



Town of Knightdale

Staff Report

Title: Wake County Emergency
Operations Plan and Mutual Aid
Agreement

Staff : Loren Cone, Fire Chief

Date: August 20, 2025

Asst. Town Manager Signature: SMY

Town Manager Signature: WRS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In the mid-2000s, Wake County and each municipality adopted the National Incident Management System as it's framework for responding to and managing events. This framework is expressed in the Emergency Operations Plan and outlines structure, positions, roles, responsibilities and communications. Periodically, after events, exercises, discovery of best practices, or changes in the physical environment (infrastructure, population, etc.) adjustments are made to reflect changing complexity, needs and growth in the community.
- Mutual Aid is a long-standing practice among public safety agencies. In recent years, many have recognized mutual aid is beneficial beyond traditional public safety agencies. The proposed mutual aid agreement not only includes mutual aid for public safety personnel but any employee or function within the organization from inspectors, information technology staff to administrative staff, which were highly sought after following Hurricane Helene. All personnel, equipment, supplies or other resources under the direction of the Knightdale Town Manager are covered under the Agreement. Although an Agreement already exists with the County, there have been changes in the law providing additional liability protections for responders, reimbursement qualifications and procedures for providing or receiving assistance. Participation in the mutual aid system also makes the Town of Knightdale a default participant in the national mutual aid system known as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

SUMMARY

- These documents create a safer community by providing a comprehensive emergency plan that is seamlessly integrated both vertically and horizontally with other emergency plans at the local, state, and federal levels.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Adopt the Wake County Emergency Operations Plan and Mutual Aid Agreement