

# **APPENDIX 1 TO EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNEX PUBLIC ACCESS**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This plan recognizes and acknowledges the importance of providing the general public and the media with pertinent information as rapidly as possible in case of an emergency/disaster. Every effort will be made to cooperate with the news media in providing information about the incidents, within the limits of safety and efficient operations, and in recognition of the rights of the news media to perform their duties.

## **II. PURPOSE**

- A.** The purpose of this appendix is to establish general policy for providing information to the public through the media and equal access to information for the news media during emergencies/disasters.
- B.** The following information concerning major emergencies/disasters will be provided to the media as soon as possible:
  - 1. Nature of disaster;
  - 2. Location of disaster;
  - 3. Time of disaster;
  - 4. Number of people involved;
  - 5. Continuing hazards;
  - 6. Environmental impact;
  - 7. Economic impact;
  - 8. Agencies involved in response;
  - 9. Scope of agency involvement and activity;
  - 10. Extent of estimated public and private damages;
  - 11. Safety instructions;
  - 12. How/where to get assistance for livestock and companion animals;
  - 13. How the public may volunteer and provide assistance; and
  - 14. Telephone numbers for donations and donations policy.

### **III. COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**

Types of information outlined in paragraph II-B, will be assembled and disseminated as soon as possible by the ADEM-PIO staff as follows:

- A.** The ADEM-LSPIO will be responsible for collection of information from representatives of affected jurisdictions, related sources and other agencies, and for dissemination of authorized information directly to the news media and the private sector.
- B.** The ADEM-LSPIO will access the news media through the Media Alert System, EAS or FAX.

### **IV. ACCESS FOR NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**

- A.** In recognition of the media and public's right to know as much as possible about a disaster, state agencies involved in emergency response will cooperate by allowing representatives of the news media access to emergency response information.
- B.** The Director, ADEM, will maintain a policy for media access to the SEOC. News media representatives will be governed by the following guidelines:
  - 1. Representatives of the news media will have access to the SEOC, when authorized by the Director, ADEM.
  - 2. Audio and video recordings and personnel interviews will be permitted in the SEOC when authorized by the Director, ADEM.
  - 3. ADEM-PIO staff will escort reporters and schedule/coordinate interviews in the SEOC.