



<h1>EXECUTIVE REGULATION</h1> <p>Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission</p>	No.: 41-97
	Effective Date: March 31, 1998
TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN	
Page 1 Of 23	

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission Regulation  
Annex O- Emergency Operations Plan

**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN**

Issued by: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission  
Regulation No. 41-97  
Authority: Code Section 21-4F  
Supersedes: Disaster Plan, FRC 56-89  
Council Review: Method (2) under Code Section 2A-15  
Register Vol. 14 , No. 10

Effective Date: March 31, 1998

**SUMMARY:** The proposed regulation amends the current operational plan directing the activities of fire and rescue personnel during periods of public emergency caused by natural disasters or manmade incidents.

**DEADLINES:** Montgomery County Register Comment: October 31, 1997  
Montgomery County Fire Board Comment: October 31, 1997  
Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services Comment: October 31, 1997  
Fire and Rescue Corporations Comment: October 31, 1997

**ADDRESS:** Send all comments pertaining to the proposed regulation to George Giebel, Chairman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.

**STAFF:** For additional information, you may contact Beth Feldman, Administrative Specialist, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, on 217-2461.

**BACKGROUND:** A Disaster Operations Plan is an operational guideline used for training and planning, to enhance and coordinate the organizational readiness of the fire and rescue service to meet any public emergency. Its implementation increases command capability, coordination, and support services; organizes the participation of fire/rescue officers to resolve the problems likely to be encountered; and provides a framework within



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 2 Of 23

which effective coordination of resources can be achieved during a multi-agency response.

## Purpose:

- 1.0 To coordinate the efforts of the County and the fire and rescue services to mitigate disasters and to meet the County's needs for fire, rescue, and emergency medical service during a public emergency.

## Applicability

- 2.0 This regulation applies to all Montgomery County fire, rescue, and emergency medical service personnel.

## Policy

- 3.0 The Fire and Rescue Commission supports the safety and welfare of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel, County employees, and County citizens by fostering the development and use of operational plans to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from major emergencies and disasters. The Montgomery County Disaster Command System (DCS), Incident Command System (ICS), Integrated Emergency Command Structure (IECS), and Fire Rescue Commission Policies and Procedures and other applicable executive regulations must also be followed.

## Levels of Operation for Fire/Rescue Command

- 4.0 The command and support organization outlined below must be implemented for each Level of Operation, using the ICS and IECS. Individual Incident Commanders and command officers must report and coordinate operations through the chain of command.

- 4.1 **Level I** - Command level appropriate for routine and minor fire and rescue incidents which usually can be mitigated by the initial unit or command officer with minimal allocation of resources, time and communications. Level I command may require:

- A. Establishment of functional and/or geographic sectors; and



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 3 Of 23

- B. Activation of specialty teams, utility companies and air operations or other government agencies.
- 4.2 Level II - Command level established by the Incident Commander for mitigation of serious incidents or those of extended duration. Level II command usually requires:
- A. Establishing a formal command post;
  - B. Establishing command functions, including Incident Commander, Operations, Safety, Emergency Medical Services, Public Information Officer, and liaison with other agencies;
  - C. Implementing command communications;
  - D. Designating functional and/or geographic sectors;
  - E. Partially activating the Emergency Operations Center; and
  - F. Activating specialty teams, utility companies, air operations or other government agencies.
- 4.3 Level III - Command level appropriately designated for major incidents like a train derailment or transportation accidents with casualties; hazardous materials incidents with large scale evacuation; widespread disruption of utilities or other infrastructure; mass casualty multi-jurisdictional incidents; or multiple incidents with actual or potentially inadequate resources. Level III command may be established by the Incident Commander, or whenever the Chief Administrative Officer deems it appropriate, and usually requires:
- A. Establishing communication between the Incident Command Post(s) and the Disaster Manager through the chain of command;
  - B. Establishing command functions including Incident Commander, Operations, Emergency Medical Services, Logistics, Planning, Safety, Public Information Officer, liaison with other agencies, and other functional designations as needed;



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

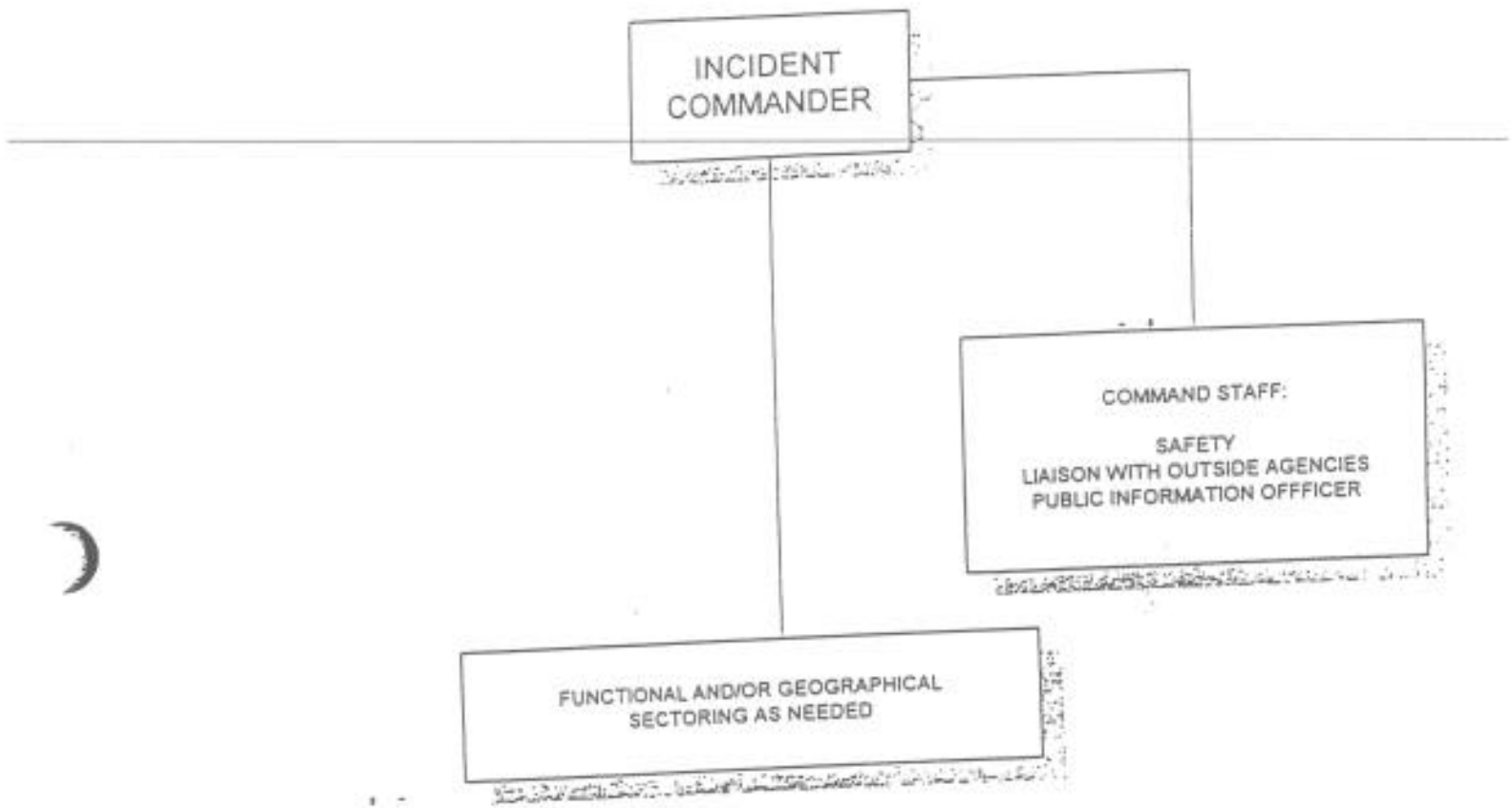
Page 4 Of 23

- C. Implementing command communications;
- D. Designating functional and/or geographic sectors;
- E. Partially or fully activating the Emergency Operations Center;
- F. Possibly declaring a State of Public Emergency; and
- G. Tracking costs.

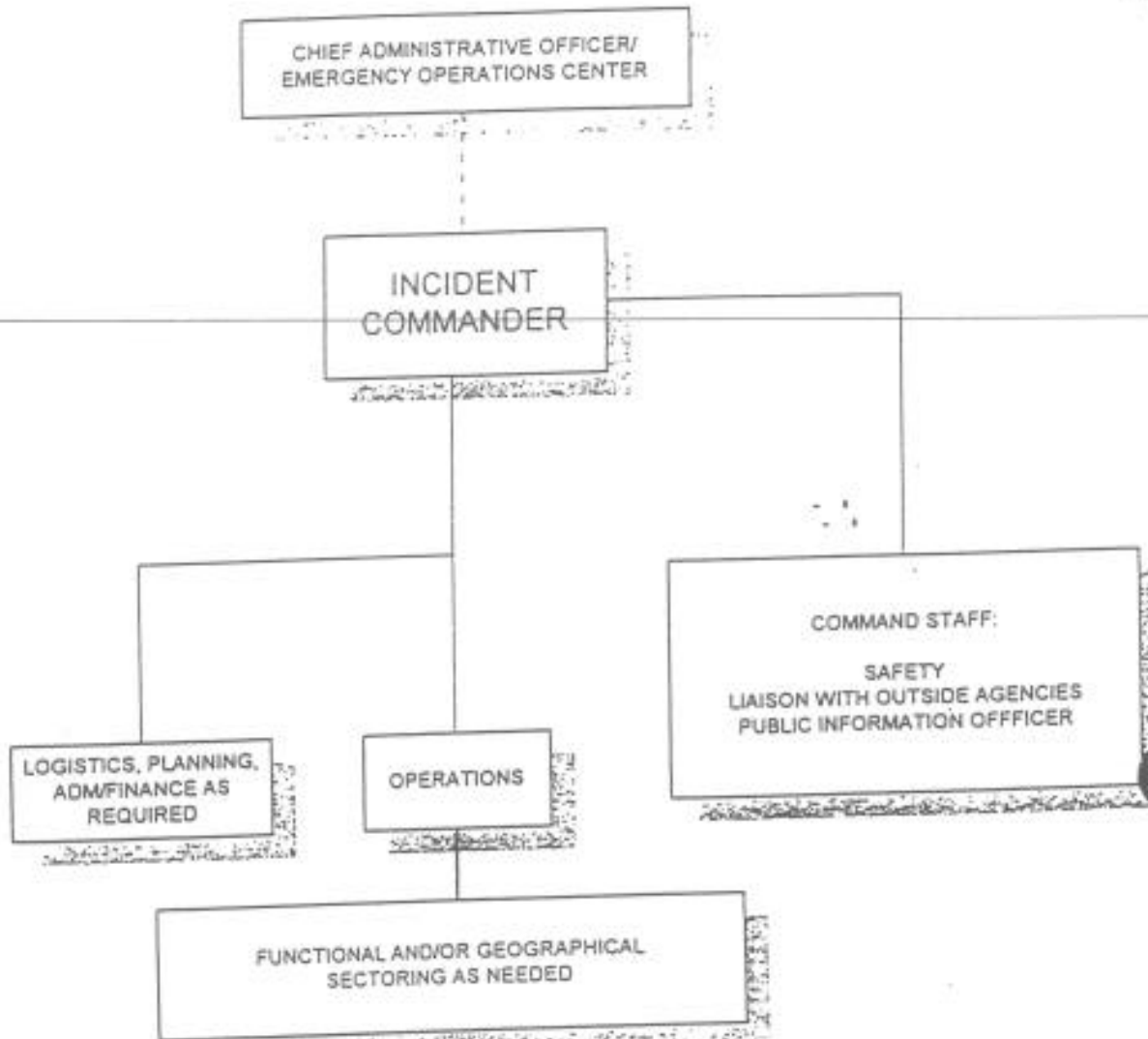
4.4 Level IV - Command level appropriately designated during mitigation of major emergencies or disasters. County-level command coordination is provided in accordance with the Disaster Command System, in response to a State of Public Emergency declared by the County Executive, for incidents like blizzards, hurricanes, civil disturbance, terrorist attack, widespread power outage, or water emergency, etc. Level IV command usually requires:

- A. Establishing communications between the Incident Command Post(s) and the Disaster Manager through the chain of command;
- B. Establishing command functions including Incident Commander, Operations, Emergency Medical Services, Logistics, Planning, Administrative/Finance, Safety, Public Information Officer, liaison with other agencies, and other functional designations as needed;
- C. Implementing command communications, and use of auxiliary frequencies designated in Annex A - "Communications;"
- D. Designating functional and/or geographic sectors;
- E. Fully activating the Emergency Operations Center;
- F. Declaring a State of Public Emergency;
- G. Designating Reconnaissance and Field Damage Assessment teams; and
- H. Tracking costs.

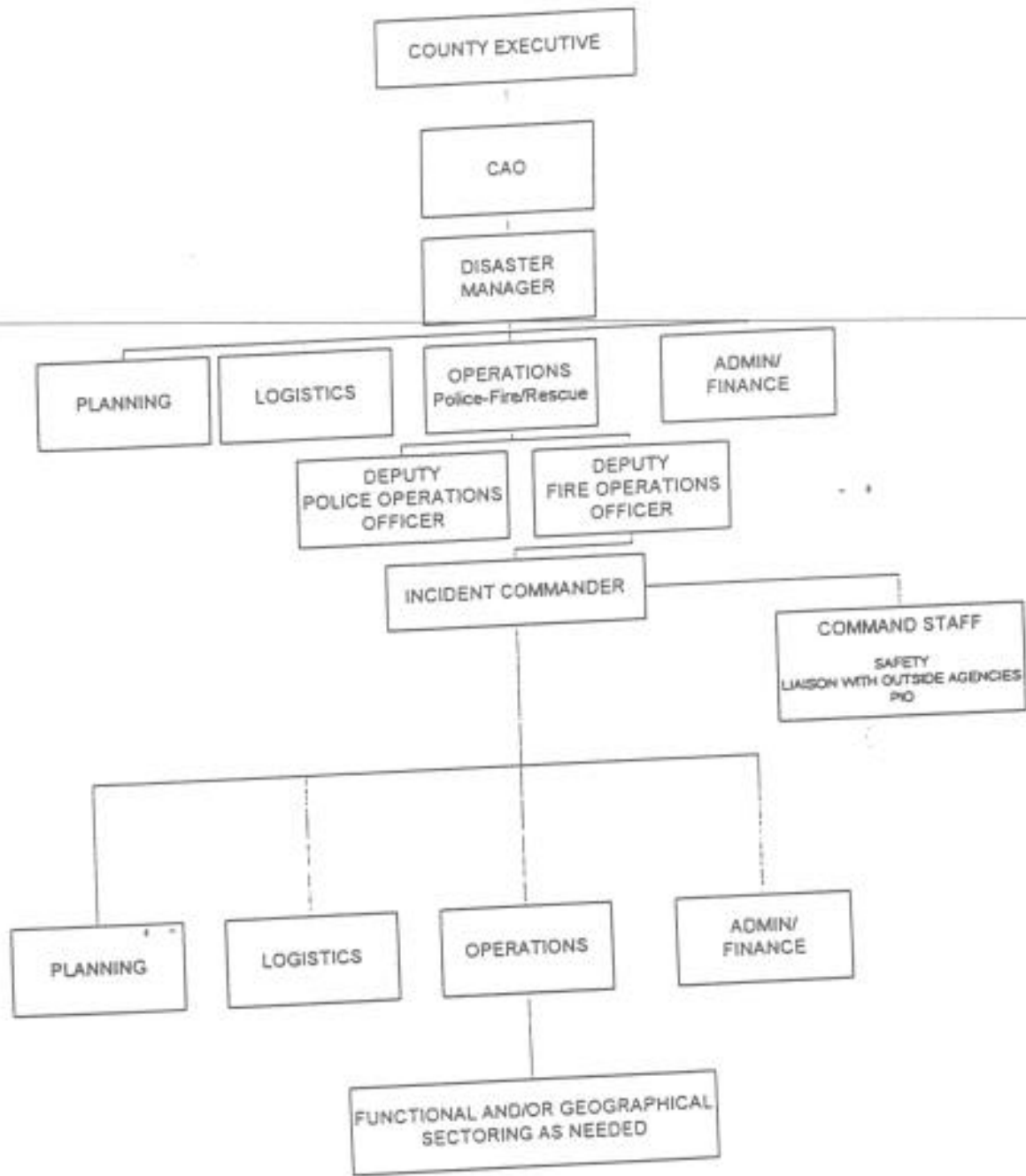
LEVEL 1



LEVEL II



LEVEL III





# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 5 Of 23

## Implementing the Disaster Plan

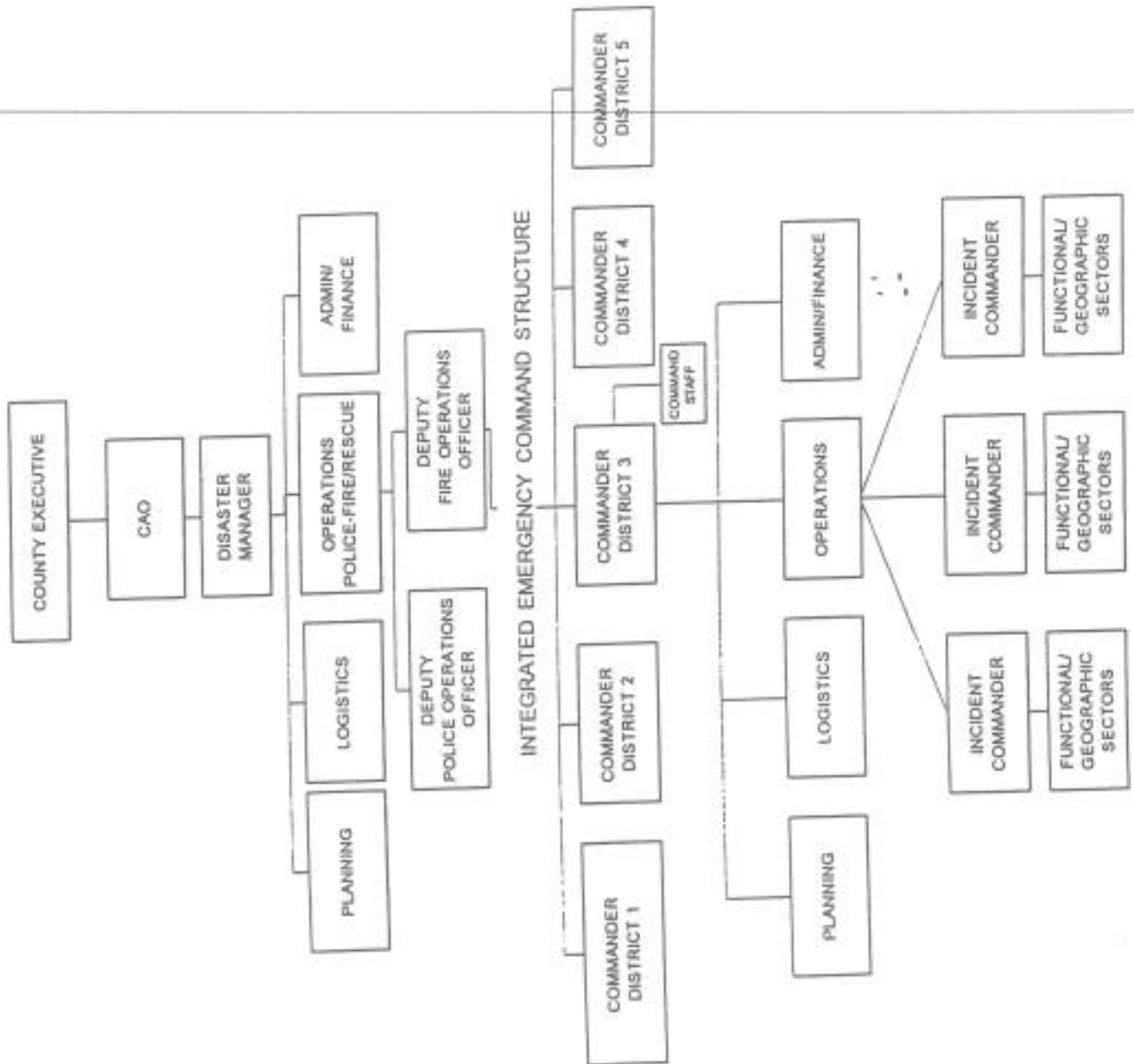
- 5.0 The Fire and Rescue Service Disaster Plan may be implemented by the Chief Administrative Officer, or the Disaster Manager when appointed by the CAO, in accordance with the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Plan. When implementing this Disaster Plan, Level III or Level IV must be specified, consistent with the criteria described above. The Incident Commander may implement Level III operations.

## Responsibilities

- 6.0 The Disaster Manager is appointed by the CAO. He or she organizes and directs the County's personnel and resources in response to a disaster, develops and implements strategic decisions, grants final approval of resource allocations, and authorizes requests for resources from other jurisdictions. The Disaster Manager:
- A. Determines the appropriate County response to the emergency from field reports;
  - B. Directs County personnel and resources to respond;
  - C. Activates elements of the Disaster Command System;
  - D. Appoints Team Leaders for operations (both Police and Fire/Rescue), Planning, Logistics, and Administrative/Finance; and
  - E. Reports to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or alternate location as determined by the requirements of the disaster.
- 6.1 The Fire/Rescue Operations Officer is appointed by the Disaster Manager. He or she organizes and directs fire and rescue operations and resources in response to a disaster, including developing and implementing strategic decisions, approving fire/rescue resource allocations, and coordinating with other County, mutual aid jurisdictions, Federal and military facilities, and/or other departments and agencies. If the Director, Department of Fire and Rescue Services is Disaster Manager, the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer will be his/her designee and:



LEVEL IV





# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:  
March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 6 Of 23

- A. Report to the EOC or alternate location as determined by the requirements of the disaster;
- B. Appoint a Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer and District Commanders as appropriate;
- C. Implement or authorize the implementation of task force operations;
- D. Initiate or authorize the call back of off-duty personnel as required;
- E. Inform the Disaster Manager of emergency situations and report operational readiness and requirements;
- F. Prepare action plans for transition from Level II to Level III or IV operations, if required, and develops plans in anticipation of disaster operations, such as in cases of impending severe weather emergencies;
- G. Ensure that strategic priorities and disaster conditions are communicated to field fire/rescue forces; and
- H. Participate in briefings, debriefings, and critiques, and prepare a post-action written report on fire/rescue operations pertaining to the disaster.

6.2 The **Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer** is responsible for all field fire and rescue forces, provides strategic direction, support services, and resource allocation to the Incident Commander or District Commanders. This officer is appointed by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer, and is usually the DFRS Operations Bureau Chief or designee. This officer:

- A. Reports to the EOC, Command Bus, incident scene or other location as directed by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer;
- B. Assists the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer with preparing action plans for transition from Level II to Level III or IV operations, if required, and with developing plans in anticipation of disaster operations, as in cases of impending severe weather emergencies;



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 7 Of 23

- C. Establishes and maintains communications with the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer and the IC(s) or District Commanders and provides liaison between field operations and the EOC;
  - D. Deploys field fire/rescue forces to implement the strategic priorities and action plans developed by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer and the Emergency Management Group (EMG), and reports on their effectiveness;
  - E. Briefs the IC and/or District Commanders in the field on general conditions, strategy, and action plans; and
  - F. Prepares a written report on activities for submission to the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer, and participates in debriefing and critiques with EOC members.
- 6.3 The District Commander is responsible for community-based fire and rescue services, commanding all operational and support services within one of five geographical districts comprising the County. The District Commander is appointed by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer in accordance with the Integrated Emergency Command Structure (IECS). This officer:
- A. Reports to the primary or alternate District headquarters as indicated by the nature and circumstances of the disaster, or as designated by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer or Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer;
  - B. Appoints District-level command staff, in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS) and appoints Operations, Plans, Logistics and Administrative/Finance Officers;
  - C. Establishes communications with the Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer and reports on operational activities, readiness and requirements within the District;
  - D. Develops strategic and tactical plans for actual and anticipated problems within the District;
  - E. Maintains a constant, proactive command and surveillance to initiate and



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 8 Of 23

reinforce required action within the District to control and restore problem areas to normal functioning;

- F. Collects, compiles and records required data and transmits it as directed;
- G. Conducts debriefings and critiques; and
- H. Prepares a complete report on activities, incidents and personnel and submits it to the Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer.

6.4 The **Incident Commander** is the senior ranking officer in charge of an incident, responsible for the strategic decisions and assignment of other supervisory or functional positions necessary to control the incident. The IC is designated in accordance with the IECS and:

- A. Ensures that the requirements of the appropriate level of operations are met;
- B. Assigns personnel to command staff and support functions as needed;
- C. Establishes and maintains communication with the Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer during Level III operations, and through the appointed District Command operations structure during Level IV operations;
- D. Reports conditions and requirements of the situation with the Deputy Fire/Rescue Operations Officer during Level III operations, and through the appointed District Command operations structure during Level IV operations;
- E. Operates within standard operating procedures as established by the FRC, including maintaining accountability and ensuring the safety of all assigned personnel; and
- F. Maintains a complete and accurate log of activities, personnel, and apparatus assignments.

7.0 Alert, Notification, Mobilization, and Warning. These functions occur on four levels as appropriate: Level I- Routine Response; Level II- Incident Response; Level III-



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 9 Of 23

Major Emergency Response; and Level IV- Disaster Response.

- 7.1 Level I - Routine Response. Fire and rescue units respond to incidents using the appropriate Fire and Rescue Commission standard operating procedures. County officials and corporation chiefs are kept informed through routine reports.
- 7.2 Level II - Incident Response. For this level of response:
- A. Evacuations and shelter operations are coordinated with the EMG, Red Cross, and the Police Department.
  - B. The Incident Commander or designated Emergency Management staff, acting under the authority of the CAO's emergency management powers as the Governor's duly appointed Director, coordinates the activities of other County or State agencies on the scene. These agencies or facilities may include the Department of Health and Human Services, Animal Control and Humane Treatment, Community Use of Public Facilities, County Government Service Centers, Montgomery County Board of Education, the Department of Recreation, and others as required.
  - C. The Senior Officer or IC must directly request the response of the EMG and the Red Cross on a first alarm, task force assignment, or major Police incident when they are not automatically paged or notified.
  - D. Fire and Rescue Communications (ECC) will automatically alert the Emergency Management Group and the Red Cross on working fires involving task force operations and second alarm or greater responses.
  - E. EMG volunteers (RACES, REACT, et. al.) will be activated through Emergency Management and may be used for auxiliary communications.
- 7.3 Level III - Major Emergency Response.
- A. If the emergency evolves from a localized field situation (e.g., a train derailment, air crash, or a hazardous materials incident), the IC will determine what additional support is needed and notify the County through Fire and Rescue Communications.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 10 of 23

- B. If the emergency alert arrives through the National Area Warning Alert System (NAWAS) or a mutual aid channel, the senior ECC supervisor will notify the Director of Fire and Rescue Services and the IC(s) in the field.
- C. The senior Fire and Rescue ECC supervisor will alert and brief the chiefs of the local fire and rescue departments, the DFRS Director, and appropriate adjacent jurisdictions of the nature and extent of the emergency.
- D. Depending on the nature of the disaster or major emergency, the CAO, once briefed by Fire/ Rescue Services Director and/or the Chief of Police, will determine if full or partial activation of the Emergency Management Group agencies is required.
- 7.4 **Level IV - Disaster Response.** Disasters may be preceded by a period of agency preparations and escalating events, like a County-wide storm, hurricane, flood, or an extended power or water outage. During the period of increasing threat and smaller scale events, Emergency Management will be responsible for briefing the appropriate County agencies at the CAO's direction, through a notification and alert process.
- A. During a period of escalating events, the Director of Fire and Rescue Services will notify field operational forces of changing conditions, the need for special preparations, and changes to routine dispatch procedures through the ECC Supervisor.
- B. At the direction of the CAO, appropriate County agency representatives will mobilize to the EOC.
- C. If the disaster evolves from a field situation (building collapse, train derailment, air crash, hazardous materials incident, etc.), the IC will advise the Fire Rescue Operations Officer of any need for additional support when activated to the Emergency Operations Center.
- D. If the disaster alert arrives through the NAWAS or a Mutual Aid Channel, the senior ECC supervisor will notify the DFRS Director. The Director will then notify the CAO and recommend activation of the EMG and the EOC.





# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 11 Of 23

- E. During prolonged events, the EOC will be activated and staffing will be maintained on a 24-hour basis until the CAO orders demobilization.
- F. During rapidly escalating or de-escalating events, the CAO may determine that only a partial activation of the EOC is needed.
- G. If a state or federally-declared State of Emergency is requested, the CAO will activate the EMG to the EOC and the Disaster Command System will go into effect.
- H. The CAO will determine what resources and personnel will remain in the field and which personnel will be mobilized to the EOC.
- I. The Chief of Police and the Director of Fire and Rescue Services will jointly ensure that direct communications are established between the field Command Post and the EOC.
- J. The Chief of Police and/or the Director of Fire and Rescue Services will determine whether the Mobile Command Post is needed on the scene. The IC may request the Mobile Command Post to respond to the scene through the EOC.
- K. Montgomery County Police will mobilize and staff the Mobile Command Post when requested by the CAO, the IC, or a police supervisor on the scene.
- L. If a State of Public Emergency is declared, it must be broadcast or publicized to emergency responders, citizens, and other affected jurisdictions.
- M. The CAO will coordinate with other COG jurisdictions whenever a multi-jurisdictional response is required.
- N. If the Fire and Rescue Disaster Plan is implemented, the fire and rescue services will brief the CAO and the EMG on the changes to be implemented in the Incident Command System.
- O. During a State of Public Emergency, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services' internal emergency notification plan will be implemented.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 12 Of 23

- P. During a State of Public Emergency, the Director of Fire and Rescue Services or his/her designee will determine the need for call back of off-duty fire and rescue personnel and broadcast this information via ECC, the Emergency Alert System, local media, and telephone contact by the Scheduling Office as required.
- Q. Volunteer fire and rescue personnel will be notified through the designated FRC procedure, which may include ECC tone alerting, activating alpha pagers, the Emergency Alert System, local media, and telephone notification by community fire department personnel.
- R. Specialty team members (Collapse Rescue Team, Underwater Rescue Team, Hazardous Incident Response Team, Special Evacuations Tactic Team, and River Rescue Team) will be notified as designated in the Fire and Rescue Communications Manual.
- S. If a State of Public Emergency has been declared, or if the EOC has been activated, DFRS and each community fire department will designate appropriate personnel to compile and prepare reports on both estimated and actual costs to mitigate the incident.
- 8.0 **Plan Activation.** During a State of Public Emergency or whenever the Chief Administrative Officer deems it appropriate to activate the Disaster Command System, the CAO or the Disaster Manager may implement Level III or Level IV operations. The CAO will appoint a Disaster Manager and notify the ECC Supervisor to activate Disaster Operations. The Incident Commander may implement Level III operations.
- 8.1 The Disaster Manager will instruct the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer to contact ECC and advise the on-duty supervisor which disaster plan level is in effect.
- 8.2 When implementing Level III operations, ECC will activate the command tone, sound the alert tone and make the following announcement:
- "Attention all personnel. Disaster Level III operations now in effect. Repeat. Disaster Level III operations now in effect. The Emergency Operations Center has been activated (or will be activated) effective (time) hours."





# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 13 Of 23

- 8.3 When implementing Level IV operations, ECC will activate the command tone, sound the alert tone and make the following announcement:

~~"Attention all personnel. Disaster Level IV operations now in effect. Repeat. Disaster Level IV operations now in effect. All units must observe radio silence until further notice, except for emergency transmissions, unless contacted by ECC. The EOC has been activated (or will be activated) effective (time) hours."~~

- 8.4 ECC will advise all units of other pertinent information, such as task force operations or changes to dispatch assignments, either by announcement or by station phone.

## 9.0 LEVEL III OR LEVEL IV PROCEDURES

- 9.1 Station, Personnel and Vehicle Readiness, Including Readiness for Civil Disturbance Response

- A. Subsistence Supplies. Personnel are strongly discouraged from accepting any food or water from private citizens. With the Department's assistance, each local fire and rescue department must provide at least a three-day supply of food and water for all assigned personnel. Prepared canned or dried food supplies packaged in individual servings should be provided to field units.
- B. Drinking Water Supplies. A supply of at least two quarts per day per person of drinking water should be provided. Drinking from hydrants is prohibited.
- C. Non-Potable Water Supplies. Store a quantity of non-potable water for use in maintaining sanitary conditions and disinfecting personnel and units after possible biological or chemical exposure.
- D. Equip all stations with an emergency power supply with a self-contained fuel supply generator. Make provisions to store adequate fuel for apparatus.
- E. Fire departments with multiple stations should store supplies at the station in the most secure location.
- F. Close and lock all exterior doors and windows.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 14 Of 23

- G. The Fire/Rescue Operations Officer should identify locations where mass casualty EMS caches may be stored.
- H. Top off apparatus fuel tanks and main station house fuel tanks during periods of civil tension or anticipated prolonged adverse weather conditions.
- I. Each vehicle should carry a roll of nylon tape, clear packing tape, or masking tape for use on apparatus windows to prevent shattering.
- J. Make provisions to remove and store all small tools and appliances normally carried on the outside of the apparatus. Equip cab doors with inside locks to prevent the doors from being opened from the outside.
- K. If apparatus must be abandoned, remove radio microphones and portable radios and, if possible, immobilize the vehicle.
- L. Task Force Inventory. Properly equip units operating in the field. The items listed below are considered minimum supplies for each unit in the task force.
1. One five-gallon fuel can with pouring spout
  2. 2 quarts of engine oil
  3. One 2-1/2 gallon water container for drinking water
  4. One roll of clear packing tape for windows
  5. One meal, not requiring refrigeration, per person
  6. At least one portable radio with spare battery
- M. Station officers must notify ECC and District Commanders when activated, when additional staffing or units become available.
- N. Damage Assessment. Station officers must conduct "windshield" damage assessment surveys and a thorough visual assessment of their first due area following damage by severe weather emergencies, and report the results of these surveys and door-to-door damage assessments to the District Commander, when activated.
- O. The senior ranking fire/rescue officer will assume the rank of Task Force Commander. A Command Officer should be assigned to each task force by the



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 15 Of 23

District Commander as they become available.

- P. Unit officers must notify ECC if apparatus damage or personnel injuries cause units to be placed out of service.

## 9.2 Task Force Operations

- A. Each Task Force Commander must notify the ECC as the task force becomes operational, advising which units are in each task force, the name and rank of the Task Force Commander, and the number of personnel. A task force generally will not be considered operational with fewer than nine personnel.
- B. Reserve units, units going in service as staffed after task force operations are initiated, and units assigned to stations not assigned as task forces may be used to fill in for assigned units which go out of service, to create additional task forces, or to support medical units and assist with minor calls in secure areas.
- C. The Haz Mat Task Force, under the command of the Hazardous Materials Duty Officer, should remain intact and, where appropriate, mitigate incidents involving hazardous materials, unless directed by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer. The Hazardous Materials Duty Officer may advise the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer of incidents which may be handled by a limited commitment of hazmat units.
- D. An Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) task force, under command of the USAR Duty Officer, should also be created and remain intact to deal with collapse situations.
- E. Response. During activation of task force operations, the standard response assignments will be filled by task force. Box assignments will consist of two task forces, with one task force for all other fire alarms in unsecured areas, unless altered by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer. Ambulance and rescue response will be determined based on existing conditions.
- F. If units are assigned to a task force, they should remain intact unless specifically ordered by the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer, whether the task force is operating within the County or on a mutual aid assignment.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 16 Of 23

- G. Single units may be assigned to respond on alarms but they will not be dispatched, nor may they respond, to known areas of civil disturbance.
- H. Field Operations. In accordance with the IECS, the Task Force Commander is responsible for the field operation of his or her assigned units and personnel. This officer must maintain an accurate roster of personnel and a detailed log of the task force activities.
- I. Communications. The Task Force Commander must update the ECC or District Commander, as appropriate, on the status and location of the task force at all times and must handle all radio communications. Radio use must be restricted for emergencies when life safety may be threatened.
1. Radio call identification will normally be the assigned task force number. Individual units in a task force will use their standard identification if transmission is required.
  2. Radio volume on all units must be kept as low as possible to avoid being overheard by unauthorized persons, and outside speakers on apparatus should be deactivated.
- 9.3 Non-Response. If personnel may be subjected to extraordinary risk, such as during the height of a hurricane or full scale riot, the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer may, with the Disaster Manager's approval, place fire/rescue units in a non-response mode.
- A. A non-response mode may be declared for the entire County or for specific sectors, depending on local conditions.
  - B. When a non-response mode is declared, units in the designated districts must return to their assigned stations, secure the facilities and apparatus against harm, and await further instructions.
- 9.4 Task Force Assignments for Mutual Aid.
- A. If another jurisdiction requests mutual aid to control an infrastructure disruption or civil disturbance, not more than nine task forces may be dispatched if conditions within the County permit their release. The ECC Supervisor must



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 17 Of 23

determine the appropriate task forces to dispatch and make transfers as appropriate.

- B. The safety of Montgomery County's citizens must be the determining factor in considering the number of task forces that may be deployed outside the County.
- C. The Task Force Commander must ensure that personnel are relieved at appropriate intervals to provide rest and rehabilitation.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

Page 18 Of 23

## 9.5 Task Force Operations Chart- FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

TASK FORCE DESIGNATION AND STATION ASSIGNED	UNITS ASSIGNED
TF 1	E11, E21, AT1, A29
TF 3	E31, E211, AT23, M239
TF 5	E51, E181, RS29, M20
TF 6	E61, E111, T6, RS19, A119
HAZ MAT TF 7	E71, E201, AT20, HM7, SU7
TF 8	E81, E281, AT8, M89
TF 12	E121, E241, T12, M129
TF 13	E131, E91, RS17, TW17-1, TW17-2
TF 15	E151, E41, RS15, M49
TF 16	E161, E191, T19, A169
TF 25	E251, E401, T25, M259
TF 26	E261, E101, T10, A40
TF 29	E291, E301, T29, M309
TF 31	E311, E141, T31, M149
USAR TF 33	E331, E231, RS3, SU33





# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:  
41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 19 Of 23

9.6 Formation of Additional Task Forces from Unassigned Units As additional staffing becomes available, units placed in service after the original formation of task forces or units not assigned in the above task forces will report their status to the ECC and to the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer through the chain of command.

- A. At the discretion of the Fire/Rescue Operations Officer, unassigned units may be formed into task forces.
- B. As often as possible, unassigned units should be paired with an ambulance or medic unit; these pairs will use the designation of the primary unit. EMS units may be reassigned from the above task force assignments and paired with an unassigned unit.

9.7 Pre-Planning Personnel Check List for Disaster Operations. The Department and each local fire and rescue department must pre-plan the up-grading of resources to support its personnel and equipment during any potentially prolonged disaster operations. The arrangements below should be considered in the pre-plans.

- A. Each fire and rescue department and DFRS must maintain an up-to-date call list for its respective personnel; all personnel must be assigned a specific reporting location.
- B. For operations personnel, the reporting assignment is their normal duty station. If conditions are severe enough to prevent reporting to their normally assigned station, personnel must report to the nearest accessible Montgomery County fire or rescue station.
- C. Uniformed personnel not assigned to the Department's Operations Bureau or assigned to the ECC should report to the Emergency Operations Center, unless directed otherwise.
- D. Personnel assigned to the Department's Division of Fire Investigations should report to the Fire Marshal's Offices in Burtonsville.
- E. Non-uniformed and civilian personnel should report to their assigned locations as pre-determined by the local fire and rescue department's and DFRS emergency notification lists, as appropriate for their personnel.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 20 Of 23

## 9.8 Civil Disturbance- Special Considerations.

- A. Limit the use of apparatus emergency warning signals to avoid drawing unwanted attention to fire and rescue units.
- B. If units arriving at the scene of a reported emergency determine that there is no need for fire or rescue service (i.e., false alarm), they must withdraw immediately.
- C. If units responding to an area discover that a civil disturbance is occurring, the first arriving unit must advise the ECC immediately and request police assistance if it is not already present. The units should carry out normal operations if possible.
- D. Ambulances and medic units operating in areas of civil disturbance must be supported by a manpower unit with at least three personnel.
- E. Personnel should demonstrate patience, tolerance, and common sense, essential to provide for their own safety, to protect their equipment, and to maintain order.
- F. If personnel believe their safety or the safety of their patient is jeopardized, they must immediately withdraw to a position of safety and request law enforcement assistance. Postponing medically indicated treatment is appropriate when the risk of injury to the patient or the care provider is a realistic concern.
- G. Task force commanders or unit officers must advise the ECC immediately if police protection is needed. The ECC will arrange for police or military protection and escorts when requested or required.
- H. Police assistance should be requested on the scene if anyone attempts to interfere with normal rescue or firefighting procedures. Under these conditions, limit firefighting to those activities necessary to completely extinguish the fire as promptly as possible. Activities such as salvage or overhaul may be impractical.





# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 21 Of 23

- I. If personnel or apparatus safety is threatened at any time, the unit officer or Task Force Commander must determine whether units should enter an area of civil disturbance, withdraw before a fire is extinguished, or abandon apparatus.
- J. Unit officers and Task Force Commanders must remember that abandoning apparatus is a final option. Position apparatus appropriately for immediate withdrawal; mobility on apparatus is safer than on foot.
- K. If abandoning apparatus, remove the mobile radio microphone and all portable radios. If possible, render vehicles inoperative by shutting off air or fuel supply for diesel engines or removing the distributor rotor from gasoline engines.
- L. Station Protection. If an infrastructure disruption or civil disturbance threatens a fire or rescue station, the officer-in-charge will order apparatus to be moved inside and the doors and bays closed. All personnel must remain inside the station except when responding to alarms.
- M. Evacuation. If a fire or rescue station is in a potential danger area, the local fire/rescue chief or senior officer present will determine whether to evacuate the station. If the station is evacuated, units should relocate to their district headquarters unless otherwise directed.
- N. Leave evacuated stations as secure as possible. The district commander must make every effort to obtain security for these stations.
- 10.0 Pre-Emergency Planning. The Department will provide the necessary planning and support for the implementation of this Plan. The DFRS Director is responsible for:
- A. Establishing the staffing for the Emergency Operations Center;
- B. Establishing and maintaining liaison with the other cooperating agencies, including Montgomery County Police;
- C. Reporting to the Fire and Rescue Commission and the CAO on the operational status and readiness of the fire and rescue services for disaster operations and submitting relevant recommendations;



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.:

41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 22 Of 23

D. Organizing and assuring the readiness of the operational fire and rescue services for disaster operations, including providing specific training in the provisions of the Disaster Plan;

E. Organizing, training, and otherwise assuring the readiness and coordination of the supporting services (such as communications, investigations, and training) for disaster operations.

F. Updating and maintaining an internal Departmental notification list for alert, activation, and mobilization to the Emergency Operations Center, Command Bus, and other locations, as specified.

## 11.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS

11.1 The duties and responsibilities of other organizations and County agencies are outlined in Montgomery County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

11.2 The County's EOP is based on the nationally recognized Incident Command System of the National Interagency Incident Management System, and is intended to be integrated with the Federal Response Plan and the State of Maryland Emergency Operations Plan when implemented.

11.3 The Incident Command System, as outlined in this Annex O, is intended to be compatible with the Council of Governments Police and Fire/Rescue Mutual Aid Operations Plan.

11.4 Additional procedures directly relating to hazardous materials incidents, radiological accidents, or acts of war or terrorism are found in Annex A- "Hazardous Materials" (formerly Annex Z), Annex DD - "Radiological Incidents" (formerly Annex N), and Annex CC - "Terrorism."

12.0 Gender Neutrality. It is the intention of this Plan to reflect gender neutrality throughout the document.

13.0 Severability. If a court of final appeal holds that any part of this regulation is invalid, that ruling does not affect the validity of other parts of the regulation.



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-97

Effective Date:

March 31, 1998

TITLE: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISASTER PLAN

Page 23 Of 23

14.0 Effective Date. A regulation adopted under Method 2 becomes effective when the Council adopts a resolution approving it, or on a later date specified in the regulation. If the Council takes no action within 60 calendar days after receipt, or by any later deadline set by resolution, the regulation is effective the day after the deadline for approval, or on a later date specified in the regulation.

Recommended:

George Giebel

12/6/97

George Giebel, Chairman  
Fire and Rescue Commission

Date

Approved:

Bruce Romer

2-3-98

Bruce Romer  
Chief Administrative Officer

Date

disaspln. fin 12/1/97 dg/bf final

Chris Malone  
DATE 12-8-97