

# SUSSEX COUNTY

## Hurricane SANDY

(October 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012)

*Sussex County, like all Virginia Local Governments as mandated by the Commonwealth has a State approved and Board of Supervisors adopted Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) based on Federal Regulations.*

*However, because Hurricanes are of such size, magnitude and impact on a community, the Sussex County Department of Public Safety, the Public Safety Coordinator, County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors have determined the need to clarify the procedures and basis for the County's emergency planning efforts used in addressing these massive and potentially catastrophic emergencies for our residents and businesses, as well as, for our planning partners (Towns, Agencies and Volunteer Organizations).*

### **Declaring a local Emergency**

A County "Local Emergency" is declared when the following conditions exist:

- Wide spread power outages
- The citizens basic needs are not being met
- damage to residents and/or business in a large geographical area
- County resources are overwhelmed
- widespread flooding
- roadways and travel corridors are blocked and/or limited
- any large scale natural or manmade incident/event

*Please note that due to the impact on our operations and public safety any Local Emergency Declaration in Sussex County is done following extensive discussions and communication between the Director of Emergency Management, the Public Safety Coordinator and the Commonwealth of Virginia (VDEM) ... with input from the Board of Supervisors, County Staff, Regional Agencies and/or Federal and State Agencies as appropriate or needed. For emergency purposes the Director of Emergency Management may declare a state of Emergency with final approval by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to State Code.*

### **EOC Activation**

While public safety needs require careful attention to when an EOC is put on standby or on limited staffing, the local Emergency Operation Center (EOC) shall open within two (2) hours of a declared "Local Emergency". The EOC shall;

- Coordinate

- collect data
- maintain status of the incident/event
- direct emergency management operations
- coordinate resources
- collect data for recovery
- coordinate recovery of the affected areas
- assistance citizens thought the incident
- ensure the human needs are met

*As an essential part of the County's Emergency Management effort the EOC is opened and manned to insure that communications remain open both within the County (Town and County Departments/Agencies and personnel) and to the Commonwealth and Federal Agencies as needed.*

*Please note that Sussex County also has a "Management Team" (County Administrator, Sheriff, and Director of Social Services) that works closely with the EOC (Public Safety Coordinator) in addressing operational and logistical needs (Department Directors/Staff) outside of the EOC communication and data assessments/tasks*

EOC will remain open until the following conditions are met;

- 90 to 95% of power is restored
- citizens can return to their home safely and they are inhabitable
- when short or long term housing option has been established for any displaced citizens
- when local area business reopen
- 90 to 95% of citizens have financial means to care for themselves
- When the roadways and travel corridors are open passable and safe to travel

*Again as a critically important component of our Emergency Operations it is imperative that the EOC remain open and functional until identifiable thresholds are met. To this end the Management Team and the EOC work hand in hand with Departments, Towns, Volunteer Organizations, State and Federal Agencies to assure full compliance with our public safety criteria.*

*Therefore, the Sussex County EOC (Waverly) has provisions for any staff on duty ... including meals, rest (bunk rooms) and showers as needed.*

*Furthermore, the County's EOC best meets the County needs both geographically and operationally because it is equipped with a permanent generator and has two large offices for multiple personnel (one for EOC and one for Management Team)... amenities essential to effectively conduct EOC operations ... like conference calls, meeting with citizens, agency*

*representatives, state and federal officials or partners and meetings or briefings with various media.*

### **Line of Succession**

The following Line of Succession shall be use during a declared “Local Emergency” (*Refer to Appendix 5 Basic Plan, Page 10 in the Sussex County EOP-2012*) are:

- County Administrator
- Assistant County Administration (currently Vacant)
- Coordinator

*Please note that the “Line of Succession” is predicated on State Code which has provisions that allow the County Administrator to serve as Emergency Director for quicker response simply because staff is available and on duty.*

### **Shelters/Mass Care/ Feeding**

During a manmade or natural emergency on a large scale, there shall be a need to meet the human needs of the citizens in Sussex County. These needs are sheltering, mass care, and mass feeding. Although each of the identified and approved shelters meet Red Cross Standards for Emergency Shelters, since emergencies are not predictable, the use and opening of these pre-approved shelter sites, subsequent mass care and/or feeding sites (as needed) shall be determined by where the emergency is located and specific information and facts regarding the incident.

- In the event of a Hazardous Material release, this location shall be determined by wind direction, chemicals involved and etc.
- In the case where the entire county is affected such as a Hurricane, these locations shall be based on the number of citizens being affected, shelter capacity etc.
- Since Sussex County is vulnerable to widespread flooding during a hurricane, the need for multiple shelter locations is needed and therefore each Incorporated Town has a shelter location (Listed below)
- If possible, the shelter/Mass care and Mass Feeding will be located at the same site.
- County shelters will be managed by the Department of Social Services and assisted by the Red Cross area chapter (*Refer to ESF #6, Page ESF #6-1 in the Sussex County EOP-2012*).
- The approved Sussex County shelter sites (*Refer to ESF #6, Page ESF #6-1 in the Sussex County EOP-2012*) are:

*Please note that the following approved sites are based on Public Safety needs and each of these shelters meets the Red Cross Standards for Emergency Shelters and have consequently been approved by the American Red Cross. When “Private Facilities” become publicly managed written agreement stipulate who is in charge, access to the facilities and all of the basic information that would be readily addressed if ALL county shelters were publicly owned!*

*Sussex County, due to its geographic size, the size of generators on site and limited space in the various Emergency Centers, utilizes multiple facilities.*

## **SUSSEX COUNTY EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

### **Jarratt Area:**

Club Paradise Restaurant and Lounge

24197 South Halifax Road

Jarratt, Virginia 23867

### **Generator Information:**

15KW Propane Gas Generator with Auto Transfer Switch

### **Stony Creek Area:**

Galilee Baptist Church

12392 Lee Avenue

Stony Creek, Virginia 23882

### **Generator Information:**

15KW Propane Gas Generator with Auto Transfer Switch

### **Sussex Courthouse Area:**

Sussex Central High School

21394 Sussex Drive

Sussex, Virginia 23884

### **Generator Information:**

100 KW Diesel with Auto Transfer Switch (running emergency lighting only).

### **Waverly Area:**

A.B. Jackson Elementary School

408 School Street

Waverly, Virginia 23890

**Generator Information:** (OUT OF ORDER) 15KW Propane Gas Generator with Auto Transfer Switch

**Wakefield Area:** E.W. Chambliss Elementary School  
10415 Higgins Street  
Wakefield, Virginia 23888

**Generator Information:** 25KW Propane Gas Generator with Auto Transfer Switch

*Note: All listed shelters were reviewed by Red Cross Area Chapter and approved as Red Cross Shelters in their local plans.*

**Shelter/Mass Care/ Mass Feeding Site Locations During and Emergency:**

The locations of shelter sites and mass care and/or feeding sites shall be determined by where the emergency is located, credible information and, facts about the incident. If an emergency affects the entire county or widespread flooding occurs, the above listed locations could be used. However, if the emergency is less severe, resources are limited and, travel throughout the County is possible, the following shelters will be setup in the following priority order:

*(Please note that the location of the event combined with the population density of the County, limited personnel and financial resources and the aforementioned accessibility would significantly impact when and which shelter or shelters would be opened.)*

- Sussex Central High School
- E.W. Chambliss Elementary School
- Galilee Baptist Church

These shelters will remain open until the following conditions are met:

- 90 to 95% of power is restored
- citizens can return to their home safely and they are inhabitable
- when a short or long term housing option has been established for any displaced citizens
- etc.

Once the shelter location is determined these locations will also serve as Mass Feeding Sites. Mass Feeding will consist of distributing meals, water and possibly ice if available to the public.

Provisions must be made to off-load water and ice at all chosen locations and for the storage of these resources.

The distributing of these resources will be twice daily (lunch time 11:00am to 12:30 pm) and (Dinner 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm) based on the availability of the Red Cross (*and/or other sponsoring agencies*)

The County would prefer that meals be served from the Red Cross Vehicles. If however, efficiency and availability determine that box meals would be more effective, these meals shall be served out of buildings at these locations.

If water and ice is available, they will be distributed by county staff and volunteers at these sites.

Required staffing will be based on the number of citizens that have been affected by the incident and the amount of meals, water and/or ice available.

Careful consideration must be given if resources are moved from other locations to these feeding sites. These factors will make the operations more labor intensive and require resources that are already limited.

There also may be a need to distribute food, water, and possibly ice at the remaining locations if the incident dictates the need.

This decision will be based on the incident location, power outages, citizen's location and many other factors.

If needed, the remaining shelter sites will be used for distribution sites as outlined in the approved Sussex County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP).

Again careful consideration must be given as any additional staffing and resource needs to open these sites may very well overwhelm the local resources and limit its effectiveness.

These Feeding sites remain open until the following conditions are met:

- 90 to 95% of power is restored
- citizens can return to their home safely and they are inhabitable
- when a short or long term housing option has been established for any displaced citizens
- local area business reopen
- 90 to 95% of citizens have financial means to care for themselves
- when roadways and travel corridors are open, passable and safe to travel

### **Shower Locations and Times:**

During an incident on a large scale, the electric power will often be off for several days and up to several weeks to some portion of the county. Based on past experiences, there will be a need for "shower locations" during these incidents for the citizens. If the shelter site has the capability, showers will be available at these locations in the evenings 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Shower locations will remain open until:

- 90 to 95% of power is restored
- citizens can return to their home safely and they are inhabitable
- when a short or long term housing option has been established for any displaced citizens
- local area business reopen
- when roadways and travel corridors are open, passable and safe to travel

*Please note that, all shelter locations do not have the same capability. Since the shelters are located throughout the County, some public and some private buildings, the capability varies from shelter to shelter. These variations cause inconsistencies in shelter capabilities and consequently impacts emergency operations.*

***For example:***

- a. all shelter locations do not have provisions for showers*
- b. some do not have electrical power throughout the entire shelter being used*
- c. some shelters have limited parking areas to distribute food, water and ice*
- d. some have limited capacity (sometime not enough capacity) for the amount of citizens*
- e. some have limited restroom capacity*
- f. some are not handicap accessibility*
- g. generators are of limited to it size*
- h. And some (like the Sussex Central High School shelter) only have emergency lighting in the shelter.*

*To be more efficient and effective to the needs of the citizens, the County is in the process of addressing these issues and correcting them to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness.*

*In the future, the Emergency Coordinator and Director of Emergency Management have recommended that all public building being constructed need to be evaluated for shelter use and capabilities; generators installed for emergency operations and continued government operations for services during incidents.*

*Additionally, the effectiveness of any emergency operation depends on the correct amount of staffing and available resources. Often times the same staff will be asked to multi-task and/or to perform identical tasks at multiple locations simultaneously.*

*This staffing deficiency continues to impact the EOC/Emergency operations especially when multi-operational shelters/mass care and mass feeding sites are required. This condition occurs exponentially whenever multiple feeding sites are necessitated and staff is required to get these resources to and from a central location to the other locations throughout the county on time.*

*As such, the sheer amount of staffing, vehicles and manpower required to move resources and/or to run multiple sites mandates that the County evaluate and determine how to best utilize our current staff and/or resources.*

**EOC Closing:**

The County's EOC will close when the following conditions have been met:

- 90 to 95% of power is restored
- citizens can return to their home safely and they are inhabitable
- when a short or long term housing option has been established for any displaced citizens
- local area business reopen
- 90 to 95% of citizens have financial means to care for themselves
- when roadways and travel corridors are open, passable and safe to travel