

SECTION: 1501
TITLE: Emergency Management Response Policy
SUPERCEDES/RESCINDS: N/A
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 21 2014
UPDATED: November 27, 2019

The following policy describes the types of incidents that require a representative of Northampton County Emergency Management to respond. This policy does not replace any policy regarding incident notification or reporting for Emergency Management.

The term incident, for the purposes of this policy, shall be defined as any event reported to Northampton County E-911, emergency operations center, or through the National Response Center. Any incident requiring a county response shall have an E-911 CAD incident created for it, if not already created.

On-call staff will respond with county resources in accordance with the nature of the incident. Use of lights and sirens in emergency response is outline by the "Use of Lights and Sirens" policy.

Notification of the primary on-call EM staff member shall take place through Northampton County E-911 and follow the established notification process. If a response is not received within five (5) minutes, a phone call to the primary EM on-call staff member shall be made. If contact is unable to be made after a phone call attempt, the secondary on-call shall be notified via the same process as listed above.

A. Phone Consult

1. Any field unit requiring consult with on-call EM shall notify the E-911 center and have the on-call EM staff member paged.

B. Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Incidents

1. Any hazardous materials incident requiring the notification, phone call, or services of any hazardous materials response team (HMRT).
 - a. The on-call EM will evaluate the need for a response to any incident involving the need for notification and response by a cleanup contractor/vendor.
2. Hazmat incidents in the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County, upon request by the City of Bethlehem for county resources or out-of-city resources.
3. Any incident involving a hazardous device, explosive, suspicious or unattended package, or involvement of a Bomb Squad or Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Team.
4. Any incident requiring on-scene emergency response by DEP or EPA.
5. Any radiologic incident.

C. EMS Incidents

1. Any Mass Casualty Incident with more than 25 patients (Level 3)
 - a. Incidents declared a Level 2 MCI (10-25 patients) the on-call EM shall be notified, and will evaluate the need for an EM response; reunification point and/or County asset depletion will be considered based on the number of patients to be transported.
2. Any evacuation of a hospital
3. Any external evacuation, for greater than one hour, of a Skilled Nursing Facility or Long-Term care facility

D. Fire / Rescue Incidents

1. Any reported downed aircraft.
2. LVIA Alert 2 – FEMA type 4 vehicle to respond to staging.
3. LVIA Alert 3 – FEMA type 4 vehicle respond to staging; the need for MC20 will be determined on scene.
4. Requests at any 3rd alarm fire at a commercial, industrial, or high occupancy fire. (i.e. 3rd Alarm FIREC, FIREI, FIREHO).
5. Any confirmed fire, smoke condition, rescue, evacuation, or collapse of a county facility.

E. Law Enforcement Incidents

1. Active shooter incidents – EM to respond; stage at a safe distance until scene is secured.

F. Out-of-County

1. Anytime the county deploys the Tender Strike Team or Tender Task Force assets.
2. Anytime more than three county fire departments are requested to respond out-of-county, the on-call EM staff member is to be paged and will evaluate the need for an EM response.
3. Upon any request for county EM resources or county-operated NEPACTTF resources to respond out of county, the on-call EM staff member shall be notified and will evaluate the request.

G. Miscellaneous

1. At the request of any field unit, after review by on-call EM personnel.
2. Any incident which has the potential to have county-wide impact shall be evaluated for on-scene response by EM staff.