

KNOX COUNTY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

ANNEX L OF THE KNOX COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

9/27/2021



For all Agencies, Participant Organizations and Staff serving Knox County

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Damage Assessment

Primary Agencies: Knox County Emergency Management Agency

Local Fire and EMS Departments

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Support Agencies: County & City Engineer's Office

Knox County Community Emergency Response Team

Knox Public Health

Village and Township Public Works

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to describe those procedures to be followed in the assessment of damages resulting from natural or man-made disasters, or other major incidents. Based upon the county's hazard and threat assessment, the greatest potential for the need for damage assessment would be as a result of flooding, tornados and severe winter weather. Damage assessment provides a basis for determining the types of assistance needed and the assignment of priorities to those needs.

B. Scope

This plan applies to all participating agencies and organizations operating within the geographic boundaries of Knox County.

C. Policy

It is the policy of Knox County to develop plans and procedures that incorporate the concepts of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Preparedness Goal.

D. Core Capabilities

This annex addresses the following Core Capabilities as defined in the National Preparedness Goal:

- Economic Recovery
- Infrastructure Systems
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management

- Operational Coordination

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. The majority of hazardous events, which may affect the county, have the potential for causing significant damage.
2. A planned damaged assessment procedure is essential for effective response and recovery operations.
3. Many financial assistance programs at the state and federal levels require extensive damage assessment documentation.

B. Assumptions

1. The prompt and accurate assessment of damage to public and private property following a disaster will be of vital concern to local, state, and federal officials.
2. A rapid response will have a direct bearing on the manner in which recovery is affected in the county.
3. Comprehensive damage assessment evaluation is necessary to support requests for recovery programs offered at the state and federal levels.
4. An accurate damage assessment may support post disaster mitigation efforts.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Damage assessment personnel must be trained in order to provide fast and accurate information to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) so that effective response and recovery efforts may be coordinated.
2. Damage assessment covers two broad categories of information: Public and private damage.
 - a. Public damage includes, but not limited to:
 - i. Estimates of damage to governmental-owned facilities such as public buildings, sewage and water treatment facilities and other publicly-owned utilities, roadways, bridges, parks, public schools, etc.
 - ii. Estimates of cost to government's emergency response, i.e., cost of police and fire overtime, protective measures taken, debris removal etc.

Damage Assessment

- b. Public damage can also apply to certain non-profit organizations, i.e. schools, rural energy cooperatives, and fire departments.
- c. Private damage includes, but not limited to:
 - i. Estimates of people displaced and in need of housing
 - ii. Numbers of individuals in shelters.
 - iii. Number of individuals injured
 - iv. Number of confirmed fatalities.
 - v. Degree and dollar estimates of damage to private property including single family homes; multi-family homes; mobile homes; businesses; operating farms and personal possessions.

B. Preliminary Damage Assessment

1. A preliminary damage assessment produces a descriptive measure of the affected area as well as the severity and magnitude of the disaster. Response requirements, effectiveness of initial response operations, and requirements for supplemental assistance can be determined from preliminary damage assessments.
2. Local government officials will conduct preliminary damage assessment using all available sources (fire, police, etc.) as soon as life safety measures are completed.
3. Early identification of problems affecting the population will enable prompt and efficient decisions.

C. Detailed Damage Assessment

1. Subsequent to rescue and damage-limiting operations, a detailed damage assessment survey must be made to develop specific information on the severity and magnitude of the disaster.
2. Damage assessment reports will be consolidated for unincorporated areas in the county and reported separately for incorporated areas in the county.
3. A detailed damage assessment report will serve as the primary instrument to provide information to the state and to subsequently request assistance from the state and the federal government if established criteria are met.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. The Damage Assessment Coordinator within the EOC is responsible for overseeing the damage assessment operations.

Damage Assessment

2. Damage Assessment Teams - A roster of organizations that may provide damage assessment is listed in **Tab A** of this annex.
3. Public Damage Assessment will be the primary responsibility of the local government entity.
4. Damage Assessment of utilities will be accomplished by the specific utility company.
5. Agricultural Damage Assessment will be the primary responsibility of the County Extension Agency.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. Damage Assessment Coordinator
 - a. The Damage Assessment Coordinator is a member of the Operations Group within the EOC. Specific responsibilities include, but not limited to the following:
 - i. Work with other EOC staff to determine the approximate area affected.
 - ii. Communicate with public and private entities utilizing traditional and social media outlets.
 - iii. Assign damage assessment teams to affected areas.
 - iv. Insure teams have the necessary tools and information
 - v. Provide updated disaster information to the Operations Group Manager.
 - vi. Collaborate with State EOC for necessary assets including local Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) assistance.
 - vii. Collection of damage assessment data and preparation of reports.
2. Law Enforcement, Fire Services, and EMS agencies involved in responding to the disaster shall report the following information to the Operations Section as soon as it becomes available.
 - a. Number of fatalities (by name and/or address to avoid reporting duplication).
 - b. Number of injured (by name and/or address to avoid reporting duplication).
 - c. Other pertinent information that may become available to them during their response (evacuation, structural damage).
3. A representative from the affected City or County Tax Department, Auditor's Office, or Treasurer's Office may need to provide the following data:
 - a. The potential number of affected individuals.
 - b. The value of the stricken public/private properties.

Damage Assessment

- c. The annual and maintenance budgets of the affected communities and other vital-related data which may reflect the affected government's inability to financially recover.
 - d. Potential loss of tax base for the affected community resulting from the disaster.
 - e. General demographic data which may affect the community as a result of the disaster.
4. The Public Works Coordinator serves as part of the Operations Group within the EOC and coordinates directly with the Damage Assessment Coordinator. The Public Works Coordinator position is filled by representatives from either the County Engineer's Office or the City of Mount Vernon Engineering Department. A listing of all of the Public Works Coordinator's duties are outlined in detail in the EOC Annex.
 5. County and City Engineering Office will provide technical assistance for inspections, emergency repairs, and other engineering services to the local agencies during damage assessment operations within Knox County.
 6. Public Health will provide sanitation inspections for all private and public water and waste water sources.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The Damage Assessment Coordinator is a member of the Operations Section within the EOC and will report directly to the Operations Group Manager or the designee.
- B. The Damage Assessment Coordinator will operate from the EOC and will coordinate all damage assessment activities.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. The line of succession for the Damage Assessment function is as follows:
 - Damage Assessment Coordinator
 - Public Works Coordinator
 - Deputy Operations Group Manager
 - Operations Group Manager

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. A list of critical facilities is maintained by KCEMA and is available to those working within the EOC and those conducting damage assessments.
- B. The Damage Assessment Coordinator will work with Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) to insure the current state and federal requirements for damage assessment, including forms, are being met.

VIII. TRAINING AND EXERCISES

The County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate training and exercise opportunities for the Damage Assessment Coordinator and Damage Assessment Teams at least annually.

IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- A. Authorities – Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.21
- B. References – None used

X. PLAN UPDATE AND MAINTENANCE

- A. The KCEMA and all agencies and organizations that assist in providing damage assessment within Knox County are invited to be involved with review of this annex. Representatives of each support agency or organization are responsible for reviewing this annex and submitting changes to the County EMA Director. These recommendations should be based upon opportunities for improvement identified through exercises, actual events, and changes in organizational structure.
- B. KCEMA will coordinate any necessary meetings to review the recommendations identified and incorporate any needed changes to this annex to include any state and federal requirements.
- C. KCEMA will publish and distribute all changes to this annex and forward revisions to all responsible agencies listed in this annex.
- D. All agencies with responsibilities in damage assessment are responsible for developing and maintaining departmental SOP's, mutual aid agreements, equipment inventories and personnel roster including 24-hour emergency contact information.

XI. AUTHORITIES

President,
Knox County Board of Commissioners

Date

Director
Knox County Emergency Management Agency

Date

TAB A – DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TEAM INFORMATION

The following groups will serve as damage assessment teams for Knox County and will be requested in the order listed. These teams will be responsible for collecting information to determine whether a disaster has reached the threshold required for a presidential declaration for Individual Assistance.

- Knox County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Ohio Special Response Team (Current Memorandum of Understanding on file)
- Ohio EMA CERT Team

Contact Information

Knox County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Primary Contact: Phillip Lohmeyer
CERTcoordinator@knoxcountyema-oh.gov
Emergency Contact Number: 740-627-0670

Secondary Contact: Mike Gibson
aobfarm@gmail.com
Emergency Contact Number: 614-852-6757

Ohio Special Response Team

Primary Contact: Brian Bazley
bbazley@neo.rr.com
Emergency Contact Number: (419) 565-2218

Secondary Contact: Elvin Burnell
ewburnell@embarqmail.com
Emergency Contact Number: (419) 512-3709

Ohio EMA CERT Team

Primary Contact: Ohio EMA Watch Office
EMAWatch@dps.ohio.gov
Emergency Contact Number: (614) 799-6500