

**WYOMING
EVACUATION
PLAN**

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

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PREDICATION

This plan is an update to the Wyoming Preliminary Evacuation Plan submitted to the United States Department of Homeland Security on January 17, 2007. This submission by the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security is in response to a requirement in the FY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance.

SYNOPSIS

Wyoming statutory law provides the authority for evacuation procedures of citizens. Crisis management and response plans are in effect and provide guidance for each Wyoming county and tribe. Numerous evacuation notification systems are identified. Transportation issues involving traffic volumes and routes, refueling, road-side food supply, sanitary facilities and disabled vehicle removal have been discussed and coordinated with appropriate agencies. Populations Unable to Self Evacuate are individually identified with recommended evacuation procedures. Transient populations and tourists significantly increase the number of evacuees at any given time in Wyoming. Estimates are provided of the time required for evacuation initiation. Procedures for evacuee tracking are identified, and relocation sites are identified in neighboring states. Wyoming state government will need a new base of operations to ensure continuity of government. First responders are identified to remain following evacuation for protection of citizens and security of private and public property. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security is responsible for notifying citizens when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses. Existing evacuation maps and resource lists are included as appendices to this report.

PURPOSE

This evacuation plan describes the provisions being made to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of people threatened by the hazards the jurisdiction faces. Evacuation of the entire state of Wyoming is unlikely, and it is difficult to generate probable scenarios leading to such an event. As such the plan concentrates on the evacuation of towns, cities, or small regions, although elements of the plan address a statewide evacuation.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The authorities for evacuation authority are found in the Wyoming Homeland Security Act (Wyoming Statutes, Title 19, Chapter 13). This Act is, in part, based on the model legislation supporting the "Civil Defense Act of 1950" which specifically considered to need for mandatory evacuation in the event of a nuclear attack. Portions of the Act are presented below with specific areas ***bolded*** for pertinence and emphasis.

W.S. 19-13-102(a)(ii) provides: "***Homeland security***" ***means the preparation for*** and the carrying out of ***all emergency functions*** essential to the recovery and restoration of the economy by supply and resupply of resources to meet urgent survival and military needs, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, necessary to deal

with disasters caused by enemy attack, sabotage, terrorism, civil disorder or other hostile action, or by fire, flood, earthquake, other natural causes and other technological, industrial, civil and political events. ***These functions include without limitation the coordination of fire-fighting services, police services, medical and health services, rescue, engineering, attack warning services, communications, radiological events, evacuation of persons from stricken areas, emergency welfare services (civilian war aid), emergency transportation, existing or properly assigned functions of plant protection, temporary restoration of public utility services, mitigation activities in areas threatened by natural or technological hazards, and other functions related to civilian protection, together with all other activities necessary or incidental to the preparation for any carrying out of the foregoing functions[.]***

W.S. 19-13-104(a) provides: The governor has general direction and control of the Office of Homeland Security, and is responsible for the carrying out of the provisions of this act, and ***in the event of disaster beyond local control, may assume direct operational control over all or any part*** of the homeland security functions within Wyoming. The governor may delegate such powers to the director established under subsection (d) of this section, or through the director to the deputy director to carry out this act.

W.S. 19-13-113(d) provides: ***any person*** owning or controlling real estate or other premises ***who voluntarily and without compensation*** grants a license or privilege or otherwise ***permits*** the designation or use of the whole or any part of the ***real estate or premises for the purposes of sheltering persons*** during an actual, impending, mock or practice exercise, together with his successors in interest, is not civilly liable for negligently causing the death of or injury to any person on or about the real estate or premises nor for loss of or damage to the property of any person.

The next source for evacuation authority/regulation is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The Compact is codified at W.S. 19-13-401 through 19-13-414. There are two primary provisions with regard to evacuation: First, W.S. 19-13-408 which recognizes the state's authority to enter into supplementary agreements with other states without jeopardizing their participation or ability to utilize assistance under EMAC (these agreements are not limited and may include provisions about the "evacuation and reception of injured and other persons and the exchange of medical, fire, police, public utility, reconnaissance, welfare, transportation and communications personnel and equipment and supplies.") Second, and more importantly, keep in mind W.S. 19-13-411 is the heart of post-event evacuation procedures which states must abide by to receive assistance from other states using EMAC's infrastructure:

"Plans for the orderly evacuation and interstate reception of portions of the civilian population as the result of any emergency or disaster of sufficient proportions to so warrant, ***shall be worked out and maintained between the party states*** and the emergency management services directors of the various jurisdictions where any type of incident requiring evacuations might occur. ***The plans shall be put into effect by request of the state from which evacuees come*** and ***shall include the manner of transporting*** the

evacuees, the *number* of evacuees *To be received* in different areas, the manner in which *food, clothing, housing and medical care* will be provided, the *registration* of the evacuees, the providing of *facilities for the notification* of relatives or friends, and the forwarding of the evacuees to other areas or the importing of additional materials, supplies and all other relevant factors. The plans shall provide for the state receiving evacuees and the party state from which the evacuees come *shall mutually agree to reimbursement* of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in receiving and caring for the evacuees, for expenditures for transportation, food, clothing, medicines and medical care and like items. The expenditures shall be reimbursed as agreed by the party state from which the evacuees come. After the termination of the emergency or disaster, the party state from which the evacuees come shall assume the responsibility for the ultimate support of repatriation of the evacuees."

SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

The Wyoming Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan has identified statewide natural hazards and areas subject to evacuation. The plan also has identified key hazardous material facilities, which may cause an evacuation if the facility is damaged. Weapons of Mass Destruction may also result in the need for evacuation.

This plan incorporates the evacuation at the city/town, county/tribes, regional and statewide levels. The most likely scenario for evacuation is at the city/town level, and this plan concentrates on that possibility. All Wyoming counties have completed or are working on evacuation plans for their entire county, including plans for individual cities or towns.

Based upon the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, very few hazards exist statewide which would result in the evacuation of the entire state. The catastrophic explosion of Yellowstone National Park would necessitate the evacuation not only of Wyoming but of the Western United States. As a result of this potential, Yellowstone National Park is one of the most heavily monitored areas in the country. It is projected many months of warning could be provided for an eruption. Fortunately, the probability of such an event is estimated to be less than 1:1,000,000, based upon a recent report from the US Geological Survey. As a result, this plan focuses on more probable, smaller scale evacuations, although elements of a statewide evacuation are addressed.

The Wyoming Preliminary Evacuation Plan had a section addressing the "Special Needs Population" in Wyoming, which included children in school, children in daycare centers, nursing home residents, the handicapped and mentally impaired, hospitals, homebound, non-English speaking people, incarcerated persons, and transient populations (seasonal workers, tourists, homeless), citizens at or below the poverty level, and people without transportation. That section is now titled "People Unable to Self Evacuate" (UTSE) at the suggestion of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities.

It is realized in an independent state like Wyoming, a significant part of the population will not evacuate. At the 2005 Homeland Security Conference, county coordinators

estimated only 50 percent of the population would evacuate. Contributing factors include the rural nature of much of the state and the livestock industry.

Essential services, including law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical service, and public works will remain in place according to local jurisdictional plans. Military support can be approved by the governor and would be available in evacuation efforts.

The 2004 estimated Census population of Wyoming is 506,529 (Appendix A). There are 780,000 registered personal transport vehicles in Wyoming, not including commercial vehicles. Considering there are 398,564 licensed drivers in the state, there are approximately 1.9 vehicles per licensed driver. There are more than enough vehicles and drivers to evacuate the entire state of Wyoming by motor vehicle.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Evacuation generally initiates at the local level. As such, plans developed through the local jurisdictions will guide initial responses, initial evacuation, and/or the need to shelter in place. The State of Wyoming and all Wyoming counties and tribes have developed a number of plans to guide the management of disaster response. The State of Wyoming Crisis Management Plan details the organization and response of the executive branch of government. The Wyoming Response Plan details the organization and response of state agencies and the appropriate federal entity through the Wyoming Homeland Security Operation Center. The Wyoming Response Plan also establishes the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage the incident. Each county/tribe has developed an Emergency Operation Plan which guides disaster reaction and management at the local level. Each county has also developed or is in the process of developing a countywide evacuation plan. Details on overall emergency operations are present in the plans mentioned above, and will not be repeated in this document.

Specific elements of this evacuation plan are addressed below. They include transportation issues, special needs populations, companion animals, public information, infrastructure maintenance, evacuee tracking, relocation sites (shelter, housing and food; reciprocal agreements between states), relocation and continuity of government, protection of evacuated areas, and evacuee return. Key entities or agencies with primary or support functions are identified in the plan, along with assigned tasks or responsibilities.

Local jurisdictions will manage the initial response to a disaster, including evacuation or sheltering in place. Depending on the nature and magnitude of the crisis, state resources may be required. For large events, federal resources may also be necessary. The U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may be able to assist the state and local jurisdictions prior to a Presidential Declaration if certain state resources are exhausted before a Presidential Declaration is requested. As such, those entities are listed as support agencies in part of the Wyoming Evacuation Plan.

Evacuation Notification

Evacuation notification will primarily take place at the local level through Emergency Alert Systems (with crawls across television screens), Cable Interrupt, NOAA Emergency Radios, warning sirens, public address systems, phone/radio trees in rural areas, word-of-mouth, Spitfire III Auto Dialer Systems, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Reverse 911, and other available systems.

The State of Wyoming can offer valuable assistance for evacuation notification through the Wyoming Highway Patrol statewide dispatch, the Wyoming Department of Transportation (Dynamic Message Signs and Highway Advisory Radio), WebEOC, Leader Alert, the Wyoming Department of Health (Health Alert Network), and the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Highway Dynamic Message Signs

The Wyoming Department of Transportation operates a series of highway message signs around the state. There are 52 permanently mounted signs, and 20 mobile signs. Four mobile signs are assigned to each of the WYDOT maintenance districts. Messages, which can be transmitted in English and basic Spanish, can be placed through the Wyoming Highway Patrol dispatch.

Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatch

The Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatch is available at all times. Messages can be transmitted across the state and to all jurisdictions through the dispatch. The dispatch number is (307) 777-4321.

Highway Advisory Radio

The Wyoming Department of Transportation maintains a Highway Advisory Radio system through Maintenance Dispatch. Messages are submitted through District Offices.

WebEOC

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security operates a web-based interoperable communications system called WebEOC. Although not a primary mode of evacuation notification, it can be used as a supplement to notifications. Accounts for access to the system are obtained through the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.

Leader Alert

Leader Alert is a State of Wyoming phone notification system primarily designed to alert state employees working in Cheyenne of specific events or of actions to be taken. The system will be expanded to include notification to legislators.

Health Alert Network

The Wyoming Department of Health operates the Health Alert Network, which is a network of integrated communications systems that can disseminate relevant information reliably, quickly, and securely to law enforcement, emergency management, health professionals, appropriate public and private entities, and to the general public. Messages can be transmitted through fax, phone, cell phone, or e-mail. Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and day care centers are examples of some of the public entities to be notified through the system.

Emergency Alert System

The State of Wyoming, through the Emergency Alert System, can issue statewide or regional alerts with the approval of the Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. The messages will be released to the public through all participating broadcast stations and cable systems.

Language Translation

The State of Wyoming is developing a statewide database of translators, including American Sign Language, to be effective January, 2008. The database will be housed on the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities website at <http://wind.uwyo.edu>. All translators will have received training from the Wyoming Department of Health regarding response and translation ethics. The University of Wyoming also offers translation services through the Modern and Classical Languages Department. The Wyoming Department of Employment provides access to interpreters through a contracted service titled Language Line.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) - Initiate evacuation notification utilizing local
Emergency Response Plans

Support: - Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT)

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Highway Dynamic Message
Signs

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Highway Advisory Radio

- Wyoming Highway Patrol/WYDOT

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Wyoming Highway Patrol
dispatch

- Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Wyoming Health Alert
Network

Task(s) – Maintain statewide database of translators

- Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Task(s) – House Department of Health translator database

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) – Maintain and administer WebEOC

- Wyoming Department of Administration and Information
Task(s) – Maintain and administer Leader Alert system
- Wyoming Department of Employment
Task(s) – Maintain Language Line and list of Wyoming-based Spanish language interpreters

Transportation Issues

Transportation issues include outbound traffic volumes and routes, inbound emergency access routes, traffic control, motorist communication, refueling, roadside food supply, sanitary facilities, highway electric information signs, and disabled vehicle removal. Many of the items below are addressed in the Wyoming Department of Transportation Emergency Highway Traffic Regulation Plan.

- **Traffic Volume and Routes**
In Appendix B are city/town, county/tribe and state highway maps showing probable evacuation routes and evacuation traffic capacities. The evacuation capacities are conservatively based on 2200 vehicles per hour per lane (Wyoming Department of Transportation). It is estimated each vehicle would carry two persons per vehicle.
- **Inbound Emergency Access Routes**
At a minimum one lane on every evacuation route will be kept available for inbound emergency vehicles. On the interstate highway system it will not be necessary to utilize three lanes for evacuation because of the small population in Wyoming. The inbound routes will be used for authorized emergency travel including ambulances, buses, fuel trucks, tow trucks etc.
- **Traffic Control**
Traffic control, including limiting and guiding access to inbound and outbound routes will be accomplished by the Wyoming Highway Patrol for interstate and state highway systems. Local law enforcement will direct traffic within their jurisdiction. The Wyoming Military Department will provide traffic control as needed and directed, upon authorization by the Governor.
- **Motorist Communication**
Highway message signs, radio broadcasts, weather alert radio broadcasts, and law enforcement traffic control would direct the flow of traffic and communicate information on evacuation routes. There are 52 permanently mounted signs, and 20 mobile signs. Four mobile signs are assigned to each of the WYDOT maintenance districts. Messages, which can be transmitted in English and basic Spanish, can be placed through the Wyoming Highway Patrol dispatch. All signs can operate under emergency power.

- **Refueling**

There are many feasible refueling options. Depending upon the magnitude of the evacuation, emergency-refueling stations may be needed to supplement existing service stations. Designated service stations and truck stops along evacuation routes will serve most needs of the evacuating population for city/town and county/tribes. Fuel tankers with appropriate dispensing nozzles, roving fuel trucks (tow trucks, service trucks, etc.), and Wyoming Military Department fuel tankers (with support if needed from the Department of Defense) will provide fuel in remote areas or in areas without designated service stations, and for spot emergencies. Private fuel supply companies will re-supply service stations, truck stops, and the Wyoming Military Department fuel tankers. Rest stops and other locations will also be used as refueling sites, depending upon the nature and location of the evacuation. A list of fuel distribution and storage facilities is in Appendix C. This list includes the following: service stations; federal, state and local facilities; distributors; and others.

- **Roadside Food Supply**

Agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army will be requested to mobilize to assist with food distribution on evacuation routes. Primary food supply locations will be at Wyoming Department of Transportation rest stops and in cities/towns remote of the impacted area. Rest stops, which are shown in Appendix D, are centrally located between population centers throughout the state and provide a degree of flexibility in evacuation planning. Size and amenities vary by location as well as entry and exit to the facility and should be considered in event planning. Basic amenities common to all locations include parking for passenger vehicles and trucks; restrooms; and open space which can be utilized for staging and support areas. Electrical power and water availability are limiting factors that should be considered.

If statewide evacuation is not required, truck stops, convenience stores, and fast food restaurants remote from the impacted area will also be utilized. The Wyoming Military Department can also assist with food delivery and distribution. Residents will be encouraged to bring their 3-day preparedness kits for each family member and companion pet during an evacuation.

- **Sanitary Facilities**

Sanitary facility needs will vary depending on the scope of the evacuation. Needs can be easily met in away from impacted areas, as Wyoming Department of Transportation rest stops (Appendix D), service stations, restaurants, and towns/cities will have available facilities. Portable toilets can be obtained through private contractors. A list of portable toilet suppliers is in Appendix E.

- **Disabled Vehicle Removal**
Local tow truck operators have been identified as essential services needed in an evacuation. The function of this service would be to remove disabled vehicles and assist with the repair of vehicles so the evacuation routes are kept moving. Limited fuel supplies could also be delivered. In the event a tow truck is not available, the Wyoming Department of Transportation or the Wyoming Military Department will remove the vehicle from any traffic lane. Appendix F includes a list of licensed tow truck operators in Wyoming.

People Unable to Self Evacuate (UTSE)

People unable to self evacuate in Wyoming include children in school, children in daycare centers, nursing home residents, people with disabilities, hospitals, homebound, non-English speaking people, incarcerated persons, transient populations (seasonal workers, tourists, homeless), individuals at or below the poverty, and people without transportation.

- **School Children**
There are approximately 84,000 students registered in Wyoming schools (K-12). Of these students, 33,314 (40%) are transported by bus. 11,633 (14%) students are included in the Wyoming Department of Education Special Education counts.

All school districts and individual schools in Wyoming have developed crisis plans which account for shelter-in-place and evacuation. Depending on the nature of the crisis, school children may be required to shelter-in-place for the duration of an event, or to shelter-in-place prior to an evacuation. If an evacuation is required, sheltering-in-place will allow for the deployment of transport vehicles to the site. Students will be moved to designated locations which will depend on the nature of the event. The locations will be coordinated between the local school district, the Wyoming Department of Education, and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. Students can be tracked through the Wyoming Evacuation Hotline (1-866-WYO-EVAC).

All schools in Wyoming are on evacuation notification lists through the Health Alert Network operated by the Wyoming Department of Health. Local jurisdictions control school evacuation and student transport, but the Wyoming Department of Education will coordinate with schools to ensure buses and bus drivers are available to transport school children during an evacuation. If there are not enough school district bus drivers available, the Wyoming Department of Transportation and the Wyoming Military Department have truck drivers capable of operating school buses. After students have been transported to safety, buses and drivers will be used to transport other citizens needing assistance.

All school districts have ADA-compliant vehicles. If additional ADA-compliant vehicles are needed, the Wyoming Department of Transportation maintains a list of such vehicles purchased or maintained with state funding.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Develop and maintain crisis plans with provisions for sheltering-in-place and evacuation.

Task(s) – Ensure school buses and drivers are available for evacuation of students

Task(s) – Ensure school buses and drivers are available for transport of other citizens after students have been moved to safety.

Task(s) – Document names of students evacuated and maintain parental contact information

Support: - Wyoming Department of Education

Task(s) – Coordinate with school districts and schools to ensure buses and drivers are available and being utilized

Task(s) – Ensure school districts and individual schools are maintaining crisis plans

- Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Notify schools of critical events and evacuation through Health Alert Network

Task(s) – Maintain current list of school contacts for Health Alert Network

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) – Maintain WebEOC to allow schools and school districts to communicate with one another and the Wyoming Department of Education during a crisis

Task(s) – Maintain the Wyoming Evacuation Hotline so students and families can be tracked

- Wyoming Department of Transportation

Task(s) – Provide emergency drivers for school buses as needed

Task(s) – Maintain current list of state-funded ADA compliant vehicles

- Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide emergency drivers for school buses as needed

Task(s) – Provide Wyoming Military Department transport vehicles as needed

- **Children in Daycare**
There are 777 licensed daycare facilities in Wyoming with 17,382 licensed daycare slots. The Wyoming Department of Family Services oversees daycare licensing, and their rules currently address fire evacuation. Most daycare facilities do not have transport vehicles, so parent pickup is required in the event of an evacuation. Local jurisdictions can assist in evacuation if needs are immediate.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Health / Department of Family Services

Task(s) – Maintain Health Alert Network to ensure daycare facilities are notified of crises and the need for sheltering-in-place or evacuation

- Daycare Operator

Task(s) – Ensure parents are aware of their role during an evacuation

Support: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Assist with evacuation if needed

- **Nursing Home Residents**
There are 237 state-licensed nursing homes, assisted living centers, or similar facilities in Wyoming. All facilities have evacuation plans which are focused on a community-based evacuation. Transportation will be accomplished through ambulances for critical care patients, facility-owned vehicles, available school buses, family members, the Wyoming Military Department, and the Department of Defense if the Wyoming Military Department resources are expended. All nursing homes will be notified of the need for evacuation through the Health Alert Network operated by the Wyoming Department of Health. There are 177 ambulances distributed across the state (Appendix G). They can be used for the evacuation of many critically ill patients. Approximately 10 percent of the ambulances will not be available, as they will be used to respond to incidents involving evacuees and first responders.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Work with nursing homes to develop evacuation plans to include evacuation out of town, county, or state.

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Health Alert Network to notify nursing homes during a crisis to include sheltering-in-place or evacuation.

- Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Locate alternative care (medical) shelters

Task(s) – Generate and distribute guidance on shelter-in-place

Task(s) – Identify ambulance, school bus, and other transport
Task(s) – Work with local hospitals and pharmacies to supply
needed medicines

Support: - Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide transportation support (ground and air,
including medical)

Task(s) – Provide shelter if available

- Department of Defense

Task(s) – Provide Mobile Medical Facilities and/or temporary
shelter sites if Wyoming Military Department
resources are exhausted

- People with Disabilities

People with Disabilities (PWD) includes all people with any kind of documentable disability. A documentable disability is defined as any condition for which an individual has formal documentation, typically but not exclusively from a medical authority, which validates the presence of a disability. Types of disabilities include developmental, physical, sensory, cognitive, acquired, and intellectual. Some people with disabilities are mobile and some are not. Some people with disabilities require “personal care attendants” and some do not. Some people with disabilities can self evacuate in an emergency and some can not. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires reasonable accommodations be made for employers and business to facilitate the emergency evacuation of people with disabilities. Homeland Security requirements mandate local procedures for evacuation and recovery plans for people with disabilities. The 2000 Census indicates there are 77,143 residents age 5 and over classified as having a disability in Wyoming, although more recent information from the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities indicates the figure for Wyoming is approximately 100,000, as there are of number of individuals with a documentable disability who do not receive federal or state support..

Evacuation or shelter-in-place notification of people with disabilities will occur using protocols established in the Evacuation Notification section above. The Wyoming Department of Health, through their Health Alert Network, and in cooperation with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, is also encouraging all people with disabilities (or their families) to register on the Health Alert Network. This will allow for messages to be transmitted directly to the individuals or their families. Those receiving the messages will be prompted to call a local number if any help is needed. In addition, provisions are being established to register Medicaid participants on the Health Alert Network.

All Wyoming Homeland Security County Coordinators have been asked to develop local lists of people with disabilities, with an emphasis on

residents not in hospitals or nursing homes, including those “off the grid” and living at home. This will serve as a backup to the registrants in the Health Alert Network.

In September, 2007, all County Homeland Security Coordinators were supplied with a draft press release on individual preparedness with an emphasis on creating support systems with relatives, neighbors, or friends who could assist in personal evacuation efforts. The coordinators were encouraged to release the information to the press through their respective offices.

Sheltering of people with disabilities will occur in Red Cross managed shelters if medical care and ADA accessibility is not required and/or a caregiver is present. If medical care is required, local jurisdictions with state and federal assistance, will need to establish alternative care sites and mobile medical facilities.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Health Alert Network to notify registered people with disabilities during a crisis, to include sheltering-in-place or evacuation.

Task(s) – Assist local jurisdictions with identification of people with disabilities

- Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Locate alternative care (medical) shelters

Task(s) – Generate and distribute guidance on shelter-in-place

Task(s) – Identify ambulance, school bus, and other transportation suitable for use by people with disabilities

Task(s) – Work with local hospitals and pharmacies to supply needed medicines

- Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) at the University of Wyoming

Task(s) – Provide guidance at all stages of evacuation planning and disaster response

Support: - Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide transportation support (ground and air, including medical)

Task(s) – Provide shelter if available

- Department of Defense

Task(s) – Provide Mobile Medical Facilities and/or temporary shelter sites if Wyoming Military Department resources are exhausted

- Wyoming Department of Transportation

Task(s) – Maintain current list of state-funded ADA compliant vehicles

- American Red Cross

Task(s) – Establish or assist with non-medical shelter establishment

- Hospitals

There are 27 hospitals located in the State of Wyoming, all of which have a facility evacuation plan. Notification will be through the Health Alert Network administered by the Wyoming Department of Health. Current plans are focused on a community-based evacuation. Transportation will be accomplished through ambulances, Medi-Vac helicopters available through hospitals and the Wyoming Military Department, C-130 transports available through the Wyoming Military Department, the Department of Defense when Wyoming Military Department resources are expended, available buses, and family members when appropriate. There are 177 ambulances distributed across the state (Appendix G). They can be used for the evacuation of many critically ill patients. Approximately 10% of the ambulances will not be available, as they will be used to respond to incidents involving evacuees and first responders.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Work with hospitals to develop evacuation plans, to include transportation needs

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Health Alert Network to notify hospitals during a crisis to include sheltering-in-place or evacuation.

Task(s) – Maintain current hospital evacuation plans, and ensure plans are available at local jurisdictions

Task(s) – Maintain volunteer registry to include medical personnel

- Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Locate alternative care (medical) shelters in coordination with hospitals and Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Generate and distribute guidance on shelter-in-place

Task(s) – Identify ambulance, school bus, and other transport

Task(s) –

Support: - Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide transportation support (ground and air, including medical)

Task(s) – Provide shelter if available

- Department of Defense

Task(s) – Provide Mobile Medical Facilities and/or temporary shelter sites if Wyoming Military Department resources are exhausted

- Non-English Speaking People

The State of Wyoming is developing a statewide database of translators, including American Sign Language, to be effective January, 2008. The database will be housed on the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities website at <http://wind.uwyo.edu>. All translators will have received training from the Wyoming Department of Health regarding response and translation ethics. The University of Wyoming also offers translation services through the Modern and Classical Languages Department. The Wyoming Department of Employment provides access to interpreters through a contracted service titled Language Line. In addition, the Wyoming Department of Employment maintains a list of Spanish language interpreters residing in Wyoming. Evacuation announcements will be made in English and Spanish.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support)

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Maintain statewide database of translators

-Wyoming Department of Employment

Task(s) – Maintain Language Line and list of Wyoming-based Spanish language interpreters

Support: - Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Task(s) – House Department of Health translator database

- Incarcerated Persons

There are approximately 2000 prisoners in the state prison system in Wyoming, and 274 state prisoners are located in non-state prisons. The control of and possible evacuation of incarcerated persons will fall under the auspices of the Wyoming Department of Corrections. Actions taken by correctional facilities, whether evacuation or shelter in place, during a crisis are directed by each individual correctional facility and are dictated by that facility's Emergency Operations Plan and by the specific situation. The Department of Corrections is investigating reciprocal agreements with surrounding states. Other states may provide transport vehicles to assist in the transfer of inmates. There may be the emergency release, by order of the courts, of some inmates. Due to security requirements and protocols, the facility-specific plans are not released in a public medium.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Department of Corrections

Task(s) – Provide liaison and coordination with incarceration facilities in time of evacuation

Task(s) – Ensure Emergency Operations Plans with evacuation and sheltering-in-place components are generated and maintained by individual facilities

Support: - Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Assist with prisoner transport under direction of Department of Corrections

- Department of Defense

Task(s) – Assist with prisoner transport under direction of Department of Corrections if Wyoming Military Department resources expended

- Transient Populations

For the purpose of this plan, a transient population is defined as one not having a permanent residence or phone number, including seasonal workers, tourists, and the homeless. There are unique problems with each group in regards to notification and evacuation.

Seasonal Workers

Seasonal workers are common in Wyoming, and are associated with agriculture, ranching, and energy-related activities. Agricultural and ranching workers usually are provided temporary housing at the farm or ranch. As such, they can be notified through normal channels. Most have transportation available which can be utilized for evacuation. Those workers not housed on site are more problematic. Some stay in motels and some stay in travel trailers at camp sites. The most immediate method of reaching these individuals will be to contact motels and the campgrounds, and have the managers/owners notify the temporary residents. Law enforcement will follow up at these sites.

Tourists

There are approximately 3,000,000 tourists in Yellowstone National Park, 2,400,000 tourists in Grand Teton National Park, and 2,300,000 visitors to state parks and recreation areas each year. Peak daily visitation to Yellowstone National Park alone is approximately 30,000. The National Parks and Monuments in Wyoming are under federal jurisdiction. There have been no comprehensive evacuation plans developed by the National Park Service in Wyoming, although specific plans will be developed as needed. The State of Wyoming is working with the National Park Service on evacuation planning, as many tourists evacuated from the parks will travel through Wyoming, depending upon the hazard. Evacuation routes and potential traffic volumes for Yellowstone National Park is in Appendix B. If evacuation is needed during the day, when most visitors are outdoors, local or

federal law enforcement will notify available tourists of the need to evacuate. This will be done through sirens, public address systems, and personal contact.

Nearly all of the visitors to Wyoming stay in motels, in approved campgrounds, or with friends and family. Motels and campgrounds will be contacted so occupants can be notified of the need for evacuation. Many others are with tour groups with provided transportation.

Homeless

There are few homeless persons in Wyoming because of the climate, elevation, and availability of jobs. Those in the state are usually tied to a homeless shelter. Homeless shelters will be registered on the Health Alert Network maintained by the Wyoming Department of Health. This will allow for messages to be transmitted directly to the shelters. Those receiving the messages will be prompted to call a local number if any help is needed.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Work to ensure hotels, motels, group campgrounds, and homeless shelters are on a notification system, such as the Health Alert Network through the Wyoming Department of Health.

Task(s) – Coordinate local transportation support

Support: - Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Ensure homeless shelters in Cheyenne, Gillette, Casper, Riverton, and Jackson Hole are on Health Alert Network.

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security / Local Jurisdictions

Task(s) – Continue working with National Park Service in their needed development of evacuation plans

- Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide transportation support

- **Individuals at or Below the Poverty Level**

There are approximately 57,630 citizens of Wyoming classified as being below the poverty level by the 2000 Census. Many of those individuals may not have transportation, have transportation not capable of long-distance evacuation, or many not have funds to purchase fuel and food. Those residents will be encouraged to register through the Health Alert Network maintained by the Wyoming Department of Health. This will allow for messages to be transmitted directly to the individuals or their

families. Those receiving the messages will be prompted to call a local number if any help is needed.

The Wyoming Department of Family Services has an Emergency Operations Business Plan for all of their needed functions. They are able to quickly establish needed services at any location in Wyoming or in other states. Food stamps can be issued and temporary financial assistance checks can be issued at remote locations. New enrollments can also be processed at a remote location.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Work to ensure individuals at or below the poverty level are on a notification system, such as the Health Alert Network through the Wyoming Department of Health.

Task(s) – Coordinate local transportation support

- Wyoming Department of Health

Task(s) – Maintain and operate Wyoming Health Alert Network

Support: - Wyoming Department of Family Services

Task(s) – Maintain current Emergency Operations Business Plan

Task(s) – Provide food stamps and temporary financial assistance to existing or new enrollees.

- Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide transportation support

- **People Without Transportation**

There are many citizens or visitors to Wyoming without ready access to transportation. All Wyoming Homeland Security County Coordinators have been asked to identify such individuals. In addition, there are students at the University of Wyoming and at the Community Colleges without transportation. While many of those without transportation will find transport through friends and fellow students, there will be some still needing transportation.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Work to ensure individuals without transportation are on a notification system, such as the Health Alert Network through the Wyoming Department of Health.

Task(s) – Coordinate local transportation support

- Wyoming Department of Health

- Task(s) – Maintain and operate Wyoming Health Alert Network
- Support: - Wyoming Military Department
- Task(s) – Provide transportation support

Wind River Indian Reservation

The Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR), a sovereign nation, is located within Fremont County in the central portion of Wyoming. It is comprised of 2.1 million acres. The WRIR is the home to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes. The Eastern Shoshone have a population of 3,535 and the Northern Arapaho have a population of 7,466. The WRIR maintains close ties with the Fremont County government.

Discussions with representatives from the tribes have indicated they will evacuate, if necessary. Fremont County and the WRIR have worked together to develop the Fremont County mass evacuation plan. The plan has been approved by the WRIR Joint Business Tribal Council.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

- Primary: - Wind River Indian Reservation Tribal Emergency Operations Committee
 - Task(s) – Work to ensure compliance with the joint Fremont County/WRIR Emergency Operation and Evacuation Plans
- Support: - Fremont County
 - Task(s) – Coordinate with the WRIR on Emergency Operation and Evacuation Plan updates
- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
 - Task(s) – Coordinate with designated tribal liaisons

F.E. Warren Air Force Base

The Francis E. Warren Air Force Base is home of the 20th Air Force and the 90th Space Wing. Any event requiring base evacuation will be worked with base authorities. The base plans call for sheltering-in-place in case parts of the base require evacuation. Current plans do not call for sheltering outside of the confines of the base. In the event of a base lockdown where base entry is restricted, residents or the base who are off-base temporarily will not be allow access to the base until the crisis resolves. Those base residents will become a sheltering liability of Laramie County and the City of Cheyenne. Laramie County and City of Cheyenne sheltering plans are sufficient in addressing this possibility.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - F.E. Warren Air Force Base

Task(s) – Maintain emergency response and evacuation plans for the base. Because of security concerns, the plans are not available to the public

Support: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Provide needed support and sheltering

Companion Animals and Livestock

Recent large-scale evacuations due to hurricanes have highlighted problems arising because of companion animals. Most households regard their pets as members of the family, and as such may be reluctant to leave without them. Pets left behind can starve or create recovery problems if they escape. Most human evacuation shelters will not accept pets. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006 requires all state and local jurisdiction plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency. Residents are always advised to bring their 72-hour survival kits in an evacuation. Similar kits should be brought for pets, including pertinent veterinary records, food and water, restraints, and carrying cases. The Wyoming Preliminary Evacuation Plan, released January 17, 2006, addressed companion animals prior to the passage of the PETS Act.

The State of Wyoming and local jurisdictions have conducted numerous meetings concerning the evacuation and care of both pets and livestock. The Wyoming Livestock Board generated a Resource Guide for Animal Emergencies. The Wyoming Livestock Board, in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Health and with support from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, has visited with all Wyoming counties and the tribes on the Wind River Indian Reservation to establish animal evacuation and sheltering plans and programs.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Wyoming Livestock Board / Wyoming State Veterinarian

Task(s) - Protect the health of livestock, companion and service animals by ensuring the safety of the manufacture and distribution of food and drugs given to animals.

Task(s) - Establish groups of volunteer veterinarians to assist in animal care, animal health, evacuation and sheltering of animals.

Task(s) – Prevent and control potential zoonotic disease risks.

Task(s) – Oversee development of network of and requirements for companion / service animal shelters and livestock facilities.

Task(s) – Coordinate health and medical services for domestic animals, including cattle, sheep, horses, etc.

- Task(s) – Provide needed assistance in emergency shelter oversight and inspection.
- Task(s) – Work with local jurisdictions to develop and maintain animal emergency plans to include animal transport, sheltering, and feeding
- Local Jurisdictions
 - Task(s) - Appoint County Veterinarian to work with Wyoming State Veterinarian and Regional Veterinary Coordinators on the establishment and maintenance of emergency animal shelters
 - Task(s) – Develop County Animal Response Team and appoint a County Animal Response Team Coordinator.
- Support: - Wyoming Department of Health / Regional Veterinary Coordinators/ State Public Health Veterinarian
 - Task(s): Veterinary and management support to Wyoming State Veterinarian in preventing zoonotic disease risk at animal shelters.
 - Task(s): Regional Veterinary Coordinator and State Public Health Veterinarian assistance to Wyoming State Veterinarian with coordination in establishment and maintenance of local shelters to ensure animal and human health.
 - Task(s): Assist Wyoming State Veterinarian with measures to prevent and control zoonotic disease risk.
 - Task(s): Provide consultation in occupational health and safety issues related to human and animal health at animal shelters.
 - Task(s): Serve as consultant on veterinary preventative medicine issues.
- Volunteer groups to assist with shelter setup and maintenance
 - US Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - United Animal Nations – Sacramento, CA (Main Office); Sturgis, SD (Regional Office)
 - Task(s): Sheltering
 - Task(s): Animal Search and Rescue
 - MARET – Mobile Animal Rescue Evacuation Team (Park County)
 - Humane Society of the United States - Northern Rockies Regional Office (Billings, MT)
 - Task(s): Sheltering
 - Task(s): Animal Search and Rescue
 - Code 3 Associates (Longmont, CO)
 - Task(s): Sheltering
 - Task(s): Animal Search and Rescue

Public Information

There are two components of public information: awareness and preparedness before evacuation; and evacuation directions and updates during and after an event. In August-September, 2005, the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security mailed a pamphlet titled "Homeland Security- Understanding and Preparing" to all households in Wyoming. The pamphlet addressed 72-hour preparedness kits, crisis communication plans, and evacuation. Wyoming County Treasurers are responsible for managing vehicle registration renewals. Including evacuation information via registration mailings is a feasible outreach project which could be coordinated through the Wyoming County Treasurers Association for statewide implementation. Further study and coordination is required.

All public information concerning local or statewide evacuations will be coordinated through County Emergency Operations Centers, the Wyoming Homeland Security Operations Center, the Crisis Management Center, and the Federal-State Joint Information Center. The Wyoming Governors Office will be responsible for and direct all public information releases if a statewide or regional evacuation is needed. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security Mobile Support Vehicles can be utilized for public information dissemination from remote localities within Wyoming or other states.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Wyoming Governor's Office / Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) – Periodically conduct news conferences/briefings to give media and disaster workers access to factual information

Task(s) - Ensure liaison with National Response Plan
Emergency Support Function #15 – External Affairs

Task(s) – Manage VIP briefings and tours

- Wyoming Governor's Office / Wyoming Office of Homeland Security/State PIOs/NWS

Task(s) – Coordinate the release of all emergency public information with other local, state, and federal government agencies

Task(s) – Provide personnel and equipment support to function and/or a Joint Information Center

Task(s) – Participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC) when appropriate

Task(s) – Provide a community relations program to include a rumor control system

Task(s) – Facilitate exchange of information, observations, identified needs, etc.

Support: - State Public Information Officers

Task(s) – Monitor residents, tourists, etc., on a periodic basis to assess their perception of state response and recovery activities/services

Infrastructure Maintenance

Wyoming has significant public and private infrastructure needing consideration and maintenance during an evacuation. For example, in the public sector, drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities and a few local power plants cannot be shut down in a timely manner. Emergency support personnel remaining in the evacuated areas will need essential services.

Wyoming also has significant private infrastructure. Power plants supply electricity, natural gas/oil transport lines and compressor stations provide natural gas and oil, and hydroelectric sites provide electricity to large parts of the United States. Gas processing plants and refineries also supply fuel to large parts of the region. The energy infrastructure in Wyoming cannot shut down easily or quickly, or without impact to significant parts of the United States.

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security investigated the maintenance of 17 critical infrastructure sectors and key assets in March, 2007 as part of the Wyoming Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan Submission to the Center for Disease Control. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security coordinated with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Department of Family Services, Wyoming Department of Audit, Wyoming Public Service Commission, Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems, the Wyoming Business Council, the Wyoming Department of Employment, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, the US Postal Service, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, the telecommunications industry, and other members of private industry to discuss continuity of operations in the event of evacuation, pandemic influenza, fire, or chemical attack.

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC) maintains regulatory oversight of all oil, electrical, coal and gas producers and distributors statewide. As part of the annual appraisal of producers and distributors, the PSC confirms the existence of emergency operations plans. Most companies have developed and communicated the existence of significant plans in regards to continuity of operations. The same was found to be true for federally regulated interstate pipeline companies, refineries, and power generation plants.

Due to electrical generation reliance on the railroad to maintain the supplies of coal needed to maintain output, the Wyoming Department of Transportation – Railroad Compliance Office will provide a vital link in maintaining and/or restoring the energy infrastructure of Wyoming. Detail on each of the critical functions is in the Wyoming Response Plan. Energy Systems functions are discussed below.

Key Functions and Responsible Agencies (Primary and Support):

Assurance of the Safety and Security of the Commercial Food Supply

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Agriculture

- Wyoming Livestock Board

- Wyoming Department of Health

Support: - Wyoming Department of Agriculture – Analytical Services Laboratory

Task(s) – Analysis, Food Emergency response Network

Commercial Food Supply Functions

Primary: Wyoming Department of Health/Wyoming Public Health
Laboratory/Wyoming Department of Agriculture/Wyoming
Department of Agriculture Consumer Health Division/Wyoming
Livestock Board

Task(s) - Oversee surveillance and monitoring to detect contamination of food or spread of disease among crops or livestock at critical nodes in food processing/production. Identify and trace back animals, plants, commodities and food products to sites of production. Assess need to screen food products and livestock traveling from affected locations. Suspend operations of contaminated establishments. Obtain laboratory and analysis samples with tie-in to existing programs including Food Emergency Response Network (FERN). Conduct risk assessments and evaluate food system vulnerabilities. Detect the event through inspection and surveillance. Assess security risks in food and commodity transportation. Identify and protect at risk populations. Coordinate risk communication and response activities. Determine source of threat. Control and contain suspected food and agricultural products. Decontaminate suspected locations, machinery, distribution centers, food establishments, transport vehicles, etc.

Livestock and Crop Functions

Primary: - Wyoming Livestock Board/State Veterinarian/Wyoming
Department of Agriculture (Livestock)/Wyoming Game and
Fish/Wildlife Disease Laboratory/Game and Fish Laboratory
(Wildlife)/UW Cooperative Ag Pest Survey/UW County

Extension Offices/UW College of Agriculture Plant Sciences
Department/UW Department of Renewable Resources
Entomology Department/USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and
Quarantine Director (Plants/Insects)/Wyoming Public Health
Laboratory (All)

Support: - Wyoming Department of Agriculture/Wyoming Weed and Pest
Districts

Task(s) - Assist in crop damage assessment. Assist in pest
damage assessment.

- Department of Environmental Quality/Wyoming Livestock
Board/Wyoming Game and Fish

Task(s) - Coordination and technical assistance for disposal of
animals, crops, or food.

Energy System Damage Assessment

Primary: - Public Service Commission

Support: - Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Task(s) - Provide liaison to appropriate oil and gas
producers/distributors

Wyoming Energy Emergency Response Plan

Primary: - Wyoming Business Council – Energy Office

Task(s) - Verify fuel supplies, Implement Wyoming Energy
Emergency Response Plan and coordinate with
appropriate agency

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) - Activate Wyoming Homeland Security Operations
Center and Coordinate with Wyoming Business
Council

Energy System Restoration

Primary: - Public Service Commission

Task(s) - Assist energy suppliers in obtaining equipment,
specialized labor, and transportation for repair or
restoration of energy systems.

Support: - Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

- Wyoming Department of Transportation – Railroad
Compliance Office

Task(s) – Monitor and provide liaison to railroad companies to
assure transportation of coal to power production
facilities in the event of a crisis

Banking and Finance Functions

Primary - Wyoming Department of Audit - Division of Banking

Task(s) - Conduct and maintain surveys and records of all financial institutions in Wyoming concerning continuity of operations plans. Provide all institutions with a basic template for developing a continuity of operations plan based upon the Wyoming Division of Banking's Continuity of Operations Plans four goals:

1. To protect life
2. To protect the agency
3. To protect the industry (The responsibility of the Division of Banking will shift from conducting examinations to acting as a central point of contact for the industry to communicate potential problems, coordinate with federal banking agencies and communicate to the media to ensure consumer confidence in the banking industry remains strong. Additionally, supervision during the recovery period after a disaster will shift to protecting consumers.)
4. To prepare the industry.

Drinking Water and Water Treatment Functions

Primary: - Local Jurisdiction

Task(s) – Maintain and/or restore function to water systems

Support: - Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems

Task(s) - Conduct workshops with the Association of Rural Water Systems addressing continuity of operations and response planning.

Task(s) - Assist local jurisdictions

- Wyoming Water Development Commission

Task(s) - Review project proposals and fund suitable proposals related to drinking water supplies

- Wyoming Department of Water Quality

Task(s) – Monitor water quality in cooperation with EPA

Commercial Facilities, Industry, and Business Functions

Primary - Wyoming Department of Employment

Task(s) - Maintain communication with commercial facilities, industries, and businesses detailing the importance

and recommendations for authorship and maintenance of continuity of operations plans.

Dams

Primary - US Bureau of Reclamation

Task(s) – Maintain Continuity of Operations Plans for all Bureau of Reclamation controlled dams in Wyoming

Support: - Wyoming State Engineers Office

Task(s) – Maintain Safety of Dams Program in Wyoming, and provide for inspection of dams when needed

Telecommunications / Data Communication

Primary: - Wyoming Department of Administration and Information

Task(s) - Develop a state emergency communications plan
- Establish communications links and maintain liaison with local governments, state agencies, commercial communications companies, and amateur radio organizations.

Support: - Wyoming Department of Transportation / Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) - Develop a state emergency communications plan
- Wyoming Public Service Commission

Radio Communications

Primary: - Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) - Provide support radio communications equipment and personnel to local jurisdictions and state agencies.
- On-site communications through Mobile Support Vehicles (MSV-1 and MSV-2)
- Portable radio tower

- Wyoming Department of Transportation

Task(s) – Establish and maintain WyoLink upon being operational

Support: - Wyoming DOT

Task(s) - Back-up radio communications for disaster warnings

- Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide high frequency radio communications to and from every armory

Task(s) – Provide two high frequency radio mobile units

- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources

- Wyoming Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety

- Wyoming State Forestry Division

- Wyoming Department of Game and Fish

- Amateur Radio Emergency Services

- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

- Wyoming Livestock Board

Postal and Shipping Functions

The United States Postal Service has developed continuity of operations plans, as required by the federal government.

Private shipping companies, such as FedEx and UPS, have been contacted by the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. All contacted companies either have developed or are developing a Continuity of Operations Plan and/or Disaster Response Plans.

Air traffic control

Primary: - Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) - On-site air traffic control (if needed)

Transportation Systems Functions

Primary - Wyoming Department of Transportation

Task(s) - Implement the “Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan” to maintain continuity of operations and functionality of the Department and operational status of the transportation system throughout Wyoming. The “Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan” addresses damage assessment, maintenance and repair of the transportation infrastructure, traffic control, first-responder family transport, telecommunications support, law enforcement, and public safety and security.

Task(s) – Maintain and implement the Emergency Highway Traffic Regulation Plan

Evacuation Time

Appendix A contains summaries of various census-determined populations for the entire State of Wyoming and for individual counties. Wyoming averages 5.1 people per square mile (2000 Census). The population in the 23 counties ranges from 2,272 in Niobrara County to 85,296 in Laramie County. Seven counties have populations less than 10,000, and fifteen counties have populations less than 20,000. **The low populations, as compared to many eastern, western, and southern states, will result in initiation of evacuations within 1-3 hours.** As stated above, there are almost two vehicles per person in Wyoming, meaning evacuation can proceed rapidly for most citizens once notification occurs. Special needs evacuation times will depend upon available resources.

Two scenarios were used to estimate ranges of evacuation times. One is for a jurisdiction with a population less than 5,000 and another is for a jurisdiction with a population greater than 50,000. These scenarios address the two endpoints of population densities found in Wyoming.

In a small jurisdiction, evacuation may initiate within 1.5 hours. This is based upon the following:

- 15 minutes for incident personnel to decide evacuation is appropriate.
- 45 minutes to alert residents of need for evacuation.
- 30 minutes for population to leave their homes and enter evacuation route system.
- People Unable to Self Evacuate can take considerable longer, depending upon health restrictions and availability of transport vehicles.

In a large jurisdiction, evacuation may initiate within 1.75-2.75 hours. This is based upon the following:

- 15 minutes for incident personnel to decide evacuation is appropriate.
- 1–2 hours to activate the Emergency Broadcast System, warning sirens, cable override systems, and to conduct neighborhood broadcasts and contacts through law enforcement.
- 30 minutes for population to leave their homes and enter evacuation route system.
- People Unable to Self Evacuate can take considerable longer, depending upon health restrictions and availability of transport vehicles.

Evacuee Tracking

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) has established an evacuation hotline to assist in tracking and locating evacuees. The number is 1-866-WYO-EVAC. Evacuees can register their name, home address, and home phone number, as well as their evacuation location and contact number with an operator. In addition, persons wishing to locate an evacuee can call the number and give an operator the name of the person they are trying to locate. If the name has been registered, the person calling will be given the evacuees current contact number. WOHS will receive constant updates of the names, addresses, and contact numbers of all registered.

The Wyoming Evacuation Hotline can be used by people in Red Cross Shelters, Alternative Care Shelters, and church or other private shelters. In addition the hotline can be used by evacuees staying with friends, relatives, or at motels or campgrounds. For large events resulting in a Presidential Declaration, federal registration centers or protocols will also be established in cooperation with surrounding states. The Wyoming Department of Family Services can also assist with evacuee registrations and needs.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) – Maintain Wyoming Evacuation Hotline

Support: - American Red Cross

Task(s) – Maintain registration at shelters, and coordinate with Wyoming Office of Homeland Security on Wyoming Evacuation Hotline

Relocation Sites

Attached in Appendix H are Red Cross designated shelters. Based upon provided data, they are capable of serving approximately 23,000 evacuees. There are a number of designated shelters, however, without assigned capacities. Other potential shelters are also available in Wyoming. Local jurisdictions are being encouraged to coordinate with local entities for additional shelter locations as well as alternative care and mobile medical shelters. Relocation sites within Wyoming will be developed shortly after a disaster is declared. The location of the sites will depend on the magnitude of the evacuation.

If an evacuation occurs in a city/town or county/region in Wyoming, and the Red Cross shelters are not adequate, motels and hotels could accommodate some of the needs. There would also be accommodation available at the Wyoming State Fair Grounds, Camp Guernsey, the University of Wyoming, and numerous other smaller facilities or dormitories. Most residents in Wyoming would also allow state evacuees into homes. Churches would also accommodate many evacuees.

Federal assistance will be required to establish relocation sites in adjoining states. There are a number of Federal Military Facilities to serve as sites in the event of a large-scale evacuation. The sites are listed in Appendix I. There are 6 potential facilities in Colorado, 2 in Idaho, 4 in Montana, 2 in Nebraska, 3 in South Dakota, and 3 in Utah. There are 3 sites in Wyoming which could be utilized for regional evacuations if appropriate.

Food supply is addressed in the Wyoming Response Plan, earlier parts of this plan, and in the National Response Plan.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Local Jurisdictions

Task(s) – Coordinate with local entities and American Red Cross to establish shelters to be used by American Red Cross or by local jurisdiction

Task(s) – Work with public health entities to establish potential alternative care shelters and medical shelters.

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) – Coordinate with FEMA and the Department of Defense to establish relocation centers inside and outside of Wyoming

Support: - American Red Cross

Task(s) – Establish potential shelter locations in cooperation with local jurisdictions

Task(s) – Maintain Red Cross Shelters as necessary and feasible

Relocation and Continuity of Government

The entire Capitol Complex in Cheyenne may be subject to evacuation. It will then be necessary to establish a base of operations for state government. It is possible, though not probable, the Wyoming Crisis Command and Control Center will also have to relocate. Even though there will be joint offices established with the federal government to deal with emergency operations needs, Wyoming state government will need a base of operations.

The Wyoming Homeland Security Operations Center is remote from the Capitol Complex, and office areas isolated from the main operations center will house elected officials and a limited number of staff members. The staff members for the elected officials can communicate to the elected officials through WebEOC or other communications systems available at the operations center.

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security Mobile Support vehicles MSV1 and MSV2 could be used as a limited base of operations for key elected officials. Mobile satellites could also be used to facilitate communication between elected officials and their staff.

Remote centers of operation are being established for key state agencies, elected officials, and the legislature. Community colleges, the University of Wyoming, and large facilities will be possible centers of operation if evacuation from Cheyenne is required.

All state agencies have developed or are in the process of developing Continuity of Operations Plans. Many state agencies have field offices which can be used as alternate offices for the primary office in Cheyenne. Those offices can also be used by elected officials to re-establish operations.

Military bases may also be feasible to use as relocation centers for citizens as well as for the relocation of state government. The Department of Defense is currently exploring options for using military facilities in Wyoming and surrounding sites for these purposes.

Key Functions and Responsibilities (Primary and Support):

Primary: - Wyoming Governor's Office

Task(s) – Determine immediate relocation sites for state government through the Crisis Command and Control Center

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Task(s) – Continued coordination with state agencies on developing Continuity of Operations Plans and on relocation sites for state government

Task(s) – Continued coordination with Legislative Services Office to ensure relocation sites are available for the Wyoming legislature

Support: - State Agencies

Task(s) - Develop Continuity of Operations Plans

Protection and Security of Evacuated Areas

During an evacuation, property and homes have been left behind. Protection and security of the evacuated area needs to be accomplished. Protection of the affected area rests with local law enforcement. If local law enforcement does not have the necessary resources, assistance could be provided by the Wyoming Highway Patrol and the Wyoming Military Department. Access will be denied to all but authorized personnel until the area is rendered safe for return.

As the senior law enforcement officer for the state of Wyoming, the Attorney General is ultimately responsible for the ability of law enforcement to guarantee the safety and security of Wyoming citizens. The Attorney General's office will aid in the coordination, scheduling, and deployment of law enforcement, security, and protection resources. Included in the safety and public security functions will be the direction of evacuees in a safe, orderly, and controlled manner.

Key Functions and Responsible Agencies (Primary and Support):

Law Enforcement/Public Security

Primary: - County Sheriff's Office/Local Police Office

Task(s) - Primary response

- Wyoming Attorney General's Office / Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation

Task(s) – Primary Law Enforcement Official for Wyoming

Task(s) – Legal review of state law

Task(s) – Enforce state law

Task(s) – State Crime Laboratory assistance

Support: - Wyoming Department of Transportation – Wyoming Highway Patrol

Task(s) - Coordinate state public safety and security support provided to any affected local government. This includes communications, personnel, and equip

Task(s) - Provide public safety and security support

- Wyoming Military Department

Task(s) – Provide support as directed by the Governor or his designated appointee.

Task(s) - Arrange for restriction of air space if needed

- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security/ Wyoming Dept. of Game and Fish / Wyoming Livestock Board / Wyoming Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides / Wyoming Department of Parks and Cultural Resources

(park rangers) /Fire Marshal's Office, University of Wyoming, Sheridan College
Task(s) - Assist with public safety and security support

Terrorism

Primary: - FBI

Task(s) - Lead Agency

Return of Evacuees

The Wyoming governor, the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, and county officials will be responsible for notifying residents when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses. State and local law enforcement will be responsible for ensuring return occurs in an orderly and safe fashion.

STATUS OF WYOMING RESPONSE PLAN

The Wyoming Response Plan is directly modeled after the National Response Plan. The Wyoming Event Management Plan was reconfigured to be NIMS compliant and was renamed the Wyoming Response Plan. The State of Wyoming Crisis Management Plan details the organization and response of the executive branch of government. The Crisis Management Plan guides the execution of the Wyoming Response Plan for large or significant events.

A self-assessment of the above plans indicates they are adequate, feasible, and acceptable.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

There are no existing interstate mutual aid agreements other than the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) between Wyoming and surrounding states in regards to evacuation. The Wyoming Department of Health is participating in the Mid-America Alliance, the purpose of which is to achieve interstate mutual aid agreements.

EVACUATION EXERCISES

The Wyoming Governor's Office, with support from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, has developed and implemented three cabinet-level exercises on hazardous material and terrorist incidents in Laramie and Albany Counties. The exercises resulted in the activation of the State of Wyoming Evacuation Plan. In addition, numerous exercises with an evacuation or shelter-in-place component have been conducted by counties, the Wyoming Military Department, and other state agencies.

STATE SUMMARY

Wyoming is composed of citizens used to adverse conditions. Most are prepared to travel long distances in vehicles designed for the adverse conditions. Due to the small

population of the state, there is a strong sense of helping neighbors in time of need. During disasters, citizens often respond with equipment, food, and shelter before government has an opportunity to respond.

The evacuation of the entire state is unlikely. If it was required, evacuation may be accomplished within 24 hours. Wyoming does experience significant natural disasters, such as wildfires, landslides, earthquakes, tornadoes, and winter storms, but would not experience natural disasters like hurricanes, which can be forecasted days in advance. The most likely scenarios for evacuation are hazardous material incidents or the deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction. These events generally allow for no advance warning. The entire state could be evacuated within a day, except for some people Unable to Self Evacuate. Adverse weather conditions could delay any evacuation.

REFERENCES

1. *Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning*, State and Local Guide (SLG) 101.
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