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SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 15

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS THE AGENCY OF STATE GOVERNMENT HAVING RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY FOR DISASTER PLANNING, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DIRECTING RESPONSE AND RECOVERY. ESTABLISHING THE DIRECTOR AS THE STATE OFFICIAL WHO REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO EMERGENCIES IN THE STATE

WHEREAS, disaster and emergency preparedness and response is a vital function of state government; and

WHEREAS, an agency of state government needs to coordinate, supervise and otherwise promote disaster preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency is best equipped to perform such a function;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Tennessee and in accordance with the provisions of the Tennessee Code Annotated, the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan, the United States Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended, and the national plans for emergency and disaster preparedness and response as promulgated by the President of the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and all other federal agencies falling within the purview of Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 58-2-101 and 58-2-301, do hereby order and direct:

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) is designated the agency of state government having primary responsibility and authority for planning of disaster and emergency preparedness, and directing state response and recovery from such events; for coordination and liaison with related agencies of the federal government and such agencies of other states and concerned private agencies; and coordination of all recovery operations subsequent to a disaster or emergency.

The Director of TEMA shall be the designated individual who reports directly to the Governor on all emergency events. After declaration of emergency by the Governor, or the Governor acting through the Adjutant General, or a properly designated official, the Director of TEMA shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Governor in activating the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan (TEMP). In coordination with the Adjutant General, the Director of TEMA shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Governor to commit the resources of the state to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the State of Tennessee in furtherance of the purposes of this Order.

The Director of TEMA will be the Governor's Authorized Representative and State Coordinating Officer for all declared Emergencies and/or Presidential declared Disasters.

The TEMA is the state agency which, by law, has authority over all Hazardous Material events which may release hazardous materials to the environs and affect citizens lives, health and safety and property. Each department, agency or bureau is required to report all hazardous material accident and or incidents immediately to the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC). TEMA is the state agency responsible for managing response to emergencies resulting from or at acts of terrorism, fixed nuclear and hazardous material facilities, transportation of radiological and other hazardous materials, search and rescue of individuals, and downed aircraft.

The commissioners and agency executives of all executive branch departments and agencies of the state shall insure prompt and full execution of the functions of their respective departments and other agencies under their direction or jurisdiction, in accordance with the Tennessee Code Annotated and this Executive Order, the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan, and other directives relating to disaster and emergency services. Emergency or disaster functions to be performed and services to be provided by the various agencies of state government shall be specified in writing by the Director of TEMA. Functions and services specified shall be, to the fullest extent possible, compatible with the primary responsibilities of the agencies concerned.

The commissioners shall appoint an Emergency Services Coordinator (ESC) and an Alternate as their department representatives. The ESCs so appointed shall be empowered with the authority to coordinate and direct all emergency response functions and services of the appointing agency as appropriate and as specified in the department or agency portion of the TEMP and other specific response plans to include during simulated exercises.

The ESCs are on call to the State Emergency Operations Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each ESC must be capable to immediately deploy to any emergency location on the direction of the Director of TEMA. ESCs are responsible for coordinating their response and actions with their respective commissioner or directors. Regional, backup or alternate ESCs will be appointed as necessary. Assistant ESCs shall be appointed to coordinate various agency functions as necessary.

Each executive department, agency or bureau shall provide their primary ESCs with transportation, emergency communications, pagers, and any other emergency equipment necessary to perform their duties. This equipment must be available to the ESC on a twenty-four (24) hour a day basis.

The ESCs shall report to the EOC at the direction of the Director of TEMA. No collateral duties shall take priority over their emergency duties. The ESCs shall represent their commissioners at regular scheduled meetings.

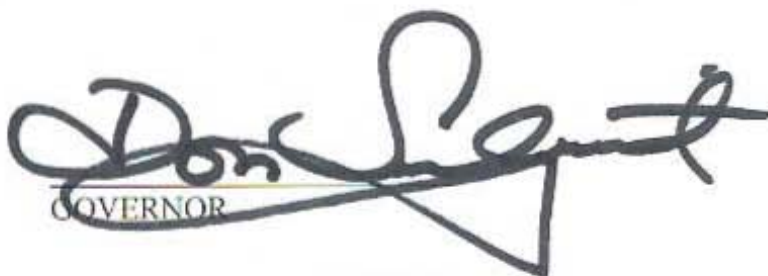
Each executive department, agency or bureau shall develop plans to insure continuation of necessary agency functions and to provide suitable space for personnel, equipment and records necessary for operations during time of emergency, disaster, or threat of impending occurrence thereof and during any period of recovery therefrom. Each agency shall continue operations until directed otherwise by the Governor or his designated representative and shall perform such disaster or emergency duties as assigned by the Director of TEMA by authority of the Governor.

Each executive department, agency or bureau of state government shall make any and all personnel, equipment, and facilities available for any disaster, emergency or threat thereof, to include any period of recovery therefrom. Said assets shall be employed, utilized and disbursed in a manner compatible with the primary responsibilities of the agencies concerned and in accordance with emergency requirements of TEMA. Such assets shall also be made available, as requested by the Director of TEMA for research, development and periodic revision of state emergency operations plans.

Each executive department, agency or bureau of state government having communications capability shall be responsible for operation of that capability in time of disaster or emergency at the State Emergency Operations Centers. Each agency having this capability shall develop and maintain published communications plans that shall be coordinated in accordance with the state emergency communications plan through TEMA.

Each executive department, agency or bureau of state government shall make sure that the employees report to the TEMA EOC all events that may threaten the lives, safety and property of the citizens in Tennessee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this the 17th day of April, 1998.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

