



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSOULA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Missoula County is seeking public comment on the City-County [draft Emergency Operations Plan](#). The plan is established by virtue of a Mutual Aid Agreement between Missoula County and the City of Missoula. That Agreement also constitutes a joint Disaster Planning Committee to deal with disaster and emergency issues. Over the last year, the Disaster Planning Committee has been engaged in a complete revision of the Emergency Operation Plan, which was formerly known as the Missoula County Disaster Plan. The new version of the Plan will be organized in two basic parts: the Basic Plan and a series of Annexes and Appendices. The draft Basic Plan is now available for public review and comment. The Annexes and Appendices will follow in the coming weeks.

The Emergency Operations Plan sets down the organizational, legal and policy framework used by Missoula County and the City of Missoula to deal with disasters and emergencies. It does not give specific operational instructions for any particular event. Those kinds of decisions are left for commanders and other officials to make in light of conditions at the time of an incident. So, rather than telling commanders and officials what decisions they must make, the Emergency Operations Plan establishes the environment in which to make those decisions. "For example, the plan won't tell commanders how to deploy their resources and which areas, precisely, to evacuate during a hazardous materials spill, fire, terrorist event or other major crime," notes Emergency Services Director Bob Reid. "The plan sets forth the roles for various agencies and disciplines, recognizes their authority to act, and notes the factors that they should consider when conducting their operations."

The [draft Basic Plan](#) is available on the County's website and citizens are encouraged to provide comments to eopcomments@co.missoula.mt.us. All comments will be forwarded to the [Disaster Planning Committee](#) for review.

For additional information, contact Bob Reid, Director of Emergency Services for Missoula County at (406) 258-4758 or breid@co.missoula.mt.us.

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