

**CABARRUS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
ANNEX G
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Primary Agencies

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Support Agencies

- Cabarrus Health Alliance
- Carolinas Medical Center – NorthEast (CMC-NorthEast)
- Medical Examiner’s Office
- Sheriff’s Department – Communications Lieutenant.
- Emergency Management
- Fire Marshal
- Municipal Fire Departments
- Volunteer Fire Departments

I. PURPOSE

This annex provides information on employment of EMS during emergency situations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Emergency situations can endanger the health and safety of citizens and emergency responders.
2. A well-planned medical services support network is essential during emergency situations.

B. Assumptions

1. A large-scale emergency increases demands on hospitals, medical facilities, and emergency medical transport services.
2. EMS personnel are trained to respond to a variety of injuries and other medical problems.
3. Many injuries, both minor and relatively severe, will be self-treated by the public.
4. People other than medical personnel will transport many casualties to medical facilities.
5. The EMS medical response is most critical within the first 30 minutes of an emergency. Mutual aid assistance usually arrives after this critical period.

6. The Cabarrus County (County) EMS Director coordinates for additional resources through mutual aid agreements with area and regional medical services.
7. When local resources can no longer meet the demand of the situation, the Emergency Management Coordinator contacts state agencies to provide additional resources.
8. A widespread disaster may affect large areas of the County and disrupt EMS support.
9. Medical facilities and other resources may be damaged, destroyed, or unavailable.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. EMS emergency response operations are an extension of normal EMS duties.
- B. EMS provides field medical care as needed during emergency situations.
- C. EMS also coordinates medical evacuation of casualties.
- D. EMS units are prepared to respond to all situations. This includes mass casualty situations at multiple locations.
- E. Volunteer fire departments assist EMS units with casualty treatment and evacuation.
- F. During mass casualty incidents, EMS operates areas to conduct patient triage and treatment, holding areas for casualties awaiting treatment, and transportation loading areas.
- G. An EMS leader will be located at the incident command post to coordinate responding medical units and establish communication links with hospitals and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This leader controls all EMS assets responding to the emergency. Transfer of authority on-scene is in accordance with established Incident Command System (ICS) procedures.
- H. The County EMS Director, in cooperation with the Emergency Management Coordinator, maintains and enhances standard operating procedures (SOP) to guide EMS personnel involved with radiological and hazardous materials incidents. This SOP addresses personnel safety procedures and the treatment and handling of casualties contaminated during the incident.

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The EMS Director initially directs and controls EMS operations from the EOC.
- B. The EMS Director is assigned to the Operations Group in the EOC.
- C. The senior EMS leader on the scene assumes direction and control of units responding to the emergency situation.

- D. Should the EMS Director move forward to control operations at the emergency response site, a replacement at the EOC is assigned.
- E. The EMS Director maintains communications with all EMS units in the field and keeps the Emergency Management Coordinator informed of all activities.
- F. The EMS Director coordinates for additional personnel and equipment needed with the Emergency Management Coordinator.

V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. Staffing assignments for positions in the EOC allow for continuous operations.
- B. Selection and assignment of personnel is the responsibility of the agencies represented.
- C. Once assigned to the EOC, the Emergency Management Coordinator (EOC Manager) supervises these personnel.
- D. In the event that the primary EOC is not functional, the Emergency Management Coordinator activates an alternate EOC and notifies the Board of Commissioners of this change. Transportation is provided to any County Commissioners that cannot reach the EOC locations.
- E. Orders of Succession:
 - 1. EMS Director
 - 2. Assistant EMS Director
 - 3. EMS Shift Supervisor
- F. Orders of succession for departments and agencies that support EMS are in accordance with their internal SOP.