



2024 Emergency Operations Plan



Enhancements

- New Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) replaces 2018 version
- More descriptive, flows better, separated into five sections
- Includes information about day-to-day operations and responsibilities
- User-friendly manuals in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provide easy to understand expectations and responsibilities for anyone working in an Emergency Support Function (ESF) role





**Emergency Management
and Fire Services**

Gaston County, North Carolina

Emergency Operations Plan
Basic Plan



**Emergency Management
and Fire Services**

Gaston County, North Carolina

Emergency Operations Plan
Appendices



**Emergency Management
and Fire Services**

Gaston County, North Carolina

Emergency Operations Plan
Hazard-Specific Annexes



**Emergency Management
and Fire Services**

Gaston County, North Carolina

Emergency Operations Plan
Support Annexes



**Emergency Management
and Fire Services**

Gaston County, North Carolina

Emergency Operations Plan
Emergency Support Function Annexes



What is the EOP

The EOP details how Gaston County will respond to disasters, clearly defining the roles of responders, from fire departments and police to public health and local government. This structure ensures that when a disaster occurs, every agency understands its responsibilities. Our EOP enhances collaboration between the county and municipalities, allowing us to respond swiftly and effectively when it's most crucial.





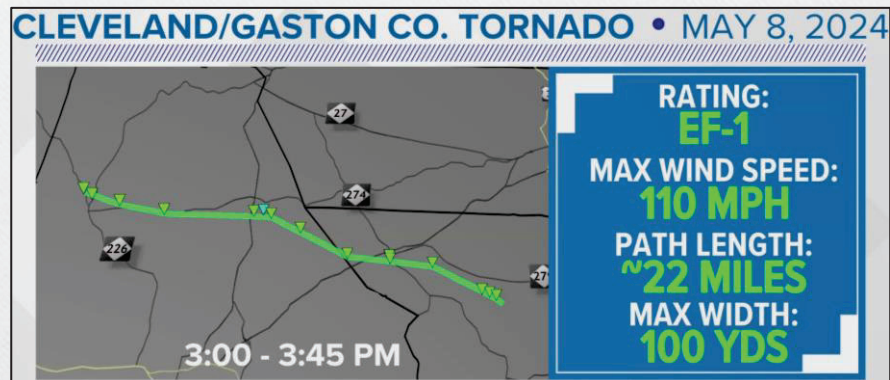
Why do we have an EOP

- North Carolina Emergency Management Act
- § 166A-7. County and municipal emergency management.
- (a) The governing body of each county is responsible for emergency management, as defined in G.S. 166A-4, within the geographical limits of such county. All emergency management efforts within the county will be coordinated by the county, including activities of the municipalities within the county.
- (d)(2) To direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and standards set by the State; (Emergency Operations Plan)



Municipality Involvement

An essential aspect of the EOP is the authority granted to the Chairman of the County BOCC to declare a state of emergency on behalf of all municipalities upon the request of the Emergency Management Director.





Advantages of Proactive Municipality Involvement

- Empowers Immediate Action in Emergencies
- Enables Swift Resource Mobilization
- Streamlines Crisis Response Efforts
- Reduces Confusion and Ensures Clarity
- Demonstrates Leadership in Public Safety
- Fosters a Unified, Coordinated Response



STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

I the undersigned agree to the responsibilities assigned to their named agency or jurisdiction in the Gaston County Emergency Operations Plan. By signing this Statement of Approval, I agree to implement the roles and responsibilities outlined in this plan with the equivalent departments within my jurisdiction or organization. Any revisions to emergency operations plan within my jurisdiction or organization should be consistent and allow integration with this plan.

_____ Chair, Gaston County Board of Commissioners	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of Belmont	Date _____
_____ Mayor, City of Bessemer City	Date _____
_____ Mayor, City of Cherryville	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of Cramerton	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of Dallas	Date _____
_____ Mayor, City of Gastonia	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of High Shoals	Date _____
_____ Mayor, City of Kings Mountain	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of Lowell	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of McAdenville	Date _____
_____ Mayor, City of Mount Holly	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of Rantlo	Date _____
_____ Mayor, Town of Stanley	Date _____



Flexibility to Withdraw from the Declaration

Not all emergencies affect each area to the same extent. The EOP enables municipalities to opt out of the countywide declaration if their area experiences minimal impact. This approach maintains local autonomy while still allowing access to countywide support when it's most needed.





Emergency Support Functions Emergency Operations Center

- The EOP is organized around 15 ESF's, each led by subject matter experts focused on specific areas. This structure distributes responsibilities across specialized teams, enabling faster, informed decision-making. In the EOC, representatives from each ESF work together as a unified response team, ensuring real-time coordination and resource allocation. The EOC serves as the nerve center during an emergency, enabling all agencies to communicate and act as one, delivering the right resources where they're needed most.
- EOC-Card Dealer, ESF's-Tools in a toolbox

Primary and Support Agency Responsibility Matrix

[illegible]



What Happens Without an EOP

- Confusion and Delays
- Misallocation of Resources
- Ineffective Communication
- Disjointed Response
- Greater Impact on Communities





Recap

Disasters can strike unexpectedly, making a well-prepared EOP essential. A strong plan ensures a unified, coordinated response by aligning all agencies and stakeholders toward a common goal, with responsibilities clearly distributed across specialized teams. This reduces confusion and enhances efficiency. It's essential for municipalities to be included in the EOP and engaged early in the planning process, ensuring their local resources are aligned with broader response efforts for a more coordinated and effective emergency response.