

**ANNEX E**

**EVACUATION**

Revision One

**Brazoria County**

**And**

**Joint Resolution Cities**

# APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

## Annex E

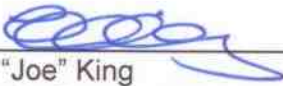
### Evacuation

Revision One



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7-2-14  
Date



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7/3/14  
Date



**ANNEX E**  
**EVACUATION**

**I. AUTHORITY**

See Basic Plan, section I.

**II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this annex is to provide for the orderly and coordinated evacuation of all or any part of the population of Brazoria County, if it is determined that such action is the most effective means available for protecting the population from the effects of an emergency situation.

**III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS**

**A. Acronyms**

EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
MACC	Multiple Agency Coordination Center
NRP	National Response Plan
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PIO	Public Information Office or Officer
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STEAR	State of Texas Evacuation Assistance Registry
UC	Unified Command

**B. Definitions**

1. Special Facilities. Certain facilities which house or serve populations that cannot care for themselves during emergency situations and/or require unique support services. Such facilities include:
  - Schools and day care centers, where students require supervision to ensure their safety.
  - Hospitals and nursing homes, where patients need specialized health care personnel and equipment to maintain their health.
  - Correctional facilities, where offenders require security to keep them in custody.
2. Evacuation. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) defines evacuation as an organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians

from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

#### IV. SITUATION & ASSUMPTIONS

##### A. Situation

1. There are a wide variety of emergency situations that might require an evacuation of portions of the local area.
  - a. Limited evacuation of specific geographic areas might be needed as a result of a hazardous materials transportation accident, major fire, natural gas leak, or localized flash flooding.
  - b. Large-scale evacuation could be required in the event of a major hazardous materials spill, terrorist attack with chemical agent, extensive flooding, or a hurricane.
2. Authority for Evacuations. State law provides a county judge with the authority to order the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area within their respective jurisdictions. Hence, the County Judge may order a mandatory evacuation of Brazoria County upon issuing a local disaster declaration. The County Judge may also take subsequent action to control re-entry, curtail movement, and deny building occupancy within a disaster area.

##### B. Assumptions

1. Most people at risk will evacuate when local officials recommend that they do so. A general estimate is 80 percent of those at risk will comply when local officials direct an evacuation. The proportion of the population that will evacuate typically increases as a threat becomes more obvious to the public or increases in severity.
2. Some individuals will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat.
3. When there is sufficient warning of a significant threat, many individuals who are not at risk will evacuate.
4. Evacuation planning for known hazard areas can and should be done in advance.
5. While some emergency situations are slow to develop, others occur without warning. Hence, there may be time for deliberate evacuation planning or an evacuation may have to be conducted with minimal preparation time. In the case of short notice evacuations, there may be little time to obtain personnel and equipment from external sources to support evacuation operations.
6. The need to evacuate may become evident during the day or at night and there could be little control over the evacuation start time.
7. In most emergency situations, the majority of evacuees will seek shelter with relatives or friends or in commercial accommodations rather than in public shelter facilities.



8. Most evacuees will use their personal vehicles to evacuate; however, transportation may need to be provided for evacuees without personal vehicles.
9. When confronting a major disaster or catastrophic incident, it may be necessary to employ all modes of transportation to include state and/or federal assistance to effectively evacuate our population.

## V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. General

1. Evacuation is one means of protecting the public from the effects of a hazard; protection is achieved by moving people away from the hazard. In planning for evacuation, the characteristics of the hazard and its magnitude, intensity, speed of onset, and anticipated duration are all significant factors. These will determine the number of people to be evacuated, the distance people must be moved to ensure their safety, the need for reception facilities, and the extent of traffic control and security required.
2. We must be prepared to conduct both small-scale and large-scale evacuations at all times of the day both from known hazard areas and from unexpected incident locations. A General Evacuation Checklist, provided in Appendix 1, has been developed to guide the execution of evacuation operations.

### B. Evacuation Decisions

1. The County Judge shall assess the need for evacuation, plan evacuations, and coordinate support for the evacuation effort. Evacuation planning should resolve the following questions:
  - a. What areas or facilities are at risk and should be evacuated?
  - b. How will the public be advised of what to do?
  - c. What do evacuees need to take with them?
  - d. What travel routes should be used by evacuees?
  - e. What transportation support is needed?
  - f. What assistance will the population require?
  - g. What traffic control is needed?
  - h. Does the anticipated duration of the evacuation make it necessary to activate shelter and mass care facilities?
  - i. How will evacuated areas be secured?
2. Evacuations that must be conducted because of incidents that occur without warning may have to be planned quickly and carried out with only those resources that can be mobilized rapidly.
3. The decision to recommend an evacuation of the populace in and around the area of an incident site rests with the Incident Commander managing the incident. In general, the County Judge shall issue the order for large-scale evacuations.

### **C. Hazard Specific Evacuation Planning**

1. Hazard-specific evacuation planning information will be developed for certain known hazards and included as appendices to this or other annexes. These appendices will describe the potential impact areas for known hazards, the number of people in the threatened area, and any special populations affected. Such appendices should also identify potential evacuation routes and, where appropriate, transportation pickup points or assembly areas.
2. Likely major evacuation areas, other than hazardous materials or hurricane risk areas, and the potential evacuation routes for those areas are described and depicted in Appendix 2 to this annex.
3. Hazardous materials risk areas and potential evacuation routes from those areas are described and depicted in the appendices to Annex Q, Hazardous Materials and Oil Spill Response.
4. Guidance for hurricane evacuation is provided in Appendix 3 to this annex, which also describes hurricane risk areas and evacuation routes.

### **D. Transportation**

1. Individuals. It is anticipated that the primary means of evacuation for most individuals will be personal automobiles. Many people do not own vehicles and others will need assistance in evacuating. Provisions have been made to furnish public transportation during an emergency evacuation. Two transportation "Hubs" are planned in Brazoria County. One at the county fairgrounds to service the southern population and one at the City of Pearland's municipal natatorium for the northern population.
2. Special Facilities. Public schools maintain transportation resources; private schools and day care centers have limited transportation assets. Most other special facilities rely on commercial or contract transportation companies for their specialized transportation needs. Unfortunately, many of these providers cannot provide sufficient equipment to evacuate a sizeable facility on short notice. Hence, local government may be requested to assist in providing transport.
3. Emergency transportation may be provided by school buses, rural transportation system buses, ambulances, and other vehicles. See Annex S, Transportation, for transportation guidance; see Annex M, Resource Management, for transportation resources. In the case of large-scale evacuations with advance warning, pickup points are designated and a telephone bank established to receive and process requests for transportation. Agreements exist with the State of Texas to coordinate coach buses for Brazoria County's point-to-point evacuation to Belle County.
4. Public information messages emphasizing the need for citizens to help their neighbors who lack transportation or need assistance can significantly reduce requirements for public transportation during an evacuation. Brazoria County will need to depend on Houston media to reach county populations.



5. The County and all of the joint resolution cities do not have governmentally owned transportation vehicles such as buses. The resources they have are primarily limited to open trucks, and as such are of limited value for evacuating people especially in inclement weather. As a result, "public transportation" will not be a great resource, and should not be relied upon for mass evacuations. County Independent School Districts are a good resource for buses, however; drivers are then a commodity.

#### **E. Traffic Control**

1. Actual evacuation movement will be controlled by local law enforcement agencies.
2. When possible, two-way traffic will be maintained on all evacuation routes to allow continued access for emergency vehicles.
3. For large-scale evacuations when time permits, traffic control devices, such as signs and barricades, will be provided by the Public Works or county Road & Bridge Department upon request.
4. Law enforcement will request wrecker services when needed to clear disabled vehicles from evacuation routes.

#### **F. Warning & Public Information**

1. The Incident Commander will normally decide if an evacuation warning should be issued in and around an incident site. Respective EOCs or the Unified Command (UC) will normally disseminate warnings for large-scale evacuations beyond the incident site or where evacuation is conducted because of an imminent threat.
2. Advance Notice of Possible Evacuation
  - a. For slow developing emergency situations, advance warning should be given to affected residents as soon as it is clear evacuation may be required. Such advance notice is normally disseminated through the media. Advance warning should address suitable preparedness actions, such as securing property, assembling disaster supplies, fueling vehicles, and identifying evacuation routes.
  - b. Advance warning will be made to special facilities in a threatened evacuation area as early as possible. During notification, request facility staff review and prepare to implement their evacuation plans. Facility staff should also report their periodic status and any requirements for assistance to the EOC.
  - c. The medical needs population will be given advance notice. Notifying and preparing this segment of the population for evacuation will likely require additional time and resources. Any special circumstances or requests for assistance should be reported to on-scene authorities or EOC.
3. Evacuation Warning
  - a. Evacuation warning should be disseminated through all available warning systems. See Annex A, Warning, for further information.



- b. In the case of immediate evacuation in and around an incident site, route alerting using siren and speaker-equipped vehicles moving through the affected area is usually effective. When possible, two vehicles should be employed—the first to get the attention of the people and a second will deliver the evacuation message. Door-to-door notification should be considered for large buildings and in rural areas where residences may be some distance from the road.
  - c. Special facilities may be notified directly by on-scene authorities or by the EOC staff. However, if both the incident command staff and the EOC will be making notifications, a specific division of responsibilities for notification should be made so that no facilities are inadvertently overlooked.
  - d. Law enforcement personnel should sweep the evacuation area to insure all those at risk have been advised of the need to evacuate and have responded. Persons who refuse to evacuate will be left until all others have been warned and then, time permitting, further efforts may be made to persuade these individuals to leave.
4. Emergency Public Information
- a. Warning messages disseminated through warning systems alert the public to a threat and provide basic instructions. They are necessarily short and to the point. The public will often require amplifying information on what to do during an evacuation. The Public Information Officer (PIO) will provide information to the media on a timely basis for further dissemination to the public. Provisions must be made to disseminate information to individuals with functional needs, including the blind, hearing impaired and non-English speakers. Specific public information procedures are contained in Annex I (Emergency Public Information).
  - b. Amplifying instructions for an evacuation may include information on the location of shelter and mass care facilities, specific evacuation routes, guidance on securing their homes, and the need for evacuees to take certain items with them during an evacuation. When school children are evacuated, parents need timely information on where to pick them up.
  - c. When the incident that generated the need for evacuation is resolved, evacuees must be advised when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses.

## **G. Special Populations**

- 1. Special facilities are responsible for the welfare and safety of their students, clients, patients, and inmates. Virtually all of these facilities are required to maintain an emergency plan that includes provisions for an emergency evacuation; however, in order to effectively implement those plans, they must be warned of emergency situations.
  - a. Schools & Day Care Centers
    - 1) If evacuation of public schools is required, students will normally be transported on school buses to other schools outside of the risk area, where they can be picked up by their parents. It is essential that the public be provided timely information on these arrangements. In the case of a large-scale emergency

situation with advance warning, schools will be closed and students returned to their homes so they can evacuate with their families.

- 2) Private schools and day care centers, including adult day care facilities, typically maintain limited transportation resources and may require government assistance in evacuating.

b. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, & Correctional Facilities.

- 1) If evacuation of these facilities is required, patients and inmates should be transported, with appropriate medical or security support, to a comparable facility. The facility operator is responsible for making arrangements for suitable transportation and coordinating use of appropriate host facilities. In the case of short-notice or no-notice emergency situations, facilities may be unable to make the required arrangements for transportation and may need assistance from local government with transportation and in identifying suitable reception facilities.

- 2) Medical patients, homeless, registered sex offenders, and prisoners will not be housed in shelter and mass care facilities with the general public.

2. Medical needs citizens will require special evacuation assistance, transportation, shelter facilities, and medical care during major evacuations (See Annex H – Health and Medical). County emergency management plans identify by type and estimated number the medical needs population and address their needs before, throughout the year.

#### H. Handling Pets During Evacuations

1. Evacuees who go to the homes of relatives, friends or commercial accommodations with their pets normally do not pose difficulties during evacuation. However, evacuees with pets seeking public shelter can create potential problems. For health reasons, pets are not allowed in emergency shelters operated by the American Red Cross and most other organized volunteer groups. However, recent incidents indicated that some people, particularly the elderly, will not leave their homes if they cannot take their pets with them. Loose pets remaining in an evacuated area may also create a public safety concern. Hence, it is desirable to make reasonable arrangements for evacuees who come to public shelters with pets. The Animal Control Officer will coordinate these arrangements.
2. Depending on the situation and availability of facilities, one or more of the following approaches will be used to handle evacuees arriving with pets:
  - a. Provide pet owners information on nearby kennels, animal shelters, and veterinary clinics that have agreed to temporarily shelter pets.
  - b. Direct pet owners to a public shelter with covered exterior corridors or adjacent support buildings where pets on leashes and in carriers may be temporary housed.
  - c. Set up temporary pet shelters at fairgrounds, rodeo or stock show barns, livestock auctions, and other similar facilities.

