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IA 1 – Severe Weather (Including Landslides)

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1   Purpose

■   The purpose of this annex is to provide a framework of coordination among agencies to help ensure the safety of life and property during severe weather in Klamath County.

■   It defines roles, responsibilities, and organizational relationships of government and private agencies in response to a severe weather event.

■   The primary focus of this annex is winter storms; however, the information and guidelines may also be used for other severe weather incidents.

2   Situation and Assumptions

2.1   Situation

■   Heavy snow, heavy rain, hail, freezing rain, and high winds are a few winter storm conditions that Klamath County experiences. The major problems that a winter storm causes are power outages and traffic accidents. There is a very high probability that the Klamath Basin will be affected by some type of winter storm condition on an annual basis.

■   An ice storm can occur when rains fall out of warm, moist, upper layers of atmosphere into a cold, dry layer near the ground. The rain freezes on contact with the cold ground and accumulates on exposed surfaces. The cold, combined with freezing rain, can cause destructive ice build-up on trees, structures, and utilities. Ice storms occur every few years and usually last from a couple of hours to a couple of days.

■   Snowstorms may also occur, sometimes with substantial drifting and accumulations. When snowstorms occur, many of the subsequent problems are directly related to the public trying to cope with such conditions.

■   High winds can result in downed utility lines and trees. Electrical power can be interrupted anywhere from a few hours to a couple of days. Some damages may occur to buildings, signs, fences, and other items typically kept outside. When high winds are accompanied by rain, blowing leaves and debris can clog catch basins, leading to localized urban flooding.

■   The County owns snowplows and utilizes sanding trucks to sand County roads reported as hazardous during snow and ice conditions.

2.2   Assumptions

- Stabilization of emergency conditions must be achieved before restoration can take place.

- As urbanization increases in areas of steep slopes, the potential problems and impacts that severe weather can have on County resources will be compounded.

- Watches and Warnings issued by the National Weather Service should provide enough notice of potential events that some actions can be taken in advance of the threat to protect property, resources, and infrastructure.

- All County equipment and personnel will be made available to cope with an emergency or disaster. Assistance obtained through mutual aid agreements may be necessary.

- Additional resources may be obtained through contracting with local vendors.

3   Roles and Responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities are as assigned in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Basic Plan, and Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes.

4   Concept of Operations

4.1   General

- Klamath County Emergency Management Agency (KCEMA) will watch for and monitor developing weather situations, but appropriate County departments need to keep aware of developing weather and its potential impact.

- The National Weather Service is responsible for the timely issuance of weather warnings to the public and to emergency managers.

- During periods of forecasted severe weather, all departments are responsible for monitoring weather radios or other regularly updated weather information sources.

  - After hours –

    – Sheriff (shift supervisor)

    – Fire District No. 1 (shift supervisor)

  - During business hours –

    – Sheriff

— Battalion Commander, Fire District No. 1 and/or other Fire Districts.

— KCEMA or other departments may request that 911 alert other departments such as:

  ▪ Road Department

  ▪ Oregon Department of Transportation

■ Planning and preparing for severe weather incidents is primarily the responsibility of KCEMA. Other County departments are responsible for planning to maintain their own operations and services during periods of extreme weather and for coordinating with other departments as requested.

■ Under most circumstances, response to severe weather incidents will be managed through the Incident Command System (ICS)..

  ● Depending on the scope of the incident, the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated, and assistance from other departments may be needed in the EOC.

  ● Some circumstances may require a unified command. For example, joint efforts of various Fire Districts, Ambulance Districts, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Transportation, Sheriff, and Public Works may be needed to more efficiently manage resources and prioritize calls for service.

  ● In extreme cases, full activation of the County EOC may be required.

4.2   Response

4.2.1 All Departments

■ All County departments are responsible for monitoring weather reports and forecasts to ensure an appropriate state of readiness.

■ Ensure that all emergency generators are operational and fueled.

■ Ensure that all County vehicles are prepared for severe weather (fueled, wiper blades, chains, winter tires, flares, etc.).

4.2.2 Public Works Department

■ In conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and Fire Districts, Public Works will monitor the condition of County roadways and take appropriate action, as needed.

4.2.3 Sheriff's Department

■ In the course of routine patrol, monitor the conditions of roadways and advise Oregon Department of Transportation, County Road Department, and City Road Departments of any need for remedial action.

■ Limit or restrict travel on roads that pose special hazardous conditions.

4.2.4 Klamath County Emergency Management Agency

■ Monitor weather conditions; alert department heads and other key staff of predictions of extreme weather.

■ If the EOC is not activated, the County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for ensuring inter-department and inter-agency coordination. This may well entail a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners that ICS be utilized and an Incident Commander appointed through a Delegation of Authority.

4.3   Interagency Coordination

4.3.1 Power Outages

Pacific Power will provide response to the loss of commercial power. During large emergencies when the EOC is activated, a Pacific Power liaison may be needed in the County EOC.

4.3.2 Shelters

(Also see ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services)

■ If temporary lodging is needed due to a severe storm, the American Red Cross will activate and provide information to the public regarding shelter locations.

■ The American Red Cross will manage shelter operations for the shelters that they activate.

4.3.3 Assistance Agencies

(Also see ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services)

■ The Klamath Basin Senior Citizens Council (Is there such an entity?) may assist in locating and contacting individual elderly citizens who may need assistance during winter storms or periods of extreme heat and cold.

■ The County Health Department and other organizations, public and private, such as Spokes Unlimited, Senior Citizens' Center, and organizations serving those with mental health issues, seniors, people with disabilities, etc, also provide support to citizens who may need extra assistance during extreme weather. This includes both crisis intervention and long-term support and provides an interface with such services as home-delivered and congregate meals, in-home services, and alternative care.

4.3.4 Emergency Transportation

Sources of emergency transportation include public transit companies, school districts, four wheel-drive clubs, and, under a declared emergency, the National Guard.

5   Appendices

■ Appendix 1 – Severe Weather Incident Checklist

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Appendix 1 - Severe Weather Incident Checklist

Phase of Activity	Action Items	Supplemental Information
PRE-INCIDENT PHASE	❑ Continue to maintain and revise, as needed, applicable response plans pertaining to severe weather and landslides, including the EOP and supporting procedures/plans.	
	❑ Monitor weather and flood reports.	
	❑ Pre-designate evacuation routes and alternate routes for areas vulnerable to landslides or other hazards relating to severe weather.	
	❑ Conduct pre-incident planning for sheltering and evacuation related to severe weather and landslides.	
	▪ Prepare map(s) and scripts for use by local television station(s) during emergency broadcasts. Include release instructions.	
	▪ Prepare radio messages for use by local radio stations during emergency broadcasts. Include release instructions.	
	❑ Have personnel participate in necessary training and exercises, as determined by Emergency Management in coordination with lead agencies and coordinators.	
	❑ Participate in County severe weather and landslide preparedness activities, seeking understanding of interactions with participating agencies in a severe weather scenario.	
	❑ Ensure that emergency contact lists are updated and establish a pre-event duty roster allowing for 24/7 operational support for the EOC.	
	❑ Ensure that landslide and flood response equipment and personnel inventories are current for the County. Test and maintain response and communications equipment. Keep a stock of necessary response supplies.	
	❑ Inform the County Emergency Management of any major developments that could adversely affect response operations (e.g., personnel shortages, loss of firefighting equipment, etc.).	
	❑ Work with the County planning department to establish appropriate infrastructure protection measures in landslide/flood-prone areas.	
	❑ Provide public safety information and educational programs regarding emergency preparedness and response.	

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Phase of Activity	Action Items	Supplemental Information
RESPONSE PHASE	❑ Activate the EOP when severe weather, and/or landslides incidents pose threats to the county.	
	❑ If the situation warrants, request activation of the County EOC via the Incident Commander (IC) through the Emergency Manager.	
	❑ Activate the appropriate EOCs and establish Incident Command. For larger events that cross multiple jurisdictions, establish a UC. City and/or County EOCs may be staffed. Staffing levels vary with the complexity and needs of the response. At a minimum, the IC, all Section Chiefs, the Resource Coordinator, and management support positions will most likely be needed.	
	❑ Estimate emergency staffing levels and request personnel support.	
	❑ Ensure that action is taken to protect personnel and emergency equipment from possible damage by severe weather, landslides, or floodwaters.	
	❑ Develop work assignments for ICS positions (recurring).	*ICS Form 203: Organization Assignment List*
	❑ Notify supporting agencies as well as the County Board of Commissioners.	
	▪ Identify local, County and regional agencies/entities that may be able to mobilize resources to support local response efforts and EOC staffing.	
	❑ Determine the type, scope, and extent of the incident (recurring). Verify reports and obtain estimates of the area that may be affected. Obtain status of impacts within the county.	*ICS Form 209: Incident Status Summary*
	▪ Notify command staff, support agencies, adjacent jurisdictions, agency leads/coordinators, and liaisons of any situational changes.	
	❑ Develop and initiate shift rotation plans, including briefing of replacements during shift changes.	
	▪ Dedicate time during each shift to preparing for shift change briefings.	*ICS Form 201: Incident Briefing*
	❑ Confirm or establish communications links among local and County EOCs and other AOCs. Confirm operable phone numbers and verify functionality of alternate communications resources.	
	❑ Ensure that all required notifications have been completed. Consider other local, County, and regional agencies/entities that may be affected by the incident. Notify them of the status.	
	❑ Manage and coordinate interagency functions. Providing multi-agency coordination is the primary goal. Assimilate into a UC structure if the scope of the incident so dictates.	

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Phase of Activity	Action Items	Supplemental Information
	❐ Implement local plans and procedures for severe weather, landslide, and/or flood operations. Ensure that copies of all documents are available to response personnel. Implement agency-specific protocols and SOPs.	*Local, agency, and facility-specific SOPs*
	❐ Obtain current and forecasted weather to project potential damage and determine the affected area (recurring).	
	❐ Determine the need to conduct evacuations and sheltering activities (recurring).	*ESF 6 of the County EOP*
	❐ Determine the need for additional resources and request as necessary through appropriate channels (recurring).	
	❐ Submit a request for an emergency/disaster declaration, as applicable.	*Chapter 1 of the County EOP.*
	❐ Activate mutual aid agreements. Activation includes placing backup teams on standby and alerting resource suppliers with potential needs as well as current needs.	*Appendix A of the County EOP*
	❐ Coordinate resource access, deployment, and storage in the operational area. Resources to coordinate include equipment, personnel, facilities, supplies, procedures, and communications. Track resources as they are dispatched and/or used.	*ICS Resource Tracking Forms*
	❐ Develop plans and procedures for registering mutual aid and other first responders as they arrive on the scene and receive deployment orders.	
	❐ Establish a JIC and designate a lead PIO for the County.	
	❐ Formulate emergency public information messages and media responses utilizing "one message, many voices" concepts (recurring).	
	❐ Public information will be reviewed by the IC (or designee). Information will be approved for release by the IC and Lead PIO before dissemination to the public.	
	❐ Record all EOC and individual personnel activities (recurring). All assignments, person(s) responsible, and actions taken should be documented in logbooks.	*EOC Planning Section job action guide*
	❐ Record all incoming and outgoing messages (recurring). All messages, and the names of those sending or receiving them, should be documented as part of the EOC log.	
	❐ Develop situation reports (recurring). At regular intervals, the EOC Director and staff will assemble a situation report.	*ICS Form 209: Incident Status Summary*
	❐ Develop and update the IAP (recurring). This document is developed by the Planning Section and approved by the IC. The IAP should be discussed at regular intervals and modified as the situation changes.	*ICS Form 202: Incident Objectives*
	❐ Implement objectives and tasks outlined in the IAP (recurring).	
	❐ Coordinate with private sector partners, as needed.	

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	☐ Ensure that all reports of injuries, deaths, and major equipment damage accrued during response activities are communicated to the IC and/or the Safety Officer.	
RECOVERY/ DEMOBILIZATION PHASE	☐ Ensure an orderly demobilization of emergency operations, in accordance with current demobilization plans.	*ICS Form 221 - Demobilization Plan*
	☐ Once the threat to public safety is eliminated, conduct cleanup and recovery operations.	
	☐ Activate, if necessary, the appropriate recovery strategies, continuity of operations plans, and/or continuity of government plans.	*ESF 14 – Long-Term Community Recovery and COOP/COG Plans*
	☐ Release mutual aid resources as soon as possible.	
	☐ Conduct a post-event debriefing to identify success stories, opportunities for improvement, and development of the After Action Report/Improvement Plan.	
	☐ Deactivate/demobilize the EOC, AOCs, and command posts.	
	☐ Correct response deficiencies reflected in the Improvement Plan.	
	☐ Revise any applicable emergency response plans based on the success stories and/or lessons learned during the response.	
	☐ Submit valuable success stories and/or lessons learned to the Lessons Learned Information Sharing website (www.llis.gov)	