

# **BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

### **DISASTER**

Reviewed by: Lt. James B. Clesson	Effective Date: November 28, 1990
Authorized by: Chief Jamal A. Simington	Revision Date: February 16, 2026

#### **PURPOSE**

This Standard Operating Procedure will not supersede or replace the City of Bloomington Disaster Plan, but will be implemented as quick reference and as a supplement to the Plan. Every staff officer should be familiar with the City of Bloomington Disaster plan and all its updates. Staff officers should periodically review the Disaster Plan and communicate those portions of the Disaster Plan pertinent to the department to their assigned officers on a regular basis, preferably as part of briefing training.

#### **PROCEDURE**

##### **DEGREE OF MOBILIZATION**

At the earliest possible time, the Emergency Services Coordinator (Fire Chief) and local officials should determine the scope of the emergency operations and decide upon the extent of manpower and facilities to be mobilized for the operation. If an extended operation is expected, consideration should be given to shift relief, food, water, and sanitation facilities for personnel, traffic control signs and barricades, security measures, etc.

In a major disaster, one or a combination of any of the following conditions may occur in the City of surrounding area:

1. Mass injury and deaths;
2. Entrapment of persons in damaged structures;
3. Structural fires;
4. Flooding or the imminent threat of flooding from heavy rainfall;
5. Mass disruption (collapse, rupture, landslide, trees down, traffic accidents) of transportation systems including highways, bridges and overpasses, airfield, and rail lines;
6. Pipeline hazard incidents;
7. Lost and homeless people;
8. Lack of public information and direction resulting from communication failures (radio, television, telephone);
9. Lack of essential utilities resulting from rupture of water, electrical, natural gas, and sewage systems;
10. Massive disruption of wholesale and retail distribution systems (transportation, storage, and retail outlets) for human and emergency operations essentials (food, medicine, gasoline, etc.);

11. Disruption of monetary systems (e.g. lack of personal cash and the inability to cash checks or use credit cards) within the disaster area;
12. Lack of adequate medical facilities within the disaster area, accompanied by lack of adequate medical evaluation capabilities;
13. Theft and looting in two categories:
  - a. Food, water, medicine and other human essentials by normally law-abiding citizen.
  - b. Drugs and valuable items by the criminal element.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF ICS AT SCENE**

At the scene of a natural disaster or Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event, the Bloomington Police Department follows the ICS (Incident Command System) and Unified Command Principles as mandated by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). An Incident Command System should be build based on the size of the event and an area for this Unified Command selected with the following in mind:

1. Accessibility
2. Expected Length of Operations
3. Equipment and personnel to be involved
4. Weather conditions

Once ICS is established it is managed by reaching objectives derived from goals based on the following general priorities in order of importance:

1. Life Saving
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Preservation

With those in mind a suggested priority of Operation at the scene of a natural disaster is as follows:

1. Search, rescue and medical attention for injured
2. Control of hazards or potential hazards
3. Evacuation of persons from hazardous areas
4. Control of access to and security of the emergency area
5. Evaluation of the situation by gathering all information available

### **ADMISSION TO EMERGENCY AREA**

All emergency vehicles of the Sheriff, State Police, Bloomington Police, county emergency service organization, fire departments, Coroner, and other essential officials should be admitted at once. If a hazard to their safety (explosion fumes, etc.) exists, they must be warned of the danger and proper safety precautions to take. Other essential vehicles (mutual aid teams, ambulances, doctors, nurses, utility and highway crews, Red Cross, and news and radio personnel) should be admitted if no hazard exists. If their presence is essential in a hazardous area, they must be warned of the specific dangers and proper precautions to be taken for their safety. Relatives of persons involved in the emergency and others having important business in the area should be admitted if there is no hazard and interference with emergency work can be avoided. Their vehicles should be diverted to a staging area and remain there. If armbands are to be used, all persons entering must have an armband required of emergency services personnel as set forth in the City of Bloomington Disaster Plan.

### **TRAFFIC CONTROL**

No parking should be allowed on roads close to the emergency area. Spectators and curiosity seekers should be kept moving and diverted away from the area. Assistance for the Public Service Department may be necessary for some distance from the area.

### **AMBULANCES**

Regular ambulances should be used for transportation of the injured if at all possible. Other vehicles should be used only in extreme emergency, and then with caution.

### **NOTIFICATION OF DISASTER**

In the event of a major local emergency involving more casualties than can be handled routinely, hospital and officials who can assist must be notified without delay.

The first emergency unit to arrive at the site of a major emergency in the City of Bloomington will notify the telecommunicator who will in turn notify:

1. The Shift Commander on duty at the Bloomington Police Department
2. The Bloomington Fire Department
3. Emergency medical services

The Shift Commander and/or the telecommunicator will notify:

1. The McLean County Emergency Services Coordinator;
2. Other persons and agencies as outlines in this plan; and
3. The Coroner, if needed.

The telecommunicator and Emergency Medical dispatcher will coordinate efforts and notify additional ambulances and emergency units as needed.

The telecommunicator and/or Police Department shift commander will notify St. Joseph's Hospital and BroMenn by telephone of the nature of the disaster.

If the telecommunicator or the Police Department shift commander encounters difficulty in contacting the area hospitals by telephone, the Fire Department will be contacted. Contact with area hospitals can then be made by use of the MERCI radio network capabilities of the Fire Department ambulances.

### **OPERATIONS AT THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY**

The police field coordinator, (Chief of Police, highest ranking or most senior Police Department officer present) will be responsible for overall control of police operations at the site of the emergency. He will also be in control of traffic and transportation to and from the hospitals. He will establish the Field Command post at the site. Fire, ambulance, the Public Service Department, Red Cross, Rescue and other volunteer units will set up their command posts close to the field command post, receive directions from the police field coordinator until he is relieved by the City's Emergency Services Coordinator (Fire Chief). The police field coordinator and the official in charge of each department or rescue unit, or someone designated by him, will remain near the command post to ensure and facilitate coordination and control. The Deputy Fire Chief of

Operations, highest ranking or senior Fire Department officer at the scene will be in charge of operations inside the emergency area. The McLean County Mass Casualty Plan shall be implemented. He will direct firefighting, rescue and triage operations and the removal of the dead when directed to do so by the Coroner.

The Police field coordinator or emergency services coordinator will select the routes to be taken from the site to the hospital and returning, and provide for traffic control, including entrances and exits at hospitals.

The Director of Public Service will provide debris clearance from access routes.

Upon arrival at the scene, the Coroner will notify the police field coordinator and may request assistance from the Police field coordinator for designation of and the policing of a temporary identification area.

#### **OTHER DUTIES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT DURING A NATURAL DISASTER**

The Department will provide the normal police services incidental to the performance of regularly assigned duties. The Department will incorporate such duties that arise from an emergency, including:

1. Security measures to guard against sabotage and subversive activities;
2. Protecting property and restricting movement in an area affected by natural emergency to
  - a. Prevent looting
  - b. Control traffic so that warning, evacuation and rescue operations will not be impeded by sightseers.
3. Coordination of police activities with those of other services to aid and assist in the overall operation.
4. Develop and train emergency services auxiliary to assist regular forces with the duties and responsibilities listed above.
5. Make arrangements for food, water and relief for police personnel.
6. Make arrangements for mechanical repair of equipment.

#### **EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTER**

In addition to the Emergency Headquarters at the scene of a natural disaster, there will also be an Emergency Control Center made available from which key officials can exercise direction and control in extraordinary emergencies.

The McLean County Emergency Management, Emergency Operating Center (E.O.C.) will be the location of the control center. If the E.O.C. cannot be used, then the following locations will be utilized in order:

1. Bloomington Police Department - 305 S. East, Bloomington IL;
2. Bloomington Fire Headquarters - 310 N. Lee, Bloomington IL.

All of these locations will be equipped with maps and displays in place. The center will be adequately ventilated, and appropriate space will be made available for emergency power with a 14-day supply of diesel fuel on hand.

#### **RADIO CHANNELS**

The Bloomington Police Department communications frequency for a natural disaster will be designated at the time of the incident.

### **MUTUAL AID**

In the event of a disaster, additional resources may be provided through Illinois Enforcement Alarm System.

Below is the list of numbers and information needed to activate this resource:

McLean County EMA	Business Hours	309-888-5020
METCOM; or	After Hours	309-888-5030
Director of McLean County EMA	Cathy Beck (Cell)	309-838-9924

#### Have this information ready when you call!

1. Name of agency requesting the call-out
2. Name of person authorizing the request
3. Callback number

### **Pipeline Emergency Response**

Hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines may be present within or near municipal boundaries. Pipeline incidents may involve flammable gases, crude oil, refined petroleum products, propane, butane, anhydrous ammonia, or other hazardous materials.

These incidents may present risks including fire, explosion, toxic vapor release, environmental contamination, and public safety hazards.

City personnel responding to suspected pipeline emergencies shall:

#### **Recognize Indicators of a Release**

- Unusual sights such as vapor clouds, mist, rainbow sheen on water, bubbling in standing water, or discolored vegetation.
- Unusual sounds such as hissing or roaring.
- Unusual odors or signs of petroleum product presence.
- Presence of official pipeline markers identifying the product transported, pipeline operator, and emergency contact number

#### **Establish Scene Safety**

- Immediately isolate the area and deny entry.
- Avoid ignition sources.
- Position apparatus upwind, uphill, and upstream when possible.
- Initiate evacuation or shelter-in-place decisions based on product type and conditions.

#### **Notification and Coordination**

- Immediately notify the appropriate pipeline operator using emergency contact information.
- Utilize the One-Call System (JULIE/811) when applicable

- Coordinate with McLean County Emergency Management Agency, Fire Department, and other responding agencies under Unified Command as appropriate.

**Hazard Awareness**

- Personnel shall be aware that natural gas may have a flammable range between approximately 4% and 15% and may contain hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), which poses serious health risks at elevated concentrations
- Propane, butane, and anhydrous ammonia may produce flammable vapor clouds and may rapidly expand or cause frostbite/chemical burns upon release
- Responders shall utilize appropriate personal protective equipment and monitoring equipment consistent with department training and hazardous materials protocols.

All pipeline incidents shall be managed in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and applicable City emergency operations procedures.

**For more information reference the Pipeline Emergency Quick Reference Guide located in Power DMS.**