

## **Recovery Functional Annex**

**Updated: August 11, 2025**

### **I. PURPOSE**

This annex outlines the framework for managing recovery operations in Alexander County following emergencies or disasters. It provides guidance for restoring critical infrastructure and services, supporting individuals and businesses, administering disaster assistance programs, and implementing long-term hazard mitigation projects.

### **II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

#### **A. Situation**

Alexander County is susceptible to hazards including severe weather, flooding, wildfires, hazardous materials incidents, and public health emergencies. Recovery operations require the coordinated involvement of Local, State, Federal, and Private sectors to meet community needs and restore normalcy.

Damage assessment operations will provide the foundational data for recovery efforts. Based on the severity and magnitude of damages, the Governor may request federal disaster assistance, triggering a variety of State and Federal recovery programs.

#### **B. Assumptions**

1. Recovery operations will begin while response activities and damage assessments are still underway.
2. Damage assessment results will determine eligibility for State and Federal recovery assistance.
3. Both short-term and long-term recovery efforts will be required to return the County to pre-disaster conditions or better.
4. Public information and consistent communication will be essential to recovery success.
5. State and Federal agencies will provide technical and financial support when local capacity is exceeded.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

#### **A. General**

1. Recovery begins during the response phase and continues until all systems, services, and programs are restored or improved to acceptable levels. Alexander County Emergency Management (ACEM) coordinates recovery efforts from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or, for extended operations, a Recovery Coordination Center (RCC).
2. Relationship to Damage Assessment
  - a. The Damage Assessment Annex governs field surveys, data collection, and reporting. This information will be used to determine eligibility for assistance programs and guide the prioritization of recovery activities.
3. Recovery Programs
  - a. Individual Assistance (IA) may include:
    - i. Temporary housing (100% federal funding)

- ii. Individual and Family Grants (75% Federal, 25% State/Local)
  - iii. Disaster unemployment assistance
  - iv. Disaster loans for individuals, businesses, and farmers
  - v. Agricultural assistance
  - vi. Legal services for low-income households
  - vii. Consumer counseling and insurance assistance
  - viii. Social security and veterans' benefits support
  - ix. Casualty loss tax assistance
- b. Public Assistance (PA) may include
  - i. Category A – Debris Removal: Clearance, removal, and disposal of disaster-related debris from public and, in some instances, private property to eliminate threats to life, public health, and safety.
  - ii. Category B – Emergency Protective Measures: Actions taken before, during, and after a disaster to eliminate or reduce threats to life, public health, safety, and improved property.
  - iii. Category C – Roads and Bridges: Repair or replacement of roads, bridges, and related structures.
  - iv. Category D – Water Control Facilities: Repair of levees, dams, irrigation systems, flood control channels, and similar facilities.
  - v. Category E – Buildings and Equipment: Repair or replacement of public buildings and the contents within them.
  - vi. Category F – Utilities: Restoration of water, power, sewage, and communications systems.
  - vii. Category G – Parks, Recreational, and Other Facilities: Repair or restoration of public parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, beaches, and other facilities.
- c. State and Federal Coordination
  - i. Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO): Appointed by the President to manage federal recovery operations.
  - ii. State Coordinating Officer (SCO) & Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR): Appointed by the Governor to coordinate State recovery operations.
  - iii. Disaster Field Office (DFO): Established near affected areas to administer recovery programs.
  - iv. Disaster Application Centers (DACs): Established for IA applicants to apply for assistance.
  - v. Applicant's Briefing: Conducted for PA-eligible entities to explain eligibility, documentation, and reimbursement requirements.
- 4. Short-Term Recovery
  - a. Conduct Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) and assist with Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) with NCEM and FEMA.
  - b. Implement debris removal and disposal per the Debris Management Annex.
  - c. Restore critical services, reopen transportation routes, and reestablish utilities.
  - d. Provide sheltering, temporary housing, and essential services in partnership with DSS, Public Health, and voluntary agencies.

- e. Disseminate recovery information through the Public Information Officer (PIO) and Joint Information Center (JIC) as needed.
- 5. Long-Term Recovery
  - a. Administer Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) programs in coordination with NCEM and FEMA.
  - b. Support hazard mitigation planning and projects to reduce future risk.
  - c. Assist local businesses and industries in economic recovery efforts.
  - d. Oversee rebuilding of infrastructure, public facilities, and housing.
  - e. Monitor progress, evaluate effectiveness, and adjust recovery strategies.
  - f. Conduct after-action reviews and update plans accordingly.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Board of County Commissioners
  - 1. The Board of County Commissioners, through the EM Coordinator, is responsible for the overall organization of recovery for the County.
  - 2. Recovery priorities will be established by the BOCC and executed by the agencies below.
- B. Emergency Management Coordinator
  - 1. Lead and coordinate all recovery operations.
  - 2. Serve as primary liaison to NCEM, FEMA, and other agencies.
  - 3. Manage recovery documentation, status reports, and situation updates.
  - 4. Coordinate after-action reviews and improvement plans.
- C. Finance Department
  - 1. Assist in tracking and maintaining documentation of all recovery-related expenditures in coordination with Emergency Management and affected departments.
  - 2. Maintain financial records, payroll documentation, and expense reports to support eligible reimbursement claims and situational reports for county administration and elected officials.
  - 3. Serve as the Finance lead representative on grants and grant portals (NCEM Salesforce, NCEM Grants Portal, and FEMA Grants Portal).
- D. Public Information Officer
  - 1. Coordinate and disseminate public recovery information.
  - 2. Ensure messaging is accurate, timely, and accessible to all community members.
- E. Planning/Zoning
  - 1. Expedite permits for repairs and rebuilding.
  - 2. Integrate hazard mitigation into land use and redevelopment.
- F. Department of Social Services and Public Health
  - 1. Provide human services, case management, and health support for affected populations.
- G. Soil and Water Conservation District
  - 1. Manage stream debris removal and erosion control, and coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

#### **V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

The County Manager provides overall policy direction. The Emergency Management Coordinator directs operational recovery activities. The EOC may transition into a Recovery Coordination Center for sustained operations.

**VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

The line of succession follows the County's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Essential records and documentation will be preserved in accordance with records retention policies to ensure continuity of recovery efforts.

**VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

- A. All participating agencies will maintain detailed activity logs, cost records, and personnel documentation.
- B. Mutual aid agreements and vendor contracts will be used to supplement recovery resources.
- C. Recovery operations will follow applicable Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations.

**VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

The Emergency Management Coordinator will review and update this annex annually and following any significant incident, exercise, or change in recovery policy.

**IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES**

- A. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- B. NC General Statutes Chapter 166A – North Carolina Emergency Management Act
- C. FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)
- D. Alexander County Emergency Operations Plan – Basic Plan
- E. Alexander County Emergency Management Ordinance