

**UNIFIED SAN DIEGO COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION
OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN**

ANNEX N

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RECOVERY

September 2006

UNIFIED SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introduction.....	1
A. Overview.....	1
B. Purpose.....	1
C. Goals and Objectives.....	2
II. Concept of Operations.....	2
A. Overview.....	2
B. Relationship to Response Operations.....	2
C. Short-term Recovery Operations.....	3
D. Long-term Recovery Operations.....	4
E. Plan Activation and Termination.....	5

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DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RECOVERY

I. Introduction

A. Overview

Recovery operations include the development, coordination, and execution of service and site-restoration plans for impacted communities, as well as the reconstitution of government operations and services. Reconstitution of government operations and services can be accomplished through individual, private-sector, non-governmental, and public assistance programs that identify needs and define resources, provide housing and promote restoration and address long-term care and treatment of affected persons. Moreover, recovery involves incident-related cost recuperation, identification and implementation of mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate effects of future incidents, as well as evaluation of lessons learned. Recovery operations should begin with or shortly after a disaster occurs and can be generally divided into two phases, Short-term and Long-term.

No single jurisdiction or agency has the capability and resources to address all disasters or major emergency situations. Therefore, the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization (USDCESO) was established to provide and address disaster related problems on a regional basis. The Operational Area Recovery Plan (OA Recovery Plan) has been developed to provide guidance for the San Diego County Operational Area.

The OA Recovery Plan is incorporated by reference into the Operational Area Emergency Plan (OAEP). The OA Recovery Plan defines responsibilities, establishes a recovery organization, defines lines of communications, and is designed to be part of the statewide Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

This annex provides a brief summary and reference to the OA Recovery Plan. For a complete description of damage assessment and recovery operations for the San Diego Operational Area, refer to the OA Recovery Plan.

B. Purpose

The basic premise of the OA Recovery Plan is that planning undertaken in advance of a disaster can accelerate a post-disaster return to normalcy. The OA Recovery Plan describes a coordinated system for disaster recovery operations in disaster situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, terrorism and nuclear-related incidents. It delineates operational concepts relating to recovery, identifies components of the recovery organization, and describes the overall responsibilities intended to expedite public and private recovery. The OA Recovery

Plan also identifies the sources of outside support that might be provided (through mutual aid and specific statutory authorities) by other jurisdictions, state and federal agencies and the private sector.

The OA Recovery Plan is designed to provide guidance to the County of San Diego and jurisdictions, agencies, organizations and businesses interacting with the County. Each jurisdiction and special district in the Operational Area must develop an individual recovery plan or recovery annex to complement existing Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). The OA Recovery Plan should be used as a template and will support or supplement the recovery plans prepared and maintained by each local government.

C. Goals and Objectives

Operational Area recovery goals include the coordinated gathering and evaluation of damage assessment information; accurate estimation of the financial value of losses and recovery costs; quick application for state and federal disaster relief funds; timely restoration of community services and infrastructure to pre-disaster condition; and implementation of cost-effective and practicable mitigation measures.

The OA Recovery Plan establishes the following objectives for the Operational Area:

- Define and establish an Operational Area Damage Assessment Team for response to the San Diego County Operational Area that includes the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC), all City EOCs, and field survey/inspection teams.
- Determine the roles and responsibilities for all involved agencies.
- Outline the essential functions involved in full scale damage assessment reporting and recovery.

II. Concept of Operations

A. Overview

The various functions which constitute recovery operations occur on the continuum of Response, Short-term Recovery and Long-term Recovery Operations. The functions and their location in the continuum are provided in the OA Recovery Plan.

B. Relationship to Response Operations

Response operations provide the foundation of the OA Recovery Plan. Recovery operations typically begin concurrently with or shortly after commencement of response operations. For example, cost recovery and resource demobilization are recovery functions that begin during the response phase as costs are incurred and resources are mobilized.

In recognition of recovery's close relationship to response, the Operational Area will staff the position of Recovery Coordinator as a member of the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff to coordinate recovery activities from the Operational Area EOC during the incident response phase. Depending on the nature, type and severity of the disaster, the Recovery Coordinator may expand the Recovery Organization and may have additional branches and units established under it during the response phase.

Under the Operational Area EOC's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), an Initial Damage Estimate (IDE) is developed during the emergency response phase to support a request for a gubernatorial proclamation and for the State to request a presidential declaration. During the recovery phase, this assessment is refined to a more detailed level. This detailed damage/safety assessment will be needed to apply for various State and Federal disaster financial assistance programs.

Short-term recovery operations may continue to be coordinated from the Operational Area EOC after the response phase is over, if required. Under the San Diego Operational Area Emergency Plan (OAEP), termination of the emergency's response phase is concurrent with the deactivation of the Operational Area EOC; however, continued coordination from the response phase into the recovery phase is necessary to identify high priority areas for resumption of utilities, liability concerns, financing, and recovery ordinances.

C. Short-term Recovery Operations

Short-term recovery operations include all agencies and jurisdictions participating in the Operational Area's disaster response. Activities are generally coordinated from within the EOC and recovery activities begin during the response phase of the emergency.

The key objectives of short-term recovery operations are to restore shelter, jobs, services and facilities quickly and efficiently. These operations include:

- utility restoration;
- expanded social, medical and mental health services;
- re-establishment of government operations;
- transportation route restoration;
- debris removal and clean-up operations;
- building safety inspections; and
- abatement and demolition of hazardous structures.

Emergency actions may be taken to address specific conditions such as:

- suspension of evictions;
- request utilities to provide bill relief;
- waiver of permit fees for damage repairs;
- need for temporary housing and business space; and
- change or alter traffic patterns.

Short-term recovery operations for the Operational Area will transition into long-term recovery operations at the direction of the Operational Area EOC Director. If the EOC is not activated at the time of transition, the Director of the County's Office of Emergency Services (County OES) will make the determination to transition. At the local government level, the jurisdiction's Director of Emergency Services or similar position shall make the determination.

Under most circumstances, the transition from short to long-term recovery operations will occur within 90 days of the termination of the emergency or close of the incident period. The 90-day time period is intended only as a guide. Transition to long-term recovery operations may occur at any time within or after the 90-day period, depending on the severity of the emergency and the effectiveness of the coordinated local, State and/or Federal response.

D. Long-term Recovery Operations

The primary goal of long-term recovery operations is to rebuild safely and wisely, reducing future hazards and optimizing community improvements. The major objectives of these operations include:

- reconstructed public facilities;
- coordinated delivery of long-term social and health services;
- improved land use planning and implementation;
- an improved Emergency Operations Plan (EOP);
- re-establishment of the local economy to pre-disaster levels;
- recovery of disaster-related costs; and
- effective integration of mitigation strategies into recovery planning and operations.

Hazard mitigation actions will be coordinated and employed in all activities by all jurisdictions in order to ensure a maximum reduction of vulnerability to future disasters. Each affected jurisdiction is responsible for their own approach to mitigation, which could include zoning variances, building codes changes, plan

reviews, seismic safety elements, and other land use planning techniques.

Local jurisdictions and special districts within the Operational Area will strive to restore essential facilities through repair, reconstruction, improvement or mitigation during long-term recovery operations. Redevelopment agencies within the Operational Area will play a vital role in rebuilding commercial areas. Jurisdictions and special districts will also continue to assist individual citizens and private businesses through long-term recovery operations with continued provision of local services and information regarding State and Federal assistance programs.

The County OES/EOC Director may appoint a Recovery Manager to lead long-term recovery operations. The newly appointed Recovery Manager will perform his or her duties through County OES under the direction of the OES/EOC Director and will direct long-term recovery activities in the unincorporated areas; while acting as a central resource for recovery activities in the incorporated jurisdictions. Local jurisdictions and special districts may or may not designate a new position title to manage long-term recovery functions.

E. Plan Activation and Termination

Emergency operations are generally activated in three levels based on the severity and scope of the incident and the availability of resources. Integral to response and recovery operations, the damage assessment function is involved in all of the levels as listed below:

- LEVEL I - The Operational Area EOC may or may not be activated. Damage assessments will be required.
- LEVEL II - The Operational Area EOC will be activated. Field survey and inspection teams may be activated. Damage assessments will be required. Recovery phases will be initiated.
- LEVEL III- The Operational Area EOC will be fully activated. Field survey and inspection teams will be fully activated. Damage assessments will be required. Full recovery phase will be initiated.

Activation and termination of this plan shall be at the direction of (1) the County's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in that capacity, or as the Operational Area Coordinator of the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization (USDCEO); (2) a designated Assistant CAO/Deputy CAO; or (3) the Director of County OES or designated representative.