

CONEJOS COUNTY RE-ENTRY PLAN



2018

CONEJOS RE-ENTRY PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to local agencies for re-entry of residents that have been affected by the disaster that has caused evacuations within CONEJOS County.

A. MISSION

To quickly evaluate and assess the immediate human needs (food, water, health/medical, and housing) and the operational status of vital community infrastructure (transportation, communications, and utility systems). To assist impacted localities with the restoration of essential services. To plan for and implement, when possible, the return of evacuees to their homes.

B. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

All agencies named in this plan is responsible for conducting its own assessment to determine re-entry restrictions. This must be made in concert with the Incident Commander. This assessment will determine if the locality is safe to permit re-entry of residents and property/business owners. However, state and federal assistance may also be available to assist or to conduct such an assessment. State participation will be coordinated by DHSEM. This plan is designed for the return of residents following an evacuation prior to an expanding incident but may be modified to address other large evacuations.

This plan may be partially or fully implemented depending on the scale, nature and duration of the incident.

Re-Entry for short duration evacuations (less than 8 hours) with little or no damage or loss of power may be initiated by the Incident Commander without activation of this plan.

C. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. There will be separate and specific thresholds for allowing re-entry of residents as there will be for allowing the re-entry of emergency and/or disaster assessment teams. The Incident Command Team will begin the process of making decisions regarding when all safety issues have been identified and evaluated. From there, the local Sheriff's Department will meet with the IC to create a timeline for a coordinated re-entry of the aforementioned entities. Only after emergency agencies have further determined that all safety concerns have been addressed will the phased entry process for residents commence.
 - a) Phases A, B and C will all have similar processes, but different thresholds when it comes to re-entry for residents of all evacuated areas.
2. In order to ensure the safety of all entities allowed to re-enter the evacuated areas, there will be no re-entry operations allowed to be performed after daylight hours. These hours of operations will differ depending on the time of year that these hazards occur.
3. Return to the Risk Area:
 - a) Once the threat has passed, activation of the CONEJOS County Re-entry Plan may be based upon one of three (3) scenarios.
 1. Incident has passed and there is little or no damages that effect the communities.

2. Effects are isolated to a localized area, operational area, or region of the county with minimal or isolated significant damages.
3. Total devastation with significant infrastructure damages over a wide spread area.
4. Residential and nursing homes are **NOT** to bring residents back to the community until all services have been restored to normal. To include power, water, sewer, communications and local suppliers of commodities used by the facilities.
5. The decision of when to permit residents to return to the affected area will be made cooperatively between the County EOC, Incident Command and any Municipality/Agency/Property Owners Associations Having Jurisdiction in the impacted areas based upon the three scenarios above. The decision to allow re-entry will be based on an overall evaluation of the situation, including the following major factors:
 - a) Access - Following a major event, a survey of the impacted areas should be conducted immediately to identify and prioritize the most seriously damaged areas of the locality. This can determine the level of damage to major/emergency routes into the area and help to determine the time needed for debris clearance from those routes.
 - b) Essential Emergency Services – Emergency services agencies that have been moved to a safe haven prior to an evacuation need to return back to their service areas.
 - c) Public Health - Water and septic services are operating or available.
 - d) Subsistence - Food is available or made available in the impacted area.
 - e) Utilities - Electricity, potable water, sewer services, telephone, and natural gas services are operating or are made available in the affected area.
 - f) Existing services can support the people already in the impacted area as well as an additional influx of people.
6. A **Re-Entry Pass** located in the windshield of non- emergency vehicles, or **RAPID TAG Identification** should be provided to anyone entering a controlled area. These passes are shown on page 8 (these passes may be superseded by use of a credentialing system such as 'Rapid Tag' as systems become available). Rapid Tag may be provided at the scene or another location provided by and through the EOC. An accompanying registration form should be filled out for each vehicle or address.
7. Once the decision to permit re-entry has been established, law enforcement personnel should set up checkpoints and roadblocks as needed based upon the level of damage that has occurred.

The following conditions will prohibit re-entry procedures: limited visibility, compromised air quality, leaking and burning propane tanks, heavy propane smell, burning, smoldering or falling trees, high heat, spot fires and thick ash.

8. Once the decision to permit re-entry has been established, Re-entry can proceed as recommended based upon a Phased Re-Entry.

- a) **Phase A** – Phase A begins the reentry process. The entry of the electric company/companies who service the area, and Hazardous Material personnel must precede any other phase to ensure the safety of all following personnel in all other phases.
- Local Electric Company/Companies for electrical line/pole issues.
 - Identified Hazardous Materials personnel to address gas/propane issues.
 - Necessary County and/or State Road and Bridge Personnel to determine needs for road clearing prior to reentry.
 - Media should not be part of this phase.

The determination to move to Phase B is Determined by the Safety of the area

- b) **Phase B** - Phase B allows the re-entry of agencies and groups that have key roles in restoring normal operations in the impacted area following a disaster. Law enforcement personnel should restrict access during this phase to provide for area safety and security. Phase B agencies and groups may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Law enforcement and security agencies (including private security for facilities and residential communities)
 - Fire and EMS crews
 - Facility/Industry Emergency Response Teams
 - Debris Clearing and Removal Crews
 - Infrastructure and Utilities Repair Personnel
 - Official Damage Assessment Teams
 - Other personnel at the direction of the CONEJOS County Sheriff
 - Media should not be part of this phase.

Phase B will be complete when all partners are out of the area and approve the next phase of re-entry reentry. This is the last opportunity to provide services or check safety before the public enters the property.

- c) **Phase C** – Phase C allows for the short-term limited re-entry of other critical groups as well as residents and business owners to assess damages. The local County Sheriff in coordination with public safety personnel, county EOC, and other agencies should determine when it is safe to begin Phase C entry. These groups may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- All agencies and personnel listed under Phase A and B
 - Resident and Business Owners (with 2 forms of required ID) (with Insurance Adjusters and Contractors) to conduct insurance assessments (access will be temporary)
 - Relief Workers
 - Commodities Points of Distribution (POD) Teams
 - Health Agencies
 - Media may be part of this phase at the direction of the Sheriff.

The Determination to end phase C should be determined by a time frame restriction. For Example, “all persons must be out of the area by 6pm.”

- d) **Phase D** – Phase D allows for the re-entry of only those residents and business owners who can prove they live, own, rent, lease or otherwise have a need to be allowed into the affected areas. Once residents are back in their homes, it must be determined if the neighborhood must continue to be closed to outsiders.

1. Entry should still be limited to those identified who live within the affected area until it is deemed safe and events are back to normal day to day operations within the affected area.

If the impacted areas cannot support the return of evacuated residents, temporary housing may be established in non-impacted areas near the disaster area. Federal, State and County authorities in accordance with the State Disaster Recovery Plan will make decisions on the location and operation of temporary housing facilities.

D. Roadblocks

1. The strategic location of roadblocks is an important part of the re-entry process as during the phases of re-entry, roadblock locations may change. Roadblocks will change depending upon the areas that are being re-entered or as needed. A plan for the new roadblock locations is necessary before re-entries are made. Roadblocks can be utilized to seal entry points into evacuated areas for two main reasons:
 - a) Roadblocks can be used to prevent entry of the civilian population, which can clog rescue routes for people in the impacted areas who may require medical attention.
 - b) Roadblocks are a method to help curtail acts of unlawfulness such as looting.

E. Curfews

Curfews may be initiated as a crime prevention measure depending on the intensity of the disaster and the level of damage sustained. The decision to implement a curfew and the duration rests with the local governing body, but said curfews should be coordinated between appropriate law enforcement agencies and governing bodies to insure continuity among jurisdictions. Curfews may be implemented county wide, regionally or within a municipality depending on the impact of the emergency. Notification of how curfew will be changed or lifted will also be coordinated between appropriate law enforcement agencies and the local governing bodies.

F. Re-Entry Public Information

1. The Public Information Officer(s) working with the EOC and Incident Command will provide information to assist business and industry within the affected area to plan for re-entry procedures.
2. Re-entry procedures will be posted on the County website, as well as provided to businesses and residents upon request.
3. The Public Information Office will issue press releases to applicable media outlets to inform the public of the re-entry policy and where to pick up re-entry passes, when applicable, and the location of any activated Disaster Assistance Center.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Office of Emergency Management

1. Activate the Re-Entry Plan in conjunction with agencies responsible for specific Phases.

2. Communicate with Municipalities/Agencies Having Jurisdiction and the State EOC on all re-entry issues.
3. Organize damage assessments.
4. Coordinate communications between applicable agencies.
5. Coordinate for debris removal.
6. Develop a Search and Rescue plan when applicable.
7. Deactivate the Re-Entry Plan.

B. Law Enforcement

1. Establish and monitor checkpoints and set up roadblocks within areas of impact in coordination with other Law Enforcement, Emergency Management and Road and Bridge Departments.
2. Provide safety and security within their jurisdiction(s) and upon requests for support through Mutual Aid.
3. Enforce curfews within incorporated/unincorporated areas, if required.
4. Monitor road conditions and report traffic flows and counts.
5. Conduct surveys of the impacted area(s).
6. Provide staff to the EOC, if requested.

C. Department of Transportation/Road and Bridge Department

1. Provide signage for re-entry, if needed.
2. Provide resources for debris removal for emergency and secondary routes on county and state roads only.
3. Work with Home Owners' Associations if requested to draft an agreement for debris removal on roads not maintained by the county or state.
4. Provide staff to the EOC, if requested.
5. Provide Roadblock support assistance to CONEJOS County.

D. Public Health

1. Provide guidance on possible health related issues such as, but not limited to:
 - a) Asbestosis
 - b) Household Hazardous Materials
 - c) Water Quality Standards
 - d) Potable Drinking Water
 - e) Safe Clean-up
 - f) Health Masks
 - g) Tetanus and First Aid Guidance
 - h) Food Safety Guidance
2. Provide staff to the EOC, if requested.

E. Colorado State Patrol

1. Monitor traffic conditions on their routes and report status to CONEJOS County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management or EOC as conditions warrant and where applicable.
2. Provide roadblock support assistance to CONEJOS County.

F. Fire Departments

1. Monitor for hazards and safety issues.
2. Support Search and Rescue activities as required.
3. Provide staff to the EOC, if requested.

G. Public Information Officers / Joint Information Center

1. Ensure that the public is informed about the identification required for re-entry.
2. Ensure that the public is notified once re-entry begins.
3. Coordinate media releases with Incident Commander and EOC.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This plan is the principle source for guidance concerning re-entry within CONEJOS County following the _____ that forced a significant evacuation of citizens. Overall coordination of this plan should be administrated in coordination with County Emergency Management and the primary affected law enforcement agency.

RESIDENTIAL ACCESS PASS REGISTRATION

Address: _____

Names of all household residents:

Cell Phone #: _____

Temporary Address: _____

Vehicle #1: Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Plate #: _____ State: _____

Vehicle #2: Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Plate #: _____ State: _____

Vehicle #3: Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Plate #: _____ State: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Pass# _____ Pass # _____

Pass# _____ Pass # _____

Pass# _____ Pass # _____