

RE-ENTRY PLAN

I. PURPOSE

This functional plan provides the County population with coordinated emergency re-entry as a result of various threats, primarily hurricanes. Hurricanes have the potential to cause severe damage to properties near and adjacent to the Pamlico River. Hazardous situations such as washed-out roads, collapsed structures, downed powerlines, and leaking propane tanks are possible following a hurricane. In order to protect our citizens from these hazardous situations, local officials have devised a plan to restrict or limit access to the affected communities.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The ultimate responsibility for ordering a countywide evacuation or reentry rests with the Chairman of the County Commissioners. However, the EOC Activated Staff (control group) will consider potential decisions of such magnitude and an urgent effort will be made to reach a consensus. The EOC Activated Staff will consider available technical guidance, such as the Hurricane Evacuation Study, as well as current weather information.
2. All available media will release Public information concerning the EOC Activated Staff's reentry orders.
3. Regional coordination of traffic control, shelter/mass care, and public information will enhance the total evacuation and reentry process. The NC Division of Emergency Management will coordinate regional evacuation activities with its Eastern Branch Office in Kinston serving as a point of contact for all Counties.
4. The Beaufort County Sheriff will implement and coordinate traffic control for evacuation and reentry as requested by the EOC Activated Staff or a local Incident Commander.
5. Additional State agency resources and manpower needs will be requested and coordinated through Emergency Management.
6. Emergency services vehicles on stand-by will remain in Beaufort County until the general hurricane re-entry has been completed.

B. Specific

1. Re-entry

- a. The EOC Activated Staff will decide to allow reentry based primarily on considerations of public safety, security of damaged property, and the ability of Beaufort County to resume essential services.
- b. No re-entry will be allowed before an impact assessment.
- c. The EOC Activated Staff will issue re-entry plans for prioritizing re-entry requests made by the public. Law enforcement officers will enforce priorities.
- d. Evacuated emergency service equipment and essential personnel will return to Beaufort County before the return of the public. The County has determined pre-designated staging areas as mobilization points to organize the emergency response personnel and equipment entering from areas outside the County. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office will assign staging officers to these designated staging areas. Staging officers will assume responsibility for check-in and tracking of assigned units.
- e. Shelter/mass care operations will be quickly implemented in the county during disaster recovery to accommodate persons who did not evacuate.
- f. County and City employees who evacuate to other counties will follow pre-arranged agency procedures for organized reentry. These procedures will include contact numbers, group assembly points, priorities on available transportation, and check-in upon return to the County.
- g. The State Emergency Operations Center number (1-800-858-0368) will serve as an alternate point of contact for all County and City employees if direct communications to Beaufort County are lost (e.g., employees who were vacationing out of State when disaster struck).
- h. When road damage or debris prevents essential employees from reentering the County by vehicle for extended periods, the EOC Activated Staff (Control Group) will request additional resources to assist with re-entry.

C. Process

1. Immediately following evacuation, before re-entry is permitted, Roads will be closed to all traffic except for emergency personnel and utility companies. Repair crews will need this time to assess the situation and make repairs necessary to facilitate the return of property owners.
2. Property owners will be required to show proof of property ownership before re-entry is allowed in the impacted areas.
3. Property owners will be permitted to access the property if road conditions allow them to traverse through closed sections in order to reach their property.
4. Traveling through closed roadways will be prohibited.
5. Property owners are reminded that you may be allowed to reenter areas that are without utility services such as electricity, water, and sewer.
6. Property owners are reminded that curfews and travel limitations may exist for certain areas and need to prepare to handle these situations and adhere to these regulations.
7. The final step in the re-entry process is to allow the return of the general public back to the affected areas.
8. The re-entry of the general public will be coordinated between the local government and Emergency Management, in coordination with the Sheriff and NCDOT.