Emergency Operations Center Status

Activation Levels

**Level 1 Event (Full Activation EOC)**
Level 1 is a full activation of the Vernon County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Representatives from all aspects of local government will be present in addition to representatives from private organizations responsible for infrastructure, agencies to be included, but not limited to, are: Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, Land and Water/Dams, Health Care, Communications, County Health Department, The American Red Cross/Salvation Army, The Highway Department, Elected Officials, Public Information, Information Technology Systems, Human Services, Corporation Counsel, County Emergency Management and representatives from partner organizations at the state and/or national level including necessary voluntary organizations.

Upon activation at this level, a Public Information Officer (PIO) is to be assigned immediately. The PIO will be responsible for all communication on behalf of the EOC and will coordinate both internal and external communication.

Possible deployments at this level include: sustained operations before, during or after a large natural disaster, events resulting (or likely to result) in a significant loss of life or property, large scale public health event, community wide failure of critical infrastructure, transportation incidents requiring a unified community response, and uncontrolled large scale civil unrest.

During this activation level, internal status updates will occur frequently within the EOC. The transmission of public information will be critical during an event of this size and as such will be frequent.

**Level 2 Event (Partial Activation EOC)**
Level 2 is a partial activation of the local EOC. Representatives in the EOC will vary depending on the event. During level 2 activation the EOC will maintain contact with all partner organizations either in person or via other communication methods.

Upon activation at this level, a Public Information Officer (PIO) is to be assigned immediately. The PIO will be responsible for all communication on behalf of the EOC and will coordinate both internal and external communication.

**Level 3 Event (Minimal Activation EOC)**
Level 3 activations allows for active monitoring of what may become a major event in the area. During active monitoring, partner organizations are made aware that an event has or is expected to occur and are kept apprised of changes in the status of any event.
Communication will utilize email, telephone, briefings, and other means of communication. During level 3 activation, briefings should occur at a minimum of every twenty-four hours.

**Level 4 Event (Virtual EOC Operations)**

Level 4 is when the EOC operates in a virtual environment when monitoring small-scale incidents involving limited geographical areas and/or resource requests. The Emergency Management Director may create a WEBEOC event site and some additional staff are notified. EOC staff participate remotely as needed and continue to monitor and contribute to the site. Staff maintains communication with affected jurisdictions and coordinates resource requests.

**Level 5 Event (Emergency Management Director)**

The County Emergency Management Director is on call 24 hours a day to receive calls from the Vernon County Dispatch Center and local jurisdictions relating to emergency situations. The Emergency Management Director continuously monitor events around the County with contact with the National Weather Service, Highway Department, and Dispatch Center.

**Activation Criteria for Determining Event Levels**

Triggers may include, but are not limited to the following situations:

- Tornado Warnings for multiple counties resulting from a storm system passing through the state.
- Winter storm or blizzard warning
- Predicted rapid and heavy rate of snow fall
- Imminent threat of flash flooding
- Large evacuation
- Shelters opening in response to large evacuations
- Events that cause significant disruption to community activities and affect public safety
- Closure of major portions of the Interstate system or Highway 41
- Potential or actual impacts on critical facilities
- Resource request or need for involvement of multiple state agencies
- The impacts of the disaster and/or media coverage make an influx of spontaneous volunteers likely.
- Shortages of professional emergency responders require additional staffing support from outside sources.
- Volunteers with particular skills and/or special knowledge of Vernon County are needed to enhance response and recovery.

Other severe weather factors:
  - Number of counties affected
- Population in the affected counties
- Transportation and infrastructure affected
- Ability of staff to respond to State EOC
- Potential for extensive power outages
- Timing of the weather event (i.e. holiday travel, on-going special events, etc.)