



# Law Enforcement

## Gaston County Emergency Operations Plan

Coordinating Agencies: Sheriff  
Gaston County Police  
Municipal Police Departments

Cooperating Agencies: Federal / State Law Enforcement  
Emergency Management  
Fire Departments / Fire Marshal  
Rescue Squads  
Emergency Medical Services  
Others as required or requested

| Attachments  |   |
|--------------|---|
| Attachment 1 | <a href="#">Preparedness / Response Checklist</a> |
| Also see     |   |
| Annex        | <a href="#">Terrorism</a>                         |
|              | <a href="#">Direction and Control</a>             |
|              | <a href="#">Communications</a>                    |
|              | <a href="#">Notification and Warning</a>          |
| Plan         | <a href="#">Catawba and McGuire Nuclear Plan</a>  |
|              |   |

### I. PURPOSE

This annex provides for crime prevention, maintenance of law and order and traffic control during emergency situations.

### II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### **A. Situation**

1. During emergencies law enforcement agencies must expand their operations to provide the increased protection required by disaster conditions. Numerous federal, state and county law enforcement agencies are available to support local law enforcement agencies within Gaston County.
2. Gaston County operates with three law enforcement systems:
  - The Gaston County Police Department serves as the lead law enforcement agency for the county and will lead in direction and control of traffic control, investigative, and civil disturbance issues.
  - The Gaston County Sheriff's Department serves as the lead agency of the court system and supplements other law enforcement activities as needed by Gaston County Police or Municipal Police Departments.
  - Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies are located in all incorporated cities/towns within Gaston County. They serve as the lead for direction and control, within their jurisdictions, of traffic control, investigative, and civil disturbance issues.
3. All law enforcement agencies within Gaston County work together to maintain law and order under a mutual aid agreement.

#### **B. Assumptions**

1. Activities of local law enforcement agencies will increase significantly during emergency operations.
2. Adequate law enforcement resources and services are available through existing mutual aid agreements.
3. If local capabilities are overtaxed, support will be obtained from state and federal law enforcement agencies.
4. Within the National Response Framework, law enforcement is considered public safety and security which is an Emergency Support Function ([ESF-13](#)) and incorporates facility and resource security, security planning and technical resource assistance, public safety and security support and support to access, traffic and crowd control.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. Emergency law enforcement operations will be an expansion of normal functions and responsibilities. These responsibilities will include maintenance of law and order, traffic control, crowd control and security.
- B. Law enforcement activities will remain under the control of the senior law enforcement officer for the jurisdiction in which the emergency operation is taking place.
- C. Law enforcement agencies will have a responsibility for warning the public and for traffic control in and near an evacuated area and in other areas of emergency operations.
- D. During technological, natural or civil disturbance threat or actual occurrence the Gaston County Police

Chief or designee will coordinate law enforcement operations from the County Emergency Operations Center if needed. At the same time, municipal law enforcement agencies will be responsible for directing law enforcement activities within their local EOCs. Coordination among law enforcement agencies will ensure security for vacated hazard areas, essential industries, prisoners, evacuating populations and congregate care facilities. Coordination and planning efforts will establish road blocks, checkpoints, traffic control points and secure parking areas as needed.

- E. The Gaston County Police Department or local municipal police department will serve as the lead investigative agency on missing persons to eliminate any potential foul play. Other county agencies will serve as support to the search operations as needed and requested. Resources needed from outside the county will be coordinated through the Office of Emergency Management along with logistical support as needed.
- F. Expansion and relocation of the county jail facilities will be carried out utilizing mutual aid agreements with surrounding counties and the State Prison System. The Gaston County Sheriff's Department is responsible for establishment of plans and procedures for this function.

#### **IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. The Gaston County Police Department is responsible for the direction and control of law enforcement activities during emergencies in all unincorporated areas and those municipalities where they have primary jurisdiction.
- B. Chiefs of Police in their respective municipalities will serve as lead in direction and control of law enforcement activities within their jurisdictions and use supplemental help from Gaston County Police or Sheriff's Departments.
- C. Mutual Aid units will be under the direction and control of the agency to which they are assigned.

#### **V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

- A. The chain of command within an organized law enforcement organization is established by senior rank and position to ensure continuous leadership and does not change during emergency operations.
- B. The line of succession is:

Sheriff's Department:

1. Sheriff
2. Chief Deputy
3. Assistant Chief Deputy
4. Major
5. Captain

Gaston County Police Department:

1. Chief
2. Assistant Chief
3. Major

Municipal Police Departments:

1. Chief
2. Assistant Chief
3. Major

C. Records vital to the law enforcement function will be protected during emergency situations.

## Attachment 1 Law Enforcement Preparedness/Response Checklist

### Law Enforcement EOC designee

- When notified, report to the [Emergency Operations Center](#).
- Receive a situational briefing. Ask questions and address concerns.
- Advise the EOC of the availability of local law enforcement response resources, including the number of personnel and units that may be available.
- Advise the EOC of any special units or personnel needs that are immediately known.
- Advise the EOC of the need to request or deploy municipal, state, and/or federal law enforcement personnel.
  - If state and/or federal law enforcement is deployed have a representative report to the EOC to provide coordination under Unified Command.
  - Ensure communications are available for any municipal, state and/or federal law enforcement personnel.
- Ensure Incident Command is established with field personnel.
- Establish and maintain communications with field commanders/supervisors.
- Coordinate law enforcement actions from the EOC and coordinate with other response emergency services (i.e. fire service, EMS, rescue, etc.).
- Provide security personnel for the EOC.
- Provide security at established staging areas.
- Give a situational briefing to law enforcement supervisors.

### Chief Deputy / Chief of Police / Assistant Chief of Police

- Receive a situational briefing from the Sheriff or designated EOC law enforcement representative. Ask questions and address concerns.
- In turn, give a situational briefing to all departmental personnel, including support personnel, such as patrol, investigation, jail, courts, etc.
- During the situational briefing include:
  - Ensure the primary functions of the department are carried out (i.e. the protection of lives and property, enforcement of laws, ordinances, curfews, etc.).

- Maps of areas.
- Mission specific assignments (i.e. security, patrol, checkpoints, roadblock, traffic control, etc.).
- Safety issues or concerns (i.e. power lines down, roads blocked, flooding, etc.).
- Location of to-be-established checkpoints.
- Location of staging area.
- Current weather and forecast weather reports.
- Incident Command structure and Incident Commander
- Ensure personnel are advised to track and record all vehicle mileage and use (in hours) as well as all overtime hours and to file reports with supervisor.
- Establish and maintain communications with:
  - Field supervisors and/or on scene personnel
  - Incident Commanders
  - Communications Center
  - Emergency Operations Center
  - Municipal/state/federal law enforcement agencies that are involved in the incident.
- Request, as necessary, assistance through the EOC.
- Carry out other functions assigned by the Sheriff (or designated EOC law enforcement representative).
- Collect and/or develop and maintain accurate records of personnel, expenditures, damages, injuries to personnel, etc.
- File reports with the Sheriff and/or designated EOC representative when requested or required.
- See [Hazard Specific Checklists](#) that are attachments to the County Emergency Operations Plan, for assistance in determining potential/necessary actions for your department.