

# **PUEBLO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

## **ANNEX K - EVACUATION**

### **I. PURPOSE**

To provide for an orderly and coordinated evacuation of the population of Pueblo should the need arise because of hazardous material accident, natural emergency, enemy attack or other major incident.

### **II. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

#### **A. Situations**

1. Localized or mass evacuations might be needed as a result of flooding, hazardous material accidents, enemy attack or fires.
2. Pueblo has been identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a high nuclear risk area. "High risk" means one or more nuclear detonations may occur within the area. (This determination was made prior to the break up of the Soviet Union.)
3. Pueblo has been identified as a moderate earthquake hazard area by the U.S. Geological Survey. Such an earthquake may result in some evacuation.

#### **B. Assumptions**

1. The public will receive and understand official information related to evacuation.
2. The public will act in its own interest, and evacuate dangerous areas spontaneously or when advised to do so by local government authorities.
3. People who refuse to follow evacuation instructions will be left alone until all that are willing to leave have evacuated. Then - time and conditions permitting - further efforts may be made to persuade the "stay-puts" to evacuate.

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

#### **A. Phases of Management**

##### **1. Mitigation**

- a) Identification of areas potentially in need of evacuation, e.g., flood plains.
- b) Discouragement of development in hazard zones, particularly residential, school and other key public facility development.
- c) Identify shelters, to include fallout shelters.
- d) Ensure the evacuation plans of facilities storing reportable quantities of hazardous materials are in compliance with SARA/Title III regulations.

##### **2. Preparedness**

- a) Identification of population groups requiring special assistance during evacuation, e.g., senior citizens, disabled, etc.
- b) Plan evacuation routes, e.g., snow removal, fire evacuation, I-25 re-routing.
- c) Educate the public about evacuation procedures.

##### **3. Response**

- a) Initiation of evacuation recommendations by the Incident Commander or Executive Policy Group, if necessary.
- b) Establish traffic and access control.
- c) Secure the vacated area.
- d) Designate shelters, as needed.

4. Recovery
  - a) Notify the public when it is safe to return to the area.
  - b) Protect and preserve the vacated area until the return of occupants.
- B. All small-scale evacuations will be coordinated at the scene by the Incident Commander. A staging area will be used when possible. The American Red Cross will handle shelter needs and will be contacted through Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) or the Incident Commander, when these resources are needed.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Executive Policy Group will:
  1. Have the authority and responsibility for the orderly evacuation of the community; and
  2. Issue evacuation recommendations and/or orders, as needed.
- B. Law Enforcement will:
  1. Assist in warning and alerting the public;
  2. Coordinate law enforcement activities;
  3. Protect property in evacuated areas;
  4. Establish and maintain traffic and access control; and
  5. Coordinate evacuation of prisoners, if required.
- C. Fire Departments will:
  1. Coordinate fire, rescue and emergency medical response; and
  2. Assist in warning and alerting public.
- D. American Red Cross and Salvation Army will establish shelters and provide mass care, as needed.
- E. City of Pueblo Transportation Department will:

1. Provide buses and drivers for evacuation within its jurisdiction; and
2. Coordinate with other agencies for extra or special vehicles, e.g., SRDA, School Districts.

## **V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

- A. The Executive Policy Group, functioning as Agency Administrator under ICS, will ultimately control administration and logistics.
- B. Normal practices and procedures will be continued under emergency conditions to the extent possible.
- C. During emergency operations, efforts will be made to document each transaction so that records can be reconstructed and claims properly verified, after the emergency period has passed.
- D. To the extent consistent with law, no administrative process will be permitted to interfere with operations essential to preventing injury, loss of life, and significant property damage.

## **VI. ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

The primary responsibility for development and maintenance of this annex is that of DEM with support from law enforcement, fire departments, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Transportation. The annex will be reviewed annually unless significant change warrants an earlier revision.