



IDAHO REGION II STABILIZATION PLAN



Annex C

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY

This annex addresses security in an environment when normal staffing is expected to be a critical limitation.

Lead: Jurisdiction Law Enforcement

INTRODUCTION

In normal times, emergency response staffing is optimized to just cover the average call volume. In an era of tight budgets, tax dollars are scrutinized to cut unneeded staff and reduce overhead. Mutual aid agreements between neighboring jurisdictions are in place to cover any shortfall due to a large or complex emergency incident.

Large scale catastrophic events can be expected to almost instantly overwhelm the current system due to the dramatic increase in call volume, and the fact that mutual aid will probably be unavailable.

The challenge to law enforcement will be maintaining order during periods of crisis with minimal staffing.

In the absence of emergency measures, responses would initially be prioritized, and law enforcement reserves activated. Response to many events would have significant delays, with some not seeing any response. **Staffing will become critical** when personnel seek to protect their own families, as looting and crimes of opportunity increase. When increasing problems escalate, the rule of law collapses.

FOUNDATION OF SECURITY

Law enforcement's presence is unique in rural local government, in that they are often not perceived as adversaries; rather as keepers of the peace. Officers generally have frequent, direct contact with the public, and are attuned to the pulse of their community. Therefore a foundation for trust between law enforcement and the population is built.

In a national emergency, order will be maintained by sustaining this mutual trust.

POLICIES

1. The County Sheriff and Police Chiefs are responsible for law enforcement within their respective jurisdictions, and make all strategic decisions and policy.
2. Supporting documents such as SOPs, notification and resource lists, and other sensitive information will be maintained by appropriate departments, and NOT included this plan.
3. Law enforcement response priorities will be based on:
 - Protection of life for emergency responders and the public
 - Protection of critical infrastructure and facilities
 - Arrest and detainment of law breakers
4. Responsible citizens are encouraged to be armed. Citizens not only have the right to protect themselves and their family, they have an obligation and a responsibility to do so. In this environment, the obligation extends to protecting neighbors, friends and fellow citizens, including law enforcement. Two outcomes are expected:
 - This policy will implement trust
 - This policy will inhibit crime. The threat of arrest will deter no one. What will deter crime is open awareness that citizens are prepared and willing to defend themselves

SCOPE

The following guidance provides considerations for security at the local level, and may be modified by federal guidance or actual conditions. Law enforcement will be called on to provide internal security (security within the community) and external security (security from threats to the community from outside areas).

Internal Security. Internal security is provided by law enforcement within local jurisdictions. The operational structure may vary depending on personnel availability. Major law enforcement activities are expected to include:

- Essential public safety activities of dispatch and patrol, intervention/ interdiction
- Crowd control
- Physical security of high value assets (e.g., food warehouse)
- Logistical support (e.g., security for county-to-county trade)

External Security. External security protects against outside threats. This is a wildcard in a national emergency. Severe anxiety and distress from a catastrophic event may cause a flight response in people in large metropolitan areas, who may seek the perceived safety of lesser populated regions. For the purposes of this plan, this group will be referred to as “refugees”. Additionally, as lawlessness spreads, individuals or groups of people might desire to capitalize on perceived wealth or weakness of more rural communities.

The following broad generalizations can be made in advance:

1. Travel restrictions may be enacted by federal control of major roadways. Effectiveness would vary with the timing and thoroughness of the restriction. These measures are not likely to be known in advance.
2. A significant population influx introduces a *new limiting factor* to the safety and security of residents: the carrying capacity of the land. Important variables include the amount of food reserves on hand and seasonal timing of the event.

These conditions pose a dilemma, as the refugee influx will occur during the fragile adjustment and initial recovery stages: should refugees be admitted into the community? This issue will tend to polarize people. Three alternatives were examined:

Alternative 1: Do not admit refugees. Rationalization: When the carrying capacity is exceeded, every additional new person is fed at the cost of someone else not being fed.

Alternative 2: Admit all refugees. Rationalization: These are fellow Americans, including relatives and veterans. The community will have to survive with less.

Alternative 3: Admit refugees that families are willing to sponsor at minimal or no loss (food, etc.) to the community. Rationalization: Fostering a system of “willingness to provide” can strengthen the goodwill and cooperative habits of a community which will help with stabilization.

The resolution of the dilemma by chief elected officials will bolster or undermine the newfound stability of a community. Alternative 1 will be opposed by those committed to alternative 2. Likewise, alternative 2 will be opposed by those committed to alternative 1. Both alternatives 1 and 2 will fracture stability, as will doing nothing.

Recommendation. Alternative 3 is recommended. This is community support of an individual choice to take care of fellow citizens. Faith-based and civic organizations have traditionally supported these efforts, and should be encouraged to do so again.

Implementation. The first consideration is managing the refugee flow. This can be done with roadblocks, and should be away from residential areas. Manning the refugee control areas will be a psychologically tough assignment. Be sure to monitor these personnel, and rotate shifts frequently.

Admit refugees to the community in a series of steps that are clearly communicated to them and to the public. Failure to meet requirements of any step will result in expulsion.

Step 1: All potential residents are quarantined until released by public health. They are provided shelter and reasonable rations.

Step 2: All potential residents are screened by law enforcement.

Step 3: Potential residents selected and sponsored by an individual or family are admitted to the community as probationary residents. Expected conditions:

- They will do work for the community, just like all residents.
- They will subsist on food provided them by the sponsoring family – whether the sponsor’s own provisions, or the food allocated to the sponsor from community sources.
- Shelter will be whatever is provided/arranged by the sponsoring family.

Upon completing the probationary period (six months), a panel of government officials will determine whether to accept the refugees (with full resident status) or to expel them.

SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

1. The chief limiting factor is the availability of sufficient personnel to maintain order. Historically, the personnel shortfall has been met several ways. Initially, this likely includes activating law enforcement reserves and posses. In a worst-case event, this core group can be expanded by deputizing additional qualified people, such as military retirees and concealed weapons permit holders.

Finally, “Home Guard” organizations were established in the last world wars, comprised of citizens with varying skills. Chief law enforcement officials have usually been in their communities long enough to know which citizens would be good candidates.

2. Loss of electrical power may degrade communications over time.

3. Lack of fuel may degrade mitigation and response activities over time.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Command and Control. The County Sheriff and Police Chiefs are in charge of all law enforcement personnel within their respective jurisdictions, and make all strategic decisions and policy. Tactical response activities and other sensitive information is maintained by appropriate departments, and not included this plan.

PREPARATION

- ___ Consider working with local active/retired military planners to develop plans for external security, including tactics and small scale military operations
- ___ Develop plans to effectively manage refugee control points
- ___ Conduct exercises using applicable plans

INITIAL RESPONSE PHASE

Considerations Upon Notification of a National Emergency:

- ___ Requirements of federal directives
- ___ Increase staff from existing organizations
 - ___ Reserve police officers
 - ___ Sheriff's Posses
- ___ Increase staff to expand law enforcement structure to the neighborhood level (Neighborhood "Home Guard" organization)
 - ___ Potentially highly qualified personnel – minimal training & orientation needed
 - law enforcement retirees
 - citizens with appropriate military experience
 - ___ Potentially adequately qualified – varying training & orientation needed
 - Concealed weapons permit holders

- ___ Modify law enforcement command structure as needed
- ___ Assign additional sworn personnel from administrative duties to field operations
- ___ For neighborhood organization, coordinate with NET Teams manager (see Annex K)
- ___ Develop shift schedules

- ___ Coordinate with other elected officials to prioritize physical security of high value assets (e.g., food warehouse)
- ___ Prepare law enforcement input to media releases
- ___ Prepare appropriate vehicles for immediate response

ON-GOING RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

- ___ Implement plans to manage refugee control points, if required
- ___ Frequent input to media releases
- ___ Strategic and tactical planning for impact of fuel shortages
- ___ Strategic and tactical planning for power outages (see Annex J for communications options)
- ___ Coordinate with Annex M: Education to provide firearms safety and proficiency training for citizens