not who you are. You do not need to dress any differently than you would everyday. Just be yourself. The important thing is to appear honest, straightforward, and concerned. Look at the reporter, not the camera. Think of it as one-on-one conversation with someone you like and you will look more relaxed. Be prepared with visuals that may help make your story better. Suggest meeting the reporter at an area appropriate to the situation to create a better visual location.

**Radio:** Most radio interviews are conducted over the phone. Prepare by cutting out all distractions. You might want to hold all your calls and shut your door to avoid people entering your office. Talk in a completely normal voice. It is ok to have an accent or talk in your normal voice that might not be good for radio. Just talk so that you can be understood.

**Print:** Print interviews usually last longer than radio or television interviews. The reporter will want more details. Make sure to block enough time to do a print interview. If needed, pull other people from the County for the interview, especially if they have expertise on your program/issue.

## Important Phone Numbers

### Orange County:

County Manager: <i>Laura Blackmon</i>	(919) 245-2300
Assistant County Manager: <i>Willie Best/Gwen Harvey</i>	
Emergency Services:	(919) 968-2050
Fire Marshal: <i>Mike Tapp</i>	
9-1-1: <i>Gwen Snowden</i>	
EMS: <i>Kim Woodward</i>	
24-Hour Warning Point	(919) 933-2600
Sheriff: <i>A. Lindy Pendergrass</i>	(919) 245-2909
Public Works: <i>Wilbert McAdoo</i>	(919) 245-2627
Animal Services: <i>Bob Marotto</i>	(919) 968-2287
Social Services: <i>Nancy Coston</i>	(919) 245-2802
Health Department: <i>Rosemary Summers</i>	(919) 245-2412

### Town of Carrboro:

Manager: <i>Steve Stewart</i>	(919) 918-7315
Assistant Manager: <i>Bing Roenigk</i>	(919) 918-7439
Public Works: <i>George Seiz</i>	(919) 918-7427
Police Chief: <i>Carolyn Hutchison</i>	(919) 918-7412
Fire Chief: <i>Travis Crabtree</i>	(919) 918-7349

## Important Phone Numbers

### **Town of Chapel Hill:**

<b>Manager:</b> <i>Roger Stancil</i>	<b>(919) 968-2744</b>
<b>Public Works:</b> <i>Interim Lance Norris</i>	<b>(919) 968-2796</b>
<b>Police Chief:</b> <i>Tom McCarthy</i>	<b>(919) 969-2760</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b> <i>Dan Jones</i>	<b>(919) 968-2781</b>
<b>Chapel Hill EOC</b>	<b>(919) 969-2012</b>

### **Town of Hillsborough:**

<b>Manager:</b> <i>Eric Peterson</i>	<b>(919) 732-1280</b>
<b>Asst. Manager/ Public Works:</b> <i>Demetric Potts</i>	<b>(919) 732-1277</b>
<b>Police Chief:</b> <i>Clarence Birkhead</i>	<b>(919) 732-9381</b>
<b>Fire Marshal:</b> <i>Jerry Wagner</i>	<b>(919) 732-1276</b>
<b>Orange Rural Fire Chief:</b> <i>Jeff Cabe</i>	<b>(919) 732-7911</b>

## Useful Web Pages

[www.readync.org](http://www.readync.org)

<http://www.ready.gov/>

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org)

[www.wral.com](http://www.wral.com)

[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rah/>

<http://www.ocncredcross.org/>

<http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/>

<http://www.ci.carrboro.nc.us/>

<http://www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/>

<http://www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/>

## **Ordinances for Orange County**

There are a number of laws that cover local emergencies and the declaration of a local emergency by a local jurisdiction. In general, North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 166A (otherwise known as the North Carolina Emergency Management Act) provides guidance for local ordinances that cover disasters. For Orange County, Chapter 14, Sections 14-31 through 14-43 provides the following information:

### **Sec. 14-31. Restrictions authorized.**

(a) A state of emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever during times of public crisis, disaster, rioting, catastrophe, or similar public emergency, for any reason, public safety authorities are unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives, safety, or property, or whenever the occurrence of any such condition is imminent.

(b) In the event of an existing or threatened state of emergency endangering the lives, safety, health and welfare of the people within the county, or threatening damages to or destruction of property, the chair of the board of commissioners is authorized and empowered under G.S. 14-288.13 and 166A-8 to issue a public proclamation declaring to all persons the existence of such a state of emergency and in order to more effectively protect the lives and property of people within the county, to place in effect any or all of the restrictions authorized in this article.

(c) The chair is authorized and empowered to limit by the proclamation the application of all or any part of such restrictions to any area specifically designated or described within the county and to specific hours of the day or night, and to exempt from all or any part of such restrictions, while acting in the line of and within the scope of their respective duties, emergency management officials, law enforcement officers, firefighters and other public employees, rescue squad members, doctors, nurses, employees of hospitals and other medical facilities; American Red Cross volunteers and paid staff; on-duty military personnel, whether state or federal; on-duty employees of public utilities, public transportation companies, and newspaper, magazine, radio broadcasting, and television broadcasting corporations operated for profit; and such other classes of persons as may be essential to the preservation of public order and immediately necessary to serve the safety, health and welfare needs of people within the county.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 1, eff. 9-18-1990)

### **Sec. 14-32. Proclamation imposing prohibitions and restrictions.**

(a) The chair of the board of commissioners by proclamation may impose the prohibitions and restrictions specified in sections 14-33--14-37 in the manner described in those sections. The chair may impose as many of those specified prohibitions and restrictions as he finds are necessary, because of an emergency, to maintain an acceptable level of public order and services and to protect lives, safety, and property. The chair shall recite his findings in the proclamation.

(b) The proclamation shall be in writing. The chair shall take reasonable steps to give notice of the terms of the proclamation to those affected by it and shall post a copy of it in the county courthouse. The chair shall send reports of the substance of the proclamation to the mass

communications media that serve the affected area. The chair shall retain a text of the proclamation and furnish upon request certified copies of it.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 2, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-33. Evacuation.**

(a) The chair of the board of commissioners may:

- (1) Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population of the county;
- (2) Prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destination in connection with evacuation; and
- (3) Control ingress and egress of a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises in the area.

(b) Details of the evacuation may be set forth or amended in a subsequent proclamation, which shall be well publicized.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 3, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-34. Curfew.**

(a) The proclamation referred to in section 14-32 may impose a curfew prohibiting in certain areas and during certain periods the appearance in public of anyone who is not a member of an exempted class. The proclamation shall specify the geographical areas and the period during each 24-hour day to which the curfew applies. The chair of the board of commissioners may exempt from some or all of the curfew restrictions classes of people whose exemption the chair of the board of commissioners finds necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. The proclamation shall state the exempted classes and the restrictions from which each is exempted.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in the proclamation, the curfew shall apply during the specified period each day until the chair, by proclamation, removes the curfew.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 4, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-35. Restrictions on possession, consumption, or transfer of alcoholic beverages.**

A proclamation under this article may prohibit the possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage, including beer, wine and spirituous liquor, other than on one's own premises, and may prohibit the transfer, transportation, sale or purchases of any alcoholic beverage within the area of the county described in the proclamation. The prohibition, if imposed, may apply to transfers of alcoholic beverages by employees of alcoholic beverage control stores as well as by anyone else within the geographical area described.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 5, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-36. Restriction on possession, transportation, transfer of dangerous weapons and substances.**

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Dangerous weapon or substance* means:

(1) Any deadly weapon, ammunition, explosive, incendiary device, radioactive material or device as defined in G.S. 14-288.8(c)(5), gasoline, or other instrument or substances designed for a use that carries a threat of serious bodily injury or destruction of property.

(2) Any other instrument or substance that is capable of being used to inflict serious bodily injury or destruction of property, when the circumstances indicate that there is some probability that such instrument or substance will be so used.

(3) Any part or ingredient in any instrument or substance included in subsection (1) and (2) of this definition when the circumstances indicate a probability that such a part or ingredient will be so used.

(b) *Authorized.* A proclamation under this article may prohibit the transportation or possession off one's own premises, or the sale or purchase of any dangerous weapon or substance. The chair of the board of commissioners may exempt from some or all of the restrictions classes of people whose possession, transfer or transportation of certain dangerous weapons or substances is necessary to the preservation of the public's health, safety or welfare. The proclamation shall state the exempted classes and the restrictions from which each is exempted.

(c) *Scope.* If imposed, the restrictions shall apply throughout the jurisdiction of the county or such part of the county as designated in the proclamation.

(d) *Penalty for violation of section.* A violation of this section shall be punishable as provided in G.S. 14-288.7.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 6, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-37. Restrictions on access to areas.**

(a) A proclamation under this article may prohibit obtaining access or attempting to obtain access to any area designated in the manner described in this section, in violation of any order, clearly posted notice, or barricade indicating that access is denied or restricted.

(b) Areas to which access is denied or restricted shall be designated by the emergency management director and his subordinates or law enforcement officers when directed in the proclamation to do so by the chair of the board of commissioners. When acting under this authority, the emergency management director and his subordinates may restrict or deny access to any area, street, highway or location within the county if that restriction or denial of access or use is reasonably necessary to promote efforts being made to overcome the emergency or to prevent further aggravation of the emergency.

(c) The proclamation may prohibit or restrict the following:

(1) Movement of people in public places;

(2) The operation of offices, business establishments and other places to or from which people may travel or at which they may congregate; and

(3) Other activities or conditions the control of which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during the state of emergency, within the area designated in the proclamation.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), §§ 7, 8, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-38. Removal of prohibitions and restrictions.**

The chair of the board of commissioners shall by proclamation terminate the entire declaration of emergency or remove any of the prohibitions and restrictions when the emergency no longer requires them, or when directed to do so by the board of commissioners.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 9, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-39. Superseding and amendatory proclamations.**

The chair of the board of commissioners in his discretion may invoke the restrictions authorized by this article in separate proclamations, and may amend any proclamation by means of a superseding proclamation in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 14-32.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 10, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-40. Termination of proclamation.**

Any proclamation issued under this article shall expire five days after its last imposition unless sooner terminated in writing under the same procedures set forth in section 14-32 for proclamations.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 11, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-41. Administration of article in case of absence or disability of chair.**

In case of the absence or disability of the chair of the board of commissioners, such other person as may be designated by the board of commissioners shall have an exercise of all the powers in this article given the chair. The line of succession shall be the vice-chair, the county manager, the assistant county manager, the emergency management director, and the assistant emergency management director. The emergency management director or his assistants shall have the authority to invoke section 14-33 when immediacy of necessary action precludes contact with the chair.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 12, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-42. Penalty for violation of article.**

Except as provided in section 14-36, any person violating any prohibition or restriction imposed by a proclamation authorized by this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction in accordance with section 1-7, as provided by G.S. 14-4.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 13, eff. 9-18-1990)

**Sec. 14-43. Territorial applicability.**

This article shall not apply within the corporate limits of any municipality, or within any area of the county over which the municipality has jurisdiction to enact general police power ordinances, unless the municipality by resolution consents to its application or the mayor of the municipality has requested its application, in which event it shall apply to such areas as fully and to the same extent as elsewhere in the county.

(Ord. of 9-18-1990(1), § 15, eff. 9-18-1990)

**State law references:** Authority to declare a state of emergency, G.S. 14-288.12; local emergency authorizations, G.S. 166A-8.