

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B
HAZARD SPECIFIC PLANS
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to establish a systematic approach for responding to natural and technological hazards that affect North Carolina.

B. SCOPE

This annex contains hazard-specific appendices that describe actions and procedures for response to emergencies and disasters resulting from natural and technological hazards.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

North Carolina is susceptible to a variety of natural and technological hazards. Hazard-specific plans are necessary to ensure prompt and effective assistance is provided to citizens affected by all hazards.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

In every case, hazard-specific plans included as appendices to this annex are written and designed for the most intense natural and technological hazard incidents.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

As described in the Basic Plan and various appendices to this annex.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

As described in the Basic Plan and various appendices to this annex.

V. DIRECTION, CONTROL AND COORDINATION

As described in the Basic Plan and various appendices to this annex.

HAZARD SPECIFIC PLANS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

VI. APPENDICES

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| A. | Appendix 1 | Hurricanes and Coastal Storms Operations Plan |
| B. | Appendix 2 | Severe Winter Weather Operations Plan |
| C. | Appendix 3 | Drought Assessment and Response |
| D. | Appendix 4 | Foreign Animal Disease Operations Plan |
| E. | Appendix 5 | Infectious Disease Response Plan |
| F. | Appendix 6 | Food Emergency Response Plan |
| G. | Appendix 7 | Earthquake Operations Plan |

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This appendix outlines the coordinating actions taken by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) when a hurricane or coastal storm threatens North Carolina.

B. SCOPE

This appendix includes the anticipated actions of the federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector organizations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

Due to its geographic location on the east coast of the United States, North Carolina can experience both direct and indirect impacts from tropical cyclones. There are several paths that a hurricane may take, all of which result in varying effects to North Carolina (Fig. 1). A “coastal track” (where the hurricane skirts the coastline) typically results in a threat of heavy rain, high winds and storm surge across portions of central and eastern North Carolina. A “gulf track” (when a hurricane makes landfall on the Gulf Coast and moves northward) often brings heavy rains and flooding to the western portion of the state. A “direct hit” can cause statewide damage from heavy rain, high winds and storm surge and often results in the most widespread impacts.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

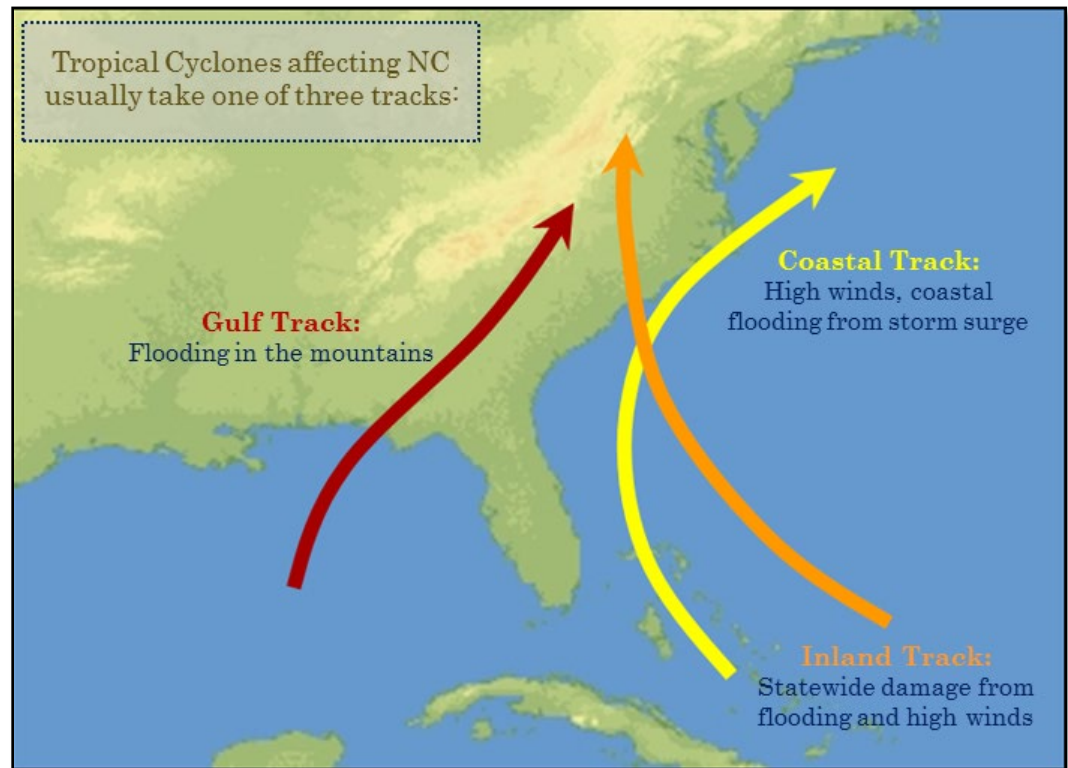


Figure 1: Hurricanes typically take one of the above tracks, all of which result in different impacts to North Carolina. (North Carolina State Climate Office)

Although tropical cyclones can occur during any month of the year, they are most common during the official Atlantic Hurricane Season (June 1st through November 30th). The peak of hurricane season occurs from mid-August through mid-October, North Carolina's climatologically favored period for tropical cyclones. The low-lying nature of the coast, high number of inlets and sounds, and extensive coastal development makes North Carolina especially vulnerable to tropical cyclones.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

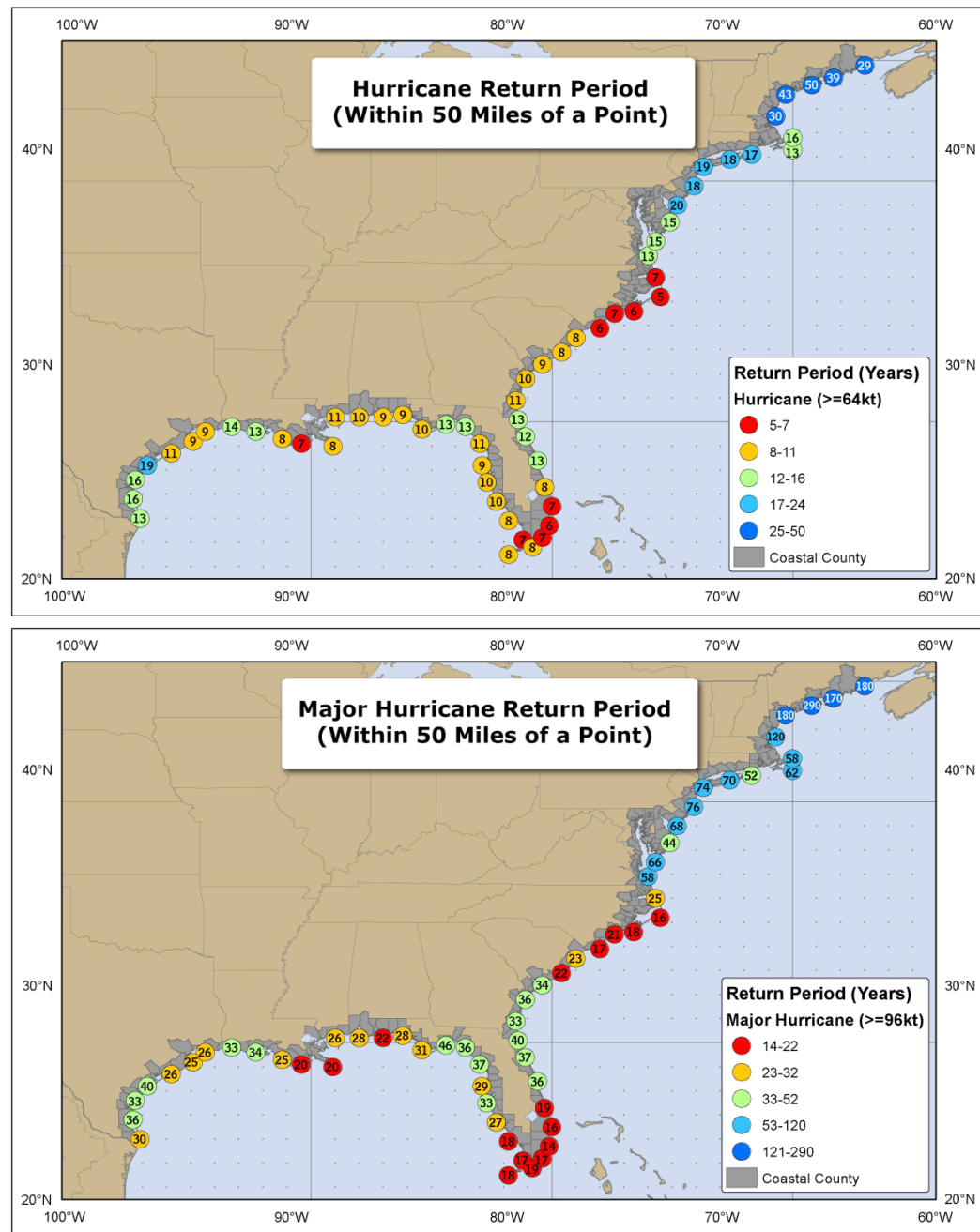


Figure 2a (top), 2b (bottom): North Carolina is home to one of the most hurricane prone coastlines in the country. On average a hurricane passes within 50 miles of the coast every 5-7 years (Fig. 2a). While major hurricanes are less common, on average North Carolina averages one passing within 50 miles of the coastline every 16-21 years (Fig. 2b). Impacts may still be felt if a hurricane makes landfall along an adjacent coastline. (National Hurricane Center)

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Statewide impacts from a dangerous tropical cyclone have occurred, resulting in widespread, significant effects across North Carolina.
2. Catastrophic damage from heavy rains/flooding, high winds and storm surge has occurred across a significant portion of North Carolina. Roads will be impassable and many structures are severely or completely destroyed.
3. Further inland, significant tree and some structural damage has occurred due to high winds. Roads may also be impassible due to debris.
4. Much or all of the state has received excessive rainfall. Smaller rivers and streams flood during and shortly after the storm, while larger rivers will experience major flooding in the days and weeks after the storm has passed. Dam failures will also occur. Sections of interstate and especially secondary roads will be blocked due to washouts and water on the roadway.
5. Flooding rains have caused animal waste ponds to overflow, and sewage treatment facilities have failed. Drinking water may not be potable without boiling after landfall.
6. There are widespread and extensive power outages due to high winds knocking down power lines across a large area of the state. Due to the extent of power outages, some areas may not have electricity for days to weeks.
7. Emergency transportation of resources (inbound response and outbound disposal) may require permits, licenses, or exemptions.
8. Significant impacts from a tropical cyclone will require federal, state and local efforts to perform initial damage/needs assessment concerning the number, type and magnitude of impacts.
9. Weaker storms with less impact may only require the partial activation of this appendix and may involve coordination between North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) and other supporting state agencies.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts through resource and technical assistance in preparation for and during tropical cyclone emergencies.
- b. Provide real-time projection and analysis of flooding impacts.
- c. Provide aerial imagery (video, photos, and photogrammetry) via unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

- a. Assess incident impact on food, agriculture, agribusiness, animals, and other areas regulated or supported by the mission of NCDA&CS.
- b. Report disaster facts, loss records, response information and other impact data from the agriculture sector to the Agriculture Incident Management Team (AgIMT) and, by way of the Liaison Officer, the SERT.
- c. Protect the safety and security of the commercial food supply.
- d. Respond to and mitigate animal and plant disease outbreaks or potential disease situations and pests.
- e. Coordinate with Public Health officials and other partners to implement strategies for protecting public health and general welfare.
- f. Formulate and coordinate public information, guidance, recommendations, and information through approved channels with appropriate partners to the SERT, industry leaders, agriculture producers, and the public.
- g. Promote and implement actions and strategies that maintain consumer confidence for food and agriculture health and security.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- h. Provide guidance for the safety and sheltering of companion animals.
- i. Provide general and technical assistance to industries, partners, and other entities or persons within the scope and mission of NCDA&CS and the ESF-11 response.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS DIVISION

- a. Coordinate on behalf of the Commissioner of Agriculture with NCEM on the Governor's Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency and any transportation waivers.
- b. Activate the AgIMT to manage and coordinate the overall food and agriculture response for the Department, partner and affiliate organizations, and agriculture stakeholders.
- c. Collect and retain disaster facts, loss records, response information and other impact data to the agriculture sector from reliable sources.
- d. Develop recovery strategies and reports and serve as NCDA&CS lead for recovery.
- e. Provide SERT Liaison for the response to the Human Services Functional Group.

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE (NCFS)

- a. Assist local governments and NCDOT in road clearance operations to reestablish critical access post storm.
- b. Provide personnel and equipment to construct foot bridges and other means of temporary access to reestablish critical access to isolated areas.
- c. Provide personnel to support Incident Management Teams (IMTs).
- d. Provide personnel and equipment to support logistical requirements of disaster such as but not limited to bridge mats, high clearance volume pumps, and heavy equipment.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY (DAQ)

- a. Assist with facility outreach prior to storm impacts to prepare and mitigate potential hazardous materials releases as a result of the storm impacts.
- b. Assist with response to high-risk facilities who either fail to respond or require assistance to mitigate hazardous materials release.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

- a. Assist with facility outreach prior to storm impacts to prepare and mitigate potential hazardous materials releases as a result of the storm impacts.
- b. Assist with response to high-risk facilities who either fail to respond or require assistance to mitigate hazardous materials release.

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)

NORTH CAROLINA MARINE PATROL

- a. Render law enforcement assistance such as force protection for deployed resources as well as provide support to other local and state law enforcement agencies.
- b. Provide resources to facilitate land, sea and air transportation.
- c. Provide personnel and equipment to support enforcement of waterway restrictions.
- d. Provide personnel and equipment to support logistical requirements of disaster such as but not limited to: high volume pumps, heavy equipment, barges, front end loaders, etc.

DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT (DWM)

- a. Identify procedures for storage of debris pending disposal.
- b. If debris is determined to be hazardous, provide a vendor list to the responsible party for proper waste management.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Issue emergency permits for treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation of debris and associated clean-up activities.
- d. Provide vendor list to responsible party to facilitate cost assessment for proper waste management.
- e. Identify landfills that will accept contaminated solid waste and facilities/vendors that will accept and treat contaminated liquid waste.

DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT (DCM)

- a. Disseminate important information to the public through the issuance of press releases and other methods of communication, including activation of the DCM toll-free line (1-888-472-6278) for citizen concerns and inquiries.
- b. Conduct informal assessments of damage to private and public property to determine the extent of damage in the coastal area and make a recommendation to the DEQ Secretary about whether to implement any or all sections of the Emergency General Permit rule [15A NCAC 07H .2500] along portions of the coast that experience damage from the hurricane or tropical storm. *(NOTE: DCM staff do not make formal assessments of storm damage, including estimates of structure damage and losses to beach fill and sand dunes).*
- c. Work with the DEQ Secretary to issue Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Emergency Major Permits, as appropriate, for individual projects under emergency provisions as specified by CAMA [G.S. 113A-118(f)] and the State Dredge and Fill Law [G.S. 113-229(e1)]. These may include the replacement of severely damaged roads and bridges, for example.
- d. Respond to inquiries about permit requirements, process CAMA permit applications, and conduct federal consistency reviews for projects as required during the post-storm recovery period. Assist with communication amongst state and federal environment review agencies to conduct environmental reviews of proposed projects as quickly as possible.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- e. Close Coastal Reserve properties to the public as warranted prior to the storm when threats exist to public safety. Inspect N.C. Coastal Reserve properties shortly after landfall, as soon as it is safe to do so, to assess damage and wildlife needs. Communicate changes in Coastal Reserve status (closure and opening) to the public via press release, Reserve and DCM website, and social media.
- f. Provide guidance, best practices and trained personnel for removing vessels from environmentally sensitive coastal waters and shorelines to vessel owners, salvage companies, and marinas in areas where there are abandoned and derelict vessels.

3. NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION (NCWRC)

- a. Provide personnel and equipment to support law enforcement.
- b. Provide air, water, and land transportation.
- c. Act as liaison between the SERT and interested environmental and conservation groups.
- d. Provide personnel and equipment to support law enforcement of waterway restrictions.
- e. Provide technical support and leadership to support identification and removal of abandoned vehicles.
- f. Provide watercraft and crews to support enforcement of USCG-initiated restrictions on waterway use.

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (NCDNCR)

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION (NC STATE PARKS)

- a. Evacuate state parks when threats exist to public safety.
- b. Coordinate with other law enforcement agencies.
- c. Provide areas on park property for use as assembly or staging areas for equipment and personnel.
- d. Provide transportation and communication within state park areas.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- e. Determine access points and routes least likely to harm park facilities and advise SERT Leader of same.
- f. Provide a liaison to SERT authorized to grant permission for response and cleanup activities as well as issue any required permits concerning state park facilities.
- g. Provide liaison and carry out technical consultations with US National Park Service if a national park/seashore is threatened.

5. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. Coordinate public health nurses to support local and state shelter requirements; provide consolation and maintain communication with deployed public health nurses.
- b. Monitor health of shelter populations for potential infectious disease outbreaks and provide mitigation recommendations where appropriate.
- c. Conduct well water testing at the NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) to identify bacterial contaminants of public health concern such as E. coli after flood waters have receded.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

- a. Coordinate with mass care support agencies to support local sheltering operations.
- b. Obtain personnel rosters, sheltering listings, and number of shelter managers from county departments of social services responding in affected jurisdictions.
- c. Provide technical assistance, when requested, to county departments of social services in organizing resources to provide food and water requirements for shelter population.
- d. Provide technical assistance, when requested, to county departments of social services in organizing transportation of food from identified warehouses to mass care feeding sites.
- e. Track and report the status of shelter operations.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- f. Coordinate with partners to answer questions from county departments of social services about accessibility in shelters.
- g. Coordinate all requests for spoken language and American Sign Language interpreters.

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (DAAS)

- a. Promote the exchange of technical and statistical information relevant to needs and outcomes of older adults and adults with access and functional needs from NCEM to area agencies on aging and county health and human services departments.
- b. Collaborate with human services agencies to assist counties in meeting the needs of individuals needing functional support sheltering services.
- c. Collaborate with ESF-8, DHSR, and DPH for individuals needing medical support sheltering services.

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES (MHDDSUS)

- a. Coordinate/facilitate the provision of mental health/crisis counseling to victims at shelters, mass care facilities, and community sites.
- b. Coordinate distribution of Naloxone to shelters, mass care facilities, and fixed feeding sites with counties.

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION (DHSR)

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (OEMS)

- a. Provide leadership in coordinating and integrating the overall state efforts that provide medical assistance to a disaster-affected area.
- b. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of state resources of medical personnel, supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals with Public Health as needed.
- c. Assist in the development of local capabilities for the on-site coordination of all emergency medical services needed for triage, treatment, transportation, tracking, and evacuation of the affected population with medical needs.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Establish and maintain the cooperation of the various state, medical and related professional organizations in coordinating the shifting of Emergency Medical Services resources from unaffected areas to areas of need.
- e. Coordinate with the SERT Military Support Branch to arrange for medical support from military partners.
- f. Coordinate the evacuation of patients from the disaster area when evacuation is deemed necessary.
- g. Coordinate the state medical sheltering response by implementing the State Medical Support Sheltering Plan.

6. OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

- a. Coordinate firefighting assets to support local response efforts.
- b. Coordinate restoration of firefighting services and protection post storm.
- c. Coordinate personnel to support additional building inspection resources to augment local capabilities for damage assessments.

7. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS (DOH)

- a. Erect and maintain such signs, lights, barricades or other traffic control devices as deemed appropriate to maintain or control traffic along the affected routes or detour routes.
- b. Remove sand/soil debris from state-maintained right of ways.
- c. Provide SERT partners lists of contractors/suppliers to assist in the cleanup efforts of sites outside the state-maintained right of way.
- d. When directed by NCEM, the Division of Highways will develop, let, and administer contracts for the removal of debris from private roads. Such contracts will be pre-approved by NCEM prior to advertisement and award.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

FERRY DIVISION

- a. Coordinate with USCG the movement of ferries through affected waterways.
- b. Provide transportation to emergency personnel and equipment as needed.
- c. Assist in the evacuation of the affected population.

8. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Provide trained military police for traffic control.
- b. Provide shelter support as needed.
- c. Provide military forces to assist local law enforcement in the emergency area for security, control of entrance to and exit from disaster area, and protection of people and crowd control.
- d. Provide a Rapid Reaction Force specially trained for response to public disturbances and riots.
- e. Provide military forces to assist local and state resources in rescues and evacuations as needed.
- f. Provide NCNG mission capable packages.
- g. Provide transportation support.

CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP)

- a. Support and participate in aerial reconnaissance to assess damage immediately after the hurricane strikes.
- b. Provide personnel and equipment to support air and ground transportation.
- c. Provide personnel to provide logistical support to State EOC activation.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Use Aerial Reconnaissance Teams (ART) to collect quick visual evidence of hurricane damage to allow optimum deployment and distribution of state resources during the hurricane recovery period.
- e. Assist in air search, land rescue, aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- f. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.
- g. Provide a CAP liaison officer to support air operations in the State EOC.
- h. Provide ground team support and ground transport.
- i. Support and participate in Point of Distribution (POD) operations.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Coordinate traffic control measures and isolation of the impacted area as needed.
- b. Regulate motor vehicle traffic where indicated.
- c. Provide communications support.
- d. Assist with movement of resources in coordination with other state partners, as needed.

9. UTILITY PROVIDERS

- a. Provide decision makers with up-to-date power outage information and estimated restoration times.
- b. Provide support as needed to other utilities if able.
- c. Restore electrical power to residences and business.
- d. Repair and restore any downed power lines and/or transformers.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

C. SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

- a. Support immediate lifesaving and life safety emergency response priorities.
- b. Sustain lives with temporary emergency power and other needs including temporary housing, temporary roofing, debris management, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), and Local Government Liaisons (LGLs).
- c. Initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

2. US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

- a. Provide personnel and equipment to support hazardous materials assessment and response in coordination with DEQ as well as the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

3. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

- a. Provide response resources at the request of the SERT Leader.
- b. If approved, execute programs that provide financial support for damages to property.
- c. Educate state and local officials to inform of the recovery assistance available and how to apply for it.
- d. Monitor recovery process to ensure the timely delivery of eligible assistance and compliance with the law and regulations.
- e. Provide immediate and critical storm information for decision making through the Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT).

4. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER (NHC)

- a. Issue advisories on the location, strength and movement of tropical storms or hurricanes.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- b. Provide track and intensity guidance on tropical cyclones up to 120 hours in advance.
- c. Provide detailed storm surge inundation information and maps for the coastline.
- d. Issue tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings, as well as storm surge watches and warnings.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS)

- a. Provide detailed forecast information, such as wind speed and direction, rainfall amount, etc., for locations across the state.
- b. Issue watches and warnings associated with effects from the tropical cyclone such as winds, floods, tornadoes, etc.
- c. Participate in conference calls to provide situational awareness and forecast updates.
- d. Coordinate with the Southeast River Forecast Center to provide forecasts of riverine flooding.

WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER (WPC)

- a. Provide rainfall total forecasts up to 7 days in advance.
- b. Outline areas that are likely to experience rainfall that will exceed flash flood guidance up to 5 days in advance.
- c. Issue Mesoscale Precipitation Discussions outlining where flooding rains may occur during the next several hours.

5. UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG)

- a. Provide personnel and equipment to support hazardous materials assessment and response.
- b. Provide search and rescue air assets.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

When an incident is expected to have limited impacts, the State EOC may elevate from Normal Operations to an Enhanced Watch with NCEM Functional Leads meeting daily. NCEM or SERT Functional Leads will notify SERT Agency representatives of the potential hurricane or coastal storm impacts and possible SERT Activation. Upon a greater threat to the state, necessary SERT agencies will report to the State EOC for a SERT Activation. HURREVAC provides a graphical plot of the National Hurricane Center Forecast Advisory to assist government officials in making various evacuation decisions.

If not obtained through HURREVAC, information on tropical cyclone intensity, forecast track, wind speed and direction, as well as storm surge inundation information will be accessed through the National Hurricane Center website. Coordination and communication with the National Hurricane Center will be arranged by the FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team.

The National Weather Service will be used as the official source of weather information. The NWS offices provide guidance to emergency managers through briefings, conference calls, and webinars to achieve consistency between the forecast and emergency management response.

B. RESPONSE ACTIONS

The change from Normal Operations to an Enhanced Watch and/or to a SERT Activation is dependent upon the observed threat and expected impact. The following are general guidelines that may support a change in activation level. For information on staffing and general responses associated with an activation, refer to the North Carolina Emergency Operations Basic Plan.

1. PRE-LANDFALL

Enhanced Watch: The SERT Leader may decide to elevate the State EOC to an Enhanced Watch if the NHC begins issuing advisories on a tropical storm or depression that does not pose an immediate threat but may impact the state. During an Enhanced Watch, NCEM or SERT Functional Leads will notify SERT agency representatives of the potential hurricane or coastal storm threats and possible SERT Activation.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

SERT Activation: The SERT Leader may decide to elevate the State EOC to a SERT Activation if:

- a. Confidence is increasing that significant impacts from a hurricane or coastal storm are expected;
- b. Major traffic problems, power outages or shelter openings are expected or occurring;
- c. A tropical system has impacted the state causing flooding, road closures and damages to structures; or
- d. Numerous state resources have been requested.

During a SERT Activation, all necessary SERT partners will be activated in the State EOC and RCC(s). Movement of supplies before and after the storm will be directed by the SERT Leader and the Logistics Section. Shelters will be opened, as necessary. If needed, the Deputy General Counsel may assist the NC Governor's Office in drafting a State of Emergency to be forwarded to the Governor for signature.

2. POST-LANDFALL

A hurricane or tropical storm has hit the coast, made landfall and tracked into North Carolina, or a nearby state has been hit and is requesting mutual aid. The SERT Leader may remain at SERT Activation or may move to an Enhanced Watch based on severity and the likelihood of local capabilities being exceeded.

- a. The Branch Office(s)/RCCs will begin to evaluate the disaster impact and establish priorities related to life, property and the environment at risk. The Field Branch Manager/RCC Incident Commander will coordinate the establishment of priorities with the SERT Leader and/or the Operations Section Chief to ensure consistency between the State EOC and the Branch Offices(s). The State EOC should prepare to receive additional staff from FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal and volunteer agencies. At the direction of the Operations Section Chief, the State EOC staff assigns inventory and dispatches resources to the Branch Office(s) in support of response activities.

HURRICANES AND COASTAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- b. Once weather conditions allow, the Civil Air Patrol ARTs will begin an aerial reconnaissance of the disaster area will occur. Hazard Mitigation Program Support will coordinate with FEMA, National Geodetic Survey and NCDOT for pre- and post-storm aerial (manned and unmanned) imagery data collection. The State EOC determines priorities for immediate assistance using damage reports from the counties and aerial reconnaissance information.
- c. If state resources are overwhelmed and additional assets are needed, mutual aid agreements between neighboring states will be implemented. This will be largely dependent on the disaster effect on the neighboring states. Some mutual aid agreements may be implemented prior to landfall, if the threat warrants.
- d. The Joint Field Office (JFO) manages all long-term recovery actions and operates until all priority recovery activities are accomplished.

V. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended
- B. Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes, Public Health
- C. NCEM Human Services Mass Feeding Plan
- D. NCEM Human Services Shelter Guide

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This appendix describes the coordinating actions taken by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) when severe winter weather threatens or affects North Carolina.

B. SCOPE

This appendix includes the anticipated actions of the federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector organizations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

Due to the geographic regions of North Carolina (Mountains, Piedmont and Coastal Plain) the State experiences a myriad of precipitation types (rain, freezing rain, sleet, and snow) during a winter weather event.

The mountain region of North Carolina is often more prone to winter weather than any other region in the State. In this region, snow is typically the most dominant precipitation type (Fig. 1a). Valley areas typically receive 10-20" of

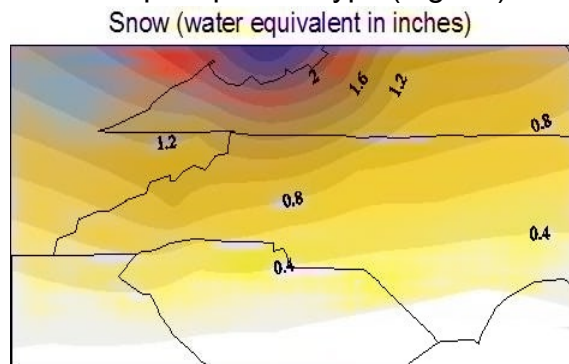


Figure 1a: Average liquid equivalent of snow per season. The Mountains receive the most snowfall. In the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, the highest snowfall totals are to the northwest, while the southeastern Coastal Plain of NC experiences the least amount of snowfall per season.
(North Carolina State Climate Office)

snowfall per season, while higher elevations on western facing slopes may receive 50-75". The Piedmont is the second most favored region for snowfall, averaging 5-10" of snow a year. The Coastal Plain is the least accustomed to winter weather with 5" or less of snowfall per season, often with several years passing where no measurable snow falls. The Piedmont and Coastal Plain are the most likely areas to experience sleet and freezing rain (Fig. 1b/1c).

Freezing rain, sleet and ice accumulations can cause problems across North Carolina. Ice accumulation of $\frac{1}{4}$ " is considered significant and will occur every few years. Less commonly, catastrophic accumulations of freezing rain

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

occur ($\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ "+) which result in significant damage to trees, powerlines and infrastructure. While rare, large accumulations of sleet (>1") are possible.

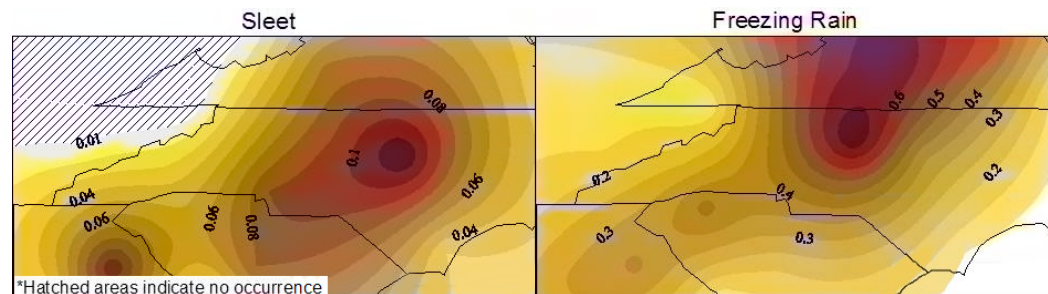


Figure 1b (left), 1c (right): Average liquid equivalent of freezing rain and sleet per season. While the Mountains and Coastal Plain typically experience sleet and freezing rain, the most prone area to those precipitation types is the Piedmont. (North Carolina State Climate Office)

Wintry precipitation is not the only hazard that a winter storm can bring to the State. During Nor'easters, strong winds occur along the coastline and contribute to coastal flooding. While rare, high winds and blowing snow in the Mountains can create blizzard conditions, causing travel to be difficult if not impossible. Brutally cold temperatures may occur during and after a winter storm, making frostbite or hypothermia a concern for anyone outdoors or without heat.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Significant accumulations of winter weather will make travel difficult and dangerous. Ramps and bridges will be the most susceptible to icing.
2. Blowing snow will create visibilities near zero and may accumulate into drifts which could block roadways.
3. Brutally cold temperatures combined with strong winds will make hypothermia a danger to anyone outside.
4. Snow and ice accumulations will cause power outages for several days. Extensive damage to trees and powerlines may result.
5. Roadways may be blocked by debris and extensive clearing work may be required.
6. Disruption of electricity for extended periods of time may affect water and sewer treatment plants, potentially making water unpotable without boiling after the storm.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

7. Road closures in coastal areas may occur due to coastal flooding from high winds.
8. Emergency transportation of resources may require permits, licenses, or exemptions.
9. Less-impactful winter storms may only require partial activation of this appendix and may involve coordination between NCEM and other supporting State agencies.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts through resource and technical assistance during emergencies and coordinate State and Federal response and recovery activities.

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

- a. Assess incident impact on food, agriculture, agribusiness, animals, and other areas regulated or supported by the mission of NC DA&CS.
- b. Report disaster facts, loss records, response information and other impact data to the agriculture sector to the Agriculture Incident Management Team (AgIMT) and the SERT.
- c. Formulate and coordinate public information, guidance, recommendations, and information through approved channels with appropriate partners to the SERT, industry leaders, agriculture producers, and the public.
- d. Provide guidance for the safety and sheltering of companion animals.
- e. Provide general and technical assistance to industries, partners, and other entities or persons within the scope and mission of NCDA&CS and the food and agriculture response.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- f. Promote and implement actions and strategies that maintain consumer confidence for food and agriculture health and security.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS DIVISION

- a. Activate the AgIMT to manage and coordinate the overall food and agriculture response from the department, partner and affiliate organizations, and agriculture stakeholders.
- b. Collect and retain disaster facts, loss records, response information and other impact data to the agriculture sector from reliable sources.
- c. Develop recovery strategies and reports and serve as NCDA&CS lead for recovery.
- d. Provide SERT Liaison for the food and agriculture response to the Human Services Branch.

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE (NCFS)

- a. Provide chainsaw crews to aid in road clearance.
- b. Provide air and land transportation for responders when access to the incident is limited.
- c. Organize emergency feeding for responders.
- d. Support operations by acting as Field Observers, Line Locators or guides in forest areas.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)

NORTH CAROLINA MARINE PATROL

- a. Render law enforcement assistance.
- b. Provide land, sea, and air transportation.
- c. Provide aircraft and crew for surveillance/reconnaissance.
- d. Provide watercraft and crews to support enforcement of USCG-initiated restrictions on waterway use.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT (DWM)

- a. Identify procedures for storage of debris pending disposal.
- b. If debris is determined to be hazardous, provide a vendor list to the responsible party for proper waste management.
- c. Issue emergency permits for treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation of debris and associated clean-up activities.
- d. Provide vendor list to responsible party to facilitate cost assessment for proper waste management.
- e. Identify landfills that will accept contaminated solid waste and facilities/vendors that will accept and treat contaminated liquid waste.

3. NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION (NCWRC)

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- a. Render law enforcement assistance.
- b. Provide air, water, and land transportation.
- c. Act as liaison between the SERT and interested environmental and conservation groups.

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (NCDNCR)

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION (NC STATE PARKS)

- a. Evacuation of State parks when threats exist to public safety.
- b. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
- c. Provide areas on park property for use as assembly or staging areas for equipment and personnel.
- d. Provide transportation and communication within State Park areas.
- e. Determine access points and routes least likely to harm park facilities and advise the SERT Leader of same.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- f. Provide a liaison to the SERT authorized to grant permission for response and cleanup activities as well as issue any required permits concerning State Park facilities.
- g. Provide liaison and carry out technical consultations with US National Park Service if a national park/seashore is threatened.

5. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. Coordinate public health nurses to support local and state shelter requirements; provide consultation and maintain communication with deployed public health nurses.
- b. Coordinate release of health and safety guidance and recommendations within affected communities i.e. use of generators and carbon monoxide poisoning, avoid contaminated water, etc.
- c. Monitor health of shelter populations for potential infectious disease outbreaks and provide mitigation recommendations where appropriate.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

- a. Coordinate with mass care support agencies to support local sheltering operations.
- b. Obtain personnel rosters, sheltering listings, and number of shelter managers from county departments of social services responding in affected jurisdictions.
- c. Provide technical assistance, when requested, to county departments of social services in organizing resources to provide food and water requirements for shelter population.
- d. Provide technical assistance, when requested, to county departments of social services in organizing transportation of food from identified warehouses to mass care feeding sites.
- e. Track and report the status of shelter operations.
- f. Coordinate with partners to answer questions from county departments of social services about accessibility in shelters.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- g. Coordinate all requests for spoken language and American Sign Language interpreters.

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (DAAS)

- a. Promote the exchange of technical and statistical information relevant to needs and outcomes of older adults and adults with access and functional needs from NCEM to area agencies on aging and county health and human services departments.
- b. Collaborate with human services agencies to assist counties in meeting the needs of individuals needing functional support sheltering services.
- c. Collaborate with ESF-8, DHSR, and DPH for individuals needing medical support sheltering services.

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES (MHDDSUS)

- a. Coordinate/facilitate the provision of mental health/crisis counseling to victims at shelters, mass care facilities, and community settings.
- b. Coordinate distribution of Naloxone to shelters, mass care facilities, and fixed feeding sites with counties.

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION (DHSR)

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (OEMS)

- a. Provide leadership in coordinating and integrating the overall State efforts that provide medical assistance to a disaster-affected area.
- b. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of State resources of medical personnel, supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals with Public Health as needed.
- c. Assist in the development of local capabilities for the on-site coordination of all emergency medical services needed for triage, treatment, transportation, tracking, and evacuation of the affected population with medical needs.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Establish and maintain the cooperation of the various State medical and related professional organizations in coordinating the shifting of Emergency Medical Services resources from unaffected areas to areas of need.
- e. Coordinate with the SERT Military Support Branch to arrange for medical support from military installations.
- f. Coordinate the catastrophic medical sheltering response by implementing the Medical Support Sheltering Plan.

6. OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

- a. Coordinate firefighting assets to support local response efforts.
- b. Coordinate restoration of firefighting services and protection post storm.
- c. Coordinate personnel to support additional building inspection resources to augment local capabilities for damage assessments.

7. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS (DOH)

- a. Erect and maintain such signs, lights, barricades, or other traffic control devices as deemed appropriate to maintain or control traffic along the affected routes or detour routes.
- b. Treat roadway surfaces with salt and brine, before, during and after the storm.
- c. Clear roadways of snow/sleet accumulations.
- d. Provide extra equipment and Motorist Assistance Patrols in areas most prone to severe road blockages to facilitate quick and efficient traffic movement restoration.
- e. Provide debris clearance and removal operations in areas impacted by fallen trees.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

8. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Coordinate control measures and isolation of the impacted area as needed.
- b. Regulate motor vehicle traffic where indicated.
- c. Provide communications support.
- d. Assist with movement of resources in coordination with other state partners, as needed.

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Assist with debris clearance from roadways.
- b. Provide shelter support as needed.
- c. Provide transportation assets to assist SHP, DOT, and local agencies in road clearance as well as to transport resources.
- d. Provide emergency personnel, support fire, rescue and emergency medical response.
- e. Provide power generation as needed to support widespread power outages affecting vital facilities when local resources have been exhausted.
- f. Provide NCNG mission capable packages.

9. UTILITY PROVIDERS

- a. Provide decision makers with up-to-date power outage information and expected restoration times.
- b. Provide support as needed to other utilities if able.
- c. Restore electrical power to residences and business.
- d. Repair and restore any downed power lines and/or transformers.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

C. SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS)

- a. Provide detailed forecast information such as temperature, snowfall and freezing rain accumulations, etc. for locations across the State.
- b. Issue watches and warnings associated with the effects of a winter storm including winter storm warning, winter storm watch, winter weather advisory, etc.
- c. Participate in conference calls to provide situational awareness and forecast updates.

WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER (WPC)

- a. Provide potential winter storms impacts via Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) and Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI-P).
- b. Outline areas that are most likely to receive impacts from any wintry precipitation via Winter Precipitation Guidance.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

Activation of this appendix may not occur during a typical winter weather event in the mountains; however, an equivalent event in the Piedmont or Coastal Plain may require activation.

When an incident is expected to have limited impacts, the State EOC may elevate from Normal Operations to an Enhanced Watch with NCEM or SERT Functional Leads meeting daily. NCEM or SERT Functional Leads will notify SERT partners of the potential of severe winter weather. Upon a greater threat to the State, necessary SERT agencies will report to the State EOC for a SERT activation.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

B. RESPONSE ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

The change from daily operations to an Enhanced Watch and/or to a SERT Activation of the State EOC is dependent upon the observed threat and expected impact. The following are general guidelines that may support a change in activation level. For information on staffing and general responses associated with an activation, please refer to the North Carolina Emergency Operations Basic Plan.

Enhanced Watch: The SERT Leader may decide to elevate the State EOC to an Enhanced Watch if:

- a. There is the threat of significant accumulation of snow, sleet, or ice within 3-7 days;
- b. A Winter Weather Advisory has been issued for minor accumulation of snow, sleet, or ice;
- c. A Nor'easter could bring coastal impacts; or
- d. If an extended period of very cold temperatures is possible.

During an Enhanced Watch, NCEM or SERT Functional Leads will notify SERT agency representatives of the potential winter weather hazard threats and possible SERT Activation of the State EOC. SERT Activation: The SERT Leader may decide to elevate the State EOC to a SERT Activation if:

- a. Confidence is increasing that significant accumulation of snow, sleet or ice is expected;
- b. Major traffic problems, power outages or shelter openings are expected or occurring;
- c. A Nor'easter has impacted the State causing flooding, road closures and damages to structures; or
- d. Numerous State resources have been requested.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 2
SEVERE WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

During a SERT Activation, all necessary SERT agencies will be activated in the State EOC and RCC(s). Movement of supplies before and after the storm will be directed by the SERT Leader and the Logistics Section. Shelters will be opened in the affected region, as necessary. If needed, the Deputy General Counsel may assist the NC Governor's Office in drafting a State of Emergency Proclamation to be forwarded to the Governor for signature.

2. CONTINUING

If State resources are overwhelmed and additional assets are needed, mutual aid agreements between neighboring States will be implemented. This will be largely dependent on the disasters effect on the neighboring State. Weather conditions typically warm in the days after the storm as snow and ice accumulations melt away. Ongoing efforts will include, but are not limited to:

- Plowing of roadways by DOT to remove snow, sleet and ice accumulations;
- Treating of problem areas with salt, sand and brine;
- Restoration of electricity and other utilities if they were lost; and
- Removal of debris from roadways.

In the event of a major ice storm, there will likely be widespread and extensive damage to trees, powerlines and possibly structures. In this case, it may be weeks after the snow and ice accumulations melt before normal operations resume. Ongoing efforts will include, but are not limited to:

- Continued utility restoration; and
- Repairs to buildings or infrastructure that may have been damaged by ice accumulations.

V. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended.
- B. Winter Storm Hotspot Concept of Operations
- C. NCEM Human Services Mass Feeding Plan
- D. NCEM Human Services Shelter Guide

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This appendix outlines the coordinating actions taken by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) when significant drought conditions impact North Carolina.

B. SCOPE

This appendix includes the anticipated actions of the federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector organizations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

Drought is a broad term to describe below normal precipitation or abnormally dry conditions. Historically, North Carolina experiences drought conditions every few years with a significant drought occurring every 10-20 years (Fig. 1).

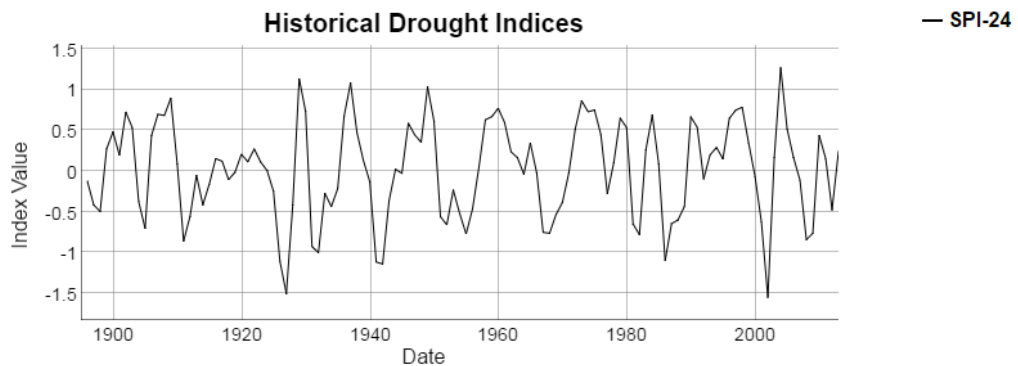


Figure 1: Example 24-Month Standardized Precipitation Index over a period of approximately 120 years. This index roughly depicts periods of drought vs periods of above normal precipitation. The values can range from 2 to -2, with negative values indicating drought conditions. This graph shows that drought is a cyclic process occurring at regular intervals through the period of record. (North Carolina State Climate Office)

The timeframe and duration of drought, as well as the effects on different sectors, result in a series of more specific impacts across North Carolina. There are four definitions of drought. Meteorological drought is defined as below normal precipitation at a given location for a specified amount of time.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

Since North Carolina has several regions and associated climates, conditions that are considered below normal differ by region. Agricultural drought is defined as insufficient moisture (typically soil moisture) to support the needs of crops during the growing season.

This type of drought is highly dependent on the type of plant and available water supplies from lakes or groundwater. Hydrological drought refers to reduced water flow in streams, low lake levels, or limited groundwater due to the accumulated effects of drought over a period of months or years. Socioeconomic drought refers to the combined effects of human demand for water and reduced water supply due to drought. This is typically the result of the other three drought definitions accumulated over time and may include increased food costs, reduced water quality and ultimately an impact on the economy of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) was created in 2003 under North Carolina General Statute 143.355.1. It is an interagency organization responsible for issuing drought advisories based on technical data to address varying conditions throughout the State. The drought advisories provide accurate and consistent information to assist local governments and other water users in taking appropriate drought response actions in specific areas of the State that are exhibiting impending or existing drought conditions.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Statewide impacts from a severe drought have occurred across North Carolina, resulting in significant effects.
2. Crops have been severely impacted. Many have wilted or withered, and a large amount of the harvestable plants have been lost. Grasslands used for pastureland or hay have stunted in growth or are overgrazed and cannot support livestock without supplemental feed.
3. Natural vegetation has become dry, enhancing the risk of wildfires that spread rapidly. Major wildland forest fires can occur over several locations causing a strain on firefighting resources. The North Carolina Forest Service will ban open burning when there is an increased fire weather risk.
4. Source water levels have become dangerously low. This includes dry wells due to low groundwater or low lake and river levels.
5. Due to the reduced source water levels, water quality has deteriorated.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

6. With a long-term drought, state revenue has dropped and the economy is hurt due to a combination of reasons. These may include low crop yields, increasing food costs, increasing water costs, reduced tourism due to low water at recreation areas, etc.
7. Emergency transportation of resources (inbound response and outbound disposal) may require permits, licenses, or exemptions.
8. Less-impactful droughts may only require partial activation of this appendix and may involve coordination between North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) and other State agencies.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts during drought emergencies and coordinate state and federal emergency activities.

B. LEAD TECHNICAL AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

- a. Serve as the lead agency for the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) and designates an employee of the department to serve as chair of the DMAC.
- b. Monitor municipal water/sewer systems, water sources, and assist with water system leak detection.

C. SUPPORTING AGENCIES

1. NORTH CAROLINA DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DMAC)

- a. Organizations currently serving on DMAC and may serve as specific task force leads:
 - NC Division of Environmental Quality (chair)
 - NC Cooperative Extension Service

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- State Climate Office of North Carolina State University
- NC Public Staff of the Utilities Commission
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- NC Department of Commerce
- NC Department of Public Safety
- US National Weather Service, NOAA
- US Geological Survey
- US Army Corp of Engineers
- US Department of Agriculture
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

- b. Makes water resource assessments and projections.
- c. Selects or develops specific formats for routine and special reports regarding water resources.
- d. Identifies need for additional water supply information.
- e. Compiles all assessments of water resource capability to withstand drought impact.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

- a. Promote water conservation measures for agriculture.
- b. Interface with Federal agriculture agencies.
- c. Coordinate disaster/emergency assistance for livestock and crop owners.

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE (NCFS)

- a. Provide fire suppression for state and privately owned wood and grasslands.

3. PUBLIC STAFF OF THE NC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- a. Monitor utility impacts and potential energy loss.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

4. OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

- a. Ensure water resources for firefighting, such as tanker strike teams, if traditional resources are unavailable.

5. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

- a. Coordinate well water testing for contaminants.
- b. Monitor the impact of water shortages on public health.
- c. Monitor well water for inorganic contaminants at the NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH).

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

A Drought Response Plan specific to North Carolina has been developed to provide a system for assessing a drought cycle's progress and for determining when to institute a formal drought response. This plan enhances North Carolina's ability to apply limited resources and reduce the effects of drought.

Drought conditions may be monitored through the US Drought Monitor via the North Carolina DMAC website or the National Drought Mitigation Center website. This tool outlines drought categories that define the severity of the drought. Categories include Abnormally Dry, Moderate, Severe, Extreme and Exceptional drought. These categories are determined based off a combination of factors including stream flows, amount of water stored in reservoirs, groundwater levels, agricultural information, forestry sensors, weather forecasts, and time of year. The North Carolina DMAC may declare drought conditions not necessarily based on the US Drought Monitor.

B. RESPONSE ACTIONS

The North Carolina DMAC assesses drought conditions on a weekly basis using input on the status of water resources across the State from the technical organizations described above. Each drought category may require a different level of response depending on the coverage of drought conditions as described in Tab A, Sequence of Drought Actions.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

In the event the Governor declares an extreme water supply emergency, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) under NC General Statute 143 may authorize “any county, city, or town, in which an emergency has been declared to divert water in the emergency area sufficient to take care of the needs of human consumption, necessary sanitation and public safety”, and “to make such reasonable rules and regulations governing the conservation and use of diverted waters...”. The NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, in representing the Commission, monitors existing raw water supplies and identifies alternate/emergency sources and evaluates system operations.

Local municipalities may enact their own plans which may require reporting on their water supplies, as well as implement voluntary or mandatory water restrictions during extreme drought.

1. INITIAL

- a. North Carolina uses a dual system of assessment and response to deal effectively with drought.
- b. The assessment system calls for representatives from State and Federal agencies to form task forces that can rapidly evaluate and assess water availability and drought impacts and disseminate the information.
- c. Task forces are designed to assess the range of needs that can result from drought.
- d. Task forces are generally chaired by a middle or senior level management employee in the responsible State agency.

These task forces will make assessments of various sectors of North Carolina and will report them to the North Carolina DMAC, the SERT and other State agencies as appropriate. The findings and recommendations of the task forces are assimilated into the overall State drought assessment and are intended to ensure effective response capabilities, as well as to provide documentation for any emergency declaration. The task forces do not become involved in the response of various agencies to a declared drought emergency, nor do they have authority over member agencies. These task forces will meet according to a schedule established by the chairperson (from the lead agency) and terminate activities based on the sequence of drought actions (Tab A) and in coordination with the DMAC.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE

This task force will monitor the State's agriculture industry. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the lead agency and, in conjunction with the DMAC, is responsible for activating this task force. Members of this task force also include (but are not limited to) the US Department of Agriculture State Emergency Board, Small Business Administration, North Carolina Forest Service, Division of Water Resources, and North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

Agriculture Task Force Response Actions:

- a. Review and update guidelines and procedures for drought response.
- b. Assess current and potential agricultural drought severity.
- c. Evaluate impact data. Assessments will detail crop and livestock loss, soil erosion, and insect/pest problems.
- d. Develop action plans for drought response with ESF-11 partners.
- e. Identify potential sources for drought assistance.
- f. Recommend SERT response levels and activities.
- g. Prepare agricultural assessment reports for the DMAC and the SERT.
- h. Formulate guidance, recommendations, and information through approved channels to SERT partners, industry leaders, and agriculture producers.
- i. Maintain supporting data and records of activities.

Agriculture Task Force Recovery Actions:

- a. Evaluate and amend action plan for drought response with ESF-11 partners as events and circumstances change.
- b. Update inventory and maintain information on special resources with cost data and procedures for activation.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Create, sustain and distribute contact information of support service agencies and agricultural industries stakeholders, agencies, personnel and resources for drought response.
- d. Issue guidance, recommendations, and information through approved channels to SERT partners, industry leaders, and agriculture producers of appropriate and available response actions.
- e. Develop and distribute projections of drought impacts on the agricultural economy.
- f. Issue regular and special reports to the North Carolina DMAC, the SERT and other government agencies as appropriate.
- g. Analyze and identify procedures for coordinating with other drought task forces.

ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE

This task force is used to monitor the impact of the drought on the State's economy. The task force will identify the potential impacts of drought and track their occurrence and intensity. The Department of Commerce is the lead agency and, in conjunction with the DMAC, is responsible for activating this task force. Members of this task force also include (but not limited to) the Department of Revenue, Division of Social Services, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Council of Governments.

Economic Impact Task Force Response Actions:

- a. Study the feasibility and enlist involvement of appropriate individuals concerned with the use of economic simulation models to project drought related economic impacts on a regional and statewide basis.
- b. Identify actual and potential economic impacts in drought affected regions of the State.

Economic Impact Task Force Recovery Actions:

- a. Identify assessment resource shortfalls and necessary tools for effective assessment procedures and take action to meet these assessment needs. Assessments should include loss of sales tax revenues, increase in unemployment, and decreases in tourism levels and lodging receipts.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

Assessments should identify major commercial and industrial problem areas.

- b. Provide recommendations for mitigation and response to actual and potential economic drought impacts.
- c. Prepare regular and special reports for the North Carolina DMAC, the SERT, and other government agencies as appropriate.

ENERGY LOSS TASK FORCE

This task force will assess the impact on the capability to meet energy needs—specifically in those areas of the State that depend on generation of hydroelectric power. The Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources is the lead agency and, in conjunction with the DMAC, is responsible for activating this task force as necessary during periods of drought. Members of this task force also include (but not limited to) North Carolina Utilities Commission and Division of Water Resources.

Energy Loss Task Force Response Actions:

- a. Contact and coordinate with appropriate utilities to provide a continuing assessment of all impacts on the energy operating system.
- b. Identify, outline, and determine impacts resulting from loss of adequate water levels. Assessments include total energy loss attributable to drought. Assessments will include an evaluation of water shortage impacts on electrical power generation, as well as identification of other major potential problem areas.
- c. Assist private and public utilities in implementing their response plans.
- d. Assess all apparent and ramifying implications pertinent to the immediate problems such as societal, social, economic, and environmental consequences of the situation.
- e. Gather information on energy loss, make impact assessments and prepare regular and special reports for the North Carolina DMAC, SERT, and other government agencies as may be required.
- f. Establish procedural tasking for the evaluation of specific hydroelectric energy loss.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- g. Exchange timely information with private and public utilities on hydroelectric energy loss assessment and response requirements.

Energy Loss Task Force Recovery Actions:

- a. Advise and recommend courses of action in energy loss response and recovery to the DMAC and the SERT.
- b. Emphasize and suggest appropriate actions (including conservation) to the geographical area concerned.
- c. Monitor and report adverse effects of water shortage on hydroelectric plants including utility redirection of energy supply.

HEALTH TASK FORCE

This task force investigates and specifies adverse health conditions caused by water shortages during drought. The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Division of Public Health, is the lead agency and in conjunction with the DMAC is responsible for activating this task force. Members of this task force also include (but not limited to) NCDHHS Division of Human Ecology and Epidemiology, Division of Health Service Regulation, Division of Aging and Adult Services, and Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services as well as NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection and Veterinary Division.

Health Task Force Response Actions:

- a. Contact and coordinate with appropriate government and private agencies concerning drought related health problems.
- b. Investigate and evaluate environmental health aspects of the drought situation. Assessments will include impact of water restriction measures on community health.
- c. Investigate and evaluate epidemiological ramifications of the drought throughout the affected area.
- d. Examine the effects of water shortage on foods and drugs.
- e. Evaluate drought related veterinary health problems, particularly those associated with meat and poultry which may pose a danger to human consumption.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- f. Evaluate and report drought effects on home health services, group care, detention centers, and medical centers.
- g. Evaluate and report the effects of drought on the aging population.
- h. Determine the requirements for mental health counseling for drought related difficulties.

Health Task Force Recovery Actions:

- a. Assess the effects of water restriction measures on community health.
- b. Prepare reports to the North Carolina DMAC and the SERT as required.

WATER SOURCES TASK FORCE

This task force investigates and identifies available water sources during drought. The DEQ Division of Water Resources, is the lead agency and in conjunction with the DMAC is responsible for activating this task force. Members of this task force also include (but not limited to) DEQ Division of Water Quality, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NCEM, North Carolina State Extension Service, and NCDA&CS.

Water Sources Task Force Response Actions:

- a. Identify and locate alternative water sources within the drought affected areas.
- b. Identify water conservation measures to minimize water consumption and extend available resources.
- c. Monitor water supply and demand to make recommendations on how to allocate existing supplies.
- d. Form special working teams as necessary.
- e. Establish procedures for evaluation of specific water resources.
- f. Provide weekly assessments of current and potential water supply.
- g. Monitor and evaluate local methods for measuring water supply and water use during water shortage conditions.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- h. Provide timely information to local officials to encourage community cooperation for water conservation.
- i. Explore and report possibilities for supplementing local water supplies.
- j. Emphasize mandatory conservation as soon as there are visible or measurable signs that water supplies are significantly lower than seasonal norms and are diminishing.
- k. Stress stringent conservation measures during water shortage emergencies.
- l. Recommend rationing only when supply is clearly inadequate to meet projected demands.

Water Sources Task Force Recovery Actions:

- a. Prepare reports to the North Carolina DMAC and the SERT as required.
- b. Monitor water supply conditions and the effectiveness of water conservation measures.
- c. Advise and recommend water conservation phasing to agriculture and community water supplies.
- d. Emphasize voluntary conservation when conditions indicate the potential for serious water supply shortages.

2. CONTINUING

- a. Upon request of the governing body of a county, city, or town, determine whether satisfaction of water needs for human consumption, necessary sanitation, and public safety require emergency action.
- b. Provide direction for all drought response activities within their assigned areas of responsibility using normal programs and available resources.
- c. Identify and report to the North Carolina DMAC all drought related problems and response activities.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 3
DROUGHT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Identify and report to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer potential drought-effect mitigation measures that may be selected for funding under Section 404 of the Stafford Act (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) in the event of a presidentially declared disaster.
- e. As emerging drought conditions are identified and assessed, impacts are reported to the State Emergency Operations Center, concerned departments of State government, and the North Carolina DMAC for further analysis and development.
- f. Response can range from media announcements to funding and allocation of resources.

V. REFERENCES

- A. General Statute 143 House Bill 2499

VI. TABS

- A. Sequence of Drought Actions

SEQUENCE OF DROUGHT ACTIONS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) normally uses the US Drought Monitor and/or the Palmer Drought Severity Index to trigger a sequence of response actions (listed below) when drought occurs. The use of the US Drought Monitor and Palmer Index does not preclude use of other indices or information as appropriate to help depict drought for water supply, agriculture, or forest resources and particularly to decide when to activate Task Forces or when to elevate the State EOC to an Enhanced Watch or SERT activation.

DMAC Determinations	Drought Severity	Actions To Be Taken
Normal	Normal Conditions	Technical data is monitored periodically by the Division of Water Resources and significant information is sent to North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)
Drought Emerges	Normal to Dry Conditions	The Division of Water Resources monitors, maps, and discusses trend with the DMAC.
DMAC determines threshold conditions for drought have been met	Entering Phase 1 (Moderate Drought)	DMAC monitors technical data and developing trends. DMAC begins issuing drought advisories and provides drought status information to NCEM and other State agencies.
DMAC determines drought has increased in severity.	Entering Phase 2 (Severe Drought)	DMAC may request SERT activation if drought impact requires. DPS appoints a Joint Public Information Officer when/if SERT is activated.

SEQUENCE OF DROUGHT ACTIONS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

DMAC Determinations	Drought Severity	Actions To Be Taken
	Phase 2 (Severe Drought) Continued	<p>The assigned PIO establishes the Joint Information Center (JIC) which provides media status information.</p> <p>DMAC and/or NCEM activate appropriate task forces.</p> <p>Activated task forces make assessments of drought impact.</p> <p>If activated, the SERT provides Situation Reports and/or Executive Summaries as required.</p> <p>If the SERT is activated, task forces keep JIC advised of drought impacts.</p> <p>Lead agencies use available resources to undertake response actions within their normal programs.</p> <p>If activated, the SERT documents unmet needs and assigns response to appropriate lead departments.</p>

SEQUENCE OF DROUGHT ACTIONS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

DMAC Determinations	Drought Severity	Actions To Be Taken
DMAC determines indicators and forecasts worsen and unmet needs prevail.	Entering Phase 3 (Extreme Drought)	<p>The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) may take action within statutory authority as requested by the Division of Water Resources.</p> <p>Task Forces continue to make assessment reports.</p> <p>DMAC reports unmet needs to the SERT.</p> <p>The SERT determines which needs can be met by reallocation of existing resources.</p>
DMAC determines indicators and forecasts worsen and unmet needs prevail.	Entering Phase 4 (Exceptional Drought)	<p>The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) may take action within statutory authority as requested by the Division of Water Resources.</p> <p>Task Forces continue to make assessment reports.</p> <p>The SERT assembles data necessary to support a Governor's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration from FEMA or a declaration from the US Secretary of Agriculture.</p> <p>The Governor may request a Presidential Disaster Declaration or an Agricultural Disaster Declaration.</p> <p>The State Coordinating Officer works with FEMA to secure necessary federal assistance.</p>

SEQUENCE OF DROUGHT ACTIONS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

DMAC Determinations	Drought Severity	Actions To Be Taken
The DMAC determines the drought has subsided.	Leaving Phase 4 (Exceptional Drought) and returning to Phase 3 (Extreme Drought) Leaving Phase 4 continued	The SERT determines whether all requests for assistance are being met within established channels. Task forces continue to make assessments and reports.
The DMAC determines the drought has further subsided.	Leaving Phase 3 (Extreme Drought) and returning to Phase 2 (Severe Drought)	The SERT determines whether all requirements for assistance are being met within established channels. Task forces continue to make assessments and reports.
The DMAC determines the drought has further subsided.	Leaving Phase 2 (Severe Drought) and returning to Phase 1 (Moderate Drought)	Task forces terminate activity and issue final reports.
The DMAC determines the drought has ended.	Leaving Phase 1 (Moderate Drought) and returning to Normal Conditions	DMAC returns to normal operations. The Divisions of Water Resources and NCEM continue to monitor drought indicators.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This appendix outlines actions and procedures that the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the Agriculture Emergency Operations Center (Ag EOC), and the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) will take when a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) threatens susceptible animals in North Carolina. North Carolina will seek the assistance of and cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in accordance with their FAD Plan.

B. SCOPE

This appendix will be activated in coordination with the State Veterinarian (SV) or designees and North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) when there is a credible FAD threat to North Carolina.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

There are thousands of facilities and animal population groups in North Carolina that are vulnerable to naturally occurring FADs as well as potential targets for intentional disease introduction. Response to these types of incidents will involve local, state, federal, and private agencies. Agribusinesses that breed and produce susceptible animals in the hundreds or thousands within the confines of a single operation make attractive targets. An outbreak of a foreign animal disease could cripple the affected industry and dependent businesses for years. Export markets would be lost, and production would dramatically decrease. Businesses would fail. Tax revenue generated directly and indirectly would diminish dramatically. North Carolina's ability to export that type of susceptible animal species would be impacted for months to years. If the disease spread to other states, it could have a devastating impact on the United States' ability to feed its people and to compete in the global marketplace. In the case of FADs with significant human health effects, the response urgency and economic impact may be much greater.

Activation will be a result of notification of NCEM through the SERT by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), which will likely be the first state agency to detect a potential FAD. The SV is the responsible individual within NCDA&CS for FADs and works with the Emergency Programs (EP) Director to coordinate with the

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

SERT. An Agriculture Incident Management Team (AgIMT) will be activated by the SV that initially will be comprised of NCDA&CS employees during the investigation period but will quickly include other partners if the incident escalates into a large outbreak. The AgIMT will utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage the response. With most FAD responses, NCDA&CS, in coordination with USDA, would be the lead technical agency with the SERT in support. There are situations such as a zoonotic or bioterrorist incident that USDA, EM, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and NCDA&CS representatives may be included in a Unified Command structure. Policy decisions will be formed through a Policy Group comprised of the Commissioner of Agriculture (or designee), SV, USDA representative, Public Information Officer (PIO), and any other representatives of agencies, Industry, or subject matter experts that the SV deems important to policy determinations and will be implemented by the AgIMT.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. NCDA&CS, through the SV, has jurisdictional authority as the lead technical agency for a FAD incident in NC. NCDA&CS will offer technical advice to the SERT Leader under the NCEOP in the response.
2. In any FAD incident, the USDA'S Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) will collaborate with the SV's Office and will lead the federal response.
3. Understanding that NC may not be the first state to become affected by an outbreak, resulting in limited federal resources, the SV and SERT must be prepared to proceed with FAD incident response with limited federal agency participation.
4. For the purpose of plan development, a worst-case scenario was assumed, involving the discovery of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) at one or more production sites in the swine industry.
5. Because animals are exported out of the state and out of the country, an infection could rapidly become a national or multinational incident. The costs associated with the loss of animals, production, exports, and indirect items may be in the billions of dollars. Any delay in detection of a FAD and implementation of this plan may increase these costs.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

6. Due to the unique regulatory nature of FAD emergencies and the policy decisions required, there will be more direction to the Incident Command Posts (ICPs) and Branch Offices from the Policy Group/NCDA&CS AgIMT, specifically from the SV due to regulatory authorities, than with other types of SERT Operations.
7. If a zoonotic disease were involved, NCDA&CS would be the lead technical agency through a Unified Command with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health with specific responsibility for human health. Public Health would also be represented in the policy group and if human infections occurred.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. ICPs at County or Branch EOC's manned by NCEM Incident Management Teams (IMT) are bound to decisions made by veterinary authorities within the scope of the Incident Response Plan. ICPs may be located at county EOCs or elsewhere as necessary to accomplish their missions. Response zones may cross county lines.
- b. Initially, outbreak management will occur through the State AgIMT in conjunction with the county EOC in the affected county. As an outbreak expands, additional county EOCs may be activated to provide command/logistical support.
- c. NCEM will provide logistical support for the AgIMT which would include tracking and managing resource requests at the State EOC. Logistics may establish an identification office in the vicinity (ex. county EOC) to provide identification badges to all persons authorized entry into restricted areas (EOC's, Zones, Infected Premises, etc.).

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

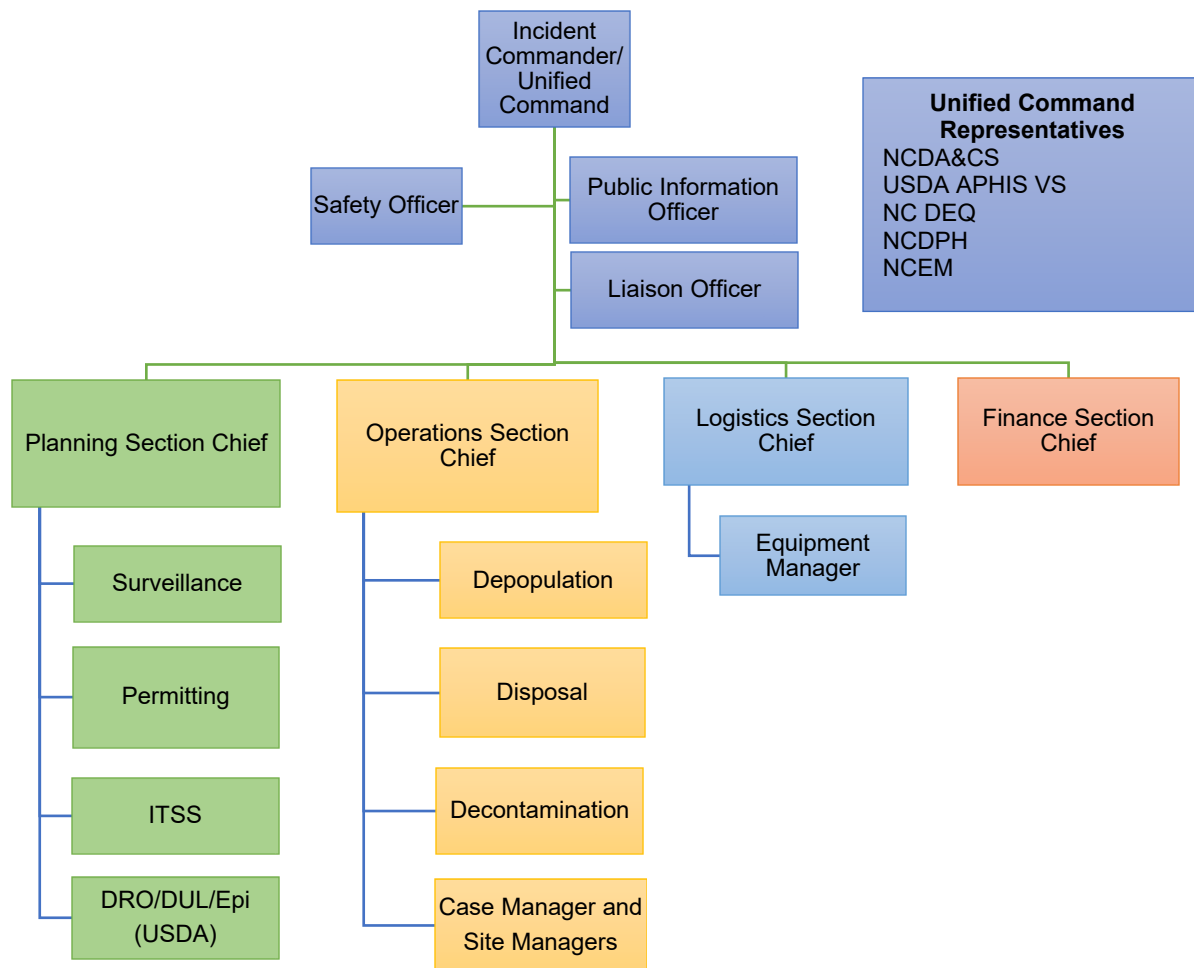
B. LEAD TECHNICAL AGENCY

1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

- a. The NCDA&CS, through the SV, is the lead technical agency for FAD incidents. NCDA&CS will have a liaison(s) to the State EOC that will serve as technical advisor to the SERT Leader. Official documentation for FAD incidents will be through USDA's Emergency Management Response System 2.0 (EMRS2) and NCSPARTA. EMRS2 is the response software package that USDA and states use to manage the information, reporting, permitting, and documentation of disease response. NCSPARTA would be used for requesting and tracking local and state resources along with reporting and documentation to County EM and state/local Law Enforcement. Response communication will use whatever means are available depending on the location of the response (VIPER, emails, telephone, etc.).
- b. The SV, in collaboration with USDA, is responsible for assigning personnel (Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADD)) to investigate premises that have reported animals showing signs compatible with a FAD or that may have been exposed to infected animals.. These premises may be quarantined pending test results.
- c. The SV or designee also makes determinations as to appropriate resources for quarantining affected premises, ensuring the depopulation of designated animals, disposal of dead animals, and decontamination of premises in coordination with USDA and potentially the SERT depending on the extent of the outbreak.
- d. NCDA&CS SV's Office is responsible for activation of an AgIMT to oversee the response activities needed to eradicate/manage a disease outbreak. The AgIMT would assign all personnel needed to manage the incident both in the State EOC as well as in the field. The SV and USDA will form a Unified Command and include any other agencies as deemed necessary based on the type of FAD occurring. The SV would also form the Policy Group either upon confirmation of an outbreak or even before confirmation to aid in policy decisions. Depending on the size of the outbreak, Branch Offices and remote ICPs may be established by the AgIMT which would work with Emergency Management to assign appropriate personnel.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
 2024 (Pre-Helene)

- e. The AgIMT may be located at the Ag EOC, State EOC, or remote ICP depending on the size and scope of the outbreak. The response partner agencies that assist in disasters will be formed into the SART (State Animal and Agricultural Response Team) and will serve as a Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC) to help collect/disseminate information as well as identify resources necessary for response.
- f. For FAD emergencies, the SERT is organized as detailed below:



NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

The amount of assistance needed during an FAD incident will vary depending on size and scope of an outbreak. The Incident Commander, in consultation with the Policy Group, will establish incident objectives, which would include activities in the following areas:

- Biosecurity Protocol Implementation;
 - Veterinary Resource Management;
 - Epidemiology;
 - Surveillance; and
 - Infected premises operations (depopulation as needed, disposal, and decontamination).
- g. Statewide surveillance activities are organized under the Operations Section within the AgIMT. Coordination of border and facility surveillance as well as surveillance at other points of potential disease entry, such as airports, port, rail, and mail facilities will be prioritized according to the outbreak needs.
- h. The SV may assign personnel to serve at Regional and County Emergency Operation Centers, to assist with the management of the veterinary and animal related activities.
- i. An epidemiology function will be included in the AgIMT and will coordinate the collection of disease-related information, disease spread detection, and prevention efforts such as trace in/out, permitting, and vaccination control. Epidemiology activities include both investigation of the outbreak and developing an understanding of how to prevent disease from spreading to negative premises.
- j. Those personnel assigned to infected premises will be considered contaminated and will undergo wait periods before entering other premises with susceptible animals or into areas containing equipment/personnel that are considered non-contaminated.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- k. Operations is responsible for all response activities and will include activities on infected premises as well as activities on premises not known to be infected (ex. Surveillance and Biosecurity). Activities on infected premises may include depopulation (either to manage the outbreak or due to animal welfare concerns), disposal of carcasses and contaminated materials and decontamination of personnel, equipment, and the premises. Industry personnel and/or contractors will play a substantial role in carrying out the operational activities on infected premises and may enter into contracts with USDA.
- l. All required response positions (i.e. Case Managers, Site Managers, Field Reimbursement Specialists) will be staffed by either state or federal personnel to ensure growers and/or owners of affected premises received eligible indemnity and compensation from USDA.
- m. Permitting of animals and animal products will be accomplished using EMRS 2.0 with the primary purpose of assisting in disease containment efforts and facilitating business continuity during the response.
- n. The NCEM Branch Offices provide ready access to the NCSPARTA system. Due to the highly contagious nature of diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza, multiple counties may become involved in an outbreak quickly. If resource needs exceed the capacity of NCDA&CS, NCSPARTA will be used to facilitate resource requesting/tracking, information dissemination, and especially law enforcement activities across jurisdictions. EMRS 2.0 contains and uses protected industry information and will be used by animal health officials to manage disease tracking/reporting and permitted movement of animals and animal products.
- o. Activities such as investigations, placing quarantines, depopulation, disposal, and decontamination will be overseen by trained subject matter experts who may oversee multiple infected sites. Safety Officers will oversee and approve activities on all premises and in Operational Briefings and on Incident Action Plans.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

C. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

NC DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. In the event that a FAD is zoonotic, NC DPH will coordinate with local health departments with regards to the investigation and monitoring of disease in response personnel and other exposed individuals as well as provide technical expertise to the AgIMT on safety protocols.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

- a. Provide trained personnel to assist in the field and on infected premises as needed.
- b. Provide expertise in determination of adequate disposal sites as needed.
- c. Provide guidance, in collaboration with NCDA&CS, on biosecurity, decontamination, on-farm burial/disposal, composting, incineration, and transport for disposal and/or rendering.
- d. Establish and maintain points of contact within the private disposal industry sector, at the federal level, and with other states.
- e. Provide general educational information for the public via website and publications.

3. NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION (NCWRC)

- a. NCWRC will provide expertise related to detection and management of a FAD in wildlife populations.

D. SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

- a. Confirm diagnosis through National Veterinary Services Laboratory.
- b. Make initial national announcement of FAD confirmation with NCDA&CS.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Act as liaison between interested parties: contractors, other states, other countries.
- d. Determine how and when depopulation may take place with indemnity guaranteed.
- e. Provide USDA-specific required response personnel and work through indemnity and compensation approvals for infected or exposed premises.
- f. Provide trained personnel to assist in incident response in Command or General Staff positions or enter into a Unified Command.
- g. Provide epidemiology support.
- h. Negotiate with and approve contractors to help with response if needed.
- i. Provide resources from the National Veterinary Stockpile.
- j. Coordinate communication between NCDA&CS and USDA District Office and/or Riverdale USDA office.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

When NCDA&CS receives a report of an illness in susceptible animals in North Carolina that appears to be a FAD, the SV or designee coordinates with USDA to assign a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) to the premises to investigate the report. The SV will assign appropriate state veterinary personnel to assist USDA. Following an initial investigation, the incident will be classified based on the degree of suspicion that the animals are infected with a FAD - high suspicion, intermediate suspicion, or low suspicion. In the case of a low suspicion classification, no notification outside of NCDA&CS will be made.

B. NOTIFICATION

If there is confirmation of an FAD outbreak nationally but not in NC, this constitutes an Enhanced Watch status for the SERT. A limited AgIMT may be activated to review plans and assess readiness for response to an FAD should one be detected in NC.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

When USDA notifies the SV that a premises under investigation has been confirmed to have a FAD, the SV or EP Director will notify the SERT of disease confirmation. Depending on the disease and scope of the outbreak, this could prompt activation of the SERT. The AglMT, by following USDA guidance, will establish Response Zones consisting of the infected premises, the infected zone, the buffer zone, and the surveillance zone. Surveillance of susceptible animals will be conducted in the Control Area (Infected and Buffer Zones) according to response protocols as quickly as possible.

The Commissioner of Agriculture along with the NCEM Director will advise the Governor and may ask for emergency declarations at the state or federal level if the scale and scope of the outbreaks warrants a large response. If a zoonotic disease is suspected, DHHS will be included in all briefings and decision processes.

C. RESPONSE ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

- a. Investigate and characterize the suspected case.
- b. Perform an epidemiologic investigation including surveillance and Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping.
- c. Establish an ICP and Joint Information Center (JIC).
- d. Reduce the risk of disease spread through appropriate decontamination procedures off of infected premises and enhanced biosecurity practices for all susceptible premises in the Control Area.
- e. Enact NCDA&CS FAD Response Plan which includes establishing quarantines, Control Areas, AglMT, permitted movements, and disease eradication procedures.

2. CONTINUING

- a. As the FAD outbreak progresses, the number of infected premises or quarantine areas may increase requiring implementation of area commands under the National Incident Management System. All of these groups will remain under the direction of the SV and the SERT/AglMT, if warranted, throughout the incident.
- b. Continue adherence to enhanced biosecurity protocols.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Continue surveillance activities within the zoned areas and on premises that have received potentially contaminated/infected animals, feed, equipment, and/or personnel.
- d. Depopulate for disease control/eradication or for animal welfare considerations, appropriately dispose of carcasses, contaminated materials, etc., and decontaminate infected premises and materials to prevent disease spread.
- e. Maintain interagency coordination via assigned liaison.
- f. Ensure appropriate use of Public Affairs and media management.
- g. Maintain effective and efficient supply acquisition and dissemination from Logistics.
- h. Take into consideration medical support and other human factors to include both physical and mental health.
- i. Maintain communications with Industry and other impacted businesses.
- j. Maintain appropriate research and laboratory support.
- k. Ensure all documentation is completed and submitted to the appropriate agencies via the established routes (i.e. EMRS 2.0, NCSPARTA) for all state agencies involved along with animal owners/growers.

V. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended
- B. Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes, Public Health
- C. GS.106-399.4 of the North Carolina General Statutes, Imminent threat of contagious animal disease; emergency measures and procedures.
- D. NC National Veterinary Stockpile Plan
- E. NCDA&CS Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Plan

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

VI. TABS

- A. State Border and Traffic Security
- B. FAD Containment and Quarantine
- C. Depopulation and Disposal of FAD Infected Animals
- D. FAD Decontamination

STATE BORDER AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC SECURITY FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD)

2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This tab establishes plans to monitor traffic entering North Carolina to assure infected animals are not imported and that those animals without proper permits are removed, quarantined, or denied entry into North Carolina. The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) will work to secure North Carolina's borders and major highway thoroughways to an extent sufficient to reduce the risk of spread of FADs from other states. The success of this mission depends on close coordination with USDA, other state Departments of Agriculture and Emergency Management Agencies in adjacent states along with clear communication of policies and permitting requirements to the impacted industries and the public.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. If a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) is diagnosed in another state, it is important to secure North Carolina's borders to prevent introduction of the disease causing agent. Border security focuses on efforts that will prevent interstate movements of infected or contaminated susceptible animals, equipment, etc. from states that are infected with a FAD. Movements of animal or animal products, equipment, and personnel from control areas that are established around infected premises will be done through a permitting process utilizing the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Emergency Management Response System 2.0 (EMRS2). Intrastate movements are currently handled through permits issued by the State Veterinarian (SV) and interstate movements are coordinated through USDA. Animals found in transit on NC roadways from areas infected with a FAD must be addressed through quarantine or controlled transportation routing actions that would remove them from the state.
2. There has been an extensive outbreak with control measures in place for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) throughout the United States including North Carolina since 2022. It has been necessary to closely monitor and control entry of susceptible animals along with any movement of them within NC. This would be the same response with any other FAD detection in the country.

STATE BORDER AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC SECURITY FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD)

2024 (Pre-Helene)

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. All FADs are highly infectious and could be devastating for large portions of North Carolina's susceptible animal populations and economy.
2. An outbreak of a FAD that has zoonotic potential may bring significant human health problems and may significantly impact North Carolina's agricultural economy.
3. Strict control of North Carolina's borders and the movement of susceptible animals through a permitting process within the state will be an effective measure for reducing risk of a FAD introduction into NC. Restricting the importation of susceptible animals/animal products through permitting and monitoring the entry of equipment, personnel and vehicles from infected areas will lessen the probability of a FAD introduction to NC.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ORGANIZATION

The SERT Emergency Services Branch, through appropriate SERT Branch Offices, will establish locations, schedules, and identify personnel necessary to secure borders.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) through the SV is the lead technical agency for FAD incidents and is responsible for providing appropriate criteria by which certain animals, equipment, and personnel are to be denied entry into or evicted from North Carolina.
2. The SERT Operations Section, Human Services Branch, is responsible for supporting the SV in FAD incident response and coordinating FAD border and throughway control activities statewide. Emergency Services Branch will support Human Services Branch with law enforcement coordination as needed.
3. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) is responsible for staffing border monitoring points and paying particular attention to animal transport vehicles within the state as a part of normal patrol activities.

STATE BORDER AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC SECURITY FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD)

2024 (Pre-Helene)

4. County and local law enforcement are responsible for manning border control monitoring points as required and appropriate according to instructions from the SERT Emergency Services Branch, NCSHP, and the applicable field branch offices.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. Monitoring points will be established at appropriate locations including weigh stations and visitor centers. Entry points to North Carolina on the five major Interstate Highways (I-26, I-40, I-77, I-85, and I-95) will receive priority attention with regard to placement of law enforcement personnel to monitor movement of vehicles carrying livestock, produce, equipment, etc. Visitor centers and weigh stations may also be used as information dissemination sites.
2. The NCSHP and county and local law enforcement officers will maintain other highway and road surveillance activities through routine patrol. Patrols may also be implemented if a neighboring state becomes infected. The SV will provide screening criteria and help in determining the risk of questionable shipments for law enforcement officers.
3. Monitoring will include vehicles that normally haul livestock (including horse trailers). Animal transport vehicles may be stopped and inspected for proper permits. Any officer who detects susceptible animals without proper permits will promptly notify the appropriate state or Ag EOC point-of-contact to provide information to the SV (or designee) of the origin of the animal shipment in question. The SV (or designee) will determine the disposition of the offending vehicle which may be escorted across the border and out of North Carolina or to designated quarantine areas.
4. Officers may stop any other vehicle containing produce, livestock, animal products and/or equipment from an infected area. Drivers hauling such items should have proof of origin and if traveling through or out of the Control Areas, have required movement permits. The SV will be notified of vehicles lacking proper paperwork. If the SV determines contamination is likely, the offending vehicle may be escorted across the border and out of North Carolina into the state from which it entered or to a designated quarantine area. The SV will notify the appropriate neighboring state's veterinary office before an offending vehicle leaves North Carolina.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) CONTAINMENT AND QUARANTINE

2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This tab documents plans to prevent the spread of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) by quarantine and containment of designated animals, equipment, and personnel in order to contain a FAD in as small an area as possible until it can be eradicated.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. North Carolina's agribusiness industry along with businesses who depend on it could be crippled for years or longer with a major outbreak of a FAD in the state. Export for those susceptible species could be stopped and production would decrease. Businesses would fail. Tax revenue generated directly and indirectly would diminish dramatically. The state's ability to export that type of livestock or products derived from livestock would virtually end for a minimum of three to five years. If the disease spreads to other states, it could have a devastating impact on the United States' ability to compete in the global marketplace. If the disease is zoonotic, then the threat to human health and well-being would greatly increase the socio-economic impact and the response and recovery resource requirements.
2. Many FADs exist endemically around the world which makes them a constant threat to the US. When an animal shows signs consistent with a FAD in NC, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) State Veterinarian (SV) will classify the animal(s) as suspect and additional testing by USDA will be performed for confirmation. Even a single confirmed case of a FAD in NC threatens significant portions of the state's susceptible animal population. Depending on the extent of the outbreak, quarantine(s) may be required for a single farm/premises, several farms/premises, an entire county, several counties, or the entire state.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. The disease is very contagious, and it is critical to maintain strict biosecurity.
2. Laboratory confirmation may not be possible before the disease has spread well beyond its initial point. Containment Zoning defines areas around infected premises where protocols such as increased biosecurity and

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) CONTAINMENT AND QUARANTINE

2024 (Pre-Helene)

permitted movement controls may be implemented. The size of these zones will depend on the disease and animal density in the affected area(s) but may expand to involve multiple counties.

3. If NCDA&CS does not have sufficient resources to manage the Control Areas, they may call upon the NC Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) for assistance as part of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).
4. The SV, by following USDA's guidance, would designate the Control Areas and movement restrictions.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ORGANIZATION

Once SERT activation occurs due to a suspected or confirmed FAD ca, all response activities will be coordinated through the SERT, the Ag EOC and the SV's Office. Formal communications will be through the NCSPARTA and EMRS2 (USDA) Systems for the purpose of documentation, tracking, and direction of activities. Following USDA guidance, all disease response positions such as Case Managers, Site Managers, and Biosecurity Officers will be utilized to prevent the spread of disease from infected premises. There are certain IMT positions that can only be held by specifically trained USDA personnel. The AgIMT will work with the SERT to implement the containment procedures. The size and composition of response teams will be determined according to the size of the area, operations, activities, and availability of personnel. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) and local law enforcement will be assigned enforcement roles within containment zones as part of their patrol duties for restricted animal movement during an outbreak. NCNG may be requested to assist in various roles during an outbreak.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. NCDA&CS SV in coordination with the USDA AVIC will:
 - a. Exercise overall responsibility for a FAD incident investigation, classification, containment, control, and remediation.
 - b. Activate the Policy Group and Incident Management Team at the appropriate time of FAD investigation or confirmation.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) CONTAINMENT AND QUARANTINE

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Appoint qualified individuals to serve in key technical areas of FAD incident response.
 - d. Guide the Policy Group to make decisions and recommendations to the Incident Commander/IMT regarding FAD response activities and resource commitment.
 - e. Coordinate response activities with NC SERT and USDA.
- 2. The SERT Operations Section (Emergency Services Branch) will:
 - a. Coordinate with appropriate agencies to establish law enforcement quarantine teams of sufficient size to cordon the area(s) identified by veterinary authorities.
 - b. Coordinate with the SERT Logistics Section to arrange for the NCNG to assist with assigned activities as needed.
 - c. Provide formal communication through the NCSPARTA System for purposes of documentation, clarity, and tracking of response activity.
- 3. The SERT Operations Section (Human Services Branch) in coordination with the SERT Logistics Section will arrange for establishment and operation of comfort stations to support operations.
- 4. The NCSHP will serve as lead agency to enforce animal movement restrictions on public roadways.
- 5. The Emergency Services Branch (Enforcement Section) and all other State, County, and local law enforcement agencies will assist the NCSHP and NCNG as necessary with movement restriction enforcement activities.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) CONTAINMENT AND QUARANTINE

2024 (Pre-Helene)

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

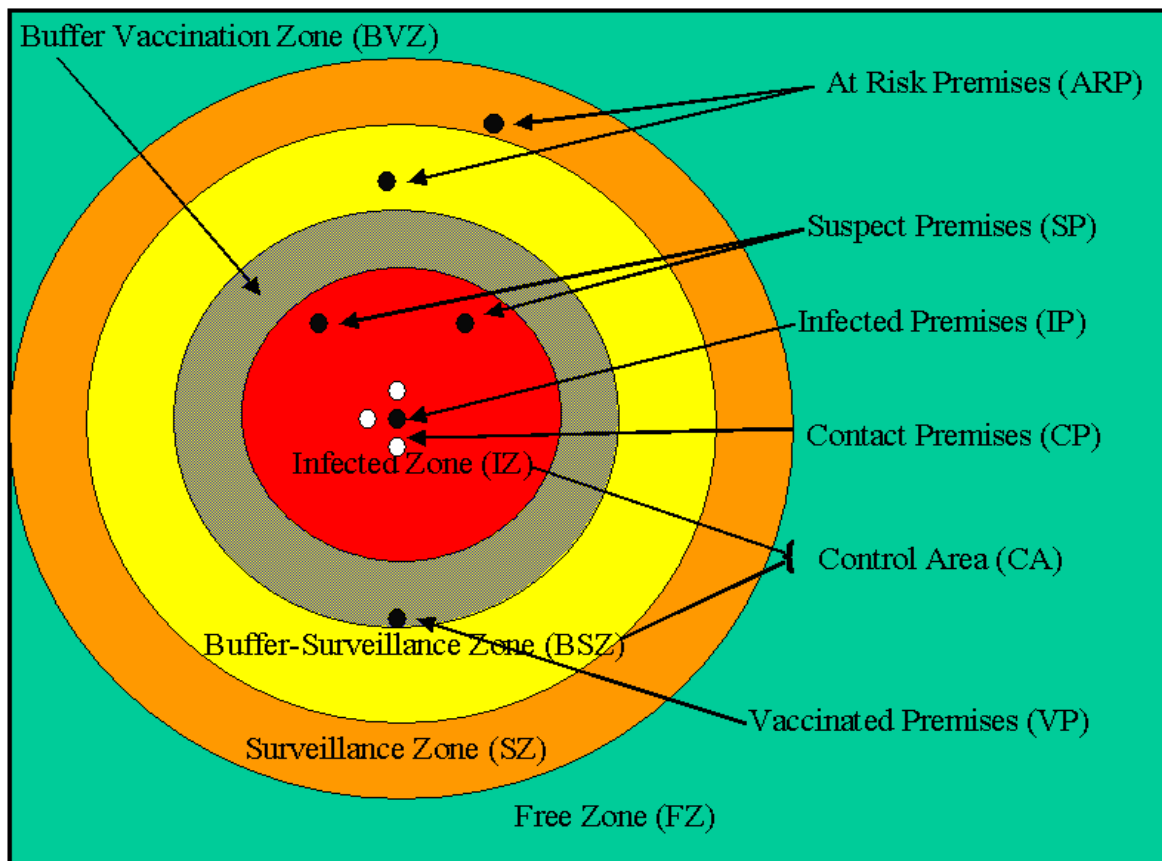
1. Containment Zones and response activities will be conducted under the authority and direction of the NC DA&CS SV with support and assistance from the SERT and particularly from the NCSHP, the NC National Guard (NCNG), local law enforcement and emergency response agencies. The SV or designated representative from NCDA&CS will provide technical guidance in addressing the FAD and participating as the lead agency during a FAD outbreak. The SV's Office will work collaboratively with the USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) on FAD response including containment zoning, permitting of animal and animal product movements, and quarantine enforcement.
2. Premises for which quarantines may be implemented include infected premises, suspect premises, and contact (exposed) premises. The size and shape of the Containment Zones will be set by the SV (Policy Group) to be consistent with established biosecurity requirements as well as the epidemiology and national standards for the specific FAD.
3. Entry/exit points to allow movement of permitted animals and animal products, equipment, personnel, etc. will be set under direction and authority of the SV. A typical structure for a Containment Zone is shown below. Decontamination is addressed in Tab D of this appendix.
 - a. Infected Premises. Entry and exit are restricted. Thorough decontamination, following established protocols is necessary for all personnel, equipment, vehicles, and supplies to exit premises.
 - b. Infected Zone. Susceptible animal movements are controlled through permitting. Biosecurity protocols are required on premises with susceptible animals to protect animals from disease entry (NC Standardized Biosecurity Protocol). Scheduled surveillance activities will be implemented in this zone to determine the extent of disease spread. The initial infected zone would extend ~2 miles (3 km) or as designated by the SV for the disease present from the infected premises.
 - c. Buffer (Surveillance) Zones. Surveillance zones can be designated as buffer zones, vaccination zones, etc. depending on measures being implemented within them. Biosecurity protocols will be required and permitting for animal/animal product movements as stipulated by SV. Scheduled surveillance activities will be implemented in this zone to

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) CONTAINMENT AND QUARANTINE

2024 (Pre-Helene)

determine the extent of disease spread. This may equate to the 6-mile (10 km) ring used in some other disease plans.

Example of Quarantine/Control Area Zones:



V. REFERENCES

- A. NC General Statute 166-A, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended
- B. NC General Statute 106 as amended, April 2001.

DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL OF FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) INFECTED ANIMALS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This tab documents plans for depopulation and disposal of infected and exposed animals designated by the State Veterinarian (SV) during a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak so that biosecurity is maintained, spread of the disease is prevented, and environmental impact is limited.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. A major outbreak of a FAD could have significant impacts on human and/or animal health and cripple for years the state's agribusiness industry and those other businesses that depend on it. Export and production would decrease. Businesses would fail. Tax revenue generated directly and indirectly would diminish dramatically. The state's ability to export susceptible animals would virtually end for three to five years. If the disease spreads to other states, it could have a devastating impact on the United States' ability to compete in the global marketplace. To contain and eradicate the disease, it may be necessary to depopulate significant numbers of infected and susceptible animals and properly dispose of their carcasses.
2. After consultation with the USDA, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) through the SV classifies a FAD incident as Highly Suspicious or Confirmed. The SV directs depopulation and disposal activities of animals within the quarantine area while maintaining biosecurity.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Depopulation of certain susceptible animals in some FAD outbreaks may be the best solution to prevent spread and involvement of larger numbers of susceptible animals. Vaccination and other measures may not be available as tools to help stop the spread of the disease agent. In addition, if the disease is zoonotic, then depopulation of animals may be necessary to prevent human exposure.
2. In some FAD outbreaks, a managed eradication approach may be taken where infected animals are not euthanized unless the diseases process so affects the animal that animal welfare concerns necessitate euthanasia. Methods of depopulation must be approved by the SV.

DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL OF FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) INFECTED ANIMALS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

3. Owners of designated animals will likely have limited capability to depopulate and dispose of their animals on their own in a timely manner to prevent spread of a FAD.
4. Composting will be the preferred method of disposal for most FADs since the disease-causing agent will most likely be inactivated during the process and minimal impacts will be incurred to the environment if performed correctly. Owners of susceptible animals may have sufficient land areas for biosecure composting of animal carcasses but have limited access to necessary equipment or subject matter experts to perform it correctly. Composting as a carcass disposal option must be approved by appropriate authorities to ensure that potentially detrimental environmental impacts have been mitigated.
5. Disposal methods (rendering, incinerating, burial, etc.) other than composting may be appropriate in certain instances, but due to the increase in biosecurity risks and other considerations (risk of spread by transport, environmental, etc.), would be used only in specific situations. Disposal options for infected materials including carcasses must be approved by the SV or USDA.
6. If the owner/operator does not have the resources to perform the prescribed depopulation and disposal in a timely manner, then additional resources will be sought from federal and state logistics.
7. When local owner/operator resources are exhausted, the state will be able to provide depopulation and disposal assistance through NCDA&CS and USDA. State resources for this activity are limited, thus contract resources may be required to address a widespread outbreak. Based on availability of depopulation and disposal resources, the Policy Group may decide to manage infected animals in an outbreak rather than depopulate and dispose of them.
8. Since no one method of depopulating animals and disposing of their carcasses is acceptable in every situation, it is impossible to prescribe such methods in advance. Decisions on these methods will be made as the outbreak progresses and taking into account economic, health, environmental and other factors.

DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL OF FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) INFECTED ANIMALS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ORGANIZATION

Depopulation and disposal of designated animals will be accomplished on site (whenever possible) under direction of designated NCDA&CS or USDA personnel. Safety is of paramount importance thus the Safety Officer will review depopulation and disposal protocols and activities.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The SV is responsible for:
 - a. Authorizing the depopulation and disposal of designated animals.
 - b. Providing direction and establishing policy that will designate which animals are to be depopulated to facilitate containment and eradication of the FAD.
 - c. Establishing eradication procedures for depopulation and disposal of designated animals.
2. The assigned Case Manager acts as a liaison for the owners and growers to the rest of the IMT and assists with all procedures and protocols on the infected premises. The Biosecurity Officer is responsible for ensuring that all personnel, including owners, follow proper procedures to maintain biosecurity and prevent the spread of the FAD.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

When the confirmation or high suspicion of a FAD on a premises in NC. The SV or designee will direct depopulation and disposal activities for the infected premises. Additional assistance for these activities can be requested through the IMT Logistics and Operations Sections. If resources are not available in-state, additional assistance can be requested by USDA. All activities will be communicated and documented through NC SPARTA and EMRS.

V. REFERENCES

- A. NC General Statute 166-A, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended.
- B. NC General Statute 106 as amended, April 2001.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 4 | TAB D
FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) DECONTAMINATION
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This tab documents plans for decontaminating people, animals, vehicles, material and equipment that have or may have been in contact with a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) so that biosecurity is maintained, spread of the disease is prevented, and environmental impact is limited.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. A major outbreak of a FAD could cripple the state's agribusiness industry and those other businesses that depend on it. Export and production would decrease. Businesses would fail. Tax revenue generated directly and indirectly would diminish dramatically. If the disease spreads to other states, it could have a devastating impact on the United States' ability to compete in the global marketplace.
2. A FAD incident under investigation in North Carolina is classified by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) State Veterinarian (SV) working with the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) as "High Suspicion", "Intermediate Suspicion" or "Low Suspicion". Significant portions of the state's susceptible animal population can be threatened by diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The SV will direct vehicles, equipment, materials, and some animals that have been in FAD infected areas to be decontaminated to help contain a disease outbreak.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Owners of susceptible animals may have limited capability to decontaminate people, equipment, vehicles, materials, and non-susceptible animals that may have been in contact with a FAD on their premises.
2. The IMT Operations Section will be able to develop an effective and workable protocol for decontamination based on approved protocols from USDA.
3. Local fire departments have limited decontamination capabilities but may be able to provide assistance in a FAD incident.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) DECONTAMINATION

2024 (Pre-Helene)

4. When local resources are exhausted, the state will be able to provide decontamination assistance through the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) Logistics Section and the NC National Guard (NCNG). State resources for this activity are limited and may not be sufficient to handle a widespread outbreak.
5. The federal government will be able to provide decontamination assistance when local and state resources are exhausted. These federal government resources may be significantly challenged in multi-state FAD incidents.
6. Contracts with specialty contractors may be required to address decontamination activities for a widespread or long-term FAD incident.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ORGANIZATION

Decontamination will be accomplished on site under direction of the Biosecurity Officer according to general instruction from the IMT Operations Section. Decontamination teams may be from NCDA&CS, local fire departments, the NCNG, industry, contractor or a federal agency.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The SV is responsible for:
 - a. Providing overall direction, identification of infected premises, containment, control, and remediation of North Carolina FAD incidents in coordination with USDA and the SERT Leader.
 - b. Activating the Incident Management Team and Policy Group to manage a FAD outbreak event.
 - c. Establishing effective FAD decontamination procedures and protocols in conjunction with IMT Operations.
 - d. Supervising (through the Biosecurity Officer) decontamination activities on Infected Premises to ensure established procedures are followed.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) DECONTAMINATION

2024 (Pre-Helene)

2. The IMT will:
 - a. Coordinate the support activities by other state, federal, and local agencies in support of the NCDA &CS's FAD response effort.
 - b. Carry out the required regulatory management, procurement, finance, and documentation activities in support of the FAD response.
3. The Biosecurity Officer is responsible for directing decontamination activities and ensuring decontamination teams follow procedures to maintain biosecurity and prevent the disease from spreading.
4. The IMT Operations Section is responsible for coordinating with local fire departments and emergency response organizations to arrange for decontamination teams. The Operations Section is also responsible for assigning decontamination teams to premises and providing decontamination protocols/guidelines.
5. Local fire departments are responsible for providing such manpower and equipment as resources allow serving as on-site decontamination teams.
6. The IMT Logistics Section is responsible for securing necessary equipment and personnel for decontamination efforts should the task be beyond local capabilities.
7. The animal production industry is expected to establish contingency contracts with their normal clean-up and decontamination contractors to be available to respond quickly in the event of a disease outbreak or other catastrophic incident.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. USDA will approve a contract for decontamination procedures to be completed on the infected premises. Decontamination is to be accomplished according to instructions and protocols provided by the IMT, and under supervision of the Biosecurity Officer. Should the decontamination task exceed local capabilities, the SERT Logistics Section will arrange for additional decontamination teams. Should decontamination requirements exceed local and state capabilities, it will be necessary to request assistance from the federal government through USDA National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) or private decontamination contractors.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD) DECONTAMINATION

2024 (Pre-Helene)

2. Decontamination will need to be performed in all zones to some degree. The degree of decontamination needed will depend on which zone the premises are located or if they have any known contacts with an infected premises. For example, close proximity to an infected premise may increase the risk of becoming infected and thus the need for more stringent decontamination protocols. The IMT Operations Section will establish protocols and procedures for each zone.

V. REFERENCES

- A. NC General Statute 166-A, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended.
- B. NC General Statute 106 as amended, April 2001.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This appendix outlines the coordinating actions taken by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) to a widespread public health threat posed by one or more infectious agents. Such a threat can be a naturally occurring event such as an influenza pandemic, or a bioterrorism act that intentionally exposes individuals to infectious agents.

B. SCOPE

This appendix includes the anticipated actions of the federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector organizations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

An infectious disease is any medical condition that is caused by viruses, fungi, bacteria, or parasites. Invading microorganisms include viruses, fungi, bacteria, and parasites. Sources for these organisms include the environment, animals, insects, and other mammals--including humans. Transmission usually occurs by inhalation, ingestion, direct contact or by bites by a vector. Identification, evaluation and mitigation of infectious diseases are essential to protect public health. Infectious diseases can occur naturally, through human error (e.g. food borne outbreaks), or through deliberate acts of bioterrorism.

Many infectious diseases are serious threats to human health. The spread of drug-resistant bacteria, emerging diseases, and new strains of influenza are of particular concern.

Bioterrorism is defined as the intentional human release of a naturally occurring or human-modified toxin or biological agent. There has been an increase in acts of bioterrorism in recent history.

Numerous surveillance systems are in place to monitor for human health and environmental contamination indicators. Links with veterinary health surveillance systems are also in place in North Carolina to monitor zoonotic infectious diseases that may cause human illness.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

The state is responsible for detecting and monitoring the occurrence of acquired or intentionally disseminated infectious diseases or intoxicants, prevent their spread and mitigate their severity. Additionally, it is the state's responsibility to educate the general public and medical community regarding signs and symptoms of infection, personal protective measures and control methods.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Any outbreak of an infectious disease could be widespread and become an epidemic or a pandemic. Prudent preparation can limit spread and lessen effects.
2. Healthcare facilities may become overwhelmed and unable to accommodate all infected or exposed people. Additional temporary treatment facilities may be created in alternative facilities. Screening facilities will be created to triage people for appropriate care.
3. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be called to assist in any human infectious disease epidemic with Public Health support.
4. Public health control measures include medical countermeasures such as vaccination, infection prevention, and sanitation recommendations. Such measures, especially when widespread, may disrupt the economy and require large numbers of law enforcement and other manpower resources.
5. Buildings and areas may become contaminated with diseases or biological agents and may be closed until they are disinfected or decontaminated. This may cause interruptions in business and government.
6. Emergency transportation of resources (inbound response and outbound disposal) may require permits, licenses, or exemptions.
7. Lesser outbreaks with limited impacts may only require the partial activation of this appendix and may involve coordination between North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) and other supporting state agencies.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts through resource and technical assistance during emergencies and coordinate state and federal response and recovery activities.

B. LEAD TECHNICAL AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLANS
WORKING GROUP**

- a. Authorize updated plans and procedures for public health emergencies. The Public Health Preparedness & Response Steering Committee will meet quarterly. The team and its subcommittees will update this plan, develop additional subordinate plans, and develop procedures within their areas of expertise.
- b. The State Epidemiologist with NCDHHS, in collaboration with local public health officials, will be responsible for planning the investigation of human disease events.
- c. The State Veterinarian with NCDA&CS will be responsible for investigating and response planning for animal disease events and collaborating with the State Epidemiologist on outbreaks involving zoonotic diseases.
- d. The State Entomologist with NCDHHS will be responsible for planning for the natural vector or reservoir component of infectious diseases.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

C. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS DIVISION

- a. Coordinate food and agriculture response for NCDA&CS and partners.
- b. Provide veterinary expertise and coordinate animal response in support of the State Veterinarian's guidance and Veterinary Division's Lead Role.
- c. Provide a SERT Liaison as needed.

VETERINARY DIVISION

- a. Monitor the health of livestock, poultry and other animals to identify any potential sources of infectious disease from animals and collaborate with partner agencies as appropriate.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY (DAQ)

- a. Monitor the ambient air quality in the state to determine how an infectious disease agents may travel through the air.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

- a. Monitor the drinking water supply of the state to determine whether infectious disease may travel through drinking water.

3. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. Coordinate public health nurses.
- b. In the event of an emergency or disaster during an outbreak, monitor health of shelter populations for potential infectious disease outbreaks.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Coordinate wastewater testing using laboratories (e.g. NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH)) that provide data to the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS). The NWSS is a public health tool used to track pathogens and limit the spread of infectious disease within communities.
- d. The NCSLPH will coordinate an/or conduct active laboratory-based surveillance for biological and/or chemical agents of public health concern in clinical specimens as required.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

- a. Coordinate efforts to provide mass care facilities, food, water, and distribution of relief supplies as needed.
- b. Track and report the status of local support operations.
- c. Coordinate with partners to answer questions from county departments of social services about accessibility at mass care sites.
- d. Coordinate all requests for spoken language and American Sign Language interpreters.
- e. Coordinate/facilitate the provision of relief efforts provided by volunteer organizations with the county DSS.

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION (DHSR)

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (OEMS)

- a. Provide leadership in coordinating and integrating the overall state efforts that provide medical assistance to a disaster-affected area.
- b. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of state resources of medical personnel, supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals with Public Health as needed.
- c. Assist in the development of local capabilities for the on-site coordination of all emergency medical services needed for triage, treatment, transportation, tracking, and evacuation of the affected population with medical needs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Establish and maintain the cooperation of the various state medical and related professional organizations in coordinating the shifting of Emergency Medical Services resources from unaffected areas to areas of need.
- e. Coordinate with the SERT Military Support Branch to arrange for medical support from military installations.
- f. Coordinate the evacuation of patients from the disaster area when evacuation is deemed necessary.
- g. Coordinate the catastrophic medical sheltering response by implementing the Medical Support Sheltering Plan.

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Provide trained military police for traffic control.
- b. Provide security at healthcare facilities and established temporary treatment facilities.
- c. Provide military forces to assist local law enforcement in the emergency area for security, control of entrance to and exit from disaster area, and protection of people and crowd control.
- d. Provide a Rapid Reaction Force specially trained for response to public disturbances and riots.

STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (SBI)

- a. Coordinate investigation efforts, especially if the infectious disease is suspected to have originated via a biological terror attack.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Regulate motor vehicle traffic where indicated.
- b. Provide security escort when required by related plans, policies, and/or procedures.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

5. UNC CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

- a. Deliver training, conduct research and provide technical assistance to public health professionals across the state.

D. SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

- a. Support immediate lifesaving and life safety emergency response priorities.
- b. Sustain lives with critical commodities, temporary emergency power and other needs.
- c. Initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

When an incident is expected to have limited impacts or confidence in the magnitude of significant impacts is low, the State EOC may elevate from Normal Operations to an Enhanced Watch with NCEM Functional Leads meeting daily. NCEM or SERT Functional Leads will notify SERT agency representatives of the potential release of a biological agent or infectious disease. Upon a greater threat to the state, necessary SERT agencies will report to the State EOC for a SERT activation and the State Health Director will become a technical advisor to the SERT Leader and the Governor.

SERT agencies will be responsible for the following actions during an infectious disease outbreak:

1. Communicate NC public health infectious disease information to neighboring states and the federal government;
2. Assist local health departments, hospitals, and other medical treatment facilities in their treatment of the infectious disease;
3. Coordinate federal assistance to the affected regions; and
4. Assist local health departments with public health control measures such as surveillance, disease investigation, social distancing, immunization, prophylaxis, mass treatment, and mass fatality management.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

B. RESPONSE ACTIONS

Upon the indication of an infectious disease outbreak, the change from Normal Operations to an Enhanced Watch and/or SERT Activation is dependent upon the observed threat and expected impact. The following are general guidelines that may support a change in activation level. For information on staffing and general responses associated with an activation, please refer to the North Carolina Emergency Operations Basic Plan.

Enhanced Watch: The SERT Leader may elevate the State EOC to an Enhanced watch if there is a threat of a release of a biological agent or infectious disease. The SERT Leader may also elevate to an Enhanced Watch if there has been an infectious disease outbreak in a community, but public health capabilities are sufficient and there are limited deaths reported. State assistance may or may not be requested but this is generally a monitoring stage. During an Enhanced Watch, NCEM or SERT Functional Leads will notify SERT agency representatives of a possible SERT activation.

The following actions will be taken during an Enhanced Watch:

- All emergency support function agencies are alerted;
- A coordinating call is conducted to determine the need for activation and for SERT partners to report to the State EOC;
- The Public Health Coordination Center (PHCC) is alerted and manned, at the level determined in the PHCC SOP;
- The PHCC provides assistance to local public health officials;
- The Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) begins to identify medical resources available from medical treatment centers in NC and to assess those facilities in need of support; and
- The Healthcare Preparedness Coalitions are alerted for possible deployment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

SERT Activation: The SERT Leader may decide to elevate the State EOC to a SERT Activation if there has been a confirmed release of a biological agent or infectious disease, there is a widespread disease outbreak occurring, there are a large number of patients seeking treatment and hospitals in a multi-county area are overwhelmed, or state resources have been requested.

The following actions will be taken during a SERT Activation:

- The SERT is fully activated with 24-hour staffing from all SERT members, the NCEM Regional Coordination Centers will be activated.
- The State Health Director becomes a technical advisor to the SERT Leader and the Governor.
- The PHCC becomes activated per the PHCC SOP. Medical Countermeasures are activated for possible receipt of the stockpile.
- The Governor, on advice from the SERT Leader and the State Health Director, declares a State of Emergency and may request federal assistance.
- The DMAT, within the OEMS, coordinates medical treatment and resources: facilities, staff, and equipment.
- Pharmaceutical augmentation through the US CDC Medical Countermeasures will be done through the PHCC in conjunction with DMAT.
- The Healthcare Preparedness Coalitions may be deployed to the affected area to provide additional medical capability.
- Facilities and temporary living accommodations will be decontaminated and disinfected.
- Health and medical response will continue as above with additional resources requested from other states and federal assets.
- Alternative care centers, distribution of pharmaceuticals, disease containment procedures and public information will be implemented according to agency plans and coordinated through the State EOC.
- The DHHS staff within the Citizens Services Office will assist in coordinating the response to citizens with special medical needs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

V. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended
- B. Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes, Public Health
- C. NC National Veterinary Stockpile Plan

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to prepare for early detection and rapid response to minimize impact and encourage a swift recovery from significant threats to food safety and public health.

B. SCOPE

This plan addresses policies and procedures that will minimize the impact of an unintentional, deliberate, or natural disaster incident related to the state's food supply. In addition, the plan addresses recovery following an incident. The plan stresses local, state, and federal interagency cooperation, as well as cooperation with industry. This cooperation will be essential when responding and recovering rapidly to any attack or threat to the state's food supply.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

North Carolina, the third most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, has extensive national and international exports markets. Food and agricultural production, processing and retail systems are a multi-billion dollar (>\$68 billion) industry in NC and employs ~20% of workforce. Thus, the safety and security of the State's food supply is of paramount importance. Not only will an incident affecting the food chain impact this multi-billion dollar system, but also consumption of the contaminated food item could result in human illness (with an associated potential cost of \$10-83 billion per year in the U.S). The effects of one incident will not only negatively impact North Carolina, but also the nation and other countries. A major outbreak could cripple the affected industry for years. Businesses would fail without a rapid response system that focuses on business resiliency and continuity. Tax revenue generated directly and indirectly would diminish dramatically.

This operations plan will be activated when the consequences of the event exceed the ability of the local government or lead agency to handle the incident; there is a disaster declaration by the Governor; more than one state agency has become involved in responding to the incident (beyond what transpires for more routine food incidents); or; there is an interstate emergency that has exceeded the joint state's abilities or an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request is made for mutual aid

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

to a state. Activation will be a result of notification of the NC Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) through the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), or local health departments.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. For the purpose of this plan, the term “food” is defined as any product normally consumed by humans or animals for nourishment.
2. Incident management activities will be initiated and conducted using the principles contained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
3. The responsibilities for food safety and food borne disease surveillance are divided among multiple agencies in North Carolina including NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, and NCDA&CS. Regulatory authorities, responsibilities, and the initial responder will determine the lead agency, at least initially. The nature of a food emergency will result in the involvement of additional supporting agencies and groups, such as state entities, federal agencies and private industry.
4. Threats to the food supply can come from natural sources, accidental contamination, and deliberate acts as well. This plan will be used to respond to food borne emergencies, regardless of the cause.
5. Law enforcement will become the lead agency for the criminal investigation portion of a response when a food borne disease outbreak or other food-related emergency is determined to be the result of a deliberate or criminal act. Regulatory and public health agencies will maintain normal responsibilities.
6. NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS, and/or the Local Health Departments will be responsible for field investigations or inspections of retail food markets and food service establishments, food processors, dairy farms and plants, retail and custom meat establishments, shellfish harvesting and monitoring of water quality in shellfish harvesting areas according to agency specific protocols and policies.
7. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be asked to support a state’s response to a food borne emergency.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

8. An effective and coordinated response effort will be needed to restore the public's confidence in the food supply in the aftermath of a contamination event.
9. Because of the lack of a uniform regulatory system that ensures the traceability of all products and commodities, tracing may be difficult.
10. Developments in the farm-to-table pathway have greatly increased the number of entry points for contamination and the potential for widespread contamination of the food supply. Because of the lack of security and surveillance at many farms, food processing and packaging plants, and retail food establishments, terrorists have easy access to implement a food borne attack.
11. The local Health Director, in consultation with state agencies, will be primarily responsible for the identification and control of routine food borne disease outbreaks and environmental field investigations in food service establishments (e.g., restaurants, delis, meat markets).
12. State health agencies will be the primary group responsible in cross-jurisdictional outbreaks and will consult with other state agencies with food safety responsibilities.
13. A deliberate act or the receipt of a threat against the food and agricultural community, in and of itself, could initiate response actions at all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to minimize public panic.
14. Detection of a food borne emergency in an area outside of North Carolina will prompt implementation of additional preparedness and prevention measures.
15. A deliberate act of contaminating the food pathway will result in additional law enforcement and security response actions at all levels of government, industry, producers, and the private sector.
16. Vector/contamination control may require discarding large quantities of agricultural products and organic matter, invoking embargoes or trade restrictions, culling livestock, or poultry, and identifying alternative sources of food.
17. Depending on the causative substance of the contamination, contaminated foodstuffs may need to be considered and handled as hazardous waste.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

18. Suspected infected locations, machinery, distribution centers, restaurants, eateries, and transport vehicles may need to be cleaned, disinfected and re-evaluated for contamination.

19. Due to the diversity of the type of commodity and geographical location, as well as the impact of the variety of cultures/languages represented in North Carolina, response to and recovery from an emergency will require a coordinated effort of all stakeholders.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts through resource and technical assistance during food emergencies.
- b. Coordinate state and federal response and recovery activities.

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

- a. Provide laboratory capacity to conduct analysis on samples of food products and ingredients to assist in determining source, nature and scope of contamination event.
- b. Inspect and investigate state-licensed, permitted, and other facilities associated with suspected or confirmed food borne illness.
- c. Collect ingredient, raw agricultural commodity, product or environmental samples for laboratory analysis as necessary to determine the nature and scope of the event.
- d. Assist with the recall of products.
- e. Trace forward and back products with suspected ingredients.
- f. Take field actions to mitigate incident (embargo, condemn, quarantine, etc.).

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- g. Through the EOC, coordinate with animal or plant production agencies or groups if the investigation requires access to or examination of raw food products.
- h. Coordinate with HazMat teams for disposal of recalled hazardous food items, as warranted by the circumstances.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY (DAQ)

- a. Monitor the ambient air quality in the state to determine how an infectious disease may travel through the air.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

- a. Monitor the drinking water supply to determine whether infectious disease may travel through drinking water.

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)

- a. Inspect and investigate DMF licensed/certified shellfish dealers and other facilities associated with suspected or confirmed foodborne illness related to shellfish.
- b. Take actions to mitigate incidents including seizure, embargo, and voluntary disposal.
- c. Assist with recall of implicated shellfish.
- d. Trace back and trace forward of implicated shellfish.

3. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. Coordinate with local health departments and other jurisdictions to ensure environmental assessments are completed and mitigation measures are implemented.
- b. Coordinate public health nurses as needed.
- c. Coordinate with federal agencies on multi-jurisdictional events.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Coordinate with NCDA&CS, USDA, FDA, or CDC labs to collect food samples for analysis when needed.
- e. Provide support to local health departments for embargo of food, disposition of food, food establishment permit suspension.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

- a. Coordinate efforts to provide emergency shelters, mass care facilities, feeding, and water.
- b. Coordination/facilitation of the provision of sheltering during a food emergency including persons with functional needs (sensory, physical, mental limitations, and non-English speaking) with county departments of social services (county DSS).
- c. Coordination/facilitation of the provision of relief efforts provided by volunteer organizations with the county DSS.
- d. Coordination/facilitation of the provision of mental health/crisis counseling to victims at shelters, mass care facilities, and fixed feeding sites with county DSS.
- e. Coordination/facilitation of the provision of emergency first aid to victims at shelters, mass care facilities, and fixed feeding sites with county DSS.
- f. Ensure all DHHS Divisions are staffed for response, recovery and mitigation.
- g. Ensure all DHHS Divisions are on standby and are ready to deploy Division resources.
- h. Notify Sensory and Foreign Language Interpreter Staff of NC DHHS and NC DHHS interpreter contracts to be on stand by and ready to deploy, if requested.
- i. Support the American Red Cross and other agencies in shelter staffing at designated Red Cross Shelters.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Coordinate traffic control measures and isolation of the impacted area as needed.
- b. Regulate motor vehicle traffic where indicated.
- c. Provide communications support.

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Provide trained military police for traffic control.
- b. Provide security at established shelters.
- c. Provide military forces to assist local law enforcement in the emergency area for security, control of entrance to and exit from disaster area, and protection of people and crowd control.
- d. Provide a Rapid Reaction Force specially trained for response to public disturbances and riots.
- e. Provide military forces to assist local and state resources in rescues and evacuations as needed.
- f. Provide NCNG mission capable packages.
- g. Provide transportation support.

C. SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

- a. Undertake investigations to identify implicated products.
- b. Request and assist firms responsible for implicated product with conducting a recall.
- c. If warranted, exercise administrative detention of the implicated product.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- d. Provide laboratory surge capacity to process an increased volume of food samples.
- e. Issue press information, such as consumer advisories.
- f. Coordinate the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) in conjunction with USDA/FSIS and CDC.
- g. Coordinate its investigations with federal, state and local partners.
- h. FDA Office of Criminal Investigations may provide support in a criminal investigation.
- i. Maintain and distribute food testing protocols through the Food Emergency Response Network.

2. CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

- a. Conduct public health surveillance, including food borne disease surveillance, to identify the causes and sources of food borne disease (sporadic cases and outbreaks), to monitor the public health burden of food borne disease, and to identify new and emerging causes of food borne disease.
- b. Coordinate the national molecular sub-typing network for food borne disease surveillance, through which public health laboratories can identify specific strains of food borne bacteria using whole genome sequencing to find clusters of disease that represent unrecognized outbreaks.
- c. Develop state-of-the-art laboratory methods to identify food borne pathogens, including whole genome sequencing.
- d. Training and developing the state and local public health workforce to improve food borne disease surveillance, investigation and response.
- e. Assisting state and local health and food safety officials address food borne disease emergencies.
- f. Providing clinical, epidemiological and public health expertise.
- g. Depending on the nature of the threat, enhance procedures for detecting and analyzing the suspected biological or chemical agents.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- h. Providing laboratory surge capacity to process an increased volume of clinical or food samples.
- i. Collaborating and communicating extensively with the states, FDA and USDA.
- j. Identifying staff to be on continuous alert to assist and possibly be dispatched to a response site.
- k. Issuing health alerts to state health departments and key healthcare provider networks to increase surveillance of new or unusual clusters of illness.
- l. Issuing alerts to the broader public health, medical and other relevant constituencies, as needed.
- m. Developing appropriate messages and guidance for the public.

3. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

- a. Assist with disease eradication and food safety threat activities, including quarantine, evaluation, slaughter, disposal, cleaning and disinfecting, epidemiology, trace-back, vector control and transportation permitting arrangements.
- b. Consult with state and local authorities regarding eradication and food safety threat proceedings.
- c. Collect, analyze and disseminate technical and logistical information.
- d. Define training requirements for casual employees or support agencies involved with emergency response operations.
- e. Issue a declaration of extraordinary emergency.
- f. Define the infected area and control zones directly impacted and involved in the food emergency.
- g. Prepare information for dissemination to the public, producers, processors and other concerned groups.
- h. Inform the public about meat, poultry and egg product food safety issues.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- i. Allocate funding for compensation to the owner(s) of culled animals.
- j. Define restrictions on interstate commerce.
- k. USDA Office of Inspector General will provide support in a criminal investigation.

4. TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The Tribal Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the safety and welfare of the members of their tribe. As such, this representative works with the state in the emergency planning process to define the critical roles and responsibilities of the tribe. The Tribal Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for:

- a. Declaring tribal emergencies that can result in the implementation of a tribal response plan or a mutual aid agreement.
- b. Coordinating tribal resources, relative to all potential types of response or incidents, to prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents in an all-hazards context.
- c. Having powers to suspend tribal laws and ordinances to assist with a response.
- d. Providing leadership and communicating with the tribal nation, businesses and other entities to help them cope with the incident response and recovery.
- e. Negotiating mutual aid agreements to enhance resource sharing.
- f. Requesting federal assistance, through the state governor or directly from the federal government, when tribal resources have been overwhelmed.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. EMAC AND MUTUAL AID

The use of the Emergency Mutual Aid Compacts (EMACs) and established mutual aid agreements will be utilized to supplement local and state resources. The procedures for obtaining authority to request or offer interstate assistance reside with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

Circumstances when interstate interaction might occur include, but are not limited to:

- a. Contaminated food has been shipped either to or through another state.
- b. Out-of-state facilities process food produced in the state.
- c. Outbreak crosses state lines.
- d. Contaminated food was processed or manufactured in another state.
- e. State response outstrips state's resources.

2. INCIDENT IDENTIFICATION

Surveillance will be essential in identifying a food emergency or the initial signs of an emergency unfolding. Local sources will be instrumental during the initial identification of an unintentional or deliberate food-related incident. These local sources would include:

- a. Consumers
- b. Local health departments
- c. Poison control centers
- d. Hospitals
- e. Private practice physicians
- f. Law enforcement
- g. Food retailers, manufacturers, and distributors
- h. Veterinarians
- i. Processors and producers

Specific observations that could indicate a food-related incident has occurred include:

- a. Routine monitoring and surveillance of food supplies or human illness.
- b. Discovery of physical characteristic(s) of a food item or agricultural product that suggests possible contamination with a biological or chemical agent (e.g., presence of an unidentified and unexpected powder, a bad odor or an abnormal taste).
- c. Observation of suspicious behavior or activity by an employee or customer.
- d. Reports of unusual clusters or types of illness among employees, consumers, or animals.
- e. A significant security breach in a food-system facility, storage tank or shipping vehicle, or receipt of a threat (via a telephone call or piece of mail) indicating that an agricultural or food product has been or will be contaminated.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- f. Laboratory evidence of food contamination.

3. NOTIFICATION AND ACTION TRIGGERS

- a. As mentioned above, local sources will be instrumental in the initial identification of an unintentional or deliberate food-related incident. 10A NCAC 41A.0101 lists the diseases and conditions that must be reported by local health care providers to local health departments, who in return report to the State Health Department. Clinical and reference laboratories also have a list of diseases that they are required to report to the State Health Department. The NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) has primary responsibility for testing bacterial isolates derived from human specimens; but can support characterization of isolates derived from food samples. NCSLPH directory reports to NCDHHS/DPH Communicable Disease Branch (CDB) through the NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS) and shares encrypted files with the CDB.
- b. Even if a disease is not on the list of reportable diseases, if an unusual cluster or an outbreak occurs, then it is reportable to State Health Department. The state would notify the appropriate state and federal agencies. Likewise, an unusual cluster of complaints may be received by any agency which may indicate a food emergency has occurred. Notification of a food emergency event between affected agencies, organizations, and private industry will proceed according to Emergency Notification Protocols.
- c. The Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) will be activated if:
- An event occurs that exceeds the ability of the local government or lead agency
 - There is a disaster declaration by the Governor
 - More than one state agency has become involved in responding to the incident (beyond what transpires for more routine food incidents)
 - There is an interstate emergency that has exceeded the joint state's abilities.
- d. The NCSLPH, NCDEQ, and/or NCDA&CS may identify an unintentional or deliberate food-related incident through consumer complaints, industry notification, or via law enforcement. The NCDA&CS Food Laboratory is networked with NCSLPH under the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and would be the

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

primary agency for testing food samples. The NCSLPH and NCDA&CS laboratory share responsibility for testing bacterial isolates derived from selected food or environmental samples. Collaboration and coordination exist between the laboratories.

- e. The U. S. Department of Homeland Security has established the National Terrorism Advisory System to communicate terrorist threats. Through this advisory system, various threat levels are communicated to the State Homeland Security Advisor (Secretary of Public Safety). If a Bulletin or Alert is issued concerning a threat to the food chain, appropriate notifications through the NC Food Safety and Defense Task Force will take place including NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS and the affected industries.
- f. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is charged with protecting the nation's food supply by providing inspectors and veterinarians in meat, poultry and egg product plants, and at ports-of-entry to prevent, detect and act in response to food safety emergencies. FSIS may assist state and local authorities in disease eradication activities and food borne illness emergency investigations.
- g. If there is a suspected or confirmed, deliberate contamination of food, sample collection and analysis will be the responsibility of law enforcement (local, state or federal) unless a written request is made to NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, and/or NCDA&CS to provide laboratory support. If such a request is made, sample collection and delivery continues to be the responsibility of law enforcement.

4. ACTIVATION OF THE STATE EOC

Dependent upon the level of the incident, the State EOC may need to be activated. The activation of the State EOC will generally occur in conjunction with both the lead agency and the NCEM. In all food emergencies, communications between departments, industry, and all stakeholders will be critical to ensure the best possible response. Having appropriate representation of affected agencies and industries in the State EOC will help ensure that consistent communication occurs.

Normal Operations: Food incident events are routine, restricted to a small population or area, requiring no special application of local or state response resources, terrorism is not suspected and the local or state mechanisms to deal with the events are not stressed.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

Enhanced Watch: A food incident has expanded so that local or lead agency resources cannot adequately respond. The FERP is activated to release state support elements to assist with the local, regional, or investigative effort.

The SERT may also transition to an enhanced watch if a food incident has been traced to a product originating in another state, shipped to other states, or tied into a distribution network that impacts multiple states. The FERP is activated to supply state resources to support the response in the originating state. Multi-state coordination is required for the response, and federal resources also may be requested by the responding state.

SERT Activation: A food incident involves a highly contagious disease requiring the activation of additional state response plans relative to human health and disease containment. This level of activation will require internal coordination between lead agencies for the food incident and would require human health, interstate, and federal coordination.

The SERT may also be activated if the incident has been identified as a deliberate act. In this case, state and/or federal resources will be needed to assist with the criminal investigative portion of the response. In the event the incident is believed or shown to be a deliberate act, law enforcement will take the lead in the criminal investigative portion of the response.

5. CHAIN OF COMMAND

- a. The local government or lead agency will have the lead for operational management at all five (5) stages of an emergency management life cycle for the local event: preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. Once the State EOC has been activated, the Director of NCEM assigns personnel to the five (5) elements of incident command (command, planning, operation, logistics, and finance and administration). An Incident Management Team (IMT) may be deployed to the local site that has been overtaxed due to the consequences of the event. The State EOC will coordinate with all federal partners according to the NIMS guidance.
- b. At the state level, the lead agency may differ depending on the type of incident that occurs. The responsible regulatory agency would initially be the lead agency for protecting the health of the citizens of North Carolina. If the incident is a deliberate act, law enforcement would become the lead agency for the criminal components of the response. NCDHHS/DPH will be responsible for human health surveillance, epidemiological investigation and response.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

The NCDHHS and NCDA&CS will be responsible for trace back, trace forward, removal of product from the marketplace, inspections, field investigations, and other activities to ensure the safety of food available to consumers based on regulatory authorities. If two or more agencies need to be the lead, then a Unified Command would be established per NIMS guidelines.

- c. Once the contaminated food item has been identified, an industry representative will be asked to serve as a liaison in the State EOC to ensure constant and clear communication between regulatory agencies and private industry.

6. PUBLIC INFORMATION

In a food emergency, the PIOs from NCEM, NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS, and industry will work together in a Joint Information Center (JIC) to prepare media materials and conduct media briefings in accordance with ICS principals. These activities will support the local EOCs and the State EOC. The JIC will prepare a communications plan to guide information content and delivery in the emergency. Specific tasks for the JIC during a food emergency include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Activate the JIC, ensuring that all stakeholders are updated.
- b. Prepare and update basic fact sheets, key messages, and other informational materials for distribution to partners, stakeholders and the public through appropriate established channels.
- c. Prepare and publish information that is accessible to the public via the Internet, in coordination with NCEM, NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS, local health departments (LHD), industry representatives, Law Enforcement (if applicable), and other participating groups.
- d. Coordinate with federal, state and local PIOs regarding information release protocols.
- e. Prepare and send out media releases in coordination with the lead agency, Communications, the Governor's office, Emergency Management, all state agencies involved, affected LHDs, industry, and other participating groups.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- f. Prepare a media release in anticipation of the laboratory confirmation of a presumptive positive, including instructions for the public about proper treatment and access to information about specific sites.
- g. Prepare for media briefings with the following agencies or groups having a role in disseminating public information related to a food emergency: NCEM, NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS, industry, and law enforcement officials (e.g., SBI, FBI).
- h. Provide honest public information coordination, development, and dissemination with the goal to re-establish public trust and confidence in the commodity and the food chain in general.

7. INTERSTATE COORDINATION

When incidents cross-jurisdictional boundaries or require support from outside states, State EOC will facilitate incident management and policy coordination. The principal functions and responsibilities of State EOC include the following:

- a. Ensuring that each agency involved with incident management activities is providing appropriate situational awareness and resource status information;
- b. Establishing priorities among states;
- c. Acquiring and allocating resources required by incident management personnel in concert with the Incident Command (IC) or Unified Command (UC) involved;
- d. Anticipating and identifying future resource requirements;
- e. Coordinating and resolving policy issues arising from the incident; and
- f. Providing strategic coordination, as required.

8. FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

It may become necessary to form and activate strike teams (food emergency response teams or Rapid Response Teams) to address specific response tasks. These teams could be charged with tasks appropriate to the response, such as: surveillance, sampling, product recalls, trace-backs, trace forward, embargo, disposal of contaminated materials,

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

decontamination and disinfection, evidence gathering, quarantine, security, public education, sample analysis, or any other operational aspect of mitigating a food emergency. The Planning and Operations Staff will design and staff the strike teams to fulfill specific tasks. The expertise and agencies represented on a team will be a direct function of the response-specific tasks it is assigned. Generally, a team should include experts in the following aspects of the emergency: technical or science, policy, media relations, communications staff, etc. Specific examples of appropriate personnel might include, but are not limited to, epidemiologists, toxicologists, law enforcement personnel, regulatory specialists, representatives of the lead agency, environmental health specialists, etc.

9. FOOD BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK INVESTIGATIONS

- a. Monitoring and providing alerts for cases and outbreaks of human illness from any cause, including food borne illness, is accomplished within the North Carolina Public Health Information Network (NCPHIN). This network integrates routine disease surveillance, syndromic surveillance through the North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NCDETECT) and the Health Alert Network (HAN).
- b. Public Health Law (Chapter 130A Article 133-143 of the NCGS) requires routine collection of certain communicable diseases cases. Physicians, school principals, and operators of day care centers and restaurants are required to report cases to local health departments. The local health department, along with the NCSLPH and NCDHHS/DPH submit communicable disease data into the NCEDSS. Data from hospital emergency departments, Emergency Medical Services and the Carolina Poison Control Center provide most of the data input for NCDETECT. Some sources of pilot data include information from urgent care centers, wildlife and veterinary laboratories. The NC-HAN is a secure web-based system designed to automatically issue health alerts about public health incidents to key individuals in NDDHHS/DPH, local health departments, hospitals, laboratories and other partners in the event of a public health emergency which could include a food borne outbreak.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. In addition, local health departments, NCDHHS/DPH, NCDEQ, and NCDA&CS monitor consumer complaints to determine if there is a trend or problem emerging. NCDHHS/DPH, Communicable Disease Branch, in conjunction with state partners, conducts the following tasks:
 - Surveillance for food borne illnesses and food borne disease outbreaks;
 - Surveillance for food borne illnesses and food borne disease outbreaks;
 - Surveillance (human and product) to prevent copycat incidents and to re-establish trust in commodity.
 - Manage the investigation of food borne illness and outbreaks;
 - Coordinate food borne illness investigations with appropriate food safety officials at the local, state or federal level;
 - Report cases or outbreaks of food borne illness to the state and CDC. Request CDC assistance, if needed; and,
 - Through the JIC, provide health and food safety information and guidance to the public.

10. DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS AND PRODUCT CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS

If public health identifies an incident (e.g., illness) or a disease outbreak that is associated with food, an investigation will be implemented to determine the extent of the illness (e.g., severity and number of cases), the suspected food source, and the scope of the situation. State and local health officials will work with state and local food safety officials to coordinate the human health and food product investigations.

Generally, the state will be responsible for any related food commodity investigations. Local Health Departments, state epidemiologists, NCDHHS, NCDEQ and the NCDA&CS are several of the state agencies identified as having responsibilities relative to implementing these tasks.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

11. LABORATORY SERVICES

The NCSLPH, NCDA&CS and SBI all house laboratories that perform testing on human, animal, food, and/or environmental samples. The following are the roles and responsibilities of these laboratories during a food emergency:

- a. Provide analytical testing of food, environmental samples and human specimens for pathogens, toxins, and chemicals (e.g., *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, organophosphates, heavy metals, ricin, etc.).
- b. Maintain capability for conducting analysis using validated methods.
- c. Test samples for evidence of contamination by zoonotic or epizootic organisms.
- d. Perform complex food analyses with high precision and accuracy at an elevated throughput rate for extended periods of time.
- e. Coordinate information and data sharing with the State EOC, the lead agency, and the food, animal, and human health laboratory networks, such as the FERN, NAHRS, PulseNet, and LRN.
- f. Provide timely reports of lab results.
- g. Provide guidance to field investigators.
- h. Be an active member of the outbreak investigation team.
- i. Provide rapid laboratory testing to confirm remediation activities have reduced or removed the threat.

12. ANIMAL AND PLANT PRODUCTION

When animal or crop production is affected in a food emergency, NCDA&CS will have the responsibility of providing animal and plant production liaisons to the State EOC. These individuals will monitor the animal and/or plant response, provide support as necessary, provide communication and coordination between the food response and the plant or animal response, and ensure proper activation of the appropriate animal or plant portions of the State EOP.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

In general, these liaisons should have the ability to provide the following support:

- a. Contain, compartmentalize, control, and eradicate animal diseases that impact human health.
- b. Cooperate and provide communication with other agencies and organizations; federal, state, and local public health; veterinarians; producers; and animal owners within the state in accordance with ICS principals.
- c. Exclude, detect, and control or eradicate serious insect pests and plant diseases.
- d. Regulate the sale and use of pesticides that could impact the food supply and human health.
- e. Investigate incidents of pesticide misuse relative to a pesticide-based food contamination incident.
- f. Embargo pre-harvest food ingredients to protect the food supply.
- g. Mobilize expertise in support of the timely and accurate investigation of pesticide, heavy metals and other contamination incidents involving pre-harvest food that carry over to pre- and post-harvest food production.
- h. For more details, See the State's Livestock and Crop/Produce Emergency Response Plans.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

During the response to a food emergency, it will be necessary to maintain protection of the environment. Issues, such as the disposal of contaminated product, decontamination and disinfection, disposal of contaminated food or feed, water supply and quality, sampling and other issues related to maintaining environmental quality will be the responsibilities of the agencies or groups assigned to this responsibility. These groups should be prepared to provide the following support:

- a. Provide scientific expertise.
- b. Provide environmental sampling and analysis.
- c. Decontamination support.
- d. Facilitate disposal of contaminated materials.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 6
FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- e. Manage environmental permitting.

NCDEQ and/or NCDA&CS will serve as primary points of contacts (POCs) on these issues at the state level.

14. EVIDENCE GATHERING, SECURITY AND POLICING

During a food emergency, personnel from the local county health department, NCDHHS, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS, FDA, and/or USDA will collect the appropriate samples. Coordination among agencies should take place prior to sample collection to ensure proper regulatory jurisdictional and/or investigation protocols are followed. Integrity of samples will be maintained on all samples through chain of custody including the use of tamper evident seals. Any needed policing and security will be provided by local and state law enforcement. It is likely that these efforts would be augmented with federal support once the scope of the incident exceeded the capabilities of the state entities.

In the event the outbreak investigation or other evidence suggests that the food emergency was the result of a deliberate or terrorist act, the law enforcement (local, SBI, FBI) would assume the lead role relative to the criminal investigative aspects of the response. Some responsibilities associated with this role include:

- a. Collecting and analyzing the appropriate samples from potentially contaminated items. Other state laboratories (NCSLPH, NCDEQ and NCDA&CS), upon written request from the SBI or FBI, can perform laboratory analyses.
- b. Providing security, law enforcement and traffic control, as required.
- c. Supporting response operations and controlling access and movement.
- d. Supporting response activities that are under the supervision of the lead agency and the State EOC.

15. TRANSPORTATION

During a food emergency response, the SERT will coordinate the following support from local, state, inter-state, or federal resources:

- a. Provide traffic control, as required.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

- b. Support response operations relative to access controls to affected zones. The affected zone is the area directly impacted and involved in the food emergency.
- c. Provide guidance for re-routing traffic in and around the affected area.
- d. Monitor and detain, if necessary, outbound, and inbound transporters of plant or commodities at state border weigh or inspection facilities.
- e. Move soil, plant materials and contaminated food or debris.
- f. Identify potential sources of outside assistance, i.e., contractors, equipment sources, etc.

16. LEGAL SUPPORT

The State's Attorney General's office will assist with any legal matters or considerations in the planning for and response to a food emergency. Legal matters may include liability, insurance, contracting, definitions of authority, etc. NC has regulations to assist the appropriate agency with right-of-entry into facilities, embargo authority (NCDHHS/DPH and NCDA&CS), and a broadened embargo law that grants authority to local health directors (in consultation with NCDHHS/DPH). The Tort Claims Acts covers any personnel working with the State EOC in a food emergency. Contracted and EMAC personnel also have state-provided liability protection.

17. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

NCDHHS, NCDEQ, NCDA&CS, industry, and academic centers will provide education and information based on timely research to help prepare for and respond to emergency situations. In addition, these groups may assist PIOs with developing materials for public dissemination through the JIC.

V. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended.
- B. Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes, Public Health
- C. NC Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act: Chapter 106, Article 12 - Food, Drugs and Cosmetics

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This appendix outlines the coordinating actions taken by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) following an earthquake that impacts North Carolina.

B. SCOPE

This appendix includes the anticipated actions of the federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector organizations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

Earthquakes primarily occur along fault lines (fractures in the rocks of the Earth's crust) but they can occur anywhere. Pressures under the crust can build over time and without advanced warning, these faults slip and cause an earthquake. The center of the earthquake, or epicenter, can occur at various depths and cause different magnitudes of shaking depending on rock and soil types. While the original earthquake is typically the strongest, significant aftershocks may occur for days and weeks afterwards and are capable of causing additional damage.

Scientists use various scales to determine the strength of an earthquake. The Magnitude Scale is an attempt to measure how much energy is released by an earthquake. Typically, earthquakes less than a 2.5 Magnitude are not felt, but are recorded on seismometers. Earthquakes with around a 3.0 Magnitude are felt by many people (shallow earthquakes with a magnitude less than 3.0 can be felt). Local damages usually begin near a Magnitude of 4.5. Earthquakes with a Magnitude of 6.0 are typically destructive with a major earthquake considered anything above a 7.0 Magnitude. Another scale that is used to measure earthquake intensity is the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale. This scale describes how earthquakes "feel" and how much destruction the earthquake causes. Many factors determine the intensity of an earthquake at the surface of the earth, such as the depth where the earthquake originates and what kinds of rock and soil are at the surface. The Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale has ten levels designated by Roman numerals described in the table below.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale:

Intensity	Shaking	Description/Damage
I	Not felt	Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions.
II	Weak	Felt only by a few persons at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings.
III	Weak	Felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to the passing of a truck. Duration estimated.
IV	Light	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably.
V	Moderate	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes and windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
VI	Strong	Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.
VII	Very strong	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.
VIII	Severe	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.
IX	Violent	Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.
X	Extreme	Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent.

EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

North Carolina can experience earthquakes centered within the state, but also from earthquakes centered outside of the state in five seismic zones: Eastern Tennessee, Charleston South Carolina, Giles County Virginia, Central Virginia, and New Madrid. While earthquakes can be felt across all of North Carolina, the greatest threat is in western NC and along the North Carolina/South Carolina state line in southeastern NC.

While earthquakes do occur in North Carolina, large and damaging earthquakes are not common. The state has experienced 23 damaging earthquakes from 1735-2023. The greatest damage occurred during the 1861 Wilkesboro, 1886 Charleston South Carolina, 1916 Asheville, 1926 Mitchell County, and 2020 Sparta earthquakes. The most recent damaging earthquake in North Carolina occurred on August 9, 2020 in the town of Sparta, located in Alleghany County. The 5.1 Magnitude earthquake had a Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of VI-VII (Strong to Very Strong Shaking with Light to Moderate Damage) and resulted in over 550 reports of damage to houses and commercial buildings across Alleghany County.

Although building codes are not as strict as areas prone to major earthquakes, newer buildings and bridges are designed to withstand some amount of shaking. Older buildings, typically built from brick or stone, are most at risk for damage or failure during an earthquake.

Earthquakes are also capable of causing land/rockslides in areas of steeply sloped terrain. This is especially a problem in the Mountains, where these land/rockslides may block major transportation routes.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

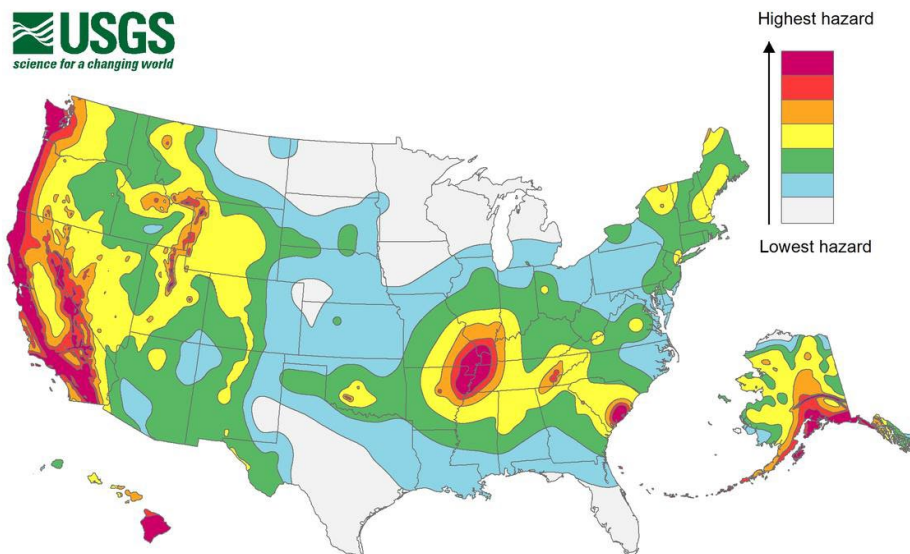


Figure 2: Earthquake hazard map showing peak ground accelerations having a 2 percent probability of being exceeded in 50 years, for a firm rock site. The map is based on the most recent USGS models for the conterminous U.S. (2018), Hawaii (1998), and Alaska (2007). The models are based on seismicity and fault-slip rates and take into account the frequency of earthquakes of various magnitudes. Locally, the hazard may be greater than shown, because site geology may amplify ground motions. (US Geological Survey)

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Earthquakes may strike without warning and can occur at any time.
2. Significant damage to infrastructure, including buildings such as hospitals, roads, bridges, gas lines, etc. can be expected. This may limit available resources and mobility in the affected area.
3. Aftershocks are expected. These aftershocks may be powerful enough to cause additional damage to already weakened structures.
4. Ground-based communications systems will be disrupted. Alternative means of communication will be needed, such as satellite phones and ham radios.
5. Disruptions to utilities will occur due to damage to power lines or by damage to a power plant facility itself.
6. After a significant earthquake, there is an immediate need to conduct safety inspections of buildings as residents need to be kept from using unsafe buildings. Qualified inspectors will evaluate buildings using Applied Technology

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

Council's Procedures for Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings procedure (ATC-20 Building Safety Evaluation Forms and Placards). Green-tagged buildings are inspected as safe, yellow-tagged buildings have restricted use, and red-tagged buildings are unsafe.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts through resource and technical assistance during emergencies and coordinate state and federal response and recovery activities.
- b. Lead the state's actions in the earthquake response and serve as state liaison in discussions with federal agencies concerning the response actions to be taken.
- c. Provide aerial imagery (video, photos, and photogrammetry) via unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- d. Coordinate and deploy regional search and rescue teams as required to support local government operations.

B. LEAD TECHNICAL AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF ENERGY, MINERAL, AND LAND RESOURCES

NC GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

- a. Provide a qualified geologist to serve as Earthquake Technical Advisor to the SERT Leader.
- b. Collaborate with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to run the Hazards US Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH) software as required to estimate earthquake damage based on the magnitude and location of the earthquake.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY (DAQ)
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

- a. Assume the lead role in coordinating the emergency response to air and water quality problems resulting from an earthquake.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- a. Assist local governments in evaluation ramifications from chemical spills or releases that adversely affect the environment.

C. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (NCDA&CS)

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE (NCFS)

- a. Transport emergency food supplies through food distribution and state farms operations from NCDA&CS owned warehouses or other sources to distribution and/or mass feeding locations in disaster areas.
- b. Respond to requests for other available transportation assets in support of emergency/disaster resource requirements. To include use of hauling units, pick-up trucks, and helicopters. Needs will be prioritized as missions are received and by risk to life, property, and resources.
- c. Provide equipment and personnel for road clearing of debris or earth. This is from road shoulder to road shoulder only. Does not include rights of way.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NCDHHS)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

- a. Coordinate public health nurses to support local and state shelter requirements; provide consolation and maintain communication with deployed public health nurses.
- b. Monitor health of shelter populations for potential infectious disease outbreaks and provide mitigation recommendations where appropriate.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

- c. Monitor well water for organic and inorganic contaminants at the NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSPLH) due to damage such as dam failure resulting from an earthquake.

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION (DHSR)

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (OEMS)

- a. Assist in the development of local capabilities for the on-site coordination of all emergency medical services needed for triage, treatment, transportation, tracking, and evacuation of the affected population with medical needs.
- b. Establish and maintain the cooperation of the various state medical and related professional organizations in coordinating the shifting of Emergency Medical Services resources from unaffected areas to areas of need.

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION (DHSR)

RADIATION PROTECTION SECTION

- a. In the event of an earthquake affecting one of the three Nuclear Power Plants in NC (Harris, McGuire, or Brunswick) or Catawba in SC, each plant's emergency operations plan will be put into effect in conjunction with the NC EOP and Earthquake Operations Plan.
- b. Dispatch to incident site if radiological release occurs.
- c. Establish and supervise a system for radiological monitoring as needed.

3. OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

- a. Coordinate firefighting assets to support local response efforts.
- b. Coordinate restoration of firefighting services and protection post storm.
- c. Coordinate personnel to support additional building inspection resources to augment local capabilities for damage assessments.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS (DOH)

- a. Erect and maintain such signs, lights, barricades or other traffic control devices as deemed appropriate to maintain or control traffic along the affected routes or detour routes.
- b. Provide SERT partners lists of contractors/suppliers to assist in the cleanup efforts of sites outside the state maintained right of way.
- c. Develop and administer contracts for the removal of debris from private roads. Such contracts will be pre-approved by NCEM prior to advertisement and award.
- d. Provide structural engineering expertise to support municipal DOT in evaluation of bridges and roads systems.

5. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Provide trained military police for traffic control.
- b. Provide shelter support as needed.
- c. Provide military forces to assist local law enforcement in the emergency area for security, control of entrance to and exit from disaster area, and protection of people and crowd control.
- d. Provide NCNG mission capable packages.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Coordinate traffic control measures and isolation of the impacted area as needed.
- b. Provide communications support.
- c. Provide air support for reconnaissance of damage to transportation road systems.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)
ANNEX B | APPENDIX 7
EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN
2024 (Pre-Helene)

6. UTILITY PROVIDERS

- a. Provide decision makers with up-to-date power outage information and expected restoration times.
- b. Provide support as needed to other utilities if able.
- c. Restore electrical power to residences and business.
- d. Repair and restore any downed power lines and/or transformers.

D. SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

- a. Provide verification that an earthquake has occurred by providing an interface to view recent earthquakes in the US.
- b. Distribute maps outlining the spatial extent and intensity of shaking.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

There are several tools which can help determine the location of the epicenter of the earthquake, as well as the distribution of the intensity of the shaking. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) website contains real time plots depicting all recent earthquakes in the US. Soon after the earthquake occurs, the USGS's "Did You Feel it" page will contain plots showing the spatial distribution of shaking, reported by website users. This plot will assist in determining which areas were most affected and where any State resources and personnel will need to be deployed.

B. RESPONSE ACTIONS

The State EOC will determine priorities for immediate assistance using damage reports from the counties and Civil Air Patrol Aerial Reconnaissance Teams (ART) information. Many concrete and masonry structures may be damaged by the earthquake and could present a danger to officials and civilians. Shelter needs will be assessed and coordinated based on the number of displaced citizens.

EARTHQUAKE OPERATIONS PLAN

2024 (Pre-Helene)

Building and infrastructure inspections will be scheduled and completed. Agencies and first responders involved in the recovery must remain aware of the potential for aftershocks as they are capable of causing additional damage. Initial recovery efforts will include, but are not limited to:

- Inspecting buildings and infrastructure for structural integrity;
- Clearing roadways of debris in the disaster area;
- Identifying potential consequences as a result of the earthquake;
- Controlling access to maintain order and protect civilians; and
- Begin the process of opening shelters and directing resources to assist those displaced by the earthquake.

Once weather conditions allow, the ARTs will begin an aerial reconnaissance of the disaster area. The Hazard Mitigation Section will also coordinate with FEMA, National Geodetic Survey and NCDOT for pre- and post-storm aerial (manned and unmanned) imagery data collection.

V. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina Emergency Management Act, as amended.
- B. North Carolina Disaster Recovery Framework
- C. NCEM Human Services Mass Feeding Plan
- D. NCEM Human Services Shelter Guide