

Rockville City Police Department

GENERAL ORDER



Subject ALL-HAZARDS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS		Procedure G.O. 4 - 15
Authorizing Signature 	Effective 03/13/26 Revised: 07/29/26	Total Pages 7

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY

- A. The Federal Civil Defense Act (P.L. 81-920) expresses the policy and intent of Congress that responsibility for disaster preparedness be vested jointly in the Federal Government, the several States and their political subdivisions; and the Federal Disaster Relief Act (P.L. 93-288) expresses the intent of Congress to provide assistance by the Federal Government to State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate suffering and damage resulting from disasters, and encouraging the development of comprehensive disaster preparedness and assistance plans.
- B. The city adopts and implements the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and integrates the Incident Command System (ICS) for all hazards and incident types, consistent with FEMA's NIMS (Third Edition, 2017).
- C. NIMS/ICS implementation is further supported by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (HSPD-5), which establishes a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management.
- D. Montgomery County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), most recently adopted March 12, 2024, provides countywide command, control, and coordination structures that City operations will align during multi-agency incidents and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations.
- E. Chapter 2 of the Montgomery County Code, 1994, as amended, provides the authority of the County Executive to plan for, and direct the use of, County personnel and resources, and to request assistance from other organizations as necessary for the welfare and benefit of the citizens of the County in a time of public emergency.
- F. Rockville City, in collaboration with other public and private agencies within Montgomery County, may enter into mutual aid agreements for reciprocal emergency aid and other assistance in the event of an occurrence or threat of an emergency that requires resources beyond the capability of the city.

II. GENERAL

- A. It is Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) policy to plan for, coordinate, and conduct all-hazards operations using NIMS/ICS, scalable to incident complexity and integrated with the Rockville EOC and County EOP as needed.
- B. All-hazards incidents include natural, technological, and human-caused events (e.g., severe weather, HazMat, mass-casualty, civil disturbances, critical infrastructure failure, active assailant), managed through ICS and supported by EOC coordination when required.
- C. Rockville may activate its EOC and manage incidents locally under ICS. When incident scope or authorities warrant, Unified Command will integrate County resources and the County EOC; the County EOP provides countywide coordination once activated.
- D. Operations will follow Unified Command principles; City and County incident leaders will jointly set objectives, share information, and coordinate resource management.
- E. It is the policy of RCPD to maintain the administrative and operational procedures necessary to respond effectively to all types of emergencies.
- F. Civil disturbances may take various forms and vary in size and amount of danger to the Rockville community. Civil disturbances can include events such as organized riots and demonstrations or spontaneous disturbances arising from events such as rock concerts, large parties, or athletic events.
- G. In most circumstances, virtually all emergencies will shift to Montgomery County control well before any decision on an emergency declaration is considered or made by the City of Rockville.
- H. The reliance on County resources for the management of emergencies is based on two major factors:
 - 1. An analysis of the hazards the city and the County face.
 - 2. The well-developed Emergency Management Group (EMG), which the city joined in 1985.
- I. To provide for unity of command during unusual occurrence operations within Rockville City, which may involve personnel from other agencies, the appropriate County official as designated by Montgomery County's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) will take command of the incident and the supervision of City resources at the scene of the incident. This is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding which was entered into with the Montgomery County Government on September 21, 1988, reference to Emergency Management. Within the department the normal chain of command will remain in effect.
- J.

III. PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The RCPD Emergency Manager develops and maintains the Department's All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan, advises the Chief on critical incidents, and coordinates the Rockville EOC with partnership of Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security OEMHS.
- B. RCPD's Emergency Manager, assigned by the Chief of Police, shall be responsible for developing operational response plans of the police department for all hazards and shall be the principal advisor to the Chief of Police on all non-criminal critical incidents.
- C. All supervisors are responsible for reading and being familiar with this General Order and the All-Hazards Response Plan so that, when implemented, they may readily perform assigned responsibilities.
- D. RCPD's Emergency Manager will maintain liaison with the Montgomery County EMG and will coordinate the development and implementation of the Emergency Operations Plan.
- E. RCPD maintains an incident command trailer for incident support. The Emergency Manager will maintain a quarterly-updated inventory and readiness checklist; discrepancies are corrected at inspection
 - 1. RCPD situation maps and ICS forms will be stored in the Command Trailer and Rockville EOC for immediate use.
 - 2. RCPD will confirm readiness of issued equipment (radios, PPE, first aid kit, fire blanket, flares, extinguisher) prior to going in service; deficiencies are corrected if possible.

IV. The agency's planning and response to emergency operations will be conducted consistently with the Incident Command System (ICS) as promulgated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

- A. During a State of Public Emergency, or whenever Montgomery County's CAO deems it appropriate, the EMG is activated and operates under the Incident Command System.
 - 1. The purpose of the ICS is to provide a framework within which personnel can respond to disasters.
 - 2. The ICS establishes a standardized, operational system with unified command, common terminology, integrated communications, a modular organization, consolidated action plans, comprehensive resource management, interagency cooperation and coordination, and predesignated identifiers for functional areas, such as the command post, staging areas, and the media briefing area.
 - 3. In accordance with ICS, the EMG is organized into four teams directed by an Incident Commander, who is assisted by a Management Support Team.
- B. The Incident Commander organizes and directs personnel and resources in response to a disaster. The

Incident Commander speaks for, and with the authority of, the County Executive and the CAO.

- C. RCPD implements ICS within NIMS for all incidents and planned events in accordance with FEMA standards. ICS provides standardized command, control, and coordination; uses common terminology; integrates communications; and scales modularly to incident complexity.
- D. NIMS clarifies the relationship among ICS, EOCs, the Joint Information System (JIS), and Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Groups; Rockville will employ these structures as needed
- E. NIMS (2017) updates ICS doctrine, strengthens resource management (typing, inventory, credentialing), refines the operational period planning cycle, and adds guidance on Intelligence/Investigations and expanded EOC roles.
- F. ICS has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

V. COMMAND PROTOCOL

- A. In day-to-day operations the ICS stays within the shift on duty. The first officer on the scene becomes the Incident Commander.
 - 1. If the incident requires a supervisor, then that supervisor becomes the Incident Commander.
 - 2. If a second supervisor arrives on the scene, the ranking or senior person would become the Incident Commander.
 - 3. Rockville EOC: When activated by City leadership, the Rockville EOC coordinates Citywide support, situational reporting, public information, and resource requests to the County EOC or State as needed. This is coordinated by the Emergency Manager or designee.
 - 4. Per the Memorandum of Understanding with the Montgomery County Police, a supervisor at an incident could be from either the RCPD or the Montgomery County Police Department.
 - 5. During an event that requires the activation of the County's EOC, the Montgomery County Fire Chief or the Montgomery County Chief of Police will become the Incident Commander.
 - 6. Once the EOC has been activated the Montgomery County EOP will take precedent over all other actions regarding the emergency.

VI. TRAINING

- A. All supervisors will be provided with a copy of this General Order.
- B. All police officers and dispatchers will complete the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course titled ICS and NIMS. Baseline training (IS-100/200/700/800) is required for officers and dispatchers.

1. IS-100 – Introduction to the Incident Command System
 2. IS-200- Basic Incident Command System for the Initial Response
 3. IS-700- Introduction to the National Incident Management System
 4. IS-800- National Response Framework
- C. Supervisors/command should complete ICS-300/400 and position-specific training as assigned.
1. ICS- 300 Intermediate Incident Command System
 2. ICS- 400 Advance Incident Command System
- D. The on-duty Senior Police Official and the designated Emergency Manager will be the primary contact to the Emergency Management Group for the City of Rockville. Depending on response levels, the Senior Police Official and Emergency Manager may respond to the Rockville EOC or Montgomery County EOC during an emergency. This may be in person or virtual. Majors and Lieutenants will receive additional training in Web EOC or equivalent and basic EOC operations. It is recommended that command staff will participate in exercises conducted by the EMG.
- E. Whenever any of the directives or plans listed in this General Order are revised and/or reissued, all RCPD sworn personnel will be familiarized and trained on them and the training documented.
- F. Refresher Training: Periodically the department will provide refresher training in the Incident Command System as well as the department's All Hazards Plan. This may be accomplished as Roll Call Training or in conjunction with other department training.

VII. EXERCISE

- A. RCPD sworn personnel will participate in exercises through the Montgomery County EMG, Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC)EMG, Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) for Montgomery County, or the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). These exercises may be tabletop, functional or full scale in nature. After-Action Reports/Improvement Plans (AAR/IP) will document strengths, gaps, and corrective actions.
- B. Rockville EOC activation drills and interop tests with County OEMHS will be scheduled periodically.
- C. A functional exercise is designed to focus on testing, under simulated conditions, the policies, procedures, roles, and responsibilities of the Montgomery County EMG, other County departments, public safety agencies, and outside groups and organizations.

VIII. MULTI-AGENCY COMMAND AUTHORITY

- A. RCPD will operate under Unified Command with Fire/Rescue, OEMHS, Public Works, and

allied agencies according to the County EOP and NIMS. City responsibilities (perimeter, evacuation, investigations, traffic control, scene security) will be integrated into the Incident Action Plan (IAP).

IX. GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Governmental responsibility in time of disaster is the same as in routine circumstances: The protection of life, public health, and property. Major incidents and disasters do not change the legal responsibilities of the government but rather increase the needs for fulfilling them promptly and adequately under emergency conditions.
- B. Officers should remember that no matter what the situation may be, Departmental policies, case and statutory law concerning the legality of arrests, processing of prisoners, and the collection of evidence still must be observed. Juvenile offenders will be handled according to Departmental General Orders.
- C. In any incident or disaster within the incorporated areas of the City of Rockville, governmental responsibility for the overall control of such situation is vested in the Rockville City Police Department. This responsibility will remain vested until such time that the County assumes command and/or responsibility for the decisions to be made affecting the incident or disaster at hand. A City declared disaster or emergency will be done by the City Manager and with the recommendation of senior city officials and/or command staff.
- D. The need for assistance from other law enforcement agencies, military support and/or other outside agencies should be determined as soon as possible and the request made immediately. Any disaster could develop into an emergency where time is of the essence and decisive, immediate action must be taken by the Rockville City Police Department.
- E. Within City limits, RCPD retains law-enforcement authority; command and control is shared through unified command when county or regional partners are engaged and coordinated via EOC activation.

X. DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY (LOCAL)

- A. A local state of emergency may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It may not be continued or renewed for a period of more than seven days except by, or with the consent of, the governing body of the political subdivision. Any order of proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local state of emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the chief local records-keeping agency” (Title 14 of the Maryland Code). Whenever a state of emergency exists, the Mayor, or the County Executive may issue a Proclamation and order any or all the following:
 - 1. A general curfew limited to any geographical area or any hours.
 - 2. The closing of all retail liquor stores or taverns.
 - 3. The closing of all private clubs or portions wherein the consumption of intoxicating

beverages takes place.

4. Suspension of the sale of beer and/or liquor.
 5. Discontinuance of the sale or distribution of gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids or products in any container other than a gasoline tank affixed to a motor vehicle
 6. Suspension of the sale, distribution, dispensing or giving away any firearms or ammunition.
 7. That no person will carry, possess or use any club, brick, or gasoline filled bottle or container with a fuse type wick inserted in the neck, or petroleum-based fire-bomb or other incendiary missile or weapon.
 8. The closing of all businesses, commercial and industrial establishments.
 9. The designation of any public street, thoroughfare or vehicle parking lot to be closed to motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
 10. Such orders as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property.
- B. Such proclamations become effective upon filing with the Clerk of the Circuit Court and remain in effect until a termination decree is filed.

XI. REPORTS

- A. When the All-Hazards plan or ICS is implemented for significant events, the EM will ensure an AAR/IP is completed and corrective actions are tracked to closure.
- B. The EMG will conduct an annual review of the incidents, department policy and the training needs based on events that occurred during the previous year.
- C. Training receipts and records will be maintained in PowerDMS or equivalent; refresher ICS/NIMS and All-Hazards training will be delivered periodically.