Purpose

This section provides for a coordinated evacuation and re-entry of the County population if necessary during emergencies.

Situation and Assumptions

A hazard analysis and a vulnerability assessment has been completed that identifies the types of threats and the areas and population in the County that are most vulnerable to these threats.

Continuous efforts are being made to identify special evacuation problems.

Major traffic routes have been identified prior to development that allows evacuation from various parts of the County. These include I-95, I-40, U.S. 70, U.S. 70 Business, U.S. 70 (flyover), U.S. 70-A, U.S. 301, U.S. 701, N.C. 42, N.C. 50, N.C. 39, N.C. 96, N.C. 222, N.C. 231 and N.C. 242

Emergency situations may require evacuation of all or part of the County. Small-scale, localized evacuations may be needed as a result of a hazardous materials incident, major fire, or other incident. Large-scale evacuation may be needed in the event of an impending hurricane.

Sufficient warning time will normally be available to evacuate the threatened population in the event of an impending hurricane and in other situations.

The Transportation Director with Johnston County Board of Education will assist in identifying transportation resources to support major evacuation activities.

Johnston County Area Transit Services (JCATS) will provide limited public transportation during emergency incidents.

Traffic control resources must be in place prior to the public release of an evacuation order.

Evacuation and re-entry information will be made available to the public through local media releases provided by the Public Information Officer.

If there is a significant potential threat, some residents will evacuate prior to being advised to do so by public officials.

Most evacuees will seek shelter with relatives or friends rather than accept public shelter.
Some residents may refuse to evacuate regardless of warnings.

Some people will lack transportation. Others who are ill or disabled may require vehicles with special transportation capabilities.

Debris or damage to the roadway could hamper re-entry.

Effective evacuation should be completed during daylight hours.

A delayed evacuation order could endanger lives and result in civil disorder.

Evacuation from Johnston County will impact adjacent counties.

Evacuation from coastal counties into Johnston County will impact both Johnston and adjacent counties.

Stranded motorists could present significant problems during an evacuation situation.

**Concept of Operations**

The ultimate responsibility for ordering a county wide evacuation or re-entry rests with the Policy/Administration Group. If a municipality is to be evacuated, the mayor will issue the order. If the evacuation or re-entry involves more than one jurisdiction, or an area outside of a municipality, the order will be issued on a County level by the Chairperson of the Policy/Administration Group, or his/her designated representative.

Public information concerning the Policy/Administration Group’s evacuation or re-entry orders will be released through all available media through the Public Information Officer.

The Incident Commander at the scene of an emergency in Johnston County has the authority to order an evacuation.

Regional coordination of traffic control, shelter/mass care and public information will enhance the total evacuation and re-entry process. The NC State Division of Emergency Management will coordinate regional evacuation activities.

Law Enforcement will implement traffic control for evacuation and for re-entry.

Methods of transportation and facilities provided for evacuees will adhere to the scope and technical requirements for accessibility by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
Specific

Movement Control and Guidance

Traffic control points to support a county wide evacuation have been predetermined by law enforcement personnel.

The size of the threatened area to be evacuated will be determined by conditions at the time of the emergency.

Staging Areas, Pick-up Points and Routes

Identified stranded motorists will be assisted by law enforcement officers in reaching a predetermined rally point for mass transportation to a location for best available shelter. The Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with American Red Cross and Department of Social Services, will determine the location of best available shelter.

The County has determined pre-designated staging areas as mobilization points to organize the emergency response personnel and equipment entering from areas outside the County.

Evacuation of Special Populations (Institutions, Facilities and Special Needs)

Institutions within the County must develop procedures for an evacuation.

Schools will be responsible for developing evacuation procedures. Pre-designated buses will be utilized for students without their own vehicles. Schools within the danger zone for hazardous materials spills will develop procedures for in-place sheltering and walk-away at evacuations. Parents will be advised of the location of reception centers.

The Special Medical Needs Plan established for Johnston County addresses all policies and procedures in identifying, evacuating and sheltering the special needs population.

Re-entry

The decision to allow re-entry to areas in Johnston County will be made by the Policy/Administration Group. The decision will be based on considerations of public safety.

The Policy/Administration Group may establish a priority re-entry system for the public.
Staging areas will be established, and personnel reporting to Johnston County will be routed to one of those.

Sections of Johnston County may remain isolated or closed to the public even after re-entry begins.

Re-entry to the affected area will be coordinated with the Johnston County Policy/Administration Group, local municipalities and local law enforcement agencies.

Shelter/mass care operations may need to be implemented depending upon the degree of destruction in Johnston County.