

Section 10: Congregate Care

General Information

I. PURPOSE

To describe how congregate care needs of Swift County residents as well as potential evacuees from other counties will be handled.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

Congregate care will be provided by local, regional, state, and national support and volunteer agencies.

- A. Primary Needs: Emergency Housing, Feeding, Clothing, and Counseling.
- B. Opening of registration and reception centers and / or shelters.
- C. Staffing of registration and reception centers.
- D. Inquiry and referral of disaster victims.
- E. Stocking and maintenance of supplies in shelters.
- F. Security within shelters.
- G. Liaison with Incident Commander or EOC.
- H. Waste Management.
- I. Long-term housing needs post-disaster (*51)

III. EMERGENCY HOUSING, FEEDING AND COUNSELING

1. EMERGENCY HOUSING: Swift County Human Services, Swift County Ministerium, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Benson Country Inn

EMERGENCY FEEDING: Swift County Human Services, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, area grocery stores and restaurants.

2. COUSELING: SCBHS, CSPH, Prairie 5, Lutheran Disaster Response, Woodland Center, Crisis Intervention Team, Swift County Ministerials.
3. LONG TERM HOUSING (*51): Swift County Human Services, American Red

Cross, Regional/State/National VOADS, Kandiyohi County (Mutual Aid). Swift County HRA could be a possible contact depending on availability. Based on American Red Cross statistics, most people in rural counties will choose to spend long-term housing with family or friends, and will not need long-term housing assistance from Swift County.

IV PEOPLE WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS (*06)

1. Swift County recognizes there are many people with access and functional needs within the county jurisdiction that need specific assistance beyond the normal functions of the county's congregate care. They are identified as follows:
 - a. Health and Medical Care
 - i. Swift County Benson Health Services or Appleton Area Health Services will be responsible for health and medical care of those with access and functional needs. This is appropriate due to the equipment and function of the services.
 - b. Critical transportation
 - i. Local fire departments within Swift County and rescue vehicles will be available for the critical transportation of people with access and functional needs. Prairie 5 is also available for these services.
 - c. Other related support
 - i. Swift County Benson Health Services (SCBHS) has a STRATUS video remote interpreter that has 200 preprogrammed languages on it located in the emergency room and clinic of the hospital in Benson. This interpreter is mobile via an iPad and can be used to assist in interpretation.
 - ii. Mobile devices have interpretation applications in the event the STRATUS is unavailable.
 - iii. There are 30+ people on the Swift County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) who can assist in personal care of people with access and functional needs. The MRC can be contacted through county public health.
 - iv. There are occupational therapists located at SCBHS that have different forms of assistive technology.
 - v. The private corporation Divine Home Care has both assistive technology and provides personal care.

Standard Operating Procedures for Section 10 Congregate Care

I PURPOSE

This SOP is intended to provide general information and guidance necessary to allow organizations to meet the needs of county residents and potential incoming evacuees from other areas.

II RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Swift County Human Services Director will notify congregate care agencies to provide assistance, with the assistance of Countryside Public Health and the Swift County Counseling Service. (*33)
1. Registration
 - a) Countryside Public Health with the assistance of the American Red Cross will perform registration.
 2. Emergency housing
 - a) Swift County Human Services and the American Red Cross will provide emergency housing.
 3. Feeding
 - a) Swift County Human Services and the Salvation Army will coordinate feeding for congregate care facilities.
 4. Waste Management
 - a) Swift County Environmental Services will handle pickup and disposal of waste.
 5. Behavioral Health
 - a) Swift County Human Services, Countryside Public Health, and SCBHS Counseling will provide behavioral health.
 6. Security
 - a) Local law enforcement or Swift County law enforcement will handle security for congregate care facilities.
 7. Access and Functional Needs
 - a) Swift County Human Services will work in conjunction with Countryside Public Health, the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army
 8. Health/Medical Care at Congregate Care Facilities
 - a) SCBHS, Countryside Public Health, and the Medical Reserve Corps will handle medical care at congregate care facilities.
- B. Agencies will provide the Swift County Human Service Director with primary and back up 24-hour contacts, and agencies will *maintain* their own emergency operations plans and provide Swift County with a copy.
- C. Agencies will provide necessary support to deal with the scope of the emergency.

- D. Countryside Public Health (CPH) is used to inspect, arrange support, early detection of and reporting mitigation and evaluation of expected and unexpected public health conditions. CPH is responsible for inspection and subsequent disposal of contaminated food supplies. (*23)

- E. Family assistance centers are necessary to assist the public in returning to pre-disaster state. The departments or agencies involved in the following areas are Countryside Public Health, Swift County Human Services, VOAD's: (*53)
 - 1. Reunification of families
 - 2. Information collection and dissemination
 - 3. Staffing
 - 4. Equipment
 - 5. Training

In addition to this, Northside Elementary School will be the primary facility for the unification of families, which can provide the following:

- 1. A process for receiving children and tracking their release
- 2. A process for receiving adults and appropriately matching them to a child they have the right to retrieve
- 3. A facility that can provide basic needs for waiting adults and children
- 4. Depending on the event, the inclusion of a family support unit.

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List of Shelter Facilities (*32)

The following list contains designated shelters throughout Swift County in the event shelters are needed for people following a disaster. Swift County recognizes all registered service animals will remain with their owners. All other pet sheltering information can be found in Section 14.

1. Our Redeemer's Church basement Fellowship Hall, Benson MN (Red Cross Approved)
2. Benson High School, Benson MN (Red Cross Approved)
3. K.M.S. High School, Kerkhoven MN
4. K.M.S. Elementary School, Murdock MN
5. National Guard Armory, Appleton MN
6. Trinity Lutheran Church, Benson MN
7. Evangelical Free Church, Benson MN (Red Cross Approved)
8. Saint Francis Catholic Church Gathering Space, Benson MN
9. Appleton Prison, Appleton MN
10. Catholic Church Basement, Murdock MN
11. Educational Center, DeGraff MN
12. Northside Elementary, Benson MN (Red Cross Approved)
13. Catholic Church Basement, Danvers MN

Red Cross Approval means an ADA compliant shelter. Shelters without Red Cross Approval are pending approval.

Swift County has currently for emergency sheltering the following supplies:

6. 25 cots
7. 10 handicapped cots
8. 50 blankets from the Red Cross
9. 25 WWII-era stretchers

10. The Red Cross has a cache of sheltering supplies located in each county. Emergency Management partners in Region IV have the ability to release supplies to other counties in needed times. (*34)

Section 10: Congregate Care

Coordination of Congregate Care

I. COORDINATION OF CONGREGATE CARE

The Director of the Swift County Human Services will be responsible for providing overall coordination of the congregate care function together with the American Red Cross. In order to facilitate this coordination, Swift County Human Services will provide a representative for the Swift County Emergency Operating Center (EOC).

II. Counseling for victims will be coordinated by Swift County Human Services and service may be provided by Woodland Center, Counseling Associates, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Swift County Ministerium and related MN VOAD agencies.

III. AVAILABLE RESOURCES/FACILITIES

These congregate care resources/facilities are described in the Swift County Resource Guide, the evacuation, traffic control and security in Section 7 of the Swift County Emergency Plan.

- A. (Potential) Reception and Registration Centers (for incoming evacuees from other areas).
- B. Congregate Care Facilities (schools, churches, armories, motels, etc)
- C. Mass Feeding Providers
- D. Managing volunteers and donations

IV. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The government agencies and private sector organizations that have agreed to carry out the congregate care responsibilities listed in this plan are expected to develop whatever standard operating procedures (SOPs) they may need.

V AUTHENTICATION

Director Swift County Human Services

Date