

# South Carolina Emergency Operations

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# EXECUTIVE GUIDE



**Prepared By:**  
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**Office of the Adjutant General**

## Introduction

This guide is to be used as a reference to acquaint government officials with the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan and the interface of state and federal emergency management organizations. When an emergency occurs, many of the services state government provides take on an even greater significance. The South Carolina emergency management system is in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).



**South Carolina Emergency  
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Typically, emergencies are handled by local emergency management first responders. Unusual emergencies are extraordinary events that require additional assistance from other sources. These events may be so severe, affecting so many people and so much property, that they are considered disasters.

It is usually a disaster or potential disaster that calls for the Governor and agency directors to act to alleviate suffering and hardships imposed by the event.

## S.C. Emergency Management Division

**Prepare** to respond to natural, technological, and man-made disasters and emergencies through systematic planning and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) development, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) facility readiness, and personnel training, drills and exercises.

**Warn** state, county, and municipal governments and the population of danger. Provide public information to alert residents about the situation and how they can protect themselves.

**Support** county disaster operations with effective employment of state resources to save lives and protect property.

**Assess** needs and obtain support from adjacent states and the federal government as necessary.

**Coordinate** state response and assistance under agency authority or under direction of the Governor.

## Phases of Emergency Management

**Response:** Time-sensitive activities undertaken to save lives and property, as well as to begin stabilizing the situation so that local jurisdictions can begin to regroup and recover.

**Preparedness:** Programs and systems that exist prior to an emergency and are used to support and enhance response and recovery operations. Planning, training, and exercising are among the activities conducted during this phase.

**Recovery:** The effort to restore infrastructure and return the social and economic life of a community to normalcy.

**Mitigation:** Activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident.

## State Response Operating Condition Levels

To make maximum use of advance warning, the state has established a system of Operating Condition Levels (OPCONS). OPCONS increase the state's level of readiness to respond to an emergency on a numerical scale from 5 to 1.

### Levels of Readiness

#### OPCON 5

Day-to-day operations, to include normal training and exercises.

#### OPCON 4

Possibility of an emergency or disaster situation developing that may require state coordination. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activation is dependent on the status of the event.

#### OPCON 3

Disaster or emergency situation is likely; activate South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan and the appropriate specific impact hazard emergency plan.

#### OPCON 2

Disaster or emergency situation is imminent or in effect; maximum preparedness level.

#### OPCON 1

Disaster or emergency situation in effect; full-fledged emergency operations ongoing and the SEOC is fully activated.

## **Emergency Operations Center Activation**

The Director, South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), may activate one or more Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) based on situation reports, information from the National Weather Service, requests from county emergency management organizations, or when an event



**The State Emergency Operations Center**

warrants implementation of the State Emergency Operations Plan.

The Governor fully activates the State Emergency Operations Center and implements the State Emergency Operations Plan based on the situation and recommendations from the SCEMD Director.

## **Requests for Assistance**

Requests for state assistance will come from county-designated emergency management organizations with the approval of the organizations' directors. Requests are sent to the SEOC for tasking, coordination, and delivery of services.

Federal assistance will be coordinated by SCEMD with the concurrence of the Governor. Requests are then sent to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV. Upon request, the FEMA Region IV Emergency Response Team (ERT) will be dispatched to the SEOC to assist with response and recovery activities to restore local government to pre-disaster conditions.

## **South Carolina State Recovery Plan**

The State's Recovery Plan identifies a range of actions to be taken by state agencies to support local governments and coordinate emergency recovery operations in a Joint Field Office (JFO). It provides state and local emergency management organizations with operational guidance to effectively manage recovery operations.

## **South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan**

The South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (SCEOP) is implemented by the Governor or his designated representative during extreme situations or when state assistance is needed by local governments. The SCEOP provides for the deployment of state assets either by a specific state agency in isolated incidents or through the plan's Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) concept of operations.

Upon activation of the Emergency Operations Plan, the State Emergency Response Team comprised of ESFs and other personnel assemble in the SEOC to coordinate the State's emergency response.

State ESF's 1 – 15 correspond to those in the National Response Framework. State ESF's 16 – 19 and 24 are specific to South Carolina.

### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

#### ***Primary Agency: Department of Transportation***

Coordinates the delivery of buses, trucks, drivers, aircraft, marine assets, and commercial/industrial transportation assets, and provides information relating to transportation networks and evacuation routes.

### **ESF 2 – Communications**

#### ***Primary Agency: Budget and Control Board, Division of State Information Technology***

Coordinates with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure communications readiness in times of natural or manmade disasters.

### **ESF 3 – Public Works and Engineering**

#### ***Primary Agency: Budget and Control Board, Office of the State Engineer***

Coordinates the restoration of transportation infrastructure, water resources and sewer facilities, and coordinates immediate and continued engineering resources, construction management, emergency contracting, and expertise following a disaster.

### **ESF 4 – Firefighting**

#### ***Primary Agency: Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety (Structural Fires), Forestry Commission (Wild Fires)***

Coordinates and mobilizes fire services, resources, personnel, and equipment; also coordinates other state resources to support local government in the detection and suppression of urban, rural, and wildland fires.

## **ESF 5 – Information and Planning**

### ***Primary Agency: Emergency Management Division***

Collects, analyzes, and disseminates information to facilitate the overall response and recovery operations by state agencies and, if required, federal government entities.

## **ESF 6 – Mass Care**

### ***Primary Agency: Department of Social Services***

Coordinates and provides emergency shelter operations, first aid, bulk distribution centers, temporary housing, and victim information.

## **ESF 7 – Resource Support**

### ***Primary Agency: Budget and Control Board, Materials Management Office***

Develops procedures to evaluate, locate, procure, and deliver essential material and personnel resources upon request by state and local officials.

## **ESF 8 – Health and Medical Services**

### ***Primary Agency: Department of Health and Environmental Control***

Coordinates the reassignment and delivery of medical personnel, equipment and supplies from established government programs, and coordinates for the provision of private resources for medical, psychological and personal care of disaster victims.

## **ESF 9 – Search and Rescue**

### ***Primary Agency: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety***

Provides assistance to local authorities for search and rescue operations anywhere in South Carolina.

## **ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials**

### ***Primary Agency: Department of Health and Environmental Control***

Coordinates, integrates and manages efforts to detect, identify, contain, clean up, dispose of, or minimize releases of oil and hazardous substances.

### **ESF 11 – Food Services**

#### ***Primary Agency: Department of Social Services***

Coordinates and identifies food requirements in disaster-affected areas. Secures and distributes food products to include USDA food to staging areas within affected areas.

### **ESF 12 – Energy**

#### ***Primary Agency: Office of Regulatory Staff***

Coordinates with the electric and natural gas utilities to ensure the integrity of power supply systems is maintained during emergencies and that damage is repaired and services restored in an efficient and expedient manner.

### **ESF 13 – Law Enforcement**

#### ***Primary Agency: State Law Enforcement Division***

Provides for coordination and use of law enforcement personnel and equipment in a disaster or emergency for general law enforcement functions.

### **ESF 14 - Long-Term Community Recovery and Mitigation**

#### ***Primary Agency: Emergency Management Division***

Provides the framework to coordinate the federal, state, local government, and private sector recovery and mitigates consequences of a disaster in the future.

### **ESF 15 – Public Information**

#### ***Primary Agency: Emergency Management Division***

Provides effective public information through coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to minimize loss of life and property before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.

### **ESF 16 – Emergency Traffic Management**

#### ***Primary Agency: Department of Public Safety***

Provides for coordinated plans, policies, and actions of state and local governments to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of populations affected by all hazards. To further ensure that once the threat or hazard no longer exists, prompt and orderly re-entry into the evacuated area is accomplished.

### **ESF 17 – Animal Agriculture Emergency Response**

#### **Primary Agency: Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health**

Provides animal and plant emergency management and response, before, during, and after disasters to include assistance at all levels to protect animal health, the animal and plant industry, and related public health issues.

### **ESF 18 – Donated Goods and Volunteer Services**

#### **Primary Agency: Budget and Control Board, General Services Division**

Coordinates the receipt, storage, and distribution of commodities provided by public and private sources without charge to the government. Also coordinates offers of assistance provided by private organizations without charge to the government.

### **ESF 19 – Military Support**

#### **Primary Agency: S.C. National Guard**

Provides State military support throughout South Carolina in times of a major or catastrophic disaster. Support is provided in response to mission taskings from the SEOC.

### **ESF 24 – Business and Industry**

#### **Primary Agency: S.C. Department of Commerce**

Coordinates interaction with private sector entities during disasters and emergencies. Encourages private business and industry to develop emergency response and recovery plans.

## **State Laws and Regulations**

1. South Carolina Constitution
2. South Carolina Code of Laws ann., 25-1-420 through 25-1-460
3. Regulation 58-1, Local Government Preparedness Standards, S.C. Code of Regulations
4. Regulation 58-101, State Government Preparedness Standards, S.C. Code of Regulations
5. Governor's Executive Order #2003-12

## **Federal Assistance**

The Governor has the option to seek federal assistance through individual federal agencies that can provide assistance to the state under their own statutory authorities, or he may ask the President for one or more federally funded programs authorized by the Stafford Act under a Presidential Declaration.

## **Programs Available Through Federal Agencies**

- Search and Rescue
- Fire Suppression Assistance
- Emergency Conservation Programs
- Emergency Loans for Homeowners and Businesses
- Voluntary Agency Assistance
- Flood Protection
- Health and Welfare
- Tax Refunds/Relief
- Repairs to Federal-Aid Road Systems

Upon a Presidential Declaration, the National Response Framework (NRF) is implemented. The concept of the NRF is simple: when needed, the federal government provides state and local governments with the necessary personnel, technical expertise, equipment, and other resources to ensure an effective response. Resources are provided by federal departments and agencies and the American Red Cross. Essential resources are grouped into Emergency Support Functions, each headed by a primary agency with other agencies providing support as necessary. Federal disaster recovery programs and mitigation assistance are also implemented under the NRF. The NRF is linked to emergency plans of departments and agencies.

## **Federal Laws and Regulations**

1. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 106-390
2. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 44, as amended
3. National Response Framework, as amended
4. Presidential Executive Order 13286 - Department of Homeland Security.
5. National Incident Management System.

## **Federal Disaster Relief Programs**

There are three Federal disaster relief programs that are managed by the SCEMD staff: Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Assistance. These programs are typically managed and directed from a Joint Field Office (JFO).

## Individual Assistance

Assistance to individuals who are underinsured or uninsured includes, but is not limited to:

- Housing Assistance
- Disaster Unemployment Insurance
- Other Needs Assistance
- Veterans' Assistance
- Crisis Counseling
- Small Business Administration Loans
- Legal Services

When a disaster is declared and Individual Assistance is authorized, affected individuals are directed to register with FEMA and to ensure they provide complete and correct information.

## Public Assistance

**Eligible applicants:** State, county, and municipal government entities as well as Federally recognized Indian tribes, certain private non-profit organizations, and other political subdivisions.

**Applicants' Briefing:** Eligible applicants attend a state briefing that details the process for receiving federal assistance. The briefing includes the application process, how assistance is requested, Project Worksheets (PW), proper documentation, and the audit process. Eligible applicants' agents will be responsible for administering all federally funded projects that may include emergency work in these categories:

- Debris Management/Removal
- Emergency Protective Measures

And may include permanent work to repair, restore, improve, or replace:

- Roads, Signs, and Bridges
- Utilities (non-investor owned)
- Water Control Facilities
- Parks and Recreational Facilities
- Buildings and Equipment

**Project Worksheets (PW):** Federal, state, and local representatives will comprise a team to inspect every damaged site. A PW will be completed on each site to include scope of work and estimated costs in accordance with applicable codes, specifications, and standards.

### Other Potential Assistance:

- Community Disaster Loans
- Repairs to Federal Projects
- Federal Resources
- Repairs to Federal-Aid Road Systems

## Hazard Mitigation Assistance

This grant program is designed to lessen or eliminate the impacts of disasters. It is available prior to disasters in the form of Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) or Post-Disaster – in conjunction with Public Assistance PWs through Section 406 mitigation projects and as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The **Eligible Applicants and Applicants Briefing** for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs are conducted as outlined in the **Public Assistance** section, with the exception of how assistance is requested and funded projects. Hazard Mitigation Assistance may include the following categories:

- Initiatives
- Plans
- Projects

### **Other Potential Mitigation Assistance:**

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC)
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)
- SC Safe Home Program
- Small Business Administration loans
- Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP)

## **WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

### **S.C. Emergency Management Division**

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

### **State of South Carolina**

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

### **U.S. Department of Homeland**

**Security** [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

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

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

### **S.C. Department of Transportation**

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

### **S.C. Budget and Control Board**

[www.bcb.sc.gov](http://www.bcb.sc.gov)

### **S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation**

[www.llr.state.sc.us](http://www.llr.state.sc.us)

### **S.C. Forestry Commission**

[www.state.sc.us/forest](http://www.state.sc.us/forest)

### **S.C. Department of Social Services**

[www.dss.sc.gov](http://www.dss.sc.gov)

### **S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control**

[www.scdhec.net](http://www.scdhec.net)

### **S.C. Public Service Commission**

[www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov)

### **State Law Enforcement Division**

[www.sled.state.sc.us](http://www.sled.state.sc.us)

### **S.C. National Guard**

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

### **S.C. Department of Public Safety**

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

### **Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health**

[www.clemson.edu/ep](http://www.clemson.edu/ep)

### **S.C. Department of Commerce**

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

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# Incident Flow Chart



