

SECTION 2

DISASTER INTELLIGENCE / DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Statement of Purpose

It is essential that a rapid assessment of the situation be made to determine the extent of damage and the type of disaster assistance that may be needed. Accurate information is essential in planning orderly and organized recovery programs.

The purpose of this annex is to identify agencies that are responsible for implementing the disaster intelligence /damage assessment function, and to specify responsibilities.

Situations and Assumptions

Situations

A disaster or emergency may have the potential for causing extensive damage. In the event that excessive damage occurs, a planned disaster intelligence /damage assessment procedure is necessary for recovery operations and the pursuit of disaster assistance.

Assumptions

The timely and accurate assessment of damage to private and public property will be of vital concern to officials following a disaster or emergency. This will have great bearing upon the manner in which recovery operations are effected. The State and Federal Government will provide assistance in developing reports to support requests for disaster declarations, which provide damage assistance beyond what local resources can offer.

Concept of Operations

The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall management of an incident, including determining incident objectives and strategies and establishing the immediate priorities. Timely assessment of the extent of damage with an incident is critical to the formulation of objectives and strategies. Damage assessment teams will be utilized to make an initial assessment. These teams will perform on-site evaluations and report their findings to the Incident Commander and EOC. During the survey, damage assessment teams will identify the condition of both residences and business structures. This disaster intelligence will be reported to IEMA to define the extent of damage in our county

IEMA makes the latest version of its initial damage assessment forms available on its Web-site at <http://www.illinois.gov/iema/LocalEMA/Pages/DamageAssessmentForms.aspx>. The Sangamon County OEM Director will be responsible for filing the initial disaster intelligence report to IEMA.

Beginning with 2013, IEMA also requires a Disaster Impact Assessment Form to be submitted with the initial damage assessment forms. Impact information is important because it helps to illustrate the effect of the disaster on the whole county. Although data on the number of homes/businesses involved and disaster cost is important, impact information is equally important because it depicts the human consequences of a disaster. Impact information also conveys the stress placed on local jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations in responding to and recovering from the disaster. A single Disaster Impact Assessment Form can be completed for the entire county.

Organization and Responsibilities

Sangamon County OEM is responsible for the development and operations of the disaster intelligence /damage assessment program, including the maintenance of this annex. OEM staff shall coordinate the damage assessment teams composed of various individuals from other agencies such as the Sangamon County Rescue Squad, volunteer fire departments, village ESDAs and other identified assessment personnel. These people shall receive training on the IEMA initial damage assessment forms prior to deployment.

Red Cross will administer its damage assessment function and relay all information to OEM and appropriate agencies. The purpose of survey/damage assessment activities within the Red Cross relief operation is to gather timely and accurate information before, during and after a disaster strikes pertaining to human needs.

Disaster intelligence /damage assessment activities involve pre-disaster planning and overall assessment of the extent of the damage immediately after the disaster strikes. Disaster intelligence /damage assessment activities include gathering, analyzing and distributing detailed information on the precise nature and degree of disaster damage, as well as demographic information which could have an impact on service delivery.

Direction and Control

The OEM Director or his designee is responsible for implementation of the Disaster Intelligence /Damage Assessment Annex. He will operate from the Sangamon County EOC and will coordinate all disaster intelligence /damage assessment activities. The EOC will be staffed as required during a major disaster or emergency by key officials. Damage assessment teams will coordinate activities with the field command post to insure their awareness of incident conditions.

Continuity of Government

The line of succession for disaster intelligence /damage assessment will be determined on a per situation basis.

Appendices

1. Pre-emergency Operations Checklist
2. Response Operation Checklists
3. Recovery Operations Checklists

APPENDIX 1

PRE-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

- ___ 1. Develop zoning and land use regulations to prevent construction in hazardous areas.
- ___ 2. Conduct periodic inspections to ensure compliance with existing codes within the county.
- ___ 3. Obtain aerial photographs, maps, photographs and other documentation to show the condition of the county during non-emergency periods. These would be used following disaster impact to show the extent of damage.
- ___ 4. Coordinate with surrounding counties to share personnel to assist in damage assessment surveys.
- ___ 5. List critical facilities (government buildings, water and sewer treatment facilities, schools, hospital, etc.)

APPENDIX 2

RESPONSE OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

- ___ 1. Following the initial response to a major emergency or disaster, the OEM Director will ensure that an OEM Damage Assessment Team has been assembled.
- ___ 2. The lead damage assessor will ensure the notification of the remainder of the damage assessment team.
- ___ 4. The OEM Damage Assessment Team will ensure that an initial damage survey is completed, as soon as practically possible. This survey will include:
 - Number of buildings damaged
 - Number of buildings destroyed
 - Damage done to infrastructure
 - Damage done to transportation network
- ___ 5. The OEM Director in coordination with the lead damage assessor shall prepare an initial disaster intelligence report, which the OEM Director will transmit to the IEMA Office.
- ___ 6. Following completion of the initial survey, the lead damage assessor will direct the primary damage assessment, using the damage assessment form required by IEMA.
- ___ 7. The OEM Damage Assessment Team, during its primary survey efforts, will determine the level of habitability of damaged structures and seek to determine whether they were insured.

APPENDIX 3

RECOVERY OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

- ___ 1. Work with the proper authorities to ensure the restoration or demolition of damaged or unsafe structures.
- ___ 2. Monitor restoration operations.
- ___ 3. Compile final damage estimate report for inclusion into official disaster record.
- ___ 4. Establish, if necessary, new resolutions/ordinances and land use regulations to lessen the impact of future disaster impact.