



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 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR 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 is organized in two basic parts: the Basic Plan and a series of Annexes and Appendices. The complete draft Plan is available for public review and comment.

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.

“Over the last year various departments from around the City and County have been meeting to discuss the pieces of the Emergency Operations Plan,” notes Emergency Services Director Chris Lounsbury. “The plan they have helped design will be used to give all agencies a common framework during emergencies. This helps departments that work together often and those that might only see each other a few times each year to better understand each other and work cooperatively during disaster events.”

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

For additional information, contact Chris Lounsbury, Director of Emergency Services for Missoula County at (406) 258-4469 or clounsbury@co.missoula.mt.us.

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