

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Cheyenne County Emergency Operations Plan is to provide general guidelines and principles for managing and coordinating the overall response and recovery activities before, during and after major emergencies and disaster events that affect unincorporated areas of the County as well as incorporated areas that have agreements with Cheyenne County, or rely on Cheyenne County, for the provision of emergency management assistance. The plan's guidelines are consistent with the standards and principles of the Nationally accepted Incident Command Systems (ICS) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) concept endorsed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The ICS EOC methods are nationally accepted emergency management systems for addressing all types of hazards and for integrating multiple agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines into a coordinated relief effort.

Major emergencies and disaster incidents are unique events that present communities and emergency personnel with extraordinary problems and challenges that cannot be adequately addressed within the routine operations of local government. Since disasters differ in important ways, it is impossible to plan for every contingency. Highly detailed operational procedures are not included in this plan. The intent of this plan is to provide Cheyenne County officials with a basis for the coordinated management of disaster incidents so that impacts to people, property, and public services are minimized so that normal community conditions can be restored as quickly as possible.

The plan is organized into three parts: (1) basic plan, which identifies legal authorities, general concepts, emergency management policies and agency responsibilities, (2) a description of the general functions that are common to most types of disasters and emergencies, and (3) hazard specific lift-out sections relating to the unique responsibilities and resource requirements of the types of disaster in Cheyenne County. In order to make the plan concise and user-friendly, checklists are used in place of narrative text whenever possible and the emergency procedures contained on other related plans and documents are referenced rather than duplicated in this plan.

Cheyenne County Emergency Management is beginning a transition from the concept of the Emergency Operating Center (EOC), to refer to it as an Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) with the primary function being, the coordination of incident resources and incident needs rather than operations, which is being done in the field. Checklists are intended for the use by ECC staff and provide, in general terms, a summary of the actions that may need to be taken for each emergency function or in response to a specific hazard. Checklists are not intended for use by emergency responders in performing assigned emergency responsibilities.

The coordination and integration of emergency plans and procedures is an ongoing process that should be collectively promoted by convening interagency meetings, formulating mutual aid agreements, and by conducting or participating in multi-agency and inner jurisdictional emergency training exercises.

Emergency Management Department