Chouteau County Emergency Management Plan
Functional Annex

Evacuation

Jurisdictions
Chouteau County
Big Sandy
Fort Benton
Geraldine

NRF Coordination: ESF #6 and ESF #13

Primary Agency: Law Enforcement Agency

Support Agencies:
- Emergency Management
- Fire Department of Jurisdiction
- All responding agencies
- Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

I. Authority

Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3. City and County ordinances may govern local emergency management functions which may be found in the Basic Plan appendices.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to provide for the orderly and coordinated evacuation of all or any part of the population of Chouteau County if it is determined that such action is the most effective means available for protecting the population from the effects of an emergency situation.

III. Explanation of Terms

A. Definitions

1. Special Facilities: Facilities that require unique attention because they house or serve populations that cannot take care of themselves during emergency situations and/or require unique support services. See Special Needs Functional Annex Facilities. Such facilities include, but are not limited to:

a. Schools and day care centers, where students require supervision to ensure their safety.

b. Hospitals, assisted living centers, and nursing homes, where patients need specialized health care personnel and equipment to maintain their health.

c. Correctional facilities, where offenders require security to keep them in custody.

IV. Situation and Assumptions

A. Situation

1. There are a wide variety of emergency situations that might require an evacuation of all or part of Chouteau County.

   a. Limited evacuation of specific geographic areas might be needed as a result of an event such as a hazardous materials transportation incident, major fire, natural gas leak, or localized flash flooding.

   b. Large-scale evacuation could be required in an event such as a major hazardous materials spill or terrorist attack with chemical agent.

2. Authority to issue the evacuation directive is covered in 10-3-406 MCA. **10-3-406. Authority of Principal Executive Officer.**

   a. Upon the declaration of an emergency or disaster under 10-3-402 or 10-3-403 and the issuance of an order as required by 10-3-404, the principal executive officer may:

      (1) direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from an incident or emergency or disaster area within that political subdivision when necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery; and

      (2) control the ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area and the movement of persons within the area.

b. Subject to 7-33-2212(4)(a), the authority to control ingress and egress, as provided in subsection (1)(b), includes the authority to close wild land areas to access during periods of extreme fire danger.   Hence, the Commissioner/Mayor may direct or compel the evacuation of a threatened area.

3. The Governor may order the evacuation of an area (MT MCA 10-3-104). Enforcement may be difficult.

B. Assumptions

1. Most people at risk may evacuate when local officials recommend that they do so. A general estimate is that 80 percent of those at risk may comply when local officials recommend evacuation. The proportion of the population that may evacuate typically increases as a threat becomes more obvious to the public or more serious.

2. Some individuals may refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat.

3. When there is sufficient warning of a significant threat, some individuals who are not at risk may evacuate.

4. Some owners of companion animals may refuse to evacuate unless arrangements have been made to care for their animals.

5. Some evacuation planning for known hazard areas can and should be done in advance.

6. While some emergency situations are slow to develop, others occur without warning. Hence, there may be time for deliberate evacuation planning or an evacuation may have to be conducted with minimal preparation time. In the case of short notice evacuations, there may be little time to obtain personnel and equipment from external sources to support evacuation operations.

7. The need to evacuate may become evident during the day or at night and there could be little control over the evacuation start time.

8. In most emergency situations, the majority of evacuees should seek shelter with relatives or friends or in commercial accommodations rather than in public shelter facilities.

9. Most evacuees should use their personal vehicles to evacuate; however, transportation may need to be provided for evacuees without personal vehicles. See Transportation Functional Annex.

V. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. Evacuation is one means of protecting the public from the effects of a hazard; protection is achieved by moving people away from the hazard. In planning for evacuation, the characteristics of the hazard and its magnitude, intensity, speed of onset, and anticipated duration are all significant factors. These may determine the number of people to be evacuated; the distance people must be moved to ensure their safety, the need for reception facilities, and the extent of traffic control and security required.

2. The jurisdiction must be prepared to conduct both small-scale and large-scale evacuations at all times of the day both from known hazard areas and from unexpected incident locations. A General Evacuation Checklist, provided in Attachment 1, has been developed to guide the execution of evacuation operations.

B. Emergency Classifications For Public Protective Actions

All emergencies may be classified in one of the following categories for the purpose of classifying public protective actions.

1. No Public Protective Action Notification

When an event has occurred or is underway such as a small fire, minor release, minor injury, or other minor event not yet defined and public protective actions are not required at the present time.

2. Standby Alert Notification

Public protective actions are not required at this time, but may be required if the incident escalates.

3. Shelter-in-Place Notification

When an event has occurred, such as a major fire, explosion, or leak, which

definitely threatens the general public or appears to have the potential to affect the general public, the Incident Commander (or Plant Emergency Coordinator or his/her designee), or other authorized authority, such as the county Emergency Management Director, should order this protective action notification. Refer to the Shelter-In-Place section of this manual.

4. Evacuation Notification

When an event has occurred, such as a major fire, explosion, leak, or emission which requires that the public evacuate the area affected, the Incident Commander (or Plant Emergency Coordinator or his/her designee) or other authorized authority, such as the county Emergency Management Director, should order this protective action notification.

C. Response Actions for Public Protective Classification

1. No Public Protective Action Notification

a. Incident Commander

A call may be made to the appropriate 911 Center to report that no public protective action is necessary at this time.

b. 911 Center Action or Emergency Communications Center Actions

No action necessary unless the incident is one that can be perceived as an emergency by adjacent citizens (explosion heard, fire scene, distinct different odors smelled, alarms sounding). The Incident Commander (or Plant Emergency Coordinator or his/her designee) may, upon determining that such a circumstance exists, request activation of the EAS and have radio stations broadcast appropriate alert message (see Communication Functional Annex, for suggested formats). See Public Information Functional Annex.

2. Standby Alert Notification

a. Incident Commander

Contact 911 and report the incident and issue a Standby Alert Notification. Refer to Emergency Notification Form for information to be given to the Emergency Communications Center (See Attachment 1).

b. 911 Center Action

Activate emergency warning systems devices in the affected area(s) if requested by the Incident Commander of the affected jurisdiction or by the authority of the appropriate Office of Emergency Services, including tone alert radios and pagers. See A01 – Public Warning. See Communication Functional Annex for suggested message formats.

Notify all appropriate fire, police, ambulance and other responders to standby.

3. **Shelter-in-Place Alert Notification**

a) Incident Commander

Notify the appropriate 911 Center and report that a Shelter-in-Place is requested. See Public Warning Functional Annex.

Refer to Emergency Notification form for information to be given to the 911 Center (See Attachment 1).

b) 911 Center Actions

When and where applicable, activate emergency warning system devices in the affected area (s), including tone alert radios and pagers.

Activate Emergency Alert System and request stations to broadcast message #2 or #3 (See Communication Functional Annex as appropriate, based upon the recommendations from the site.

Notify fire, police, ambulance, and other emergency responders to proceed to the incident site and/or Staging Area (s) and await further instruction.

Notify the public schools and/or other appropriate authorities and the American Red Cross to standby for possible implementation of evacuation procedures for the affected area.

Notify the Poison Control Center.

Contact appropriate law enforcement units to have them implement the **Traffic Diversion Plan** as appropriate.

4. **Evacuation Notification**

   a. Incident Commander

   Notify the appropriate 911 Center and report that an evacuation is requested. Refer to Emergency Notification Form for information to be given to the 911 Center (See Attachment 1) See Public Warning Functional Annex.

   b. City/County Emergency Coordination Center

   As applicable, implement actions listed under Shelter-In-Place (above) with the addition of using broadcast message #4, (See Communication Functional Annex) if a decision to Evacuate is made.

5. **Termination of Event**

   a. Incident Commander

   The Incident Commander, depending on the situation and level of emergency, may contact the 911 Centers as appropriate with the recommended termination of the emergency incident.

   b. 911 Center Action

   The 911 Center, after confirming recommendation, may advise the affected public through the EAS and/or other appropriate means that the emergency incident has been resolved and that they may return to normal activities. The 911 Centers may notify the participating emergency response units through appropriate command channels that the emergency incident has been resolved and that they return to normal activities, other than those units that may be needed to execute post-emergency incident resolution activities. See Public Warning Functional Annex.

D. Evacuation Decisions

1. The Incident Commander or, for large-scale evacuations, the Emergency Communication Center shall assess the need for evacuation, plan evacuations, and coordinate support for the evacuation effort. Evacuation planning should resolve the following questions:

   a. What areas or facilities are at risk and should be evacuated?

   b. How should the public be advised of what to do?

   c. What do evacuees need to take with them?

   d. What travel routes should be used by evacuees?

   e. What transportation support is needed?

   f. What traffic control is needed?

   g. Does the anticipated duration of the evacuation make it necessary to activate shelter and mass care facilities?

   h. How should evacuated areas be secured?

   Evacuations that must be conducted because of incidents that occur without warning may have to be planned quickly and carried out with only those resources that can be mobilized rapidly.

2. The decision to recommend evacuation of the populace in and around the area of an incident site rests with the Incident Commander managing that incident. In general, the Principal Executive Officer (PEO), or their designee, may issue recommendations for large-scale evacuations.

3. Precautionary evacuations are directed on authority of the Principal Executive Officer.

4. Based on severity of threat to human life, immediate evacuation may be initiated by any duly recognized emergency response force (police, fire, emergency services, etc.). However, the conduct of operations for the overall complete evacuation process (warning, movement, mass care, and reentry) remains with the appropriate Emergency Management Director.

5. The Incident Commander may notify the Emergency Management Director of all emergency evacuation decisions.

6. Emergency Management may notify the following:

   a. the Principal Executive Officer (or designee) of the jurisdiction

   b. Montana DES

   c. support agencies

   d. other affected jurisdictions

E. Hazard Specific Evacuation Planning

Hazard-specific evacuation planning information may be developed for certain known hazards and included as other annexes. These annexes should describe the potential impact areas for known hazards and any special facilities affected.

1. Emergency Management, working with local law enforcement and fire department personnel should identify likely major evacuation areas, other than hazardous materials areas, and the potential evacuation routes for those areas.

2. Hazardous materials risk areas and potential evacuation routes should be identified by the Emergency Management Director, local law enforcement and fire department personnel.

F. Transportation

1. Individuals.

   It is anticipated that the primary means of evacuation for most individuals should be personal. However, some individuals do not own vehicles and others may need assistance in evacuating and provision must be made to provide public transportation for these individuals.

2. Special Facilities.

Public schools normally have their own transportation resources; some private schools and day care centers may also have some transportation assets. Most other special facilities rely on commercial or contract transportation companies for their specialized transportation needs. Unfortunately, many of these providers cannot provide sufficient equipment to evacuate a sizeable facility on short notice. Hence, local government may be requested to assist in providing transport.

3.   Emergency transportation.

Emergency transportation may be provided by city buses, county school buses, ambulances, and other vehicles. See Transportation Functional Annex for transportation guidance and see Resource Management Functional Annex for
transportation resources. In the case of large-scale evacuations with advance warning, pickup points may be designated.

4.   Public information.

Public information messages that emphasize the need for citizens to help their neighbors who lack transportation or need assistance can significantly reduce requirements for public transportation during an evacuation. For further information refer to Public Information Functional Annex.

G. Traffic Control

1. Actual evacuation movement may be controlled by the law enforcement agencies involved, refer to Traffic Diversion Functional Annex.

2. If at all possible, two-way traffic may be maintained on all evacuation routes to allow continued access for emergency vehicles.

3. For large-scale evacuations where time permits, traffic control devices, such as signs and barricades, may be provided by the MT Department of Highways or Public Works Department upon request.

4. Law enforcement may request wrecker services needed to clear disabled vehicles from evacuation routes.

H. Warning & Public Information

1. The Incident Commander may normally arrange for warning people to be evacuated in and around an incident site. The ECC should normally disseminate warning for large-scale evacuations beyond the incident site or where evacuation is being conducted because of an imminent threat. See Public Warning Functional Annex and Public Information Functional Annex.

2. Advance Notice of Possible Evacuation

   a. For slowly developing emergency situations, advance warning should be given to affected residents as soon as it is clear that evacuation may be required. Such advance notice is normally disseminated through the media. Advance warning should address suitable preparedness actions, such as securing property, assembling disaster supplies, and fueling vehicles, and identifying evacuation routes.

   b. Special facilities should also be provided advance warning. Such facilities should be requested to review and be prepared to implement their evacuation plans and to keep the Emergency Operations Center informed of their status and any requirements for assistance.

3. Evacuation Warning

   a. Evacuation warning should be disseminated through all available warning systems. See Public Warning Functional Annex, for further information.

   b. In the case of immediate evacuation in and around an incident site, route alerting using siren and speaker-equipped vehicles moving through the affected area is usually effective. When possible, two vehicles should be employed -- the first to get the attention of the people and a second should deliver the evacuation message. Door-to-door notification should be considered for large buildings and in rural areas where residences may be some distance from the road.

   c. Special facilities may be notified directly by on-scene authorities or by the ECC staff. However, if both the incident command staff and the ECC will be making notifications, a specific division of responsibilities for notification should be made so that no facilities are inadvertently overlooked.

   d. Law enforcement personnel should sweep the evacuation area to insure all

those at risk have been advised of the need to evacuate and have responded. Persons who refuse to evacuate should be left until all others have been warned and then, time permitting, further efforts may be made to persuade these individuals to leave.

e. Obstruction policy: The Principal Executive Officers who are signatory to this plan have adopted the following policy regarding obstruction to evacuation orders. People who refuse to evacuate should be informed of the danger and may be asked to provide information for notification of next-of-kin and to also sign an evacuation briefing form, if time permits, stating their refusal to leave and their understanding of the risk. They should be informed that responder lives may not be placed at risk to attempt a futile last minute rescue. At that point they may be allowed to remain in place at their own peril. The exception to this policy may be in the case of criminal endangerment of minor children (MCA 45-5-207). If the resident being asked to evacuate refuses to leave and refuses to allow minor children to leave, the evacuation team may consider arresting the person endangering children.

4. Emergency Public Information

a. Warning messages disseminated through warning systems alert the public to a threat and provide basic instructions. They are necessarily short and to the point. The public may often require additional information on what to do during an evacuation. The Public Information Officer (PIO) should insure that such information is provided to the media on a timely basis for further dissemination to the public. Provisions must be made to disseminate information to individuals with special needs, including the blind and hearing impaired. Specific public information procedures are contained in Public Information Functional Annex.

b. Instructions for an evacuation may include information on the location of shelter and mass care facilities, specific evacuation routes, guidance on securing their homes, and the need for evacuees to take certain items with them during an evacuation. Instructions for evacuations may include information necessary for schools and facilities to implement emergency plans.

c. When the incident that generated the need for evacuation is resolved, evacuees must be advised when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses.

I. Special Facilities

1. Special facilities.

    a. Special facilities, such as schools, hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes, day care facilities, and correctional facilities are responsible for the welfare and safety of their clients, patients, and inmates. Virtually all such facilities are required to have an emergency plan that includes provision for emergency evacuation, but in order to effectively implement their plans they must be warned of emergency situations. These facilities may require significant community resources to support their evacuation plans.

2. Schools & Day Care Centers.

    a. If evacuation of public schools is required, students should normally be transported on school buses to other schools outside of the risk area, where their parents can pick them up. It is essential that the public be provided timely information on these arrangements. In the case of a large-scale emergency situation with advance warning, schools should generally be closed and students returned to their homes so they can evacuate with the families.

    b. Private schools and day care centers, including adult day care facilities, typically do not have significant transportation resources and may require government assistance in evacuating.

3. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, & Correctional Facilities.

    a. If evacuation of these facilities is required, patients and inmates should be transported, with appropriate medical or security support, to a comparable facility. The facility operator is responsible for making arrangements for suitable transportation and coordinating use of appropriate host facilities. In the case of short-notice or no-notice emergency situations, facilities may be unable to make the required arrangements for transportation and may need assistance from local government with transportation and in identifying suitable reception facilities.

    b. Medical patients and prisoners should not be housed in shelter and mass care facilities with the general public.

J. Handling Pets During Evacuations.

1.   Evacuees who go to the homes of relatives or friends or commercial accommodations with their pets do not normally pose difficulties during evacuation. However, evacuees with pets seeking public shelter can create potential problems. For health reasons, pets are not allowed in emergency shelters operated by the American Red Cross and most other organized volunteer groups. However, a number of studies have indicated that some people, particularly the elderly, may not leave their homes if they cannot take their pets with them. And when people have left pets behind during evacuations, emergency responders have sometimes had to return to the evacuated area to collect and remove those pets and other animals. Hence, it is desirable to make reasonable arrangements for evacuees who come to public shelters with pets.

2.   Depending on the situation and availability of facilities, one or more of the following approaches may be used to handle evacuees arriving with pets:

   a.   Providing pet owners information on nearby kennels, animal shelters, and veterinary clinics that have agreed to temporarily shelter pets.

   b.   Directing pet owners to a public shelter that has covered exterior corridors or adjacent support buildings where pets on leashes and in carriers may be temporarily housed.

K. Access Control & Security

1.   In an evacuation, the security of evacuated areas is extremely important. Those who have evacuated may not do so in the future if their property has been damaged or stolen during their absence. Law enforcement should establish access control points to limit entry into evacuated areas and, where possible, conduct periodic patrols within such areas to deter theft by those on foot. To the extent possible, fire departments may take measures to insure continued fire protection.

2.   If an evacuated area has sustained damage and cannot be reoccupied for an extended period of time, it may be desirable to implement a permit system to limit access to emergency workers, homeowners, business owners, utility workers, and contractors restoring damaged structures and removing debris.

L. Return of Evacuees

1. Return of evacuees to their homes or businesses in evacuated areas requires the same consideration, coordination, and control as the original evacuation. For limited incidents, the Incident Commander may normally make the decision to return evacuees and disseminate it as appropriate. For large-scale evacuations, that decision should normally be made by the City Manager/Commissioner/Mayor and disseminated through the media.

2. The following conditions should prevail in the evacuated area before evacuees are authorized to return:

   a. The threat that caused the evacuation has been resolved.

   b. Sufficient debris has been removed to permit travel and roads and bridges are safe to use.

   c. Downed power lines have been removed; ruptured gas, water, and sewer lines have been repaired; and other significant safety hazards have been eliminated. However, utility services may not have yet been fully restored.

   d. Structures have been inspected and determined to be safe to reoccupy.

   e. There is adequate water available for firefighting.

3. For return and re-entry, it may be necessary to provide transportation for those who lack vehicles and traffic control on return routes.

4. Public information intended for returnees should address such issues as:

   a. Documenting damage for insurance purposes.

   b. Caution in reactivating utilities and damaged appliances.

   c. Cleanup instructions.

   d. Removal and disposal of debris.

M. Actions by Phases of Emergency Management

1. Mitigation

   a. Where possible, undertake mitigation for known hazards that have in the past led to evacuation.

   b. Appropriate agencies may discourage development, particularly residential construction, in potential risk areas, including floodplains, areas downstream from suspect dams and dikes, and areas adjacent to facilities that make, use, or store hazardous materials.

   c. Seek improvement to preplanned evacuation routes if needed.

   d. Enhance warning systems to increase warning times and reduce the need for hasty evacuations.

2. Preparedness.

   a. Identify areas where previous major evacuations have occurred and additional areas that may require large-scale evacuation in the future due to known hazards. See the appendix to this annex for potential major evacuation areas other than hazardous materials risk areas; hazardous materials risk areas are described in Hazardous Materials Appendices. Determine the population of risk areas and identify facilities that may require special assistance during evacuation (hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.) to determine potential transportation requirements.

   b. To the extent possible, identify individuals with special needs who would require assistance in evacuating and maintain contact information for those individuals.

   c. Identify primary and alternate evacuation routes, taking into account road capacities.

   d. Review the disaster preparedness plans of special facilities and advise facility operators of any changes that may be needed to make them more workable.

   e. Include evacuations in the scenario of periodic emergency drills and exercises.

f. Conduct public information programs to increase citizen awareness of possible reasons for evacuation, preplanned evacuation routes, availability of transportation, the need to take appropriate food, clothing, and other disaster supplies during an evacuation, and the desirability of helping neighbors who may need assistance during an evacuation.

g. Promulgate procedures for protecting government resources from known hazards by relocating them, see Functional Annex A13— Continuity of Government.

3. Response

See the General Evacuation Checklist in Attachment 1.

4. Recovery

a. Initiate return of evacuees, when it is safe to do so.

b. Coordinate temporary housing for those who cannot return to their homes. Refer to Mass Care Functional Annex.

c. Provide traffic control for return.

d. Initiative recovery activities for evacuees who have suffered loss of or damage to their homes or businesses.

e. Carry out appropriate public information activities.

f. Refer to Recovery Functional Annex.

VI. Organization & Assignment of Responsibilities

A. **Organization**

1. Our normal emergency organization, described in the Basic Plan, should plan and carry out evacuations and the return of people to their homes or businesses.

2. Incident Command System (ICS) – Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) Interface.

a. As noted previously, the Incident Commander may normally determine the need for, organize, and conduct limited evacuations in the immediate vicinity of the incident site. If large-scale evacuation is required, the Principal Executive Officer should make the recommendation for such evacuation to the public.

b. The Incident Commander may normally manage evacuation operations at the scene, while the ECC coordinates operations beyond the incident site, such as coordinating traffic control along evacuation routes, arranging for the activation of shelter and mass care facilities, and advising other jurisdictions of the evacuation. Refer to Attachment 2 for a listing of potential evacuation shelter sites.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. **The Principal Executive Officer may:**

a. For emergencies and disasters, recommend that citizens evacuate, when appropriate.

b. Approve release of warnings, instructions, and other emergency public information relating to evacuation.

c. Coordinate evacuation efforts with other local governments that may be affected by the evacuation, where appropriate.

d. Direct the relocation of essential resources (personnel, equipment, and supplies) that are at risk to safer areas.

e. Direct the opening of local shelter and mass care facilities, if needed (Attachment 2, list of potential evacuation shelter sites).

2. **The Incident Commander may:**

a. Identify risk areas in the vicinity in the incident site and determine protective actions for people in those risk areas.

b. If evacuation of risk areas and special facilities is required, plan, organize, and conduct the evacuation with the resources assigned.

c. Request support from the ECC to assist in coordinating evacuation

activities beyond the incident site, such as activation of shelter and mass care facilities, if required.

3. **Emergency Management may:**

   a. Develop and maintain evacuation planning information for known risk areas, including population of the area, and primary evacuation routes.

   b. Review the evacuation plans of special facilities within known risk areas and determine possible needs for evacuation support.

   c. Coordinate evacuation planning to include:

      (1) Selection of suitable evacuation routes, based on recommendations from law enforcement.

      (2) Movement control, based on recommendations from law enforcement.

      (3) Transportation arrangements.

      (4) Shelter and mass care arrangements.

4. **Law Enforcement may:**

   a. Recommend evacuation routes to the Incident Commander or ECC staff.

      (1) Assist in evacuation by providing traffic control. Ensure there are provisions to remove disabled vehicles or those that run out of fuel from evacuation routes.

      (2) Protect property in evacuated areas and limited access to those areas as manpower allows.

      (3) Secure and protect or relocate prisoners.

      (4) Coordinate law enforcement activities with other emergency services.

      (5) Assist in warning the public.

(6) Provide information to the PIO for news releases to the public on the evacuation routes.

5. **The Fire Service may:**

   a.   Be responsible for fire protection in the vacated area.

   b.   Assist in warning the public.

   c.   Assist in evacuating the aged, the handicapped, and other special needs groups.

   d.   Monitor evacuation of hospitals and nursing homes and coordinate evacuation assistance, if requested.

6. **The Public Information Officer may:**

   a.   Disseminate emergency information from the PEO advising the public of evacuation actions to be taken.

   b.   Coordinate with area news media for news releases.

7. The Department of Highways and/or Public Works Department may:

   a. Provide traffic control devices upon request.

   b. Assist in keeping evacuation routes open.

   c. Provide barricades and barriers to restrict entry to evacuated areas and other areas where entry must be controlled.

8. **The Red Cross may:**

   a. For short-term evacuations, coordinate with operators of government-owned buildings, schools, churches, and other facilities for use of their facilities as temporary evacuee holding areas.

b. For other than short-term evacuations, coordinate the opening of shelters and activate mass care operations. See Mass Care Functional Annex for further information.

9. **Special Facilities may:**

a. Close and supervise evacuation of their facilities.

b. Coordinate appropriate transportation for evacuees and en route medical or security support.

c. Arrange for use of suitable host facilities.

d. Request emergency assistance from local government if assistance cannot be obtained from other sources.

e. Ensure assigned personnel are trained and have knowledge of evacuation procedures.

f. Disseminate public information to advise relatives and the general public of the status of their facilities and the patients, students, or inmates served by those facilities.

10. Common Tasks of All Organizations.

a. If time permits, secure and protect facilities in evacuation areas.

b. If time permits, relocate essential equipment, supplies, and records to non-risk areas.

VII. Direction and Control

A. General

1. The PEO has the general responsibility for recommending evacuation, when that is the most suitable means of protecting the public from a hazard.

2. In situations where rapid evacuation is critical to the continued health and safety of the population, the on-scene Incident Commander may recommend evacuation of people at risk in and around an incident scene and direct and control the required evacuation.

3. Large-scale evacuations and evacuations conducted on the basis of imminent threat where there is no current incident scene may normally be coordinated and directed by the ECC.

B. Evacuation Area Definition

1. Areas to be evacuated may be determined by those officials with the authority to recommend evacuation based on the counsel of those individuals and agencies with the necessary expertise, the use of specialized planning materials or decision aids, the recommendations of state and federal agencies, and, where appropriate, advice from other subject matter experts. Evacuation recommendations to the public should clearly describe the area to be evacuated with reference to known geographic features, such as roads and rivers.

2. The hazard situation, which gave rise to the need for evacuation, should be continually monitored in case changing circumstances, such as an increase in rainfall or wind shift, change the potential impact area and, thus, the area that must be evacuated.

C. Lines of Succession

1. The lines of succession for the Mayor/Commission and the Emergency Management Director are outlined in the Basic Plan and Continuity of Operations/Government Functional Annex.

2. Lines of succession for each department and agency head shall be according to the standard operating procedures established by each department.

VIII. Increased Readiness Action

A. Level 4 - Normal Conditions.

1. See the mitigation and preparedness activities in the Mitigation Plan.

B. Level 3 - Increased Readiness.

Increased Readiness may be appropriate if there is a greater than normal threat of a hazard which could necessitate evacuation. Level 3 readiness actions may include:

1. Reviewing information on potential evacuation areas, facilities at risk, and evacuation routes.

2. Monitoring the situation.

3. Informing first responders and local officials of the situation.

4. Checking the status of potential evacuation routes and shelter/mass care facilities.

C. Level 2 - High Readiness.

High Readiness may be appropriate if there is an increased risk of a hazard, which may necessitate evacuation. Level 2 readiness actions may include:

1. Monitoring the situation.

2. Alerting response personnel for possible evacuation operations duty.

3. Coordinating with special facilities to determine their readiness to evacuate.

4. Checking the status of resources and enhancing short-term readiness if possible. Monitoring the availability of transportation assets and drivers.

5. Advising the public and special facilities to monitor the situation.

D. Level 1 - Maximum Readiness.

Maximum readiness is appropriate when there is a significant possibility that evacuation operations may have to be conducted. Level 1 readiness actions may include:

1. Activating the Emergency Coordination Center to monitor the situation and track resource status.

2. Placing first responders and transportation providers in an alert status; placing off duty personnel on standby.

3. Updating the status of resources.

4. Checking the status of evacuation routes and pre-positioning traffic control devices.

5. Updating plans to move government equipment to safe havens.

6. Selecting shelter/mass care facilities for use.

7. Providing information to the public on planned evacuation routes, securing their homes, and what items they need to take with them. Preparing to issue public warning if it becomes necessary.

IX. Administration and Support

A. Reporting

Large-scale evacuations should be reported to the Montana Disaster & Emergency Services and other jurisdictions that may be affected in the periodic Situation Report prepared and disseminated during major emergency operations.

B. Records

1. Activity Logs. The Incident Commander and, if activated, the Emergency Coordination Center personnel shall maintain accurate logs recording evacuation decisions, significant evacuation activities, and the commitment of resources to support evacuation operations.

2. Documentation of Costs. Expenses incurred in carrying out evacuations for certain hazards, such as radiological accidents or hazardous materials incidents, may be recoverable from the responsible party. Hence, all departments and agencies may maintain records of personnel and equipment used and supplies consumed during large-scale evacuations.

C. Resources

1. General emergency response resources that may be required to conduct an evacuation are listed in Resource Management Functional Annex.

D. Post-Incident Review

For large-scale evacuations, the Primary Executive Officer or Emergency

Management Director shall organize and conduct a review of emergency operations by those tasked in this annex in accordance with the guidance provided in the Basic Plan. The purpose of this review is to identify needed improvements in this plan, procedures, facilities, and equipment.

E. Exercises

Local drills, tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and full-scale exercises shall periodically include an evacuation scenario based on the hazards potentially faced.

X. Annex Development and Maintenance

A. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for developing and maintaining this annex. Recommended changes to this annex should be forwarded as needs become apparent.

B. This annex should be revised annually and updated in accordance with the schedule outlined in the Basic Plan.

C. Departments and agencies assigned responsibilities in this annex are responsible for developing and maintaining SOGs covering those responsibilities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1……………………………………………………………General Evacuation Checklist

2……………………………………………………..……Potential Evacuations Shelter Sites

ATTACHMENT 1 – General Evacuation Checklist

xx	Action Item	Assigned
	PLANNING	
	1. Determine area(s) at risk: • Determine population of risk areas • Identify any special facilities in risk area(s)	
	2. Determine evacuation routes for risk area(s) & check the status of these routes.	
	3. Determine traffic control requirements for evacuation routes.	
	4. Estimate public transportation requirements & determine pickup points.	
	5. Determine temporary shelter requirements & select preferred shelter locations	
	ADVANCE WARNING	
	6. Provide advance warning to special facilities & advise them to activate their evacuation transportation & reception arrangements. Determine if requirements exist for additional support from local government.	
	7. Provide advance warning of possible need for evacuation to the public, clearly identifying areas at risk. See Public Warning Functional Annex.	
	8. Develop traffic control plans & stage traffic control devices at required locations.	
	9. Coordinate with special facilities regarding precautionary evacuation.	
	10. Ready temporary shelters selected for use.	
	11. Coordinate with transportation providers to ensure vehicles & drivers should be available when and where needed.	
	12. Coordinate with school districts regarding closure of schools.	
	13. Advise neighboring jurisdictions that may be affected by evacuation plans.	
	EVACUATION	
	14. Advise neighboring jurisdictions and MT DES that evacuation recommendation should be issued.	
	15. Disseminate evacuation recommendation special facilities. Provide assistance in evacuating, if needed.	
	16. Disseminate evacuation recommendation to the public through available warning systems, clearly identifying areas to be evacuated.	

	17. Provide amplifying information to the public through the media. Emergency public information should address: • What should be done to secure buildings being evacuated • What evacuees should take with them • Where evacuees should go & how should they get there • Provisions for those without transportation	
	18. Staff and open temporary shelter(s).	
	19. Provide traffic control along evacuation routes & establish procedures for dealing with vehicle breakdowns on such routes.	
	20. Provide transportation assistance to those who require it.	
	21. Provide security in or control access to evacuated areas.	
	22. Provide situation report to ECC.	
	23. If evacuated areas have been damaged, reopen roads, eliminate significant health and safety hazards, & conduct damage assessments.	
	24. Determine requirements for traffic control for return of evacuees.	
	25. Determine requirements for & coordinate provision of transportation for return of evacuees.	
	26. Advise neighboring jurisdictions and ECC that return of evacuees should begin.	
	27. Advise evacuees through the media that they can return to their homes and businesses; indicate preferred travel routes.	
	28. Provide traffic control for return of evacuees.	
	29. Coordinate temporary housing for evacuees that are unable to return to their residences.	
	30. Coordinate with special facilities regarding return of evacuees to those facilities.	
	31. If evacuated areas have sustained damage, provide the public information that addresses: • Documenting damage & making expedient repairs. • Caution in reactivation utilities & damaged appliances • Cleanup & removal/disposal of debris • Recovery programs, See A24 [Recovery]	
	32. Terminate temporary shelter & mass care operations.	
	33. Maintain access controls for areas that cannot be safely reoccupied.	

ATTACHMENT 2 – Some Potential Evacuation Sites

FORT BENTON:

Community Bible Center	1600 Main Street	406-622-5171
Fort Benton Elementary School	1406 Franklin Street	406-622-3721
Fort Benton High School	1820 Washington Street	406-622-5112

Big Sandy:

Big Sandy Highschool	398 1st Ave	406-378-2501

Geraldine:

Geraldine School	238 Brewster Street	406-737-4371

Highwood:

Highwood School	160 West Street S	406-733-2081