

4.7 Emergency Management

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Assessment Process	
A.	The assessment of needs, wants, and resources is achieved by surveys, town meetings, brain storming, focus group studies, and mayoral-appointed advisory committees.
B.	Experts and consultants are employed when needed.
C.	The City of Lamar has adopted a comprehensive plan and developed strategies to accomplish short and long-range goals.

Program Standards	
A.	Organization: Responsibility in the area of emergency management is shared between the City and County government agencies.
B.	Mission Statement: To protect the citizens of the community and surrounding area communities from injury and to minimize and repair damage due to disasters through the management of resources and administration of economic controls.
C.	Authority: The Emergency Management Agency designation can be found in the Municipal Ordinances under Section 7.5-1, which was originally adopted in Ordinance Number 1428.
D.	SEMA: The Emergency Management division of the City of Lamar works closely with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in preparation and implementation of its Disaster Master Plan Manual.
E.	Staff: The City of Lamar dedicates all staff to emergency situations as the needs arise. The other workings of the City can be halted at a moments notice in an effort to supply enough personnel to assist in a disaster situation. Thus, emergency staff deployment policy exceeds the current, regular staffing of 24 firefighters and 10 commissioned police officers.
F.	Budget: Adequate funds from the City of Lamar provide for operations of the local emergency management program. The County-wide program has a dedicated budget prepared as well.
G.	Hazards Identification/Planning: The identification of hazards that may threaten this community and others within Barton County is done on an ongoing basis. Listings of such things as hazardous materials contained within the county are documented on a regular basis. Communication between businesses that house these types of hazardous substances is kept open at all times.
H.	Hazard Reduction Program: The City of Lamar participates in the Emergency Management meetings that occur periodically when hazards are discussed and different exercises are developed to check the community and its resources response to such a disaster.
I.	Emergency Operations Plan: The emergency management plans for both the City and County are exercised on an ongoing basis. Even before the “9/11” tragedies, public safety and Lamar’s responses to disasters have been paramount in the minds of local emergency services staff. Although one may not be able to plan for every contingency, the groups responsible for Emergency Management in and around Lamar try very hard to do so.
J.	Chief Executive: The Barton County Emergency Preparedness group has identified an Emergency Operations Chief as well as a backup location for the direction of activities in the case of a disaster. There are directives within the comprehensive plan for the Mayor and other vitally important individuals to be at the center in the case of activation for a disaster situation.
K.	Communications: Provisions for communications have been planned and conveyed for use during a time of disaster. These include: phone service, cellular phone service, radio communication, and HAM radio operators service.

L.	Alert Notification: There is a notification list identified in the Emergency Preparedness manual. Additionally, the City of Lamar is equipped with a siren alert system for use in times of pending disaster. The City of Lamar has the capability to interrupt programming and transmit emergency messages over the local cable television system. Local radio stations in the Lamar area participate in the Emergency Alert System mandated by state and federal authorities.
M.	Public Information: Standards in the local Preparedness Plan provide for a Press Officer and alternate identified for the dissemination of information to the public in a time of disaster.
N.	Continuity: The Preparedness Plan addresses provisions to insure preservation of government institutions and their ability to function effectively during emergency conditions.
O.	Resource Management: As addressed in the Preparedness Plan, procedures for resource management are documented and practiced on an ongoing basis in the form of table top and actual practice disaster drills.

Program Evaluation

The success of Emergency Management endeavors for Lamar are addressed through:

- Mayoral-appointed advisory committees.
- Practice drills and resulting evaluations of emergency management agencies
- Best practices established through the State Emergency Management Association, Missouri Municipal League, and other regional/state associations of public service professionals