



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Guilford County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes a comprehensive framework of policy and guidance for emergency and disaster response operations. This plan details capabilities, authorities, and responsibilities for specific individuals, divisions, departments, agencies, and organizations within Guilford County.

Guilford County undertakes preparedness with an understanding that, in an emergency or disaster, a broad range of individuals, agencies, organizations, and other engaged whole community stakeholders will provide the most effective response for all who live, work, and travel in Guilford County.

The Guilford County EOP draws on the system described within the National Response Framework (NRF), which establishes vertical and horizontal integration and effective coordination across local, state, and federal resources, as well as private-sector capabilities, as necessary, to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of those persons affected during emergency or disaster situations. The Guilford County EOP establishes responsibilities for Guilford County agencies and organizations; addresses the role of the private-sector, volunteer, and nonprofit organizations; and engages other whole-community stakeholders for emergency preparedness actions.

This plan is drawn from an operational approach consistent with the organization and function of the Guilford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which follows the NRF's Emergency Support Function (ESF) structure. Under these systems, Guilford County emergency operations are grouped by support functions and subsequently organized by agencies and organizations to ensure efficient coordination and communication of response actions throughout emergency operations, to the extent possible. These functions are assigned primary and support agencies that maintain responsibility to establish and carry out plans developed for accomplishing assigned tasks.

Plan Organization

To guide the emergency and disaster response process, the EOP is a continuously enacted document that provides a framework for daily emergency response as well as response to major disasters. This plan is organized in the NRF's ESF format and aligns with the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan. This plan and its components progress in detail from public policy and overview content in the Basic Plan, to specific operational roles and responsibilities for Guilford County EOP agencies and organizations.

The plan consists of four main sections:

Basic Plan

The *Basic Plan* is a public-policy document that provides an overview of Guilford County's strategic approach to emergency and disaster operations. It details emergency response authority,



policies, and response organization, and outlines general tasks. It is intended as an orientation document for agencies and organizations that have responsibilities within the Guilford County EOP.

Emergency Support Functions

The EOP uses 15 ESFs to group and describe the kinds of resources and types of assistance available to respond to and support emergencies and disasters. Each ESF has pre-identified agencies and/or organizations assigned as either a primary or support for the ESF based on the responsibilities delineated. Each ESF is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the duties of their ESF.

The ESFs addressed in this plan include:

- ESF-1: Transportation
- ESF-2: Communications
- ESF-3: Public Works and Engineering
- ESF-4: Fire Services
- ESF-5: Emergency Management
- ESF-6: Mass Care and Human Services
- ESF-7: Logistics
- ESF-8: Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF-9: Search and Rescue
- ESF-10: Oil and Hazardous Materials
- ESF-11: Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ESF-12: Energy Services
- ESF-13: Public Safety and Security
- ESF-14: Recovery and Mitigation
- ESF-15: Public Information

Support Annexes

The Support Annexes portion of this plan identifies the essential supporting processes and considerations that are most common to the majority of incidents specific to this jurisdiction and how specific organizations and processes are expected to operate.

Incident Specific Annexes

The Incident Specific Annexes portion of this plan identifies specific components and procedures based on incident types that require special considerations.