

Emergency Management Ordinance

Purpose

It is the intent and purpose of this Ordinance is to establish an Emergency Management Agency in compliance and in conformity with the provisions of Title 37-B, MRSA, Section 781 et seq., to ensure the complete and efficient utilization of the Town's facilities and resources to combat disaster as defined herein.

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this ordinance:

Emergency Management: "Emergency management" means the coordination and implementation of an organized effort to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster.

Emergency Management Agency: "Emergency Management Agency" means the agency created under this ordinance for the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, in order to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters or catastrophes caused by enemy or terrorist attacks, sabotage, riots or other hostile action; or by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or man-made causes. These functions include, without limitation, firefighting, police, medical and health, emergency welfare, rescue, engineering, public warning and communications services; evacuation of persons from stricken areas; allocation of critical materials in short supply; emergency transportation; other activities related to civilian protection and other activities necessary to the preparation for the carrying out of these functions.

Emergency Management Agency Forces: "Emergency Management Agency Forces" shall mean the employees, equipment and facilities of all town departments, boards, institutions and commissions, all volunteer persons, equipment and facilities contributed by or obtained from volunteer persons or agencies engaged in performing emergency management activities, including, but not limited to, persons called out by the Town Manager pursuant to an emergency promulgation under this ordinance.

Civil Emergency: "Civil Emergency" means (1) A riot or unlawful assembly characterized by the use of actual force or violence or any threat to use force if accompanied by immediate power to execute by three or more persons acting together without authority of law or (2) Any natural disaster or manmade calamity, including but not limited to flood, conflagration, cyclone, tornado, hurricane, earthquake or explosion, within the town resulting in the death or injury of persons or the destruction of property

to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Director: "Director" means the director of the Town of Chelsea's Emergency Management Agency, appointed as prescribed in this ordinance.

Disaster: "'Disaster' means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including, but not limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, extreme public health emergency pursuant to Title 22, section 802, subsection 2-A, air contamination, blight, drought, critical material shortage, infestation, explosion, riot or hostile military or paramilitary action.

Organization

The Town Manager shall be responsible for the agency's organization, administration and operation. The Town Manager may employ such permanent or temporary employees as he deems necessary and prescribe their duties.

The Board of Selectmen shall review the existing operational organization to ascertain the agency's ability to cope with its responsibilities and shall approve the Town's Emergency Operations Plan.

Appointment of Director; Duties and Responsibilities.

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint an Emergency Management Director pursuant to Title 37-B Section 782(1). This person shall coordinate the activities of all Town departments, organizations and agencies for civil emergency preparedness within the town and maintain a liaison with other emergency management agencies, public safety agencies, and have such additional duties as prescribed by the Town Manager.

Rules and Regulations

The Emergency Management Director shall prepare, under the direction of the Town Manager, such policies as may be deemed necessary for the administration and operational requirements of the agency, which policies must be approved by Board of Selectmen prior to becoming effective.

Emergency Proclamation

The Town Manager shall have the power and authority, after consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, to issue a proclamation that an emergency

exists whenever a disaster or civil emergency exists or appears imminent. The proclamation may declare that an emergency exists in any or all sections of the town. If the Town Manager is temporarily absent from the town or otherwise unavailable, the person designated by the Town Manager may issue the proclamation that an emergency exists. If neither the Town Manager nor the person designated to act in the Town Manager's absence is available, then the following persons shall have the power and authority to issue a proclamation that an emergency exists, in the following order of succession: the Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, and 1st Deputy Fire Chief. A copy of such proclamation shall be filed within twenty-four (24) hours in the office of the town clerk.

Notwithstanding the above, when consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen would result in a substantial delay in an effective response in alleviating or preventing an emergency or disaster, the Town Manager, or his/her designated alternate as outlined above, is authorized to take whatever actions are necessary to prevent the loss of life and property in the town. The Town Manager and the Emergency Management Director shall be responsible for submitting a full report to the Board of Selectmen of all actions taken as a result of the declared emergency as soon as the Board of Selectmen can be convened.

Termination of Emergency

When the Town Manager or his/her designated alternate as outlined above is satisfied that a disaster or civil emergency no longer exists, they shall terminate the emergency proclamation by another proclamation affecting the sections of the Town covered by the original proclamation, or any part thereof. Said termination of emergency shall be filed in the office of the town clerk.

No state of emergency may continue for longer than five (5) days unless renewed by the Board of Selectmen.

Town Manager's Duties and Emergency Powers

During any period when an emergency proclamation is in effect, the Town Manager may promulgate such regulations as he deems necessary to protect life and property and to preserve critical resources within the purposes of this ordinance. Such regulations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Regulations prohibiting or restricting the movement of vehicles in areas within or outside the town;
2. Regulations facilitating or restricting the movement of persons within the town;
3. Regulations pertaining to the movement of persons from hazardous areas within the town;
4. Such other regulations necessary to preserve public peace, health and safety.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority or responsibility of any department to proceed under powers and authority granted to them by state statute, town ordinance or the charter of the Town of Chelsea.

The Town Manager or his/her designee may order the evacuation of persons from hazardous areas within the town.

The Town Manager or his/her designee shall be authorized to request aid or assistance from the state or any political subdivision of the state and may render assistance to other political subdivision under the provisions of Title 37-B, M.R.S.A.

The Town Manager may obtain vital supplies, equipment and other items found lacking and needed for the protection of health, life and property during an emergency without following normal purchasing or formal bid procedures.

The provisions of this section will terminate at the end of the declared emergency.

Emergency Operations Plan

The Emergency Management Director shall prepare an all hazard Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the town, which shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval. The EOP shall incorporate the principals of the National Emergency Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).

It shall be the responsibility of all municipal departments and agencies to perform the functions assigned and to maintain their portions of the plan in a current state of readiness. The town plan shall be reviewed periodically by the Town Manager in conjunction with all the town departments and the Emergency Management Director.

Immunity from Liability

All Emergency Management Agency Forces, while engaged in Emergency Management Agency activities, shall be immune from liability, as set forth in Title 37-B, Section 822 M.R.S.A.

Compensation for Injuries

All Emergency Management Agency Forces shall be deemed to be employees of the state when engaged in training or on duty and shall have all of the rights of state employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, as set forth in Title 37-B, Section 823 M.R.S.A.

Violation of Regulations

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provisions of this ordinance or of the regulations or plans issued pursuant to the authority contained herein, or to obstruct, hinder or delay any Emergency Management Agency Forces as herein defined in the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance or any regulation or plan issued hereunder.

Penalty

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance or any rule or regulation promulgated hereunder, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and the costs of prosecution.

Severability

Should any provisions of this ordinance be declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of other provisions or of this ordinance as a whole, it being the legislative intent that the provisions of this ordinance shall be severable and remain valid notwithstanding such declaration.

Conflicting Ordinances, Orders, Rules and Regulations Suspended

At all times when an emergency proclamation is in effect, the orders, rules and regulations made and promulgated pursuant to this ordinance shall supersede all existing ordinances, orders, rules and regulations, insofar as the latter may be inconsistent herewith.