

Annex P

Prevention and Protection

Knox County Emergency Operations Plan

11/25/2025



For all Agencies, Participant Organizations and Staff serving Knox County

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Primary Agencies: Knox County Emergency Management Agency

Knox County Law Enforcement Agencies

Support Agencies: Ohio Emergency Management Agency

State of Ohio Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to establish general guidelines for the prevention, protection, and if necessary, the effective coordination in response to a terrorism incident in Knox County.

B. Scope

This annex applies to all participating departments and agencies of the jurisdictions contained 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.

- Access Control and Identity Verification
- Cybersecurity
- Forensics and Attributes
- Intelligence and Information Sharing
- Interdiction and Disruption
- Operational Coordination
- Physical Protective Measures
- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities
- Screening, Search, and Detection
- Supply Chain Integrity and Security

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Knox County is susceptible to a terrorist incident and, although doubtful, the impact of such an event could be catastrophic and rapidly deplete local resources.
2. Potential targets within Knox County may include:
 - Emergency Services
 - Government facilities
 - Commercial/Industrial Facilities
 - Medical/Public Health Facilities
 - Special Events (festivals, fairs)
 - Transportation
 - Schools/Colleges/Universities
3. The basic definition of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) is a weapon or device that can kill or injure a large number of people. An WMD could be an explosive, incendiary, biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear weapon.
4. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's definition of Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.
5. Knox County currently does not have a hazardous materials response team (HAZMAT) or an urban search and rescue (USAR) team and would be required to utilize regional teams.
6. Knox County lacks the resources to operate a local fusion center and as such must rely upon state resources to obtain regional, statewide, national, and international information collection and analysis.

B. Assumptions

1. A response to a terrorist threat will require coordination and cooperation among diverse government and private organizations.
2. The location and extent of some terrorist attacks may be predetermined, while most attacks may occur with little or no warning.
3. During a WMD attack, the general public, while not contaminated, may fear contamination and overwhelm medical facilities.
4. Organizations identified in this document are aware of their responsibilities and will fulfill these requirements in the event of a terrorist attack.
5. Regional, State and federal support will be provided.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Prevention and Protection Activities

1. The State of Ohio Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center (STACC) is one of 80 centers that make up the National Fusion Center Network and is designated by the Governor as the primary State fusion center. The purpose of the STACC is to facilitate effective terrorism related information and intelligence sharing, working with and supporting local, state, and federal governmental agencies, public and private sectors, and the citizens of Ohio. Knox County will rely upon the STACC to work with local law enforcement as well as the public and private sectors to provide the following prevention and protection information and activities.
 - Conduct forensic analysis and attribute terrorist acts, (including the means and methods of terrorism) to their source, including forensic analysis as well as attribution for an attack and for the preparation for such act, in an effort to prevent initial or follow-up actions and/or swiftly develop counter alternatives.
 - Provide timely, accurate, and actionable information resulting from the planning, direction, collection, exploitation, processing, analysis, production, dissemination, evaluation, and feedback of available information concerning physical and cyber threats to the United States, its people, property, or interests; the development, proliferation, or use of WMDs; or any other matter bearing on U.S. national or homeland security by local, state, tribal, territorial, Federal, and other stakeholders. Information sharing is the ability to exchange intelligence, information, data, or knowledge among government or private sector entities, as appropriate.
 - Delay, divert, intercept, halt, apprehend or secure threats and/or hazards
 - Implement and maintain risk-informed countermeasures and policies protecting people, borders, structures, materials, products, and systems associated with key operational activities and critical infrastructure sectors.
 - Identify, assess, and prioritize risks to inform protection activities, countermeasures, and investments.
 - Identify, discover, or locate threats and/or hazards through active and passive surveillance and search procedures. This may include the use of systematic examinations and assessments, bio surveillance, sensor technologies, or physical investigation and intelligence.
 - Strengthen the security and resilience of the supply chain.
2. The Ohio EMA Watch Office is a key component of the state emergency management system. Knox County EMA will rely on the Watch Office to provide critical information and analysis that is beyond the EOC's ability to obtain.

The Watch Office serves as the initial point of contact at the agency for its state partners and county EMAs for incident reporting. This office aims to help facilitate a quicker, more informed decision-making process for the preparation for, and response to hazards and incidents impacting Ohio.

The Watch Office team of analysts:

- Provide daily situational awareness products and decision-support.
 - Track and dispatch state resources and assets.
 - Provide timely, accurate and actionable assessments to the agency, its partners and stakeholders throughout the state.
 - Develops situational awareness reports, as well as state advisories and other reports that provide awareness of a developing situation that could pose a threat to life and/or property.
3. Local agencies and first responders work daily to recognize threat indicators. When indicators are observed local agencies will report suspicious activity through their agency to the STACC.
 4. When the Knox County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, the planning and decision making process used to evaluate critical and essential information is the responsibility of the Planning Group. The Planning Group is responsible for the collection of local, regional and statewide information with the goal of developing a common operating picture. This information would then be disseminated to local and state partners to include the STACC.

B. Response Activities

1. Direction and Control

- Incident Command will be established at the site of the emergency by fire and law enforcement officials of that jurisdiction. A unified incident command structure may be implemented to meet the complex needs of the incident.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is designated as the lead federal agency for terrorism incidents.
- The Knox County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would be activated by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency (KCEMA) as outlined in the EOC Annex of the Knox County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in the event of a terrorism related incident.
- Local jurisdictions will submit requests for state and federal resources through their standard operating procedures through existing mutual aid agreements. Otherwise requests for state and federal assistance will be submitted through the EMA office.
- Each agency has established protocols for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
- Communications, Emergency Public Information and Warning will be conducted as outlined in the specific annexes county EOP.
- A list of local resources can be found in the KCEMA Resource Guide.

2. Public Protective Actions

- American Red Cross (ARC) officials are responsible for organizing shelter services in cooperation with the Knox Public Health and the EOC as outlined in the Mass Care Annex of the county EOP.

- Shelter officials will coordinate with EOC officials in order to provide protective actions necessary to limit the exposure of sheltered residents to hazardous materials while in the shelter.
- Radiological monitoring kits are stored at the KCEMA.
- If a vehicle and or occupants are found to be contaminated, they will be directed to the nearest decontamination point.
- Evacuation of Knox County residents will be conducted as outlined in the Evacuation Annex of the county EOP.
- Dissemination of public information and warnings will be conducted as outlined in the Public Information and Warning Annex of the county EOP.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Federal Government

1. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)

- The FBI is responsible for coordinating the Federal response. The FBI and FEMA have been assigned lead agency responsibility for crisis and consequence management, respectively, in response to a domestic terrorist threat or incident.
- The FBI is the lead agency for crisis management response to acts of domestic terrorism, which includes measures to identify, acquire, and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent, or resolve a threat or act of terrorism.
- The laws of the United States assign primary authority to the Federal government to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism; State and local governments provide assistance as required.

2. Department of Defense (DOD)

- The DOD supports Local, State, and Federal government agencies in planning for and responding to domestic emergencies. Local units may respond when necessary to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage.
- Many units execute memorandums of understanding for mutual support of emergency services with local jurisdictions or municipalities. National Guard units may also respond under state control when directed by appropriate State authorities.
- Upon the declaration of an emergency or major disaster by the President, the Secretary of Defense or his/her Executive Agent provide federal military support.

3. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- DHS maintains one vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face and ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards.
- DHS prevents terrorism and enhances national security, secures and manages federal borders and ensures resilience to disasters.

4. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- FEMA is the lead Federal agency for consequence management, which entails both preparedness for and dealing with the consequences of a terrorist incident.
- Although the affected State and Local governments have primary jurisdiction for emergencies, a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction could create havoc beyond their capability to respond. If this were to happen, FEMA would coordinate consequence management activities including measures to alleviate damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused by the incident; to protect public health and safety; to restore essential government services; and to provide emergency assistance.
- FEMA would implement the Federal Response Plan, cooperating with state and local emergency response agencies. Final authority to make decisions on-scene regarding the consequences of the incident (rescue and treatment of casualties, protective actions for the affected community) rests with the local incident commander.

B. State Government

1. The STACC in accordance with their mission will provide the following.
 - Actionable information, intelligence, and knowledge to local government officials or private sector entities, as appropriate.
 - Recommendations for protection activities.
2. Ohio EMA will provide the following.
 - Support Knox County by supporting requests for state resources.
 - Situational awareness of significant events.

C. Local Government

1. Knox County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

- Disseminates prevention and protection information received from State partners to appropriate local stakeholders.
- Activates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support monitoring, coordination, and response operations, including requests for State and Federal resources.

- Coordinates public information and warning efforts with the County Public Information Officer (PIO) and Joint Information Center (JIC), if activated.

2. Local Law Enforcement Agencies

- Act on actionable intelligence received from STACC and local sources.
- Submit Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and share relevant information with STACC and partner agencies.
- Provide protective security operations and coordinate with EMA and other local partners during elevated threats.

3. Local Fire and EMS Agencies

- Support law enforcement and EMA during threat investigations and protective operations as requested.
- Assist with hazard assessment and provide fire suppression, medical care, rescue, and initial consequence actions.
- Provide technical expertise related to hazardous materials, explosives, or potential mass-casualty impacts.
- Participate in information-sharing processes through coordination with EMA and other local partners.

4. Knox Public Health

- Monitors for unusual illness patterns or indicators of biological, chemical, or radiological threats.
- Provides technical expertise in public health protection and health risk communication.
- Coordinates with local healthcare facilities, EMA, Ohio Department of Health, and regional partners.
- Supports public information messaging through the PIO/JIC.

5. Knox County 9-1-1 / Dispatch Center

- Receives, documents, and disseminates suspicious activity information to Law Enforcement and EMA.
- Ensures timely notification of key agencies during escalating threat conditions.
- Supports communications interoperability during protection and response operations.

6. County and Municipal Elected Officials

- Provide policy-level direction and allocate resources during heightened threat conditions or protection activities.
- Coordinate with EMA and Public Safety partners to authorize emergency measures when necessary.

- Support community outreach, public protective actions, and official messaging.

7. Private Sector and Critical Infrastructure Partners

- Report suspicious activities or security concerns to Law Enforcement or STACC.
- Implement security, threat monitoring, and protective measures appropriate to their sector.
- Coordinate with EMA and first responders during information sharing and protective action implementation.

8. Educational Institutions (Schools, Colleges, Universities)

- Implement threat assessment protocols and share relevant information with Law Enforcement and EMA.
- Maintain protective security measures, emergency operations plans, and regular drills.
- Coordinate protective actions and communication with EMA during emerging threats or incidents.

9. Healthcare Facilities

- Report unusual injuries, illnesses, or indicators of possible terrorism-related activity to Public Health or Law Enforcement.
- Maintain readiness for surge capacity, mass-casualty care, and specialized treatment.
- Coordinate with Knox Public Health, EMA, and State health partners for information sharing and protective actions.

V. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. The all agencies involved in prevention and protection activities as well as the response to a terrorism incident in Knox County are invited to be involved with review of this annex. Representatives of each agency identified in this annex 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. Knox County EMA 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. The Knox County EMA will publish and distribute all changes to this annex and forward revisions to all responsible organizations listed in this annex.
- D. All agencies and organizations involved in prevention and protection activities as well as the response to a terrorism incident are responsible for developing and maintaining departmental SOPs, mutual aid agreements, equipment inventories and personnel roster including 24-hour emergency telephone notification numbers.

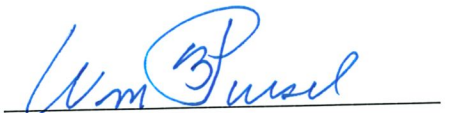
VI. AUTHORTIES

A. Authorities - Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.21

B. References

1. Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans, Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101-Version 2.0
2. National Preparedness Goal, Second Edition

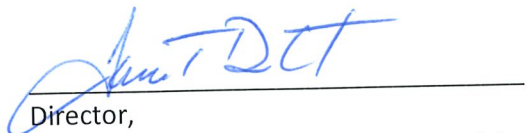
VII. AUTHENTICATION



President,
Knox County Board of Commissioners

12-16-2025

Date



Director,
Knox County Emergency Management Agency

12-2-25

Date



Sheriff,
Knox County Sheriff's Office

12/2/25

Date



President,
Knox County Fire Chief's Association

12-15-2025

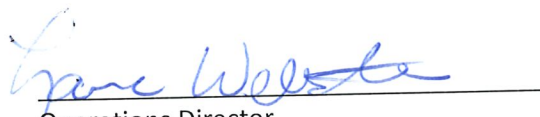
Date



Health Commissioner
Knox Public Health

12/9/25

Date



Operations Director,
Knox County 9-1-1

12/15/25

Date