



**ESF #17 – EVACUATION  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>I. Introduction</b>	1
A. Purpose	1
<b>II. Planning Assumptions and Considerations</b>	1
A. Situations	1
B. Assumptions	3
<b>III. Concept of Operations</b>	3
A. General	3
B. Decision to Shelter-in-Place	5
C. Shelter-in-Place Instructions	5
D. Decision to Evacuate	5
E. Public Evacuation Instructions	6
F. Emergency Transportation	6
G. Evacuation Control	7
H. Evacuation of Institutional and Functional Needs Populations	8
I. Re-Entry of Evacuated Areas	8
<b>IV. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities</b>	9
A. Organization	9
B. Roles and Responsibilities	9
<b>V. Direction and Control</b>	11
<b>VI. Administration and Logistics</b>	12
A. Administration	12
B. Logistics	12
<b>VII. Continuity of Government</b>	13
<b>VIII. ESF Development, Maintenance and Training</b>	13
<b>IX. List of Appendices</b>	14
<b>X. Authentication</b>	14
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Appendix 1 – Map of Evacuation Routes</b>	15
<b>Appendix 2 – Estimated Vehicle Capacities of Major Evacuation Routes</b>	16

**ESF #17 –EVACUATION**

<b>Primary Agencies:</b>	Board of Miami County Commissioners Local Government
<b>Support Agencies:</b>	Miami County Emergency Management Agency (MCEMA) Miami County Public Transit System Miami County Sheriff's Office Local Law Enforcement Agencies Miami County Educational Services Local Fire Service Organizations Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Military Resources
<b>Related Federal ESFs:</b>	ESF #1: Transportation
<b>Ohio Revised Code:</b>	Section 305.30, 311.07, 733, and 5502.21

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to address transportation requirements of Miami County organizations to perform their respective missions during an emergency situation and provide guidance for a coordinated evacuation out of an area at risk to safety within or outside of Miami County. This ESF provides for a coordinated evacuation of the population of Miami County in the event of natural, technological, or man-made hazards.

**II. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. SITUATIONS**

1. Normal Transportation Requirements
  - a. Miami County has sufficient transportation to meet its day-to-day transportation requirements.
2. Emergency Transportation Requirements
  - a. An emergency situation threatening or impacting directly on Miami County has the potential to create significant demands for transportation of individuals to hospitals and shelters, and unprecedented requests for transport of evacuees, materials, and services that may include:

- i. Increased transportation support to all levels of county government carrying out emergency responsibilities and homeland security duties.
  - ii. Transport of evacuees.
  - iii. Unique transportation requirements for special needs individuals or groups of individuals.
  - iv. Realignment of shelter populations.
  - v. Transportation to and from feeding centers.
  - vi. Transportation of supplies, equipment, and tools to designated areas, etc.
  - vii. Transportation to and from medical facilities, long-term care facilities, nursing homes, and senior housing units.
  - viii. Transportation of individuals with disabilities and special needs (i.e. elderly, wheel chair bound).
3. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC 505.375) authorizes township and municipal police and fire departments and the County Sheriff the power to protect the lives and property of the citizens in their jurisdictions. Therefore, the Sheriff and the chiefs of these organizations are empowered to determine the need and to order evacuations during emergencies. In Miami County all evacuation orders will be coordinated with the chief executive officer of the affected jurisdiction before they are released to the public.
4. Situations that could result in the need for an evacuation in Miami County include: flooding (primarily of the Great Miami and Stillwater Rivers), and hazardous materials incidents. The areas that are most vulnerable to these hazards are identified and discussed in the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
5. This ESF focuses on emergency events that provide sufficient warning time for officials to undertake a planned evacuation of the residents of the county deemed to be at-risk.
6. When emergency events develop with little or no warning, evacuation will be implemented on an “ad hoc” basis under the direct supervision of the Incident Commander (IC) at the scene of the emergency and with support coordinated through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as may be necessary.
7. The most suitable route to accommodate the movement of a large volume of traffic includes: Interstate 75, U.S. Route 36 and State Routes 41, 48, and 571.
8. There are several factors which must be taken into consideration when planning for evacuations, beginning with the characteristics of the hazard. Other factors include:
  - a. The speed of on-set, magnitude, duration and intensity of the threat.

- b. The time and distance required to travel to a safe location and road conditions.
- c. The means of transport and the vulnerability of the routes to other hazards.
- d. The availability and location of shelters and/or other support facilities.

**B. ASSUMPTIONS**

1. An emergency situation has the potential of severely damaging or hindering the transportation system and other critical infrastructure throughout the county.
2. Damaged roads, vehicles, facilities, equipment, and damaged or disrupted communications could significantly hamper emergency transportation support.
3. Emergency transportation support requirements will likely exceed local capabilities and outside assistance will be required and must be planned for to support local emergency operations and/or a large-scale evacuation.
4. Institutional residents will be evacuated by the organization responsible for the institution, e.g. the Upper Valley Medical Center (UVMC), assisted living quarters, schools, daycare centers, etc., or the institution will make prior arrangements to have the residents evacuated, when required.
5. County roads and highways will become congested during a large-scale evacuation and hamper the movement of traffic, and access for emergency vehicles.
6. Sufficient warning time will be available to evacuate the population that is threatened.
7. The public will both receive and understand official information related to an evacuation.
8. The public will act in its own interest and evacuate dangerous areas when advised to do so by local government.
9. A small portion of the population will refuse to evacuate regardless of the threat.
10. In a worst case scenario, approximately 20 percent (20,300 people) of the population at risk will require shelter in a mass care or support facility.
11. If a nearby jurisdiction were to be affected by a major disaster, it is possible that Miami County might be called upon to act as a reception area for evacuees.

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**III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

**A. GENERAL**

1. The ultimate responsibility for an orderly evacuation rests with the local government. If a municipality is to be evacuated, the highest-elected official or those with the delegated authority may issue the order. If the evacuation involves more than one