

BEN HILL COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
**BASIC PLAN**

### I. INTRODUCTION

This plan establishes a framework for emergency management planning and response to: prevent emergency situations; reduce vulnerability during disasters; establish capabilities to protect residents from effects of crisis; respond effectively and efficiently to actual emergencies; and provide for rapid recovery from any emergency or disaster affecting the local jurisdiction.

### II. PURPOSE

To prevent or minimize injury to people and damage to property resulting from emergencies or disasters of natural or man-made origin.

### III. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situations - this jurisdiction has identified hazards having the potential to disrupt day-to-day activities and/or cause extensive property damage, personal injury, and/or casualties. (Priority for emergency management planning is based on the Hazard Profile contained in Appendix A.)

B. Assumptions - local government assumes responsibility for emergency management operations and commits all available resources to save lives, minimize personal injury and property damage. Assistance from other jurisdictions, the state and/or federal government may be available, under certain circumstances, when emergency or disaster response and recovery operations exceed local government capabilities and a local state of emergency has been declared.

### IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

#### A. Program of Emergency Management

The person responsible for the emergency management program within a county will be the Chairperson of the County Commission. For a municipality, the Mayor will have this responsibility. Within a consolidated government, the Chief Executive Officer will be the responsible party. The designated official provides direction and coordination to the EMA director. While during the activation of this Local Emergency Operations Plan each municipality will retain its autonomy, they will be expected to respond according to a standardized unified incident command system.

#### B. Phases of Emergency Management

1. Mitigation - Mitigation activities may prevent the occurrence of an emergency, reduce the community's vulnerability, and/or minimize the

adverse impact of disasters or emergencies. A preventable measure, for instance, is to enforce the local building codes to minimize such situations.

2. Preparedness - Preparedness activities exist prior to an emergency to support and enhance disaster response. Planning, training, exercises, community awareness, and education are among such activities.

3. Response - Response activities address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. This helps to reduce casualties and damages and speed recovery. Response activities include direction and coordination, warning, evacuation, and other similar operations.

4. Recovery - Recovery activities involve restoring the community to a normal state. Short-term recovery includes damage assessment and the return of vital functions to minimize operating standards, such as utilities and emergency services. Long-term recovery activities may continue for years, when rebuilding and relocating due to damaged property.

#### C. Local Government Responsibilities

1. Local government is responsible for all emergency management activities in order to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations. When operating under such conditions, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will utilize all available resources within the jurisdiction, including voluntary and private assets, before requesting other assistance. After the emergency exceeds the local government's capacity to respond, assistance will be requested from other jurisdictions and the Georgia Emergency Agency (GEMA). Upon a presidential declaration, assistance as requested by the state, will be provided through federal Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and/or other resources.

2. Consistent with the state's commitment to comprehensive emergency management, this plan addresses major emergency situations which may develop in the jurisdiction other than those for which the military is primarily responsible. It outlines activities that may address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan emphasizes the capacity of the EMA to respond and accomplish short-term recovery.

3. The EMA director, in coordination with local government, will implement interagency coordination for emergency operations.

4. The public information designee, in coordination with local government, the EMA director, and other primary/support agencies will release all emergency information.

5. If an agency requests functional support from another agency or organization, assigned personnel and resources will be coordinated by the

Ben Hill