

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
(EOP)
JUNE 2024**

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

RESOLUTION #55-2024

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
FOR LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**

THIS RESOLUTION, approved and adopted by the Lower Saucon Township Council, Northampton County Pennsylvania, on the date hereinafter set forth.

WITNESS TO:

WHEREAS, Section 7503 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. Section 7101 et seq. mandates that Lower Saucon Township prepare, maintain and keep current an emergency operations plan for the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by a major emergency or disaster within Lower Saucon Township; and

WHEREAS, in response to the mandate stated above, Lower Saucon Township has prepared Emergency Operations Plan to provide prompt and effective emergency response procedures to be followed in the event of a major emergency or disaster; and

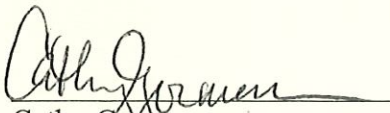
WHEREAS, Lower Saucon Township has also prepared an Emergency Operations Plan in order to reduce the potential affects of a major emergency or disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Lower Saucon Township;

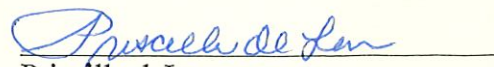
NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Council of Lower Saucon Township do hereby approve, adopt and place into immediate effect the Emergency Operations Plan of Lower Saucon Township. This Plan shall be reviewed every two years to make certain that it conforms with the requirements of the Northampton County Emergency Operations Guideline.

RESOLVED AND ENACTED this 19th day of June, 2024.

Attest

Lower Saucon⁴ Township


Cathy Gorman
Secretary


Priscilla deLeon
Council President

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP)

FOR

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP

in

**NORTHAMPTON
County**

June 2024

Basic Plan

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this plan is to prescribe those activities to be taken by the municipal government and other community officials to protect the lives and property of the citizens in the event of a natural or human- caused, including terrorism, emergency or disaster, and to satisfy the requirements of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 Pa. C.S. Section 7101 et seq., as amended, to have a disaster emergency management plan for the municipality. The plan consists of: a Basic Plan, which describes principles and doctrine; a Notification and Resource Manual, which provides listings and means of contacting local and needed resources; and a series of functional checklists which provide detail for the accomplishment of the specifics of the operation.

The scope of the plan includes all activities in the entire emergency management cycle, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases. This plan is applicable to all response organizations acting for or on behalf of the government or citizens of Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County. "Incident specific Plans" may augment this plan if necessary to more efficiently cope with special requirements presented by specific hazards. Such plans are listed in Appendix C.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

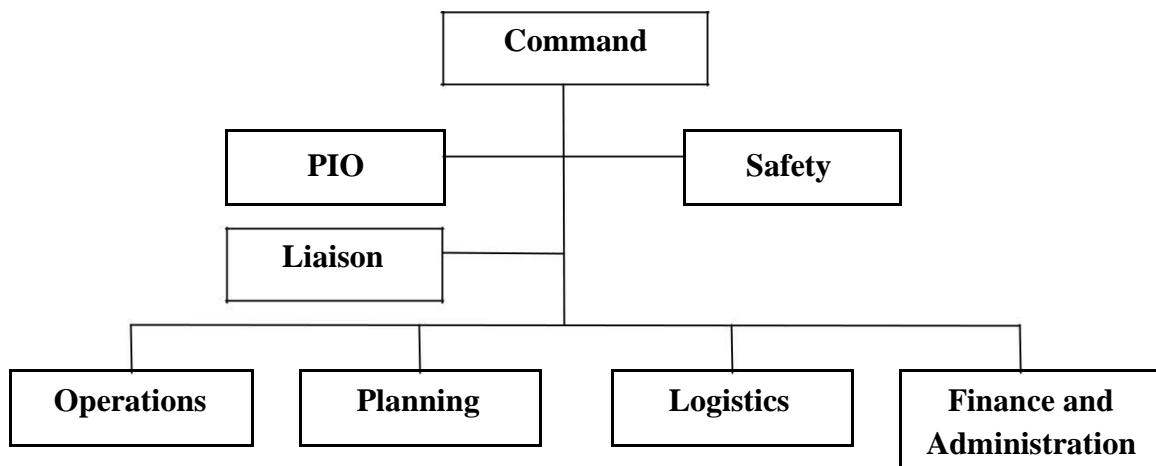
- A. The Township of Lower Saucon is located in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The population is approximately 10,000. Terrain features that affect emergency response include all those found in a rural setting including hills, valleys, streams and river.
- B. Identified special facilities (Schools, Health Care Facilities, Child Care Centers, etc.) are indicated in the Notification and Resource Manual (NARM) section of this plan.
- C. The municipality is subject to a variety of hazards. The most likely and damaging of these are weather and transportation related.
- D. Historically, certain geographic areas of this municipality are more vulnerable to the effects of these hazards. These are: residential properties bordering the Saucon creek, Lehigh River, Routes 412, 378 and I-78.
- E. Training, response checklists and other accompanying documents are based on the statements in 2 A., B., C. and D. of this plan.
- F. Adjacent municipalities and other governments will render assistance in accordance with the provisions of written intergovernmental and mutual aid support agreements in place at the time of the emergency.
- G. When municipal resources are fully committed and mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions is exhausted, the county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is available to coordinate assistance and help satisfy unmet needs. Similarly, if the

county requires additional assistance, it can call for mutual aid from adjacent counties, its Regional Task Force (RTF), or from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Ultimately, the Commonwealth can ask the federal government for assistance in dealing with a major disaster or emergency.

- H. In the event of an evacuation of the municipality, or any part thereof, the majority of the evacuees will utilize their own transportation resources. Additionally, those with pets, companion or service animals will transport their own pets and animals. Those with livestock or other farm animals will take appropriate measures to safeguard the animals via sheltering or evacuation as appropriate.
- I. Special facilities will develop, coordinate and furnish emergency plans to the emergency management organization of this municipality, the county and state departments and agencies as applicable and required by codes, laws, regulations or requirements.
- J. Any regulated facility, SARA (Superfund Amendments and Re-authorization Act) site, power plant, etc. posing a specific hazard will develop, coordinate and furnish emergency plans and procedures to local, county and state departments and agencies as applicable and required by codes, laws, regulations or requirements.
- K. Whenever warranted, the elected officials will declare an emergency for the municipality in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35Pa CS, § 7501). In like manner, in the event of any emergency requiring protective actions (evacuation or sheltering), the elected officials will make the recommendation and communicate the information to the populace by appropriate means including the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Route Alerting, or other technologies.
- L. In the event of an evacuation, segments of the population will need to be transported from the identified affected area(s) to safe havens. Depending upon the hazard factors, the host areas may be located within or outside the municipality.
- M. Emergency shelters will be activated by the county EMA using public schools or public colleges / universities (per the provisions of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code) or other designated shelters. Shelters will be operated by Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) such as the American Red Cross. Shelter operators will provide basic necessities including food, clothing, lodging, basic medical care, and maintain a registration of those housed in the shelter.
- N. Critical facilities such as hospitals and extended care facilities should have some level of emergency power and alternate energy sources available to accommodate for situations involving the loss of commercial power or other energy sources.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS/CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

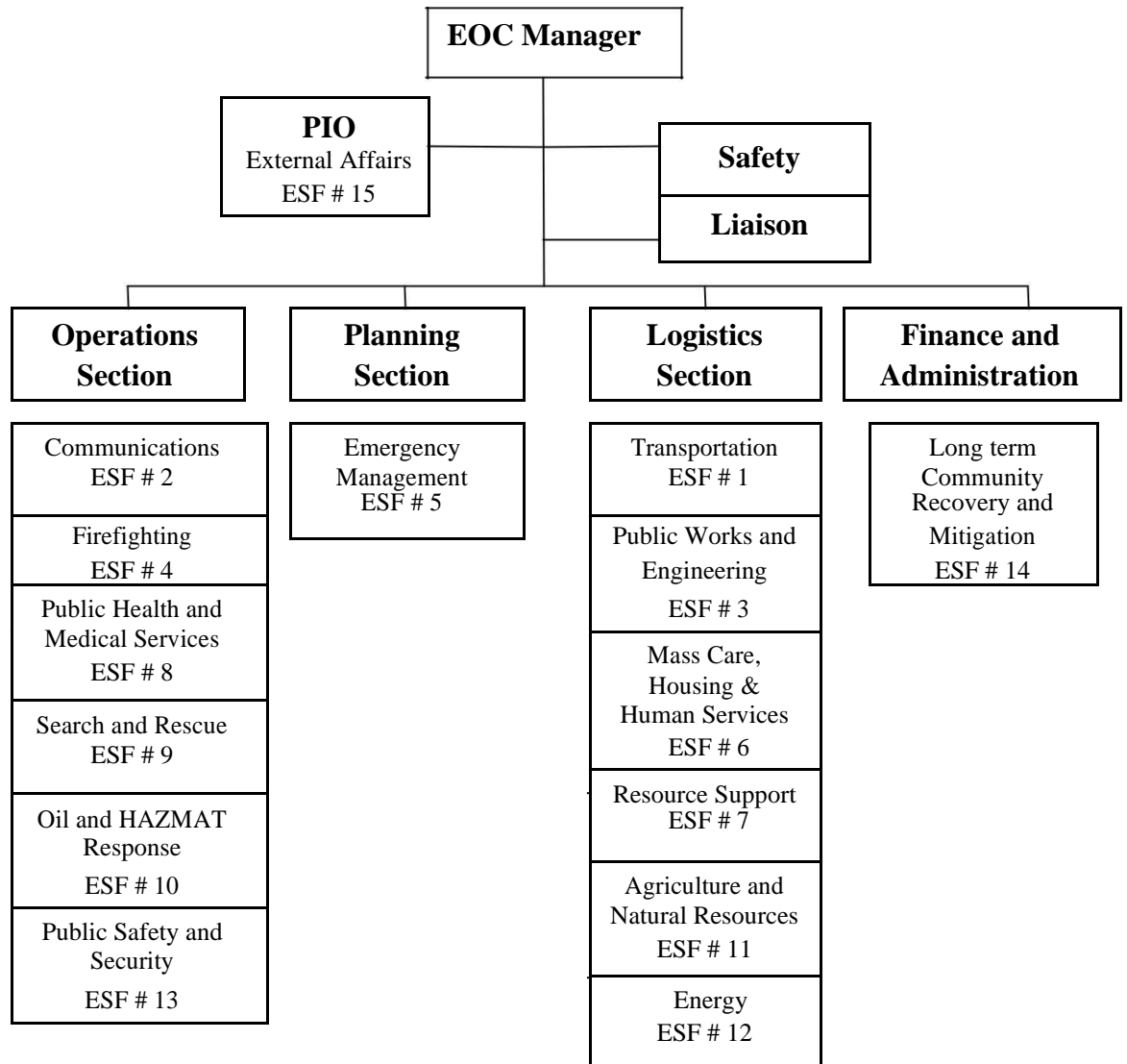
- A. The elected officials are responsible for the protection of the lives and property of the citizens. They exercise primary supervision and control over the four phases (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery) of emergency management activities within the municipality.
- B. A local Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) shall act on behalf of the elected officials. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been designated by the municipality, and may be activated by the EMC or the elected officials during an emergency. A Deputy EMC and Alternate EOC have been designated to function in case the primary EMC and/or EOC are not available.
- C. This plan embraces an “all-hazards” principle: that most emergency response functions are similar, regardless of the hazard. The EMC will mobilize resources and personnel as required by the emergency situation.
- D. The EMC and elected officials will develop mutual aid agreements with adjacent municipalities for reciprocal emergency assistance as needed.
- E. The municipality will embrace and utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (see below).



- 1. The Incident Commander (IC) at the incident site will be trained according to NIMS requirements. In like manner, the EOC staff will also be trained to NIMS requirements.
- 2. The Incident Command System (ICS) should have:
 - a. a manageable span of control (3 to 7 staff; optimum is 5);

- b. personnel accountability (each person reports to only one person in the chain of command); and
- c. functional positions staffed only when needed (responsibilities for any positions that are not staffed remain with the next higher filled position).

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Example



- F. When the municipal EOC is activated, the EMC or designee will coordinate between the site IC and the county EMA. To ensure consistency with operations at the incident site, the EOC will also follow an incident command structure. The EMC will assume the role of EOC Manager (Command) and, initially, all of the remaining roles. As additional staff arrive at the EOC, the EMC may delegate activities to them.
- G. Availability of staff and operational needs may allow or require positions to be combined, or positions to not be filled (responsibilities held by the next higher position.)

- H. The diagram above aligns Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) with ICS Staff sections. This alignment may be modified as required by the disaster situation or the municipality's political or programmatic needs.
- I. Continuity of government procedures are specified in the Elected Officials checklist.
- J. When the EMC receives notice of a potential emergency from the federal Homeland Security Advisory System, from the National Weather Service watches and warnings, or from other reliable sources, partial activation of the EOC in preparation for the emergency will be considered.
- K. Communication, Alert and Warning will be provided to the public via the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Other systems will be utilized as available.
- L. During non-emergency times, information regarding emergency plans and actions to be taken by the public, in the form of public information / education materials, will be provided to the public via municipal newsletters, brochures, publications in telephone directories, municipal web-sites, etc.
- M. In the event of an evacuation, the population (or segments thereof) will evacuate using their own vehicles, or be transported from the identified affected area(s) to safe havens. Depending upon the hazard factors, the host areas may be located within or outside the municipality.
- N. Evacuees are expected to follow the direction and guidance of emergency workers, traffic coordinators, and other assigned emergency officials. Pre-designated evacuation routes will be utilized whenever safe and practical. Critical intersections will be staffed by traffic control personnel to facilitate an orderly flow of traffic.
- O. Emergency workers should complete pre-emergency "family plans" addressing such issues as transportation and evacuation locations for immediate family members (Spouse and children).