

## **Emergency Support Function #14—Community Recovery and Mitigation Annex**

**ESF Coordinators:**

County/Municipal Administrators

**Support Agencies:**

Rio Blanco County Offices/Departments

Municipal Offices/Departments

Special Districts

Non-Governmental Organizations

**Purpose**

ESF #14 is responsible for providing coordinated measures and policies designed to facilitate recovery from the affects of natural and technological disasters, civil disturbances, or acts of terrorism.

ESF #14 is responsible for providing effective utilization of resources to support local efforts to aid short-term and long-term community recovery, stabilize local economies, and reduce or eliminate risks from future incidents.

ESF #14 is responsible for providing a government conduit and administrative means for appropriate federal, military, state, voluntary and private sector organizations to assist local governments during the recovery and mitigation process.

**Scope**

Based on an assessment of incident impacts, ESF #14 may vary depending on the magnitude and type of incident and the potential for long-term and severe consequences.

ESF #14 will most likely be activated for large-scale or catastrophic incidents that require State and Federal assistance to address significant long-term impacts in the affected areas (e.g., impacts on housing, businesses, employment, community infrastructure, and social services.)

Local officials have authority under their local ordinances, resolutions, and the Colorado Revised Statutes to take responsible and appropriate actions in the direction and control of disaster recovery activities. The primacy of affected local governments in defining and addressing risk reduction and long term recovery priorities is recognized. If an effective recovery is beyond a local jurisdiction's capability, State assistance may be required. The Governor may then declare a "State of Emergency" and the provisions of the State Emergency Operations Plan will be implemented.

If the situation is beyond local and State capability, the Governor may ask for Federal assistance by requesting a Presidential Declaration of an "emergency" or "major disaster". A Presidential Declaration authorizes federal assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288, as amended). The declaration triggers the implementation of Federal disaster assistance programs, which are coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Emergency Management (DEM).

Response and recovery operations in both State and Federally declared disasters will be conducted in accordance with the standards set forth by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF). Long term recovery and mitigation efforts will be based on a

variety of factors and priorities, including public safety, economic development, environmental protection, and preservation of social cultural and historical resources.

### **Initial Actions**

Initial and short term recovery activities focus on the safety and welfare of the affected community and restoration of essential services to include:

- Coordinate and conduct initial damage assessment efforts to help guide local decision making and priority setting and to determine the need for supplemental state and federal assistance.
- Coordinate the restoration of essential public services and facilities (e.g., removal of debris from emergency routes, emergency repairs to hospitals, and public safety facilities).
- Complete steps for formally requesting State and Federal disaster assistance when damage assessment results indicate that impacts exceed local capabilities.
- Coordinate the delivery of State and Federal disaster assistance programs (e.g., Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation) in Presidential declared disasters.
- Coordinate relief efforts with voluntary organizations.
- Coordinate the provision of temporary housing for victims of a disaster event.
- Manage unsolicited, undesignated donations of goods and services.
- Coordinate spontaneous volunteers.
- Coordinate disaster related information and instructions to the general public.
- Identify post disaster hazard mitigation activities to reduce future risks.

Long term recovery efforts focus on redeveloping communities and restoring the economic viability of disaster areas, including:

- Coordinate and integrate the resources and assistance programs of voluntary agencies and other community based organizations.
- Restore and make permanent repairs to public infrastructure damaged in the disaster.
- Re-establish an adequate supply of housing, including affordable housing, to replace housing stock destroyed by the disaster.
- Restore the economic base of disaster impacted communities, including lost jobs and employment opportunities.
- Identify hazard mitigation opportunities and implementing long term hazard mitigation plans, projects and measures.

### **Responsibilities**

The following Offices/Departments have these specific emergency responsibilities with respect to recovery efforts;

- Rio Blanco County Emergency Management
  - Coordinate county-wide damage assessment and recovery efforts.
  - Ensure rapid disbursement of disaster assistance funds to individuals and government throughout the recovery period.
  - Make recommendations to the appropriate governing body(s) concerning requests for disaster declarations
  - Coordinate the dissemination of information on emergency assistance available to public and private agencies, organizations, individuals, and families.
  - Administer grant and loan programs in cooperation with State organizations for disaster recovery.

- Supply technical information, advice, and assistance in procuring available Federal and State emergency assistance.
  - Review and verify damage assessment and assistance information.
  - Task organizations to provide personnel to serve on damage assessment or mitigation teams based upon the nature of the disaster.
  - Facilitate damage assessment/recovery training to participating organizations.
  - Coordinate closely with county entities for assessment/recovery activities.
  - Provide regular updates of information to PIO and ESF #5 for use in the development of information packets, briefing information, displays, news releases, etc.
- ☐ All Offices/Departments;
- Serve on Damage Assessment and/or Mitigation Teams as required.
  - Provide personnel to temporarily support recovery activities as requested by the Director of Emergency Management.
  - Assist in operating phone lines for recovery information.
  - Coordinate with Emergency Management for the identification of disaster recovery programs and assistance.
- ☐ Adult Services
- Provide support and assistance to older disaster victims located within Rio Blanco County, including but not limited to the following.
    - Maintain a presence at the Emergency Operations Centers and/or Disaster Recovery Centers.
    - Inform older disaster victims and their families of disaster programs and other assistance, including referring older disaster victims to the National Tele-Registration Center and/or assist with the tele-registration process.
    - Assist older disaster victims in establishing eligibility and completing applications for disaster assistance programs. Provide follow-up and advocacy to assure that individuals are able to complete the application process and/or receive eligible assistance.
    - Inform older disaster victims, aging network staff and emergency management staff of services the area agencies on aging and related service providers can provide including but not limited to alternative housing, home repair, chores, meals and counseling.
    - Collaborate with disaster relief organizations to address unmet service needs of older disaster victims.
    - Represent the needs and interests of the aging network and older adults at the Emergency Operations Center.
    - Coordinate the Aging Network's presence at Disaster Recovery Centers during a State or federally declared disaster.
- ☐ Attorney's Office
- Assist in the preparation of disaster declarations and emergency resolutions to expedite recovery efforts.
  - Provide legal advice for proposed actions.

Schools

- Assist in the dissemination of information to families adversely affected by disasters.
- Assist in utilization of school facilities for temporary emergency use as necessary.

Human Services

- Coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive program of emergency assistance to families following a disaster to include:
  - Financial assistance programs
  - Emergency Food Stamp Program
  - Inter-county welfare operations
  - Non-deferrable grants
  - Financial, medical and food assistance inquiries
  - Medical assistance programs
- Maintain liaison with private relief organizations and public agencies during the operation of mass care centers.
- Provide representatives as needed to give advice and assistance to disaster affected individuals.
- Assist private relief organizations and/or public agencies in distributing emergency supplies.
- Coordinate with public agencies and private relief organizations for the operation of mass-care centers following a disaster.
- Process requests, assist in reuniting families and provide missing person information as required.
- Assist in the procurement and distribution of food products following a disaster.

Human Resources

- Provide services to procure additional workers during emergencies.
- Assist employees in solving special employment problems that may arise as the result of a disaster.

**By signing this form, each of the undersigned is aware of and understands the nature of their participation requirements and conditions, and agrees to adhere to these procedures and instruct their staff accordingly;**

Rio Blanco County BOCC \_\_\_\_\_

Town of Meeker Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Town of Meeker Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

