

# Chouteau County, Montana Emergency Operations Plan

May 2023



## Jurisdictions

Chouteau County

Fort Benton

Big Sandy

Geraldine

# EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	BP-2
PROMULGATION DOCUMENT	BP-6
DISTRIBUTION	BP-7
RECORD OF CHANGES	BP-8
<b>BASIC PLAN</b>	BP-10
I PURPOSE	BP-10
II SCOPE	BP-11
III LEGAL AUTHORITY	BP-11
IV PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS	BP-12
V SITUATION	BP-14
Hazard Analysis	
Mitigation Overview	
VI CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS	BP-17
VII ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	BP-21
A LOCAL GOVERNMENT	BP-22
1 Principal Executive Officer	BP-22
2 Emergency Management	BP-22
3 Incident Command	BP-23
4 Law enforcement	BP-23
5 Fire Service	BP-24
6 911 Center	BP-24
7 County Health	BP-24

	8 Emergency Medical Services	BP-25
	9 Public Works	BP-25
	10 County Attorney	BP-26
	11 Human Resources	BP-26
	12 County Clerk	BP-26
	13 Finance/Budget Officer	BP-27
	14 Engineering/building Inspector	BP-27
	15 Parks and Recreation	BP-27
B	STATE GOVERNMENT	BP-27
C	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	BP-28
D	SUPPORT AGENCIES	BP-28
	1 Montana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MT VOAD)	BP-28
	2 Hospitals	BP-28
	3 Chouteau County Schools	BP-28
E	VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS	BP-28
VIII	DIRECTION AND CONTROL	BP-29
IX	ONGOING PLAN REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE	BP-46
X	DOCUMENT CONTROL	BP-47
XI	USING ANNEXES AND APPENDICES	BP-47
	Attachment 1 ACRONYMS used in Emergency Management	BP-48
	Attachment 2 DEFINITIONS	BP-50

## **EMERGENCY FUNCTIONAL ANNEXES**

Animal Care	Tab A
Communications	Tab B
Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government	Tab C
Debris Removal Plan	Tab D
Direction and Control	Tab E
Distribution Management Plan	Tab F
Evacuation	Tab G
Health and Medical	Tab H
Mass Care	Tab I
Mass Casualty/Mass Fatality	Tab J
Mitigation	Tab K
Public Information	Tab L
Public Warning	Tab M
Recovery Plan	Tab N
Resource Management	Tab O
Search and Rescue	Tab P
Special Needs	Tab Q
Terrorism	Tab R
Traffic Diversion	Tab S
Transportation	Tab T
Volunteer Response	Tab U

## EMERGENCY HAZARD APPENDICES

Bomb Threat	Tab 1
Bridge Collapse	Tab 2
Building Collapse	Tab 3
Civil Disturbance	Tab 4
Dam Failure/Flooding	Tab 5
Earthquake	Tab 6
Fire: Wild Land and Urban	Tab 7
Hazardous Materials Incident	Tab 8
Transportation Incident	Tab 9
Utility Interruption	Tab 10
Weather Emergency	Tab 11

# PROMULGATION DOCUMENT

BY VIRTUE of the authority vested in us as the Principal Executive Officers for Chouteau County by the Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3, and the charters of the incorporated municipalities; we do approve this Chouteau County Emergency Operations Plan.

## Chouteau County

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Robert Pasha – Chairman  
County Commissioner

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Date

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Craig Reihl  
County Commissioner

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Date

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Rick Darlington  
County Commissioner

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Date

# DISTRIBUTION

Copies of this Emergency Operations Plan will be distributed as follows:

Copies of this Emergency Operations Plan will be distributed as follows:

Chouteau County Commissioners	1
Chouteau County Fire Departments	5
Fort Benton Police Department	4
Chouteau County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator	2
Montana Disaster and Emergency Services-Helena	1
Chouteau County Sheriff/Coroner's Office	2
Malmstrom Air Force Base	1
Montana Air National Guard	1
County Health Department	1
Rural Fire Council	1
Each Mayor for an Incorporated Jurisdiction.	3
Administrative Copies kept on file for distribution if necessary	5

TOTAL COPIES: 27

## RECORD OF CHANGES

DATE	PAGE#	SUBJECT AREA	CHANGE #	INITIALS



## Chouteau County Emergency Operations Plan

### CHANGE REQUEST FORM

TO: Mrs. Deb Gessaman  
Chouteau County DES Coordinator  
P.O. Box 459  
1308 Franklin Street  
Fort Benton, MT 59442

#### Recommended changes, Corrections, Additions, and Deletions to the Emergency Operations Plan

Any user of this plan is encouraged to recommend changes to this plan that the user feels might enhance or clarify a particular portion of the area being addressed. Suggested changes should be submitted to the County Emergency Management Director, at the above address, for coordination, comment, concurrence, and approval. The format of suggested changes should be by Basic Plan or Annex, Section, Paragraph/Sub-paragraph, and page number.

PAGE NUMBER:

SECTION:

CHANGE:

SHOULD READ:

Submitted by: (Name)

(Date) (Ph. No.)

# Chouteau County Emergency Operations Plan

## BASE PLAN

### I. Purpose

Recognizing that local governments have a fundamental responsibility to protect life and property within their jurisdictions and to respond to the emergency needs of the public and recognizing that emergency planning and management strategies are somewhat generic in nature among adjoining jurisdictions, the co-signers hereto recognize and adopt this document as the Chouteau County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). This EOP provides general guidelines for planning, managing, and coordinating the overall response and recovery activities of local government before, during and after major emergencies and disasters that may affect our communities.

The EOP seeks to provide one common all-hazards disaster and emergency operations plan to be utilized by unincorporated areas, cities and communities within Chouteau County, Montana.

Specifically, this Plan will address:

- A. Hazards identified within the jurisdiction and how planning can reduce the impacts. (See Hazard Mitigation plan for detailed information)
- B. The tasking of agencies, organizations and individuals with specific functions and responsibilities during disasters and emergency operations.
- C. Lines of authority, the command structure and organizational relationships between Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff and emergency responders, support organizations and elected officials.
- E. Identification of local and state resources and the process to acquire resources and management of resources in the event of large incident or disaster.
- F. Linkage to the National Response Framework (NRF).
- G. Procedures and guides to develop incident action plans (IAP) augmenting National Incident Management System (NIMS) with the local Incident.

## Management System.

The EOP follows the requirements of MCA Title 10 Chapter 3 and federal guidelines for local all-hazard emergency management concepts, plans and programs 40 CFR (300-355), including the National Incident Management System. Additionally, the plan is based on local emergency resources and identifies how to request and manage additional resources from the state and federal level. The Basic Plan will address by policies, procedures, and guidelines the following: Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

## II Scope

The scope of the EOP is to provide procedure and structure for emergencies that are multi-jurisdictional, long-term (beyond one operational period, and impact a large portion of the population. The incident commander on-scene of the emergency shall notify the Jurisdictional Executive Leader when he or she determines an incident of the nature explained above has occurred.

## III. Legal Authority

### A. Federal

1. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Amendments (P.L. 93-288 as amended by P.L. 100-707).
2. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. SARA Title III is the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The federal regulations governing SARA Title III are found in 40 CFR 300-355.
3. Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5 & 8).

### B. State

1. Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3.

### C. Local

1. County ordinances may govern local emergency management functions.
2. The City Managers shall be the chief administrators and executive officers of their respective City and shall be responsible to the City Commission for the administration of all City affairs required by the charter, law, ordinance, or

resolution. The City Manager is the Administer of the affairs of their city.

- D. Additional authority is in the Promulgation Document located at the front of this Plan.

## IV. Planning Assumptions

This section identifies certain statements assumed fact for planning considerations.

- A. Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3 requires the following:

***“10-3-401. Local and interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plan -- distribution.*** (1) *Each political subdivision eligible to receive funds under this chapter shall prepare a local or interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plan and program covering the area for which that political subdivision is responsible. This plan shall be in accordance with and in support of the state disaster and emergency plan and program.*

(2) *The political subdivision shall prepare and distribute on behalf of the principal executive officers, in written form, a clear and complete statement of:*

- (a) *the emergency responsibilities of all local agencies, if any, and officials;*
- (b) *the disaster and emergency chain of command;*
- (c) *local evacuation authority and responsibility; and*
- (d) *local authority and responsibility for control of ingress and egress to and from an emergency or disaster area.”*

- B. It is recognized that successful management of a large incident is, in part, dependent upon the following factors:

1. Early incident command structure and development of an Incident Action Plan (IAP)
2. The Incident Commander (IC) requests specific type and number of resources early into the incident
3. Declaration of a disaster emergency and activation of the EOC and EOP
4. Protective actions and life safety must be given first priority such as sheltering-in-place or to evacuate to places where more immediate assistance may be available.
5. Mitigation and Preparedness measures have been taken by the public before the incident. Community preparedness training programs that educate individuals and families to survive independently for twenty-four to seventy-two hours following an incident.
6. Timely public information – using all mediums possible, including, but not limited to, traditional media, social media, or the Emergency Alert System

- (EAS) system to warn the community of pending danger and advice on what to do.
- C. This plan must be current by reflecting the current community risk analysis, available resources, and operational procedure. Therefore, it shall be periodically reviewed and updated as needed.
  - D. All public safety and public service agencies are considered an integral part of this plan and shall assist with the planning process and shall respond to disasters and emergencies to protect the community.
  - E. Inter-county Mutual aid agreements and Montana State Mutual Aid allow jurisdictions to request additional resources without proclaiming a disaster. Excerpt from MCA as follows:
    - 10-3-907. Intrastate mutual aid system -- request for assistance.** (1) A member jurisdiction may request assistance from another member jurisdiction:
      - (a) to prevent, mitigate, respond to, or recover from an emergency or disaster; or
      - (b) in concert with drills or exercises between member jurisdictions.
  - F. An emergency or disaster situation could exhaust immediately available resources, creating the need for state and/or federal assistance.
  - G. The EOP seeks to identify any anticipated hazard that could adversely affect the jurisdictions and to stipulate preplanning to be developed for an effective response plan to protect life, the environment and property. This process for preplanning response falls on the Authority having Jurisdiction. Any reference to the County means Chouteau County and towns within the county.
  - I. All references to individual positions in this plan refer to the holder of that position or their designee.
  - J. An incident could occur that is not an anticipated hazard under this plan.

## V. Situation

Chouteau County is in North-Central Montana. The 2021 Quick Facts census population for Chouteau County is 5,916. Chouteau County is one of the largest counties in the state with a total area of 3,997 square miles, running 65 miles north and south at maximum width and an extreme length of 95 miles east and west. It is in the north central part of the state and shares borderlines with:

- Pondera County
- Liberty County
- Hill County
- Blaine County
- Fergus County
- Judith Basin County
- Cascade County

The terrain is primarily bench lands, valleys, and coulees with some very rugged mountain areas. The two mountain regions are the Bears Paw Mountains in the north-east and the Highwood Mountains in the south. Elevations vary from 7,680 feet above sea level in the Highwoods to less than 2,300 feet where the Missouri River leaves the region flowing eastward to the Fort Peck Reservoir.

- A. Chouteau County includes three (3) incorporated towns: Big Sandy, Geraldine, and Fort Benton.
  
- B. The Missouri River, Marias River and Teton River flow through the county that attracts numerous visitors, but also poses the threat of flooding. There are seven (7) dams located upriver from Fort Benton on the Missouri River that could potentially affect Fort Benton: Morony, Rainbow, Ryan, Hauser, Holter, Black Eagle and Cochrane. Dams along the Teton River include Tiber, Gibson, Pishkun, and Bynum. Dams on Rocky Boy Reservations include East Fork, Agency and Bonneau. Copies of all EOPs for the dams are kept at the Sheriff's Office and the Emergency Management office.
  
- C. The city of Fort Benton has an approximate population of 1,443. This population greatly increases during the summer and during special events. Fort Benton is the Birthplace of Montana, being the oldest continuously occupied settlement in Montana. Fort Benton is also the county seat.
  
- D. Chouteau County Government is administered by a county commission comprised of three (3) elected commissioners. The City of Fort Benton,

Geraldine and Big Sandy is governed by a mayor appointed by the appropriate communities.

E. Potential hazards which may occur in or around the county are, floods, tornadoes, winter storms, severe weather events, civil disorder, earthquakes, dam failure, HAZMAT incident-fixed facility, HAZMAT incident-highway, nuclear incidents, power failure, radiological incident, transportation accidents, rural or urban fires and acts of terrorism and acts of violence like active shooter incidents and improvised explosive devices at events with dense populations.

F. Mitigation (For further information see County Mitigation Plan)

The following table lists the general hazards facing Chouteau County and the municipalities. This list was compiled and evaluated for risk to citizens by the Chouteau County LEPC. The evaluation considered frequency of historical occurrence, affected population, affected environment, affected property, and existing capability of response agencies to deal with the hazard. It is also listed in order of severity of risk to Chouteau County and the municipalities. Numbers in the column “Potential Hazards Generated” correspond to numbers in first column. Example: Flood hazard (#10) may generate other potential hazards such as hazardous materials accidents (#1), communication failure (#20), and severe and prolonged utility loss (#21)

<b>Potential Hazards Table</b>				
#	Hazard	Probability	Potential Hazards Generated	Primary Risk
1.	Hazmat Incidents	Highly Likely	12,14	Toxic inhalation hazard, pollution of ground and surface water, Mass injuries by poisoning, large amounts of toxic materials, threatening densely populated areas; pollution of ground and surface water
2.	Wildfire	Highly Likely	20,21	Wildland interface height threat to life and property damage
3.	Severe Summer Weather	Highly Likely	20,21	Property exposure and vulnerability, Increased structure damage from high winds and hail, secondary impacts such as wildfire
4.	Severe Winter Weather	Highly Likely	1,2,8,9,20,21	Widespread isolated people and livestock; Power outages

5.	Drought	Likely	14	Livestock and agriculture loss
6.	Communicable Disease	Highly Likely		Widespread health issues; Continuity of Government and Operations
7.	Highway Accidents (Mass Casualty)	Highly Likely	12,14,20,21	Life Safety
8.	Aircraft Accidents	Likely	12,14	Mass casualty for commercial carrier
9.	Floods, Ice Jams, Flash Flooding	Likely	1,20,21	Life safety and property damage; threat to critical infrastructure; lack of potable water; threat of biological contamination
10.	Dam Failure, Levee Failure	Possible	1,20,21	Life safety and property damage; threat to critical infrastructure; lack of potable water; threat of biological contamination
11.	Terrorism, Violence, Civil Unrest	Possible	1,2,5,7,8,9,12 13,14, 16, 20,21,22	Life safety; property damage; panic; mass casualty; overwhelming community medical facilities
12.	Cyber Security	Likely		Disruption of the primary safety answering point and 911 system/ life safety
14.	Structure Fire	Likely	20,21	Life safety and property damage; critical impact to community economy
15.	Earthquake	Possible	1,5,7,8,10,12, 20,21	Widespread structural collapse people entrapped gas line rupture and mass fires; Waterline breaks limiting fire suppression efforts interruption of electrical power
16.	Landslide	Unlikely	1,2,7,9,20,21	Life safety and property damage
17.	Avalanche	Unlikely	2,7,9,20,21	Life Safety
18.	Volcanic Ash	Unlikely	20,21	Widespread disruption and chronic health issues
19.	Wind Event	Highly Likely	1,2,7,9,20,21	Life safety and property damage; long term power outages
20.	Communication Failure	Possible		Life safety and disruption of the primary safety answering point and 911 system
21.	Utility failure electric/gas	Likely	12, 14	Widespread utility disruption; water shortages; exposure to weather; security hazards; life safety



22.	Radiological/Radiological Military weapon accident	Possible	14,20,21	Chronic health effects for people in immediate long-term contamination of land and water
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## VI. Concept of Operations

The chain of command and the basic process that may be used in the activation of this Emergency Operation Plan are described in this section.

### A. Direction and Control

1. The County Commissioners, Principal Executive Officer (PEO), City Manager or Incident Commander can order the activation of the EOC. Requests for activation may be made by other elected officials and the incident commander. The County Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator and Emergency Manager may recommend activation of the EOC.
2. The PEO has policy and strategic oversight for the Emergency Operations Plan. In the case of county government, the PEO will be the Chairman of the county commission or their statutory designee. Specific duties of the PEO during emergency operations are detailed under Section IV-A.-1 Roles and Responsibilities.
3. Emergency Operations Center EOC and Emergency Operations Plan coordination is the responsibility of the Chouteau County Disaster and Emergency Service Coordinator (DES) and the City Emergency Manager. The County DES coordinator is the primary contact to coordinate with Montana State DES.
4. The EOC Manager has the ultimate and absolute control over all EOC operations. They will have direct contact with EOC General and Command Staff. A Report shall be received from Field Incident Commanders (IC) reporting Conditions, Actions, and Needs (CAN)

### B. Incident Command System

1. As per the Incident Command System (ICS), the IC operates from an incident command post (ICP). Each IC shall name command, and control all resources assigned to the incident. The IC shall provide the Incident Strategy and develop an Incident Action Plan to address the strategy.
2. Compliance with the NIMS standards is mandatory for entities who accept

federal preparedness grant funding through Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 and by State Executive order 17-04. Incident Command shall comply with the intent of NIMS guidance.

3. The IC shall conduct all operations under ICS during activation of this plan. ICS standards shall be trained to all staff who may be in command at any level of the incident.

#### C. Unified Command

1. Any incident that involves multiple jurisdictions, agencies and/or disciplines may require the establishment of Unified Command. The command and general staff may be co-located in the same command post in order to facilitate communications and decision-making.

#### D. Emergency Operations Center

1. Coordination of support functions, emergency incident communications, public warning and information and resources is accomplished in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The responsible Emergency Manager shall ensure that the EOC is always ready to be opened when ordered by the County. It is up to the EOC manager to staff the EOC according to the demands of the incident.
2. The DES coordinator is to monitor and prepare the EOC staff. The Principal Executive Officers are to ensure Staff are trained, exercised, and otherwise prepared to staff the EOC during activations.
3. In advance, Primary Executive Officers may stipulate certain government and non-government agencies that are responsible to provide a decision-making staff member to be in attendance in the EOC when it is activated. It is the responsibility of these agencies to:
  - Provide current, twenty-four-hour callout information for their personnel who will work in the EOC
  - Incur any costs associated with their agency's involvement in an EOC activation
4. It shall be the responsibility of the EOC to provide support and coordination to the Incident Commander and assigned staff at the Incident Command Post, and to receive requests, locate, acquire, document, and track all outside resources requested for work at the emergency incident. An outside resource is defined as any resource requested by an IC that is not available within the assets of an agency or jurisdiction and not available by mutual aid agreements. Any such resource *must* be requested through the appropriate Emergency Manager. Exception; Based on Montana Mutual the IC can request

resources without activation of the EOC. However, it is strongly recommended that if Montana Mutual Aid is requested the EOC be activated to assist.

5. The EOC is co-located in the basement of the County Courthouse, 1308 Franklin Street, in Fort Benton. We have various other locations that can be used if needed for larger incidents.

#### E. Communications

The Emergency Operations Center shall be responsible for coordination of emergency public information and emergency communications with the incident response personnel. This ensures efficient communications with the field, interoperability, and prevents the 911 center from being overwhelmed with telephone and radio traffic. Therefore, all incident-related communications during an emergency are conducted directly between the ICP and the EOC.

#### F. Joint Information System (JIS)

This section deals with the dissemination of Emergency Public Information in incidents where multiple agencies and/or jurisdictions are involved. Additional information is covered in Functional Annex A02 – Emergency Public Information.

Communications with the public during a disaster or emergency incident shall be coordinated through the EOC IC to ensure a “one voice” approach. All officials and personnel involved in an incident, regardless of their home jurisdiction or discipline must ensure that any public statement is coordinated, in advance, with the other members participating in a Joint Information Center (JIC).

##### 1. Role of the Media

- a. The news media is a valuable resource for providing emergency-related information and rumor control to the public. Therefore, Command staff shall assign a public information officer (PIO) to address, accommodate, and manage the Media’s access to the incident site.

##### 2. Public Information Officer

- a. If there is not PIO assigned at the incident, the IC assumes that role. If the EOC is, activated one essential command staff position is the PIO.
- b. Receives the media and manages the Joint Information Center.

- c. Coordinates flow of information to the public with the IC and EOC.
- d. Arranges interviews with command personnel
- e. In the event of a multi-agency/jurisdiction response, coordinates information flow through appropriate command personnel and all involved agencies to ensure that the message is consistent.
- f. Establishes, when appropriate, a media staging area. may be utilized as a location for the JIC.
- g. Manages disaster/Incident media releases to include the use of website information and social media.
- h. Makes their role and contact information known to the media and the Communications Unit Leader (CUL). The CUL will then ensure that dispatchers and the EOC have this information to pass on to the media as they call in for information.
- i. Have a master media contact list, located in the EOC (telephone, e-mail, fax) and use it to disseminate official news releases and other information.

**Note:** Master Media Contacts list should include secondary contact information for newsroom managers in the event no one can be contacted at the media organization

#### G. Mutual Aid

Any jurisdictions with Mutual Aid or Auto-Aid agreements with other agencies shall provide a copy of the agreement to County DES.

#### H. Major Incidents

An incident to be regarded as a “Major Incident” that may require the activation of the EOC are as follows:

- Involve more than one agency and/or political jurisdiction.
- Involve complex management and communication issues.
- Require experienced, highly qualified supervisory personnel.
- Require numerous tactical and support resources.
- Involve multiple victims with injuries, fatalities, or illnesses.
- Include widespread damage to property/environment.
- Result in psychological threat/trauma.
- Span multiple operational periods (days, weeks).
- Are costly to control and mitigate.
- Require extensive recovery efforts.
- Draw national media interest.

- Are designated an Incident of National Significance.

## I. Ordering Resources

1. When ordering resources from the State or from outside the County the IC shall be specific to be cost effective. (How big does it need to be, and what does it need to do?)
2. Incidents may be typed to make responsible decisions about resource requirements. Incidents are categorized by five types based on complexity. Type 5 incidents are the least complex and Type 1 the most complex.
3. Incident typing is also used when requesting equipment or personnel. Incident Management Teams (IMTs). An IMT is made up of the Command and General Staff members in the ICS organization. Incident Type Description;

### **Type 5**

- The incident can be handled with one or two single resources with up to six personnel.
- Command and General Staff positions (other than the Incident Commander) are not activated.
- No written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is required.
- The incident is contained within the first operational period and often within an hour to a few hours after resources arrive on scene.
- Examples include a vehicle fire, an injured person, or a police traffic stop.

### **Type 4**

- Command staff and general staff functions are activated only if needed.
- Several resources are required to mitigate the incident, including a Task Force or Strike Team.
- The incident is usually limited to one operational period in the control phase.
- The agency administrator may have briefings and ensure the complexity analysis and delegation of authority are updated.
- No written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is required but a documented operational briefing will be completed for all incoming resources.
- The role of the agency administrator includes operational plans including objectives and priorities.

### **Type 3**

- When capabilities exceed initial attack, the appropriate ICS positions

should be added to match the complexity of the incident.

- Some or all the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions.
- A Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) or incident command organization manages initial action incidents with a significant number of resources, an extended attack incident until containment/control is achieved, or an expanding incident until transition to a Type 1 or 2 IMT.
- The incident may extend into multiple operational periods.
- A written IAP may be required for each operational period.

## **Type 2**

- This type of incident extends beyond the capabilities of local control and is expected to go into multiple operational periods. A Type 2 incident may require the response of resources out of area, including regional and/or national resources, to effectively manage the operations, command, and general staffing.
- Most or all the Command and General Staff positions are filled.
- A written IAP is required for each operational period.
- Many of the functional units are needed and staffed.
- Operations personnel normally do not exceed 200 per operational period and total incident personnel do not exceed 500 (guidelines only).
- The agency administrator is responsible for the incident complexity analysis, agency administrator briefings, and the written delegation of authority.

## **Type 1**

- This type of incident is the most complex, requiring national resources to manage and operate safely and effectively.
- All Command and General Staff positions are activated.
- Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period and total personnel will usually exceed 1,000.
- Branches need to be established.
- The agency administrator will have briefings and ensure that the complexity analysis and delegation of authority are updated.
- Use of resource advisors at the incident base is recommended.
- There is a high impact on the local jurisdiction, requiring additional staff for office administrative and support functions.

## VII. Roles and Responsibilities

This section will describe certain departments and agencies common to government operations that have a role in preparedness, response and/or recovery of disaster situations.

All departments, agencies and organizations identified in this section of the Plan are responsible for developing procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines to carryout primary and support functions. EACH department and organization shall be prepared for disaster and large emergency operations as noted below:

- Identify a specific chain of command. List names and contact numbers (including afterhours contact information) and provide a copy to County Emergency Management.
- Identify personnel who will represent the agency in the EOC (including after-hours contact information).
- Identify valuable records that are essential for operations if emergency evacuation is necessary.
- Plan how to implement post disaster responsibilities
- Identify and secure emergency supplies and forms that may be needed.
- Establish redundant record systems for critical documents.
- Plan for continuation of operations to keep the County and City department's functioning during the crisis and consequence of a disaster.

### A. Local Government

#### 1. Principal Executive Officer

In incorporated cities and towns, the Mayor or City Manager or their designee performs the duties of the PEO. This official acts as the Principal Executive Officer of emergency management functions. Specific areas of responsibility during an emergency are as follows:

- a. Ensures continuity of government and government operations.
- b. Approves and commits local resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes.
- c. Issues formal declaration of an emergency or disaster.
- d. Issues official orders and emergency declarations, such as curfews and evacuation orders as needed or requested by the Emergency Manager or Incident Commander.
- e. Approves emergency financial authorizations as requested
- f. Issues formal requests to the Governor's Office through the Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (MT DES) for the declaration of State emergency for the purpose of obtaining State and/or Federal assistance.

- g. Authorizes and approves post disaster recovery operations- including acquisition of temporary facilities.
- h. Is prepared to be the primary media spokesperson to the news media or designate as necessary.
- i. Provides a written delegation of authority for the IC and EOC manager

## **2. Emergency Management**

- a. Emergency Managers are appointed by the respective Principal Executive Officer.
- b. Responsible for coordination of emergency operations.
- c. Activates ICS staff positions, as necessary, to staff the EOC.
- d. Act as intergovernmental liaison and initiate formal requests for outside assistance from other jurisdictions.
- e. Establishes work schedules of EOC personnel.
- f. Establishes post disaster recovery timelines as necessary
- g. Ensures implementation of Incident Command System (ICS).
- h. Ensures any incident management is compliant with regulations of NIMS.
- i. Manages and coordinates EOC operations when activated.
- j. Prepares disaster declarations for the PEO, as appropriate.
- k. Ensures Functional Annex A02 – Emergency Public Information is coordinated through a Joint Information System, as appropriate.
- l. Responsible for compliance with, and distribution and routine maintenance of, the Plan, including updates.

## **3. Incident Commander - Field**

- a. Assign Command and General Staff to meet short- and long-term needs.
- b. Order resources based on incident to protect lives, stabilize the incident and protect property.
- c. Ensure the ICS system shall be used.
- d. Develop, manage, and execute an Incident Action Plan (IAP). Identify and maintain key operational locations depending on the situation (i.e., Incident Command Post, staging areas, triage/treatment areas, temporary morgue).
- e. Develop and implement a communication plan that would include a direct line of communication with the EOC when or if it is activated.
- f. Establish Unified Command, as needed.
- g. Assign a PIO and develop clear emergency messages for shelter in place, evacuation, and isolation of area that are dangerous to the community.



#### **4. Law Enforcement**

- a. Provide warning services to designated areas.
- b. Normal law enforcement functions.
- c. Control access to disaster areas.
- d. Manage execution of traffic plans.
- e. Support evacuations as needed.
- f. Provides protection for key public officials and facilities as needed.
- g. Responsible for the oversight of body collection. (Chouteau County Coroner's Office.)
- h. Provide personnel to support the functions of the Chouteau County Coroner.
- i. Establish detention areas if large numbers of arrests occur.
- j. Plan personnel assignments to include long term disaster site security.
- k. Conduct initial damage assessments as possible.
- l. Provide EOC security, when activated.
- m. Establish Command for law enforcement functions supporting—and under coordination with—the Incident Commander.
- n. Provide command level representatives to the EOC and Unified Incident Command Post, when activated.

#### **5. Fire Service**

- a. Handles regular functions of the department in fire suppression and rescue.
- b. Design and enforce evacuation zones based on the incident.
- c. Request assistance from other fire services and agencies to protect life environment and property.
- d. Conduct rescue operation for trapped and injured. If a mass casualty, initiates triage system.
- e. Identify and contain hazardous materials.
- f. Request the HazMat Team and isolate the incident, set the Hot Zone, Warm Zone for decontamination, and Cold Zone.
- g. Provide command level representatives to the EOC.
- h. Work with community business and industrial leaders and companies to develop consistent emergency plans for their organizations.
- i. Conduct community/county fire risk assessment and develop preplans that address the risk through training and joint procedures and plans.
- j. Oversees and coordinates the activities of the fire and activities of the fire and rescue departments to assess their needs; Help them obtain resources and ensures that necessary services are provided.

## **6. 911 CENTER**

- a. Maintains full-time Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) that fields 911 calls for service from the public.
- b. Maintains communications systems necessary to conduct dispatch operations for public safety agencies.
- c. Conducts notifications to emergency management personnel.
- d. Maintains staff of trained telecommunications personnel.
- e. Maintains Public Warning assets.
- f. Initiates Public Warning procedures upon request from proper authority.
- g. Relays Public Warning information from National Weather Service.
- h. Supports EOC operations, as requested.

## **7. County Health Department**

- a. Reports to the EOC or other designated location as deemed appropriate; sends a representative to the EOC if unable to report in person.
- b. Assesses community health and medical needs through surveillance efforts.
- c. Oversees and coordinates the activated public health organizations to assess their needs, helps them obtain resources, and ensures that necessary services are provided.
- d. Coordinates with neighboring community health and medical organizations and with State and Federal officials on matters related to assistance from other jurisdictions, including Federal assistance.
- e. Coordinates the location, procurement, screening, and allocation of health and medical supplies and resources, including human resources, required to support health and medical operations.
- f. Oversees the receipt and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) if necessary.
- g. Provides information through the Public Information Officer to the news media on health-related issues. Participates in the JIC if appropriate.
- h. Ensures appropriate health and medical services information is made available to the EOC.
- i. Provides support with coordinating the jurisdiction's efforts to respond to inquiries from family members concerned about loved ones.
- j. Helps ensure the health of shelter residents through inspections and prevention of the spread of communicable disease.

## **8. Emergency Medical Service**

- a. Responsible for basic and advanced lifesaving measures; including, but not limited to, triage, pre-hospital treatment and transportation.
- b. Assist, as needed, in the establishment and operation of triage areas that involve on-site treatment, prioritization of transport and coordination with receiving facilities
- c. Provide command level representatives to the EOC
- d. Plan and exercise disaster plans for triage treatment and transport during mass casualty incidents, epidemics, and other medical disasters

## **9. Public Works**

- a. Responsible to open blocked emergency routes to enable first responders to reach disaster areas.
- b. Remove debris and stabilize public structures to gain access to victims in support of fire and rescue activities.
- c. Provide personnel, equipment and supplies for flood control and mitigation procedures.
- d. Provide vehicles and personnel to evacuate critical records and equipment and relocate them.
- e. Provide emergency repair for all City owned vehicles at the shops or in the field whenever possible.
- f. Maintain records of the condition and maintenance standards for all city owned equipment.
- g. Where required, reroute water systems for emergency supply.
- h. Initiate and monitor emergency water termination activities.
- i. Identify and provide coordination with the affected water and sewer districts.
- j. Initiate and coordinate the repair and maintenance of the sewage treatment plant.
- k. In conjunction with the City/County Health Department, take action required to mitigate public health hazards as a result of malfunctions and breakages in the water/and or sewer system.
- l. Provide supervisory level representatives to the EOC when activated.

## **10. County Attorney**

- a. Provide legal counsel and assistance to their jurisdictional government officials, before, during and after disaster emergency incidents with the jurisdiction.
- b. Prepare legal documents (disaster declarations, curfews, evacuation areas, etc.) as needed.
- c. Research the types, form of emergency ordinances, and maintain a

resource file.

- d. Develop boilerplate "right of entry" agreements.
- e. Develop boilerplate "hold harmless" agreements.
- f. Provide counsel in the interest of the jurisdiction to EOC officials, as needed.

**11. Human Resources**

- a. Upon request, provide advice to the PEO on situations involving staffing levels.
- b. Upon request, initiate requests via the PIO for volunteer assistance.
- c. Work with the proper legal authority to provide forms to streamline, advertising, recruiting, hiring, and insurance for all approved volunteers.
- d. Work with the proper authority to arrange interviews assist with selection of volunteers.
- e. Provide appropriate identification for Volunteers (pin, badge, etc.) as necessary.

**12. County Clerk**

- a. Assure the security of all official records in the custody of the Clerk's Office.

**13. Finance-Budget Officer**

- a. Maintain a list of vendors doing business with the jurisdictions.
- b. Subject to official authorization, provide timely financial assistance for the emergency acquisition of services, supplies, equipment and/or work force.
- c. In conjunction with Emergency Management, maintain detailed records of all disaster related expenditures.

**14. Engineering/Building Inspector/Community Development/Public Works**

- a. Maintain status on all construction, damage assessments and engineering activities.
- b. Subject to individual credentials and licensure, provide technical assistance to all other departments.
- c. Maintain a file on all damaged assessments.
- d. With the appropriately credentialed experts, determine the extent of the damage to the jurisdiction.
- e. Provide for the development and coordination of damage assessment system to meet post disaster needs.
- f. Prepare damage assessments reports as necessary.
- g. Provide for current and master situational maps and charts to the EOC.

- h. Coordinate the structural safety of public improvements in a disaster area.
- i. Provide for the identification, marking and security of buildings and public improvements that constitute safety hazards.
- j. Collect and record all damage assessment information.

**15. Parks and Recreation**

- a. Provide a source of equipment and work force as coordinated by Human Resource for all city agencies.
- b. Assist as required in any evacuation effort.
- c. Provide the EOC with damage assessment.
- d. Coordinate the emergency repair to public buildings and other facilities required to support emergency life support.
- e. Assist the Public Works Department in identifying and marking those buildings in the disaster zone that constitute a safety hazard.
- f. Assist the Public Works Department in demolishing unsafe structures.

**B. State Government**

- 1. The role of state government during local disasters is as outlined in the Montana Emergency Response Framework (MERF).

**C. Federal Government**

- 1. The role of federal agencies in local disasters is as outlined in the National Response Framework (NRF).

**D. Support Agencies**

**1. Hospitals**

- a. Plan and exercise Mass Casualty Incidents.
- b. Provide emergency medical and surgical care.
- c. Maintain planning for emergency operations.
- d. Maintain decontamination plan, materials, and systems to provide initial decontamination to the public entering the hospital.

**2. County Schools**

- a. May provide facilities for public sheltering

**E. Volunteer Organizations**

- 1. MT Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

- a. Provides response for sheltering the public, including bedding, food and temporary housing.
- b. Provides damage assessment, relief, and recovery efforts to affected individuals and families.
  - (1) Coordinates activities of other relief organizations.
  - (2) Provide on-scene support to emergency responders.

2. American Red Cross

When an emergency strikes, the Red Cross will deliver help to whomever needs it. As part of its humanitarian mission, the American Red Cross will feed, shelter, provide emotional support and other assistance without regard to race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

2. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Members are available for dispatch to any disaster situation to support emergency services personnel. They can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also support emergency response agencies by taking an active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

2. North Central Montana Amateur Radio Emergency Services

4. Salvation Army

## VIII. Direction and Control

See appendix B

## IX. Ongoing Plan Review and Maintenance

This Plan is a working document that requires updates and reviews to ensure emergency planning is timely and realistic. The Emergency Manager is responsible for

the maintenance and review of this EOP. The Emergency Manager will also oversee the distribution of this document.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee, Incident commanders and representatives of each emergency service will ensure the Appendices of this Emergency Operation Plan is reviewed and updated. Agencies and individuals with Plan responsibilities are expected to immediately notify their Emergency Manager in the event they are no longer able to perform their function(s).

## **X. Document Control**

This EOP will be made available electronically and backed up on a device. The electronic location for Chouteau County's EOP is: *on the Chouteau County DES website.*

See local emergency manager to be added to the distribution list for this Emergency Operations Plan.

## **XI. Using the Annexes and Appendices**

- A. This EOP includes two additional sections. The first is the Functional Annexes that provide general strategies for managing various emergency management functions. The second is the Hazards Appendices that identifies certain realistic emergency scenarios well beyond the routine. Pertinent sections of the Functional Annex can then be applied in response to any particular hazard.
- B. Both sections identify a primary agency likely to assume Incident Command for the task or the scenario. Also shown are secondary, or support agencies likely to be utilized.
- C. The Assumptions section outlines facts, or that which can be assumed as fact for planning.
- D. The sections also contain a plan for a certain task (Functional) or general concept of operations (Hazards). Information contained in these sections should help participating agencies and departments in designing their own SOG's.
- E. Each Hazard Appendices references Functional Annexes that might be applied to a scenario.

Agency	Functional Annex																		
	Animal Care (ESF-11)	Communications (ESF-2)	COOP/COG (ESF-5)	Evacuation (ESF 6 & 13)	Health & Medical (ESF-8)	Mass Care (ESF 6)	Mass Casualty/Mass Fatality (ESF 8)	Mitigation (ESF 14)	Public Information (ESF-2)	Public Warning (ESF-2)	Recovery (ESF 14)	Resource Management (ESF 7)	Restricted A airspace (ESF-13)	Search & Rescue (ESF-9)	Special Needs (ESF-6)	Terrorism (ESF 13)	Traffic Diversion (ESF #113)	Transportation (ESF 1)	Volunteer Response
City/County 911 Dispatch		P	S	S					S	S	S	S		S					
American Red Cross	S		S	S	S				S				S					S	
ARES/RACES		S	S	S	S							S					S		
Benefis Health Systems			S		S	S													
Contracted Bus Services				S	S								S			S			
Cascade County Public Schools			S	S	S							S				S			
Cascade Co. Search & Rescue		S	S	S			S	S		S		P		S	S				
City/County Health Department			S	S	P	S	S	S	S	S	S			P	S			S	
Emergency Management	P	S	S	S	P		P	S	P	S	P	P	S	P	S	S	P	P	
Emergency Medical Services			S	S	S	S	P	S	S	S	S		S	S	S		S	S	
Fire		S	S	S	S	S	P	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S		S	
Law Enforcement	P	S	S	P		S	P	S	S	S	S		S	S	P	P		S	
Great Falls Public Schools			S	S	S														
Great Falls Transit Authority			S	S	S								S			S			
Local Animal Control Agency	S				S												S		
Montana DES		S	S	S			S	S		S	S			S					
Montana DOT		S	S	S			S			S				S					
Montana VOAD			S		S					S				S			S		
National Weather Service									S			S							
Public Works		S	S	S	S		S	S		S	S					S			
The Salvation Army				S	S				S									S	
Veterinarians	S																		
Principal Executive Officer			P	P			S	S											
Coroner						S													
CERT				S	S					S								S	

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Chouteau County Emergency Operations Plan

### Acronyms used in Emergency Management

AFRCC      Air Force Rescue Coordination Center



ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
ARMS	Administrative Rules of Montana
ARRS	Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATIS	Automatic Terminal Information Service
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
CCEOC	Chouteau County Emergency Operations Center
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CEO	Chief Elected Official
CISM	Critical Incident Stress Management
COG	Continuity of Government
COOP	Continuity of Operations
CST	Civil Support Team
DES	Disaster and Emergency Services
DFO	District Field Officer
DHS/EM	Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
DMA2K	Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
DRC	Disaster Recovery Center
DWI	Disaster Welfare Inquiry
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EBS	Emergency Broadcast System
ELT	Emergency Locator Transmitter
EMD	Emergency Management Director
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
EPI	Emergency Public Information
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communication Commission
FCO	Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FLIR	Forward Looking Infrared Radar
HSPD	Homeland Security Presidential Directive
IAP	Incident Action Plan

IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
JIC	Joint Information Center
JIS	Joint Information System
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
MCA	Montana Code Annotated
MERF	Montana Emergency Response Framework
MHP	Montana Highway Patrol
MOU	Memorandums of Understanding
MTDES	Montana Disaster and Emergency Services
MTDHSEM	Montana Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
MTDNR	Montana Department of Natural Resources
MTVOAD	Montana Volunteers Active in Disasters
MTDOT	Montana Department of Transportation
NAWAS	National Warning System
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOTAM	Notice to Airmen
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRF	National Response Framework
NRP	National Response Plan
NWS	National Weather Service
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
OES	Office of Emergency Services
PEL	Permissible Exposure Level
PEO	Principal Executive Officer
PIO	Public Information Officer
PPM	Parts per million
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
SAR	Search and Rescue
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SCO	State Coordinating Officer
SNS	Strategic National Stockpile

SOG	Standard Operating Guidelines
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TFR	Temporary Flight Restrictions
TTY/TDD	Text Telephone display for hearing / speak impaired.
UC	Unified Command
VIPS	Volunteers in Police Service
VOAD	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
WARN	Wide Area Rapid Notification

# ATTACHMENT 2

## Chouteau County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

### DEFINITIONS

**CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS:** ensures an individual organization can continue to perform its essential functions, provide essential services, and deliver core capabilities during a disruption to routine operations. Applies to all organizations within the whole community.

**CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT:** is a coordinated effort within local government to make sure governance and essential functions continue to be performed before, during, and after an emergency.

**COMMAND STAFF:** is assigned to carry out staff functions needed to support the Incident Commander. These functions include interagency liaison, incident safety, and public information.

**CREDENTIALING:** documentation that identifies personnel and their qualifications.

**DISASTER:** means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or artificial cause, including tornadoes, windstorms, snowstorms, wind-driven water, high water, floods, wave action, earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, volcanic action, fires, explosions, air or water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, blight, droughts, infestations, riots, sabotage, hostile military or paramilitary action, disruption of state services, accidents involving radiation byproducts or other hazardous materials, outbreak of disease, bioterrorism, or incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.  
MCA 10-3-103

**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:** means the preparation for and the carrying out of disaster and emergency functions and responsibilities, other than those for which military forces or other state or federal agencies are primarily responsible, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from injury and damage resulting from emergencies or disasters. MCA 10-3-103

**DURATION OF RESPONSE:** is a period of time beginning when an emergency responder is requested by the appropriate authority to respond to an incident and ending when the responder is released from the incident by the incident commander and returned to the emergency responder's place of residence by the most direct route and includes the time required to replace and return all materials used for the incident to

the same or similar state of readiness as before the response. MCA 10-3-1203  
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT: is a preliminary onsite evaluation of damage or loss caused by an accident or natural event. Damage assessments record the extent of damage, what can be replaced, restored, or salvaged. It may also estimate the time required for repair, replacement, and recovery.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY: is a formal statement from the principal elected officials assigning responsibilities and authority to the IC.

EMERGENCY: means the imminent threat of a disaster causing immediate peril to life or property that timely action can avert or minimize. MCA 10-3-103

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER: A place that consists of the members of the legislative/executive body and/or administrative staff of the jurisdiction in which the incident occurs. Primary responsibilities are resource coordination, mutual aid requests, finances, emergency declarations, public information, and general policy direction.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP): A Plan that provides general guidelines for planning, managing, and coordinating the overall response and recovery activities of local government before, during and after major emergencies and disasters.

EVACUATION: A protective action -- moving people from a place of danger to a place of relative safety. A temporary mass movement of people that collectively emerges in coping with community threats, damages, or disruptions.

FUNCTION: An area of activity in emergency operations, e.g., firefighting, emergency public information, evacuation. It may combine several, or many, specific tasks, or activities.

FUNCTIONAL ANNEXES: A plan element that is devoted to one component part of emergency operations and describes the jurisdiction's approach to functioning in that area of activity in response to emergencies caused by any hazard that might affect the community.

GENERAL STAFF: represents and is responsible for the functional aspects of the Incident Command structure. The General Staff typically consists of the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections.

HAZARD APPENDICES: A plan element attached to a functional Annex to provide information on special approaches or requirements generated by unique characteristics of specified hazards identified as being of particular concern to the jurisdiction.

**HAZARD IDENTIFICATION:** defines the magnitude and probability of a hazard that may pose threats to human interests in specific geographic areas.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL:** Any substance or material in a quantity or form which may be harmful or injurious to humans, domestic animals, wildlife, economic crops, or property when released into the environment. Materials are commonly classified as chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive.

**INCIDENT:** means an event or occurrence, caused by either an individual or by natural phenomena, requiring action by disaster and emergency services personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property or natural resources. The term includes the imminent threat of an emergency. MCA 10-3-103

**INCIDENT COMMANDER:** The public person in charge of the incident/accident scene; normally the municipal, district, or area fire chief or his designee.

**INCIDENT COMMAND:** The ICS organizational element responsible for overall management of an event/incident consisting of the Incident Commander/Unified Command and any command staff.

**INCIDENT ACTION PLAN:** An oral or written plan containing the objectives established by Command that address tactics and support activities for the operational period.

**INCIDENT COMMAND POST:** The field location where the primary functions of incident command are performed. It may be collocated with other incident facilities.

**INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM:** A standardized approach with a common organizational structure to help in the management of on-scene resources during incidents.

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER:** A facility in which personnel coordinate incident related public information activities.

**JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEMS:** A structure that integrates overarching incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, accurate, accessible, timely, and complete information during events/incident operations.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND TERMINATION:** (1) A local emergency proclamation or disaster declaration may be issued only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. (2) An emergency proclamation may be issued by order or resolution whenever the principal executive officer determines there is an

emergency. (3) An emergency proclamation may terminate with a disaster declaration or when the principal executive officer determines that the emergency no longer exists. MCA 10-3-402

LOCAL DISASTER DECLARATION AND TERMINATION: (1) A disaster declaration may be issued by order or resolution whenever the principal executive officer determines a disaster is occurring or has occurred. (2) A disaster declaration may be terminated when the principal executive officer determines that the disaster conditions no longer exist. MCA 10-3-403

MUTUAL AID: A written or oral agreement between and among agencies/organizations and/or jurisdictions that provides a mechanism to quickly obtain assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services.

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS): Provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

OPERATIONAL PERIOD: The time scheduled for executing a given set of operational actions, as specified in the IAP.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION: Means any county, city, town, or other legally constituted unit of local government in this state. MCA 10-3-103

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: A member of the ICS Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media and/or with other agencies with incident-related information needs.

PSAP/COMMUNICATIONS CENTER: The City/County Dispatch and 9-1-1 Center. Fields 911 calls for service from the public and maintains communications systems necessary to conduct dispatch operations for public safety agencies.

PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER: means the mayor, presiding officer of the county commissioners, or other chief executive officer of a political subdivision. MCA 10-3-103

RELEASE: Means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment of any hazardous chemical, extremely hazardous substance, or CERCLA hazardous substance.

**RISK:** is probability of suffering harm from a hazard.

**RISK ANALYSIS:** estimates the probable degree of injury & damage that may result from the exposure of people & property to a hazard in each area over a specified time interval.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** Provide a single point of contact to identify, procure and allocate resources.

**SHELTER-IN-PLACE:** People shelter-in-place or at their present location. Also “button-up” is a term used whereby people are not evacuated but stay in their own homes or businesses.

**TERRORISM:** The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property for the purposes of intimidating or coercing a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in the furtherance of political or social objectives. Domestic terrorism involves groups or individuals whose terrorist activities are directed at elements of our government or population without foreign direction. International terrorism involves groups or individuals whose terrorist activities are foreign-based and/or directed by countries or groups outside the US or whose activities transcend national boundaries.

**TRIBAL GOVERNMENT:** means the government of a federally recognized Indian tribe within the state of Montana. MCA 10-3-103

**UNIFIED COMMAND:** An ICS application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions.

**VULNERABILITY:** Is the susceptibility of human settlements and the environment to the harmful impacts of hazards.

**VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT:** Characterizes the populations and property exposed to hazards in specific areas and estimates the impact that will result from the hazard at various intensities.