

In our Emergency Operations Plan, as well as the Department's COOP/COG plans and the local Emergency Operations Plan, the site located adjacent to the Region Office has been identified as the Alternate Emergency Operations Center. The ability for the Department to maintain a safe and operable transportation infrastructure in our geographical area (specifically, the aggregate and combined counties comprising our area of operations) as well as the Continuation of Operations and Continuation of Government for the Department mandate that an emergency operations center, at the District level, be equipped and maintain operational readiness to perform vital emergency operations, coordination, and communications between our statewide geographical districts, our Headquarters divisions, and each local County and Municipality Government and operations center within our 11 counties that make up our specific territory on a 24 hour a day situation for an extended period of time during a disaster or emergency situation, or as required by the District Directorate, the Department Directorate, or at the request of the Governor .

Due to this mandate, the facilities as specified are required to have ample power, water, climate control and stand-alone utility and communications facilities and services to accomplish the goals of the Department for no less than 168 hours. The ability to maintain real-time situational awareness and communications to each of our facilities require the installation of radio, microwave, hardline telephone, fax, and satellite communications capability, as well as immediate and uninterrupted access to Broadcast Television and Radio reception, inclusive of both local network providers and to Satellite television resources. Each of the EOC/AEOC workspaces must have separate and redundant connectivity to our proprietary and private IT network and internet (through Hardwire connections and wireless capability) as well as telephone connectivity.

It must be remembered that, when activated, the EOC/AEOC will be expected to handle, in addition to the management of the emergency operations, the normal and customary various "day-to-day" functions of the Department. The expected operational personnel workload of the facilities would be the various Directorate staff and their subordinates, as well as the various support staff required to fulfill the functionality levels mandated in the State Emergency Plan for SEMS/NIMS/ICS readiness. There should also be an "on-scene" staff, preferably permanently assigned to the immediate vicinity of the facility, trained in the various disciplines necessary for operation of the EOC/AEOC, able to assist, troubleshoot, and perform various support roles in the EOC/AEOC environment. Ideally, these roles would be fulfilled by the personnel that utilize the various spaces and workstations during normal, non-emergency operations; specifically, for this facility, this would include personnel regularly assigned to Region Office and Division Support staff functions.

In addition to the above minimums, the EOC/AEOC is mandated to provide on-site food storage and preparation areas, ADA compliant restrooms, shower, and secure storage (locker) facilities for on duty personnel, a break area for on-duty personnel during rest periods, and a rest/sleeping area for personnel off duty but on call, or personnel expected to be on-duty within the next 2-3 operational periods.

As currently drafted, the proposed EOC/AEOC facility would meet or surpass these minimums, and would be able to fulfill the mission of the Department in excess of the 7 full day minimum requirements. In the event that the staff normally assigned to this facility during non-emergency periods are activated into participatory roles during the emergency, there are sufficient trained back-up personnel to perform the functions of the activated personnel.