

Emergency Management Plan

Section 7

## **7-3 Re-Entry Plan**

**July 2006**



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## **A. Introduction**

The provisions of this annex are countywide and apply to all hazards and is designed (1) to promote and facilitate the timely re-entry of essential response and recovery personnel, government officials, property owners, business owners, media, etc. in order to expedite the recovery of Horry County and its economy; and (2) to provide uniform guidance following a large-scale disaster to law enforcement personnel who are responsible for permitting access into the impacted areas. The plan clarifies the roles and responsibilities of local and state agencies involved in reentry activities.

The plan identifies procedures intended to ensure that post disaster re-entry is accomplished in a coordinated manner once it is deemed safe by both County and municipal officials for people to return to the impacted areas. Each municipality will be responsible for its jurisdiction and will have total control over its support resources, such as police and fire-rescue departments. Also, the final decision to allow re-entry into a municipality will rest with the municipal officials. This annex is not intended to replace municipal re-entry plans or procedures. The County will provide assistance when requested based upon availability of resources.

## **B. Disaster Conditions**

Any natural, technological, or manmade disaster in Horry County that requires massive evacuation will also require planning and coordination to ensure that evacuees reenter in a safe and timely manner.

## **C. Planning Assumptions**

1. A ground and/or aerial survey of the impacted areas will be conducted immediately following the disaster to identify and prioritize the most seriously damaged areas of the county. Damages to major routes, neighborhoods, sensitive public facilities, and field disaster relief supply points will also be recorded.
2. This plan designates re-entry check-points on the major highways in each of the Horry County Operational Areas as described in the EMP Section 7-8 and the SC Hurricane Plan.
3. This plan is may be used in the event a localized evacuation is ordered to protect lives and property. Re-entry check-points and emergency routes will be established in the affected area(s) immediately after a damage assessment as been completed.
4. Local law enforcement agencies will have primary control over re-entry for their respective jurisdictions. However, there will be coordination with the Horry County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), with ESF 13 (Law Enforcement) taking the lead.

## **D. Circumstances for Activating Re-entry Plan**

The Horry County Emergency Management Director will activate the Re-entry Plan prior to the Governor rescinding the mandatory evacuation order. A survey of the impacted area will be completed after the disaster has passed. In order to ensure the safety of the residents and business community, necessary preparations for the re-entry of the general public will commence immediately, beginning with allowing those with Level I access into the impacted areas to restore essential services and infrastructure.

## **E. Waivers**

The County will administer re-entry without the requirement that a release be signed. Whether such a waiver and release would be enforceable would depend on highly specific factual contexts. Thus, it is the desire of the County and municipalities is to simplify the process as much as possible and require no waivers or releases.

## **F. Re-entry Procedures**

The general identification procedures are intended to provide uniform guidance to law enforcement personnel responsible for directing access to disaster-impacted communities. Municipalities may enforce their own identification procedures at jurisdictional access checkpoints if they deem it necessary.

Proper identification for resident access includes a current driver's license, valid state identification card, utility bill, mortgage deed, property tax documents, or car registration any of which includes an address or other means that identifies the location of their property.

Proper identification for business operators includes a business license showing ownership, current utility bill, or lease documents any of which includes an address or other means that identifies the location of their property. The jurisdiction having authority may allow entry to a business' essential staff on a case by case basis if:

- The business provides a personnel list on company letterhead with a company official's signature stating the need for access and what form of identification the employee should provide at the check point; and,
- The list has been submitted to the local jurisdiction law enforcement agency and copied to the Horry County Emergency Management Department for use as verification. Businesses using this method are responsible for updating and submitting the list annually by June 1 and when personnel changes occur. Proper identification for business employees includes at least an employee picture identification badge.

Many State and Federal agencies as well as non-government organizations provide disaster relief worker badge/identification credentials. Any questions or concerns regarding this form of identification should be forwarded to the Horry County EOC for verification.

Media identification/credentials also vary and access will be authorized by the jurisdiction having authority. In most cases, it is the best interest of the community to allow media representatives in the devastated areas. Any questions or concerns regarding these forms of identification should be forwarded to the Horry County EOC for verification.

### **Level I Access**

All public officials and personnel having key roles in life safety and the restoration of critical services after a disaster will be allowed to enter the impacted area. All Level I personnel will be required to present and wear in full view an authorized employee identification badge. No personal vehicles will be allowed to enter impacted areas during Level I access, except governmental personnel reporting for official business.

### **Level II Access**

This allows for reentry of critical support groups, relief workers, State certified (SLED) security officers, healthcare personnel, business owners/essential staff, insurance adjusters and any other person(s) authorized by the jurisdiction to provide services or reduce economic loss. All Level II personnel will be required to present and wear an authorized employee identification badge at the checkpoint.

### **Level III Access**

Residents and business operators shall have access to areas that have been deemed safe by the authority having jurisdiction. When possible, every effort should be made to safely assist these persons to their property if access is limited. All residents and business operators must show proper identification and documentation to enter an impacted area.

### **Restricted Area Pass**

Restricted Area Passes, if applicable, will be issued and managed by the local authority having jurisdiction and are restricted to those areas only.

## **G. Checkpoints**

### General Reentry:

In order to expedite the re-entry process, re-entry check points will be predetermined at the major highways that cross the natural barriers of the Little Pee Dee River, Waccamaw River and the Intracoastal Waterway for entry into the coastal communities. Once re-entry check-points are established, each affected jurisdiction will have representatives on site to authorize/refuse entry into their jurisdiction. The check-points must allow for the continual movement of traffic even if access is denied. Only locations that will facilitate the return of denied vehicles will be used. This will keep entry access available for those authorized to do so.

### Specific Reentry:

After the post event survey has been completed and the determination is made that a general re-entry will not be required, local law enforcement agencies will be primarily responsible for establishing and staffing checkpoints for re-entry into their respective jurisdictions by using their protocols/procedures. This action will be coordinated with the Horry County EOC through ESF 13.

## **H. Roadblocks**

The strategic location of roadblocks is an important part of the re-entry process. Roadblocks are commonly used to seal entry points into devastated areas for two main reasons. First, roadblocks are used to prevent mass entry of the civilian population, which can clog rescue routes for people in the impacted areas who are in need of rescue and medical attention. Second, roadblocks are an efficient way of preventing looting and other acts of lawlessness. Law enforcement officers will set up roadblocks where they are deemed necessary.

## **I. Curfews**

Depending on the intensity of the disaster and the level of damage caused, the County and municipalities may institute curfews and other crime prevention and anti-looting measures. The decision to implement curfews and the duration will rest with the authority having jurisdiction's elected governing bodies. Enacted curfews should consider providing clearance to public safety personnel, utility personnel, relief workers and others deemed critical to restoration to violate established curfews.

## Appendix A

## Horry County Operational Areas Major Highway Re-entry Check-point Locations

## Operational Area 01

US 501 @ Galivant's Ferry	Four Lane Highway
SC 917 @ Little Pee Dee River	Two Lane Highway
SC 9 / US 76 @ Little Pee Dee River	Two Lane Highway
US 76 @ McNell Drive	Two Lane Highway

## Operational Area 02

SC 410 @ NC State Line	Two Lane Highway
US 701 @ NC State Line	Two Lane Highway
SC 905 @ NC State Line	Two Lane Highway

## Operational Area 03

Sec. Hwy. 57 @ NC State Line	Two Lane Road
US 17 @ NC State Line	Four Lane Highway
SC 179 @ NC State Line	Two Lane Road
SC 9 @ Waccamaw River	Four Lane Highway
SC 22 @ SC 905	Four Lane Highway
Reeves Ferry Road @ Waccamaw River	Two Lane Road
US 501 @ Waccamaw River	Four Lane Highway
US 501 Bus. @ Waccamaw River	Two Lane Road

## Operational Area 04

US 17 @ SC 9	Four Lane Highway
SC 22 @ SC 31	Four Lane Highway
SC 31 @ Robert Grissom Pkwy	Four Lane Highway
US 501 @ Intracoastal Waterway	Four Lane Highway
SC 544 @ Intracoastal Waterway	Four Lane Highway
US 17 @ SC 707	Four Lane Highway

## Operational Area 05

US 701 @ Great Pee Dee River	Two Lane Highway
US 378 @ Little Pee Dee River	Two Lane Highway