



Dare County Code - Chapter 92 Emergency Management

Description

Chapter 92 is submitted in full to readopt with the following amendments:

1. Sec 92.05(B) reformatted and adding 1(e) the authority provided in NCGS 166A-19.31 concerning road and bridge closures and (B)(6) to add all authorities given in NCGS 166A.
2. Sec 92.05(C) modified language allowing mayor consent and to provide notice to NCDOT, WebEOC and post on website.
3. Sec 92.08(D) made plan effective upon approval.
4. Sec 92.08(F) to provide for coordination between local governments and other entities.

Board Action Requested

Adoption of Chapter 92 in full as amended

Adopted.

Item Presenter

Drew Pearson

*7/20/2020
Cheryl C. Anky, Clerk to the Board*

CHAPTER 92: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SECTION

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§ 92.01 SHORT TITLE.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited and referred to as the "Dare County Emergency Management Chapter."

§ 92.02 INTENT AND PURPOSE.

(A) It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to set forth the authority and responsibility of the county, its officers, departments, and employees in the prevention of, preparation and planning for, response to and recovery from natural or man-made emergencies including natural or man-made accidental, military, paramilitary, weather-related, or riot-related causes. It is further the intent and purpose of this chapter to establish an office that will insure the complete and efficient utilization of all of the county's resources to prepare and plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against emergencies.

(B) This chapter shall not relieve any municipal or county department of the legal responsibilities or authority given to it in the Municipal or County Charter or by local ordinances, nor will it adversely affect the work of any volunteer agency organized for relief in emergencies.

(C) This chapter is adopted pursuant to G.S. § 166A-19.31. To the extent not specifically enumerated herein, all authorities and powers conferred on the county pursuant to G.S. Ch. 166A, and all similar provisions of state and federal law, are incorporated herein by reference.

§ 92.03 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

CHAIRMAN. The Chairman of the Dare County Board of Commissioners, the Chairman's designee, or, in the case of the absence or disability of the Chairman and the Chairman's designee, the person authorized to act in the Chairman's stead.

EMERGENCY. An occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made accidental, military, or paramilitary cause, weather-related, or riot-related cause.

EMERGENCY AREA. The geographical area covered by a state of emergency.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. Those measures taken by the public and governmental units operating within the county to minimize the adverse effect of any type of emergency, including the never-ending preparedness cycle of planning, prevention, mitigation, warning, movement, shelter, emergency assistance, response, and recovery. This term shall not, however, include any activity, maneuvers, operations, or exercises that are the primary responsibility of the military forces of the United States.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. All employees of the county and municipal governments within the county, their departments, boards, institutions, and councils, agents, representatives, contractors and subcontractors who are participating in emergency management activities. Where possible, duties assigned to municipal or county departments shall be the same as or similar to the normal duties of the department.

STATE OF EMERGENCY. The condition that exists whenever, during times of public crisis, disaster, rioting, catastrophe, or similar public emergency, public safety authorities are unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property, and which constitutes a significant threat to public health, safety and welfare whether actual or imminent as authorized pursuant to G.S. § 166A-19.3(19).

VOLUNTEERS. All volunteer personnel and agencies offering emergency management service to, and accepted by municipalities and the county.

§ 92.04 POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNTY.

(A) Pursuant to G.S § 166A-19.15, the county is responsible for emergency management within the geographical limits of the county. All emergency management efforts within the county, including activities of the municipalities within the county, shall be coordinated by the county.

(B) The county is authorized to take the following actions in furtherance of coordinating emergency management efforts:

(1) Establish and maintain an emergency management agency.

(2) Appoint a Director of the County Emergency Management Agency who will have the direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of the county's Emergency Management Program.

(3) Appropriate and expend funds, execute contracts, enter into mutual aid agreements with other units of federal, state, and local government and other non-profit organizations and agencies, obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes, and provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance.

(4) Develop, coordinate, and implement an emergency management plan consistent with policies and standards established by the state.

(5) Assign and make available resources for emergency management purposes for service within or outside of the geographical limits of the county.

(6) Delegate powers in a declared state of emergency to an appropriate official.

(7) Coordinate with municipalities within the county and other units of local, state, and federal government, and other non-profit, emergency management, and affected organizations in the development and implementation of an emergency management plan and response to disasters.

§ 92.05 DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY.

(A) Pursuant to G.S. § 166A-19.22, a state of emergency shall be declared when it is determined that circumstances and conditions exist which create a real or imminent threat of a public crisis, disaster, rioting, catastrophe, or similar public emergency within the county in response to which public safety authorities are unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives and property and which pose significant threats to public health and safety.

(B) The Dare County Board of Commissioners hereby delegates to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, or the Chairman's designee, who shall also be a member of the Board of Commissioners, the authority to determine and declare the existence of a state of emergency within the county, to order the evacuation of some or all portions of the county, to authorize the reentry of persons into the county following evacuation, and to impose, during that state of emergency, prohibitions and restrictions deemed necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare and minimize damage to property: The type of prohibitions and restrictions authorized during a state of emergency include prohibition and restriction:

(1) Of movements of people in public places, including any of the following:

(a) Imposing a curfew.

(b) Directing and compelling the voluntary or mandatory evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the governing body's jurisdiction.

(c) Prescribing routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation.

(d) Controlling ingress and egress of an emergency area, and the movement of persons within that area.

(e) Providing for the closure, within the emergency area of streets,

roads, highways, bridges, public vehicular areas, or other areas ordinarily used for vehicular travel, except to the movement of emergency responders and other persons necessary for recovery from the emergency. As authorized by G.S. 166A-19.31(b) (1) e. the Dare County Sheriff may exercise the authority granted by this subdivision during a declared state of emergency.

(2) Of the operation of offices, business establishments, and other places to or from which people may travel or at which they may congregate;

(3) Upon the possession, transportation, sale, purchase, and consumption of alcoholic beverages;

(4) With the exception of lawfully possessed firearms (defined pursuant to G.S. § 166A-19.31(b)(4) as handguns, rifles, or shotguns), upon possession, storage, and use of dangerous weapons and substances, and combustible fuels;

(5) Upon other activities or conditions the control of which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during the state of emergency.

(6) Any and all prohibitions and restrictions authorized by G.S. § 166A-19.31.

(C) A state of emergency declared pursuant to this chapter, and all prohibitions and restrictions imposed as a result of the declaration, shall be established by written declaration duly executed by the Chairman or the Chairman's designee, and shall remain in effect until such time as the declaration is amended or rescinded in the same manner. The declaration shall include a listing of all restrictions and prohibitions imposed and, where applicable, the date and time on which such restrictions and prohibitions become effective. When a town's mayor consents to or requests the county state of emergency include his or her town as authorized by G.S 166A-19.22. (b) (2) & (3), it shall be stated in the county's declaration. Notice of the declaration will be provided to a North Carolina Department of Transportation representative as soon as practical when the closure of any streets, roads, highways, bridges, public vehicular areas, or other areas ordinarily used for vehicular travel is ordered. The signed declaration shall be posted conspicuously on the County website and will be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety WebEOC critical incident management system as required by G. S. 166A-19.31(d).

(D) At such time as a state of emergency is declared, the Dare County Emergency Management Plan, all standard operating procedures adopted pursuant to the Plan, and all applicable mutual aid agreements and other similar agreements and compacts shall be activated.

(E) Any declaration of a state of emergency, and all restrictions and prohibitions imposed as a result of the declaration, shall apply in all unincorporated areas of the county unless otherwise specified in the declaration.

**§ 92.06 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED;
APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.**

(A) The Dare County Emergency Management Department is hereby established, and shall serve as the coordinating agency for all activity in connection with emergency management within the county. The Department shall be the agency through which the Dare County Board of Commissioners exercises the authority and discharges the responsibilities vested in it during emergencies. The Department shall also be the coordinating agency for all activity connected with emergency management, including activities within municipalities.

(B) The Dare County Board of Commissioners shall appoint a Director of the Dare County Emergency Management Department who shall be a person well-versed and trained in planning operations involving the activities of many different agencies which will operate to protect the public health, safety and welfare in the event of an emergency.

(C) The Director shall designate and appoint Deputy Directors to assume the duties of the Director during an emergency in the event of his or her absence or inability to fulfill these duties.

§ 92.07 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

The Director shall be responsible to the Dare County Board of Commissioners with regard to all phases of emergency management activity. The Director shall be responsible for the planning, coordination and operation of all emergency management activities in the county. The Director shall maintain liaison with state and federal authorities and the authorities of nearby political subdivisions to maximize effective operation of emergency management plans. The Director's duties shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Coordinating the recruitment of volunteer personnel and agencies to augment the personnel and facilities of the county for emergency management purposes.

(B) Developing, coordinating and implementing a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the county, including plans for the immediate use of all facilities, equipment, manpower and other resources of the county for the purpose of minimizing or preventing damage to persons and property, and protecting and restoring to operational status those governmental services and public utilities necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare.

(C) Negotiating and concluding agreements with owners or persons in control of buildings or other property for the use of such buildings or other property for emergency management purposes, and identifying suitable buildings as public shelters.

(D) Through public informational programs, educating the public as to actions necessary and required for the protection of their persons and property in case of an emergency.

(E) Conducting proactive public alerts to ensure the efficient operation of

emergency management personnel and procedures, and to familiarize residents and businesses with emergency management regulations, procedures and operations.

(F) Coordinating the activities of all other public and private agencies engaged in emergency management operations, including planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing, and activation of emergency management plans and programs.

(G) Developing and maintaining a system of damage assessment to determine the level of post-emergency damage to public and private property.

(H) Entering into mutual aid agreements with other units of federal, state, and local government, and other organizations as may be necessary, for the mutual sharing and coordination of resources needed to respond to and recover from a disaster.

(I) Coordinating the development of Standard Operating Procedures to provide for the implementation of the Emergency Management Plan.

§ 92.08 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(A) The Emergency Management Director shall develop a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which shall be adopted and maintained by resolution of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. The Emergency Management Plan shall identify all possible threats of an emergency to the county, and proscribe procedures to respond to and mitigate the consequences of disasters. It is intended that the Emergency Management Plan be consistent with all applicable state and federal emergency management and incident response guidelines. It is further intended that the services, equipment, facilities, and personnel of all departments and agencies of county and municipal government be utilized to the fullest extent in the Plan. When approved, it shall be the duty of the Emergency Management Director to coordinate and maintain the Plan, and of all departments and agencies to perform the functions assigned under the Plan, and maintain their areas of responsibility in a current state of readiness at all times. All provisions of the Plan shall have the effect of law whenever a state of emergency has been declared.

(B) The Director shall prescribe in the Plan those positions within the emergency management organization, in addition to his or her own, for which lines of succession are necessary. In each instance, the responsible person will designate and keep on file with the Director a current list of 3 persons as successors to his or her position. The list will be in order of succession and will nearly as possible designate persons best capable of carrying out of all assigned duties and functions.

(C) Each service chief and department head assigned responsibility in the Plan shall be responsible for carrying out all duties and functions assigned therein. Duties will include the organization and training of assigned employees and, where needed, volunteers. Each chief shall formulate a Standard Operating Procedure to implement the specific plans for carrying out his or her assigned area of responsibility.

(D) Amendments to the Plan shall be submitted to the Director. If approved, the Director will then submit the amendments to the Dare County Board of Commissioners with his or her recommendation for their approval.

(E) When personnel requiring specialized competency or skill for an emergency function are not available within government, the Director is authorized to seek assistance from persons outside of government. The assignment of duties, when of a supervisory nature, shall also include the granting of authority for the persons so assigned to carry out such duties prior to, during, and after the occurrence of an emergency. Such services from persons outside of government may be accepted by local government on a volunteer basis. Such citizens shall be enrolled as Emergency Management volunteers.

(F) The Plan shall provide for the coordination between the County and the municipalities within the county, the National Park Service, the Dare County Sheriff, and others as may be needed, to make timely and coordinated decisions regarding the implementation of the Plan in response to actual or imminent emergencies.

§ 92.09 NO GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE LIABILITY.

(A) This chapter is adopted by the County of Dare as an exercise of its police powers for the protection of the public peace, health, and safety as authorized by state and federal law, and all functions hereunder and all other activities relating to emergency management are hereby declared to be governmental functions. Neither the county, nor its agents, representatives, or any volunteer, emergency management personnel, individual, receiver, firm, partnership, corporation, association, or trustee, or any of the agents therefore acting in good faith and without gross negligence or willful misconduct while carrying out, complying with or attempting to comply with any order, rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or any applicable provision of state and federal law, shall be liable for any injury or damage sustained to persons or property as the result of said activity.

(B) Any person, firm, or corporation, together with any successors in interest, if any, owning or legally controlling real or personal property who voluntarily or involuntarily, knowingly or unknowingly, with or without compensation grants a license, privilege, or otherwise permits or allows the county and its agents, representatives, contractors, and subcontractors the right to inspect, designate and use the whole or any part or parts of such real or personal property for the purpose, activities, or functions relating to emergency management as provided for in this chapter or within the North Carolina General Statutes shall not be civilly liable for the death of, or injury to, any persons, or the loss of or damage to the property of any persons where such death, injury, loss or damage resulted from, through or because of the use of the said real or personal property for any of the above purposes provided that the use of said property is subject to the order or control or pursuant to a request of Dare County, the State of North Carolina, or any political subdivision thereof.

§ 92.10 CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS SUSPENDED.

At all times when the orders, rules, and regulations made and promulgated pursuant to this chapter shall be in effect, they shall supersede all existing ordinances, orders, rules and regulations insofar as the latter may be inconsistent therewith.

§ 92.11 APPLICABILITY EXTENSIONS.

The municipalities within Dare County may ratify this chapter and adopt it as their own, including all forms and conditions specified herein.

§ 92.12 EFFECTIVE DATE.

This chapter shall be effective on the date adopted by the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

§ 92.99 PENALTY.

Unless otherwise provided for by law, it shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter, or any proclamations, provisions or any Emergency Management Plans, or provisions or any Standard Operating Procedures adopted or issued pursuant to the authority contained herein, or to willfully obstruct, hinder, or delay any member of the Emergency Management organization in the enforcement or the provisions of this chapter or any proclamations, provisions or any Emergency Management Plans, or provisions of any Standard Operating Procedures adopted or issued thereunder.