

**Emergency  
Operations  
Plan  
Daniels County, Montana  
Basic Plan**



**Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services**

**February, 2022**

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**Daniels County**  
**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**  
**Basic Plan**

**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with §10-3-401 Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Daniels County shall establish and provide for emergency management within its jurisdiction in accordance with state emergency plans and programs. The county is required to prepare and respond to emergencies/disasters in order to save lives and protect public health and property. The jurisdictions included in this plan are the incorporated City of Scobey and Town of Flaxville. This plan is not intended to impede the standard operating guidelines established by emergency response agencies; but is the coordinating document for all emergency or disaster planning, response and recovery efforts.

The Daniels County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) describes the methods the county will use to mobilize resources and conduct response and recovery activities. It uses a functional approach to group the types of assistance under Emergency Support Functions. Each Emergency Support Function is led by one or more primary agencies, which have been selected based on their authorities, resources and capabilities. Other agencies have been designated as support agencies for one or more Emergency Support Functions(s) based on their resources and capabilities to support the functional areas. The Emergency Support Functions(s) serve as the primary mechanism through which local response and recovery assistance will be provided. Local assistance will be provided under the coordination of the office of the Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Daniels County including the City of Scobey and the Town Flaxville is served by the Daniels County Sheriff's department. The County is also served by the Montana Highway Patrol and Homeland Security Border Patrol.

Emergency 9-1-1 provides service for Daniels County. Automatic Number Information (ANI) provides an automatic display of the seven-digit number of the telephone line used to place a 9-1-1 call. Automatic Location Identification (ALI) enables an automatic display at the answering PSAP of information defining the geographical location (street address) of the telephone used to place the call and dispatch information associated with the ANI. Wireless cell phone and Voice over Internet Provider (VoIP) calls are also received at the Daniels County Dispatch Center. At present Emergency 9-1-1 is unable to tell the location of a cell phone.

Fire service is provided by Daniels County, Scobey and Flaxville. All fire services are provided by volunteers. The districts are Scobey, Flaxville, Whitetail and Peerless.

Daniels Memorial Healthcare Center serves as the only hospital for Daniels County. The facility is a Critical Access Hospital with 25 beds that includes long term care. The facility also has 2 Emergency Room beds and 2 Observation beds. The Daniels County Ambulance Service provides emergency medical service (EMS) and ambulance service for the entire county. The Ambulance service is staffed by volunteers.

Daniels County Health Department includes a health officer, lead public health official, sanitarian and other staff.

Public Works is provided by Daniels County, Scobey, and Flaxville. The County has a junk vehicle collection program. There is one licensed landfill maintained by Daniels County. Much of the County including Scobey and Flaxville is served by Dry Prairie Water or Fort Peck Tribes through a pipeline system.

Coordination of emergency services is provided by a part time Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator and a volunteer deputy coordinator.

## **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS**

Daniels County has mutual aid agreements with the following Counties: Sheridan County, Valley County, and Roosevelt County. Daniels County has firefighting mutual aid agreement with the Redstone Fire District. Daniels County has Mutual Aid agreements with Scobey and Flaxville and the State of Montana. Other Mutual Aid Agreements may exist.

## **POPULATION**

Daniels County is located in Northeast Montana. Population of the County is 1,751 according to the US Census Bureau, 2020. Scobey serves as the County seat and has a population of 957. Flaxville has a population of 63. Its main source of income rests with agriculture. There is limited manufacturing though there are several small businesses that manufacture specialty items. The 2 largest business in the county are Nemont, a telephone and communications company and Pro-Coop, an agriculture center. Daniels County is surrounded by Sheridan, Valley, and Roosevelt Counties and Canada to the north.

## **TRANSPORTATION/WATERWAYS**

There are three highways within the County. Highway 5 enters from Sheridan County on the east and runs west through Flaxville to Scobey where it ends. Highway 13 enters Daniels County on its Southern border from Roosevelt County and runs north through Scobey to the Canadian boundary. Montana highway 248 begins at Scobey, passes through Four Buttes and leaves the County at the Valley County border on the west. Highways listed are all hard surfaces.

There are two railroad lines in Daniels County. The railroads are no longer in service and the tracks are not used.

There is only one airport in the County. It is a lighted City/County airport, supported a fuel tax. The runway is hard-surfaced and measures 75 feet wide by 4,000 long.

The Poplar River both the East Fork and West Fork run through Daniels County. The Morrison Dam is located on the East Fork of the Poplar River in Saskatchewan, Canada, approximately three miles northwest of the Coronach/Scobey Port of Entry. The dam is maintained by SaskPower, a Canadian electrical company. The failure of this earth-filled dam could possibly affect Daniels County. There is also an Ash Lagoon very near the Dam.

Local transportation is provided by Community Resource Center. The nearest Airline terminal and Amtrak station are approximately 50 miles south in Wolf Point.

## **MAINTENANCE**

The DES will coordinate the annual review of the Emergency Operations Plan; and will update the document accordingly.

## RESPONSE LEVELS

The Incident Commander has the authority to classify an incident. This is according to one of the four incident levels. Each level determines the extent of the Emergency Operations Center activation, the Operation Plan structure necessary to respond, and the personal to be notified of the incident.

Level 1	LIMITED RESPONSE: Incident within the capability of responding units. There is no threat to lives or environment. No mutual aid has been requested and the Incident Commander is comfortable with the stability of incident.	Handled by Responders
Level 2	MODERATE RESPONSE: Mutual aid or other request for resources has been initiated by the Incident Commander. Event may carry over into another staff period and/or there is a threat to lives and/or environment. Reporting to state agencies is required. (Hazmat Response)	Handled by IC and local resources. DES, Health District, CEO and PIO may be notified at the IC's discretion. EOC may be partially activated.
Level 3	SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE: Incident will carry into the next shift change; lives and property are at risk and/or resources are being requested outside of the county.	Activation of EOC staffed to level of response and incident size. Notification of CEO's. State DES notified and requests are made through the State Emergency Coordination Center. Financial consideration are made, declaration process begins. Volunteer agencies involved or on alert.
Level 4	MAJOR RESPONSE: Large event or multiple events, longer duration, mutual aid resources are not available, and there are a large number of departments/agencies involved. Lives and property are threatened. Local Disaster Declaration required and request made to the Governor for State Disaster Declaration. Or event may be classified as a WMD or terrorism incident requiring assistance from State and Federal Law Enforcement.	Unified Command-CEO's involved in decision making, PIO and public information dissemination required. Full activation of EOC. Red Cross/Salvation Army/other volunteer agencies are activated.

## **PURPOSE**

- Facilitate County government response to all disasters within the County.
- Coordinate resources from county, state, federal and private relief organizations.
- Describe the organization, assigns responsibilities, and provide planning guidance to the County Agencies for preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.
- Specify emergency responsibilities and provide planning guidance to local governments in time of disaster.

## **SCOPE**

- This plan is designed as an “All-Hazard” approach to emergencies of such magnitude as to require a response above that which is part of the normal role of Daniels County and local government agencies.
- This plan applies to all county-wide agencies which are tasked to provide response and recovery assistance.
- Emergency response assistance includes those actions and activities that save lives, protect public health and safety and protect property.
- This plan addresses recovery assistance programs.
- The combined emergency management authorities, policies, procedures, and resources of a county, local, State and Federal governments as well as voluntary disaster relief organizations, the private sector, and international sources constitute the integrated emergency management system.

## **AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES**

- Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950(PL 81-920). As amended.
- Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (PL 93-238). As amended.
- Emergency Management and Assistance (Code of Federal Regulations – Title 44)
- Public Law 93-288 Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. As amended
- Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the Emergency Planning & community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
- National Response Framework, US Department of Homeland Security
- National Incident Management System, Presidential Policy Directive 5 (PPD-5)
- Montana Codes Annotated Title 10, Chapter 3 and Title 2, Chapter 9
- Montana Emergency Response Framework

- Local Resolutions, Ordinance's or Agreements that exist to support this EOP.
- Daniels County Resolution # 2004-16 NIMS & NRP dated 10/4/2004
- Other local emergency plans and standard operating procedures that exist

## **PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

A disaster event separates itself from routine emergency incidents in its size, scope, and amount of resources committed. First responders frequently experience an emergency situation in the form of fires, vehicular accidents, and criminal confrontations, yet a disaster event is generally of a larger scale and requires the commitment of multiple agencies for an extended period of time.

It is during these disaster events that resources can be depleted and assistance from other agencies becomes necessary. This plan assists in defining the roles and responsibilities during such a situation and provides a framework for coordinating the response of many different departments.

Each jurisdiction within Daniels County is responsible for the safety and well-being of its citizens. The invocation of this plan, and the assistance agreements within, does not relieve a jurisdiction of this responsibility.

Should Daniels County's response and recovery capabilities be exceeded, assistance from the State of Montana will be requested. All requests for State and Federal assistance will go through the Daniels County Disaster Emergency Services and the Daniels County Commissioners.

## **GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

County agencies will take actions to mobilize and deploy resources to assist in life, safety and property protection efforts.

Agencies have been grouped together under each of the Emergency Support Functions to facilitate the provision of response assistance.

Each Emergency Support Function has been assigned a number of missions. The designated primary agency is responsible for managing the activities of the Emergency Support Function and ensuring the missions are accomplished. Primary agencies have the authority to execute response operations.

County agencies will be prepared to assume an appropriate role within local government's Incident Command/Unified Command System.



### **Primary Agencies:**

- Coordinate directly with their functional counterpart at the local level. Requests for assistance will be channeled from local government to the Emergency Operations Center. Based on local government's identified requirements, appropriate county response assistance will be provided where available.
- Work with their support agencies to provide assistance.
- Provide qualified representatives to the Emergency Operations Center or operational locations as required.
- Participate in the process of exercising, reviewing, maintaining and implementing this plan.

### **Support Agencies:**

- Assist the primary agencies and provide support for Emergency Support Function operations.
- Participate in the process of exercising, reviewing, maintaining and implementing this plan.
- Provide qualified representatives to the Emergency Operations Center or operational locations as required.

### **Other Emergency Plans and Resource Materials**

- State of Montana Emergency Response Framework
- Local Resource Lists that exist
- Daniels County Pre- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Other Local Plans that may be in place.
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

### **Integration of Response, Recovery, and Mitigation Actions**

Following a disaster, immediate response to save lives and property and meet basic human needs have precedence over recover and mitigation. However, initial recovery planning should commence at once in tandem with response operations. Actual recovery operations will be initiated commensurate with local priorities and based on availability of resources immediately required for response operations.

## **Organizational Relationships**

This plan provides standing mission assignments to designated agencies with primary and support responsibilities.

County agencies designated as primary agencies serve under the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners (or designee) in accomplishing the Emergency Support missions.

Upon activation of an Emergency Support Function, a primary agency is authorized to initiate and continue actions to carry out the Emergency Support Function missions. This may include tasking of designated support agencies to carry out assigned Emergency Support Function missions.

## **Mutual Aid**

Political subdivisions, fire districts, fire service areas, and fire companies in unincorporated places must be encouraged and assist the divisions to have in place local mutual aid arrangements with other public and private agencies within this state for reciprocal aid and assistance in coping with incidents, emergencies, and disasters.

Political subdivision requests for further assistance – If an incident, emergency, or disaster occurs in a political subdivision is larger than can be handled locally with local mutual aid assistance the Incident Commander, or principal executive officer of the political subdivision may request assistance from another public or private agency.

A public or private agency receiving a request shall determine if it will provide the requested assistance, or will provide other assistance, and shall inform the requesting local or interjurisdictional agency, principal executive officer, incident commander, or other individual or entity making the request, as soon as possible, of that determination. The nature and extent of assistance provided by a public or private agency may be determined only by that public or private agency.

The Incident Commander of the local or interjurisdictional agency making a request for assistance has overall responsibility for command of the resources provided by a public or private agency responding to a request. However, operational control of individual pieces of equipment and personnel furnished by the responding public or private agency remains with that agency.

## **RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS**

Recovery operations will be initiated as soon as possible and based on the availability of resources that do not conflict with response operations.

The **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** is the primary support facility for response and recovery actions. Agency personnel and representatives in support of an Emergency Support Function activated will staff the EOC. It serves as the initial point – of- contact for affected local governments, county and state response agencies, the national Emergency Support Team and federal responding agencies. The primary Center will be the **720 Second Ave West (Museum Friendship Room)** Scobey or **102 Railroad Ave (Ambulance Barn)** Scobey. In the event either EOC becomes inoperable or uninhabitable, an alternate out-of-Scobey EOC will be established at the **Town of Flaxville Treatment Plant and office**, Flaxville. The Daniels County Rural Fire Department, Daniels Memorial Healthcare Center and Disaster Emergency Services have mobile command centers.

The Daniels County Airport is a small sized-runway that will not accommodate commercial traffic but will accommodate air ambulances. There are fuel facilities and radio beacon as well as lighted runway.

**Multi-Community Response:** One or more emergencies/disasters may affect a number of communities concurrently. In those instances, county government will conduct multiple response operations for each declared community. A liaison will be appointed to coordinate the specific requirements for response and recovery within that community. Under multiple community declarations, Emergency Support Function agencies will be required to coordinate the provision of resources to support the operations of all the declared communities.

**Distribution Management:** Private relief organizations are experienced in managing donations and can receive process and distribute goods and services to disaster victims. The County will rely on those organizations to administer a distribution management system.

**Disaster Declaration Process:** The provisions of this plan are applicable to all emergencies/disasters that require an emergency proclamation or disaster issued by the principal executive officer. Local emergency activities and requests for disaster assistance will be made in accordance with the following procedures.

Emergency response agencies from City/Town government will respond to a disaster within their corporate limits, coordinate activities in accordance with their standard operation guidelines, Emergency Operations Plan and Mutual Aid Agreements.

When an emergency situation exceeds the scope of control and resources of the City/Town considered essential for an effective recovery, the Mayor (or their successor), of an incorporated City/Town may proclaim a local emergency.

The local emergency Proclamation shall be forwarded to the Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator (or designee) in an expedient manner, (i.e., voice followed by hard copy), who will notify the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and the Montana State Disaster Emergency Services Duty Officer.

Upon receipt of the Proclamation of a local emergency from an incorporated City/Town of the County, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners shall provide available assistance requested to contain the incident (i.e., sheriff, public works, health, etc.)

The Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services will evaluate the situation and determine if it may require the Proclamation of a County Emergency.

In the event, a situation exists in the unincorporated portions of the County, which may affect lives and property, the County will implement necessary measures to bring the situation under control utilizing all County government resources. The Daniels County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator (or designee) will be notified in an expedient manner.

If the situation in either incorporated or unincorporated portions of the County is beyond the capability and resources of the City/Town or County to control, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners (or other Commissioner if Chairperson is unavailable) may proclaim a local emergency to exist.

The Daniels County Emergency Resolution will be forwarded to the Administrator Montana Disaster and Emergency Services by the Daniels County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator.

In the event, the disaster becomes multi-jurisdictional; the Governor may proclaim a State of Emergency and execute all or portions of the State Plan in the absence of a county/local request.

**State Resources:** Request for state resources will be coordinated through the Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services Office, who will forward the request to the Administrator of the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, who will evaluate the request and make appropriate recommendations to the Governor.

**Federal Assistance:** When federal aid is needed, the Administrator, of the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, on behalf of the Governor, will contact the Region VI Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for advice and assistance.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Board of the County Commissioners (or their successor according to the Continuity of Government Plan) may by proclamation declare an emergency or a local emergency to exist. When an emergency is declared, the chairman shall govern by proclamation and shall have the authority to impose all necessary regulations to preserve the peace and order of the county.

The Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services Office will facilitate the cooperative effort of all governmental agencies, including the federal government, state, county and its political subdivisions. He/she will also be the principal point of contact regarding a county/state/local activities, implementation of this plan, compliance with the county/state/federal agreements and disaster assistance following a Presidential Declaration of Emergency or Disaster.

County departments will conduct operations in accordance with the **General Concept of Operations**.

Regular County Government Operations is covered by the Continuity of Operations Plan.

County departments will submit daily Situation Reports to the Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator. Situation Reports should contain pertinent information regarding response/recovery operations. Situation Reports will be routed through the Plans Group Chief in the Emergency Operations Center no later than noon of the following day.

An After-Action Report (AAR) will be prepared by either the primary agency involved or the Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator. Any involved response agency may prepare their own AAR.

As needed County departments will designate personnel (primary and alternates) to report to the Emergency Operations Center to act on behalf of the agency during emergencies.

County departments will maintain Standard Operating Guidelines for accomplishing responsibilities assigned in the Emergency Support Functions.

County departments may develop cooperative agreements and relationships with private organizations and associations that possess resources or capabilities for assistance.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services Office will review this plan annually and update as needed in coordination with other county agencies in primary and support roles. Each County office will review and update their Standard Operating Guidelines.

## **TRAINING AND EXERCISES**

The Daniels County Disaster and Emergency Services Office may provide training, advice and technical assistance to county, local, private and volunteer agencies. The Disaster and Emergency Services Office will coordinate and conduct periodic exercises of this plan. Only through testing, and incident critiques will this plan continue to function as the primary emergency document for the jurisdictions.

## ANNEXES

Annexes will be Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and/or other plans that support the basic plan. Annexes may be added or current Annexes may be revised as needed.

- ESF 1 Direction & Control
- ESF 2 Law Enforcement
- ESF 3 Fire Services
- ESF 4 Emergency Medical Services
- ESF 5 Health & Medical Services
- ESF 6 Evacuation
- ESF 7 Mass Care
- ESF 8 Public Works
- ESF 9 Resource Management and Distribution Plan
- ESF 10 Communications
- ESF 10A Emergency Public Information
- ESF 11 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
- ESF 12 Terrorism Response
- ESF 13 Civil Unrest
- ESF 14 Mass Fatality



**SIGNATURES OF ACCEPTANCE**

**Approval of Daniels County Emergency Operations Plan by City of Scobey**

Morgan Lekvold  
Mayor of Scobey (or designee)

04/27/2022  
Date



**SIGNATURES OF ACCEPTANCE**

**Approval of Daniels County Emergency Operations Plan by Town of Flaxville**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Wittak  
Mayor of Flaxville (or designee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
03/07/2022  
Date







