MUSCATINE

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Community Evacuation Plan

I. PLANNING:

1.1 Purpose: The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures for orderly and coordinated evacuation operations in Muscatine, to outline warning procedures to be used for evacuations, to identify primary evacuation routes and shelter resources, to identify procedures for the security of the perimeter during and after the evacuation; and to identify procedures for allowing evacuees to return to their homes.

1.2 Scope: The City of Muscatine has developed this plan to evacuate residents and visitors in the southern portion of Muscatine in the event of a levee breach. The evacuation can be precautionary or ordered due to credible information that a serious emergency may threaten the safety and lives of residents and visitors. The number of affected south of Hershey Avenue for an evacuation is approximately 3,000 citizens.

1.3 Background: Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states. Some floods develop slowly, sometimes over a period of days. But flash floods can develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes and without any visible signs of rain. Overland flooding occurs outside a defined river or stream, such as when a levee is breached. Flooding can also occur when a dam breaks, producing effects similar to flash floods. Floods can impact any citizen, but especially if one lives in a low-lying area, near water, near a levee, or downstream from a dam.

1.4 Hazard Area Map: A map of the area with evacuation routes and evacuation centers is attached as Appendix A.

II. TRIGGER POINTS:

2.1 Levee spillover (overtopping): A levee is "topped" when water levels on one side of a levee rise to a point where they spill over. When a levee is topped, water enters the protected area.

2.2 Levee rupture/breach: A levee breach is effectively a complete collapse of the system and it cannot be immediately remedied.

III. NOTIFICATION and ALERTING:

3.1 Evacuation orders: Evacuation orders may be either voluntary or mandatory. A voluntary evacuation is one suggested for precautionary measures, whereas a

mandatory evacuation is for an immediate threat to life or property.

3.2 Authorities to evacuate: The following authorities may order an evacuation:

3.2. A - Mayor / City Clerk
3.2. B - Muscatine County Sheriff
3.2. C - Muscatine Fire Chief or Designee
3.2. D - Muscatine Police Chief or Designee
3.2. E - Muscatine County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director
3.2. F - Incident Commander

3.3 Alerting the public: Various ways for the public to become notified include:

3.3. A - News stations: Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information.

3.3. B - Emergency Alert System (EAS) Broadcast: The County Sheriff or the County EMA Director can activate the EAS System which is located in the 911 dispatch center, to alert residents of imminent dangers.

3.3. C - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio: The National Weather Service will issue warnings. These notifications will be tone alerted over NOAA Weather Radios and sent over the EAS.

3.3. D - Mobile public address systems and sirens: First Responders using vehicle loud speakers and sirens may slowly drive roads in the affected area announcing the need to evacuate and indicating the best available routes for evacuation.

3.4 Emergency public information: An EAS broadcast, other emergency alerting (such as a reverse 911 system), and/or utilization of mobile public address systems may be utilized to inform the public in an emergency situation.

IV. EVACUATION PROCEDURES:

4.1 Direction and control: The amount of time it takes to evacuate an area depends upon a variety of factors that include the size of the vulnerable population, high hazard areas and transportation routes. Do not assume that the evacuation routes shown on the maps will necessarily be your way out in a flood. Localized flooding, traffic accidents, and different flooding scenarios will all affect whether roads will be open. Emergency officials will monitor roads and let the public know through radio stations and other media if alternate routes should be taken.

4.2 Evacuation routes: Evacuation routes will typically follow main roadways and routes utilized for daily transportation. Hersey Avenue, Grandview Avenue, 67th Avenue West, Fruitland Road, and Highway 61 (including Doug King Memorial Highway) are the main routes for evacuation. See Appendix A for a map showing these routes.

4.3 Evacuation centers: The Muscatine High School (2705 Cedar Street) will act as the primary evacuation center. In case that building is not available (i.e. during school hours) then Discovery Park (3300 Cedar Street) and specifically the Environmental Learning Center will act as the evacuation center. The Louisa-

Muscatine School may be utilized if additional space is needed and/or the portion of the City south of Dick Drake Way is in the evacuation area. Evacuation centers will serve as gathering points for friends and family to meet with evacuees. These centers will also serve as a point allowing for shelter assignments. Evacuation centers may or may not serve as housing for evacuees. These locations are noted on the map, Appendix A.

4.4 Evacuation guidelines: The following table serves as a visual aid in reminding the public and responders of some basic guidelines for an evacuation process:

Always:	If time permits:
Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed or unable to pump gas during power outages and disasters or emergencies.	Secure your home: - Close and lock doors and windows. - Unplug electrical items such as radios, televisions and all small appliances.
Make transportation arrangements with friends or your local government if you do not own a car.	Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection, such as long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and a cap.
Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.	Gather your disaster supplies kit.
Gather your family and go if you are instructed to evacuate immediately.	Let others know where you are going.
Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.	
Be alert for washed-out roads. Do not drive into flooded areas.	
Stay away from downed power lines.	

V. SAFETY and HAZARDS:

5.1 Emergency responders: Emergency responders must keep safety as a priority. An injured responder not only adds a victim to the disaster that needs to be taken care of, it decreases the responder pool for the rest of the emergency. In this type of a situation the number of responders will likely not meet the identified need. Basic safety includes an array of usual safety hazards running from transportation to the weather. A disaster or flooding situation will have additional problems including roadways and flooding, electrical issues – in buildings and power lines – and other utilities that will provide a common and wide spread concern.

5.2 Exit route maintenance: Officials who are assisting with route maintenance must wear traffic visibility vests if they are available. A strong and real concern is

evacuees striking someone in or near the roadway. All appropriate signage should be used as it becomes available. Any vehicle collisions on the route need to be cleared as quickly as possible and traffic should not be stopped unless critical. Traffic backup and issues can cause evacuees to use alternate routes that may not be safe and/or may hinder evacuation procedures.

5.3 Perimeter control: Post-evacuation security and maintenance will be the responsibility of local and regional law enforcement agencies. For mandatory evacuations, residents will not be allowed to re-enter evacuated area.

5.4 Re-entry: Re-entry into the area will be allowed only after the proper authorities have deemed the area safe for re-entry. The post-evacuation area will be secured by law enforcement and re-entry without proper approval may be considered a criminal offense. Once re-entry seems likely the Emergency Manager will meet with representatives of the proper agencies and develop a re-entry plan that will allow for the safest and most organized re-entry possible.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS:

6.1 Shelters: Most evacuation studies show that 40% or less of the affected population will seek disaster sheltering. In a flooding situation on the Mississippi River there will likely be a long period of flooding prior to a disastrous situation developing that would require evacuation. Typically sheltering plans are made for about 40% of the population, which in an evacuation of the population south of Hershey Avenue would be approximately 1,200 people. Shelter assignments will be made in concert among the County EMA, local disaster services such as the Red Cross, and other public and private entities such as school systems and churches. The use of evacuation centers to identify the need for services and shelter assignment is meant to improve accountability and make the transition as smooth as possible for evacuees.

6.2 Coordination: All disaster responses need to be coordinated with the County and City Disaster Plans and with all responding agencies, both public and private. Communication among parties will provide the safest and most effective response to the disaster at hand.

VI. ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A Evacuation map, including travel routes and evacuation centers