

LAW ENFORCEMENT (ESF-13)

2025

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this appendix is to provide coordination for all state law enforcement resources to support local law enforcement during and following public disturbance, riots and/or emergency situations.

B. SCOPE

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) Emergency Services Branch will coordinate state law enforcement activities during public disturbances, riots and/or emergency situations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

Emergencies, man-made or natural, may be of such magnitude as to overwhelm the resources of local law enforcement. Security and protection of the public and its property will be essential. Civil disturbances are the public assemblage of three or more persons which by disorderly and violent conduct, or the imminent threat of disorderly and violent conduct, results in injury or damage to persons or property or creates a clear and present danger of injury or damage to persons or property (G.S. §14-288.2).

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Local government may be, under certain circumstances, overwhelmed by the extent of response effort required to support evacuations, provide security, control traffic and carry out other law enforcement activities.
2. Local police departments and sheriff's offices will activate mutual aid from other local law enforcement agencies before requesting state assistance.
3. The SERT will develop a contingency plan to deploy state resources in the event that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property.

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III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Monitor potential emergencies that may require the deployment of state law enforcement resources in support of the affected law enforcement agencies.
- b. Provide additional law enforcement resources to impacted areas as necessary.

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

- a. Provide trained personnel for traffic control.
- b. 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.
- c. Provide a Reaction Force specifically trained for response to public disturbances and riots.

ALCOHOL LAW ENFORCEMENT

- a. Assist in law enforcement, including investigation and staff law enforcement specialists.

2. NC STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (NCSHP)

- a. Provide uniform personnel for highway law enforcement, traffic control, resource transportation, security, public disturbance, and riot response.
- b. Provide security escort when required by related plans, policies, and/or procedures.

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DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSE AND THEFT BUREAU (DMV-L&T)

- a. Assist local law enforcement.
- b. Assist emergency management officials with special vehicle registration matters for emergency vehicles.

3. STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (SBI)

- a. Assist in law enforcement, including investigation and staff law enforcement specialists.

4. NC DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION (NCDAC)

- a. Provide uniformed personnel to support/assist law enforcement with security, traffic control, and buses to transport inmates from evacuated jails to other jails or prisons at request of a sheriff.

5. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)

NORTH CAROLINA MARINE PATROL

- a. Enforce laws and regulations in state coastal waters.
- b. Provide law enforcement support.

6. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

- a. Monitor road conditions and coordinate with local law enforcement to provide public with detour routes via DriveNC.gov and available message boards.

7. NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION (NCWRC)

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- a. Provide law enforcement support, especially on state rivers and lakes.

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8. NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (NCDNCR) DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION (NC STATE PARKS)

- a. Provide law enforcement support, including laws related to state park lands and waters.

9. NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE (NCDOI)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID)

- a. Provide Law enforcement support, including security and traffic control.

C. SUPPORTING AGENCIES

1. NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

- a. Assist in the coordination of mutual aid resources in support of local police departments. This includes coordinating law enforcement resources, sharing information, and ensuring effective communication during emergencies.

2. NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATIONS

- a. Coordinate law enforcement support for all sheriffs in North Carolina through the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, Statewide Disaster Assistance Network.
- b. Manage resources (personnel and/or equipment) requested by sheriffs' offices in affected disaster areas and the deployment of resources from sheriffs' offices outside the affected area through the Statewide Disaster Assistance Network

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

Local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to request assistance from other local law enforcement agencies by mutual aid General Statutes before asking the state for assistance. In a state of emergency, when it is determined by the lead state agency that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure protection for lives and property in accordance with the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, the Governor may deploy state law enforcement resources to the emergency area.

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B. NOTIFICATION

Upon notification that a public disturbance, riot and/or emergency situation has occurred or the potential for one exists, emergency management will alert relevant partners and appropriate law enforcement agencies. Based upon the severity of the situation, agencies will be asked to report to the State EOC.

C. RESPONSE ACTIONS

1. INITIAL

- a. Local and state law enforcement agencies from within the emergency area will be committed.
- b. State law enforcement agencies will monitor local situations in preparation for possible commitment.
- c. Local law enforcement resources from both within and from outside the emergency area will be committed when requested by mutual aid.

2. CONTINUING

- a. Local law enforcement agencies will respond to law enforcement and security requirements within their capabilities.
- b. State law enforcement resources will be deployed to the emergency area upon receiving a request or when it is determined local law enforcement agency resources are insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property.

V. DIRECTION, CONTROL AND COORDINATION

A. LOCAL

County sheriffs and local chiefs of police are responsible for law enforcement within their jurisdictions. Pursuant to law, all sheriffs' offices and police departments may provide mutual aid to each other, upon a written request, upon the terms specified in the General Statutes. When local resources are exhausted, state assistance is requested through emergency management channels.

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (NCEOP)

ANNEX A | APPENDIX 3 | TAB M

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B. STATE

The SERT Emergency Services Branch will support state law enforcement activities when a public disturbance, riot and/or emergency situation occurs or when the potential for disaster exists. According to the severity, agencies will be asked to report to the State EOC. If the public disturbance, riots and/or emergency situation are isolated to one area of the state, a representative of the law enforcement division from that area will be dispatched to the affected agency to establish a state law enforcement liaison and to monitor and coordinate state law enforcement activities. State resources will be dispatched from the State EOC, including an NCEM Area Coordinator, should the situation require.

C. FEDERAL

In the event a public disturbance, riot and/or emergency situation exceed state capabilities, the Governor may request federal assistance.