

CHAPTER 7

CIVIL EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

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7. CIVIL EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

- 7.1 “Emergency defines. As used in this chapter, “emergency” shall mean the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within this city caused by such conditions, including conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot or earthquake, or other conditions, including conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of this city, requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat. (Ord. 425)
- 7-2. Purposes of chapter. The declared purposes of this chapter are to provide for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within this city in the event of an emergency; the direction of the emergency organization; and the coordination of the emergency functions of this city with all other public agencies, corporations, organizations and affected private persons. (Ord. 425)
- 7-3. Disaster council – Created; composition. The disaster council is hereby created and shall consist of the following:
- a) The mayor, who shall be chairman
 - b) The director of emergency services, who shall be vice-chairman
 - c) The assistant director of emergency service.
 - d) Such chiefs of emergency services as are provided for in a current emergency plan of this city, adopted pursuant to this chapter.
 - e) Such representatives of civic, business, labor, veterans, professional or other organizations having an official emergency responsibility, as may be appointed by the director with the advice and consent of the city council. (Ord. 425)
- 7-4. Same – Powers and duties generally; meetings. It shall be the duty of the disaster council and it is hereby empowered to develop and recommend for adoption by

the city council emergency and mutual aid plans and agreements, and such ordinances and resolutions and rules and regulations as are necessary to implement such plans and agreements. The disaster council shall meet upon call of the chairman or, in his absence from the city or inability to call such meeting, upon call of the vice-chairman.

(Ord. 425)

7-5. Director and assistant director of emergency services – Office created; designation and appointment.

- a) There is hereby created the office of director of emergency services. The mayor shall be the director of emergency services.
- b) There is hereby created the office of assistant director of emergency services, who shall be appointed by the director.

(Ord. 425)

7-6. Same – Powers and duties generally.

- a) The director is hereby empowered to:
 - 1) Request the city council to proclaim the existence of a “local emergency: if the city council is in session, or to issue such proclamation if the city council is not in session. Whenever a local emergency is proclaimed by the director, the city council shall take action to ratify the proclamation within seven days thereafter, or the proclamation shall have no further force or effect.
 - 2) Request the governor to proclaim a “state of emergency” when, in the opinion of the director, the locally available resources are inadequate to cope with the emergency.
 - 3) Control and direct the effort of the emergency organization of this city for the accomplishment of the purposes of this ordinance.
 - 4) Direct cooperation between and coordination of services and staff of the emergency organization of this city; and resolve questions of authority and responsibility that may arise between them.
 - 5) Represent this city in all dealings with public or private agencies on matters pertaining to emergencies as defined herein.
 - 6) In the event of the proclamation of a “local emergency” as herein provided, the proclamation of a “state of emergency” by the governor or the director of the state office of emergency services, or the existence of a “state of war emergency,” the director is hereby empowered:
 - a. To make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the city council.
 - b. To obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property and to bind

the city for the fair value thereof and, if required immediately, to commandeer the same for public use.

- c. To require emergency services of any city officer or employee and, in the event of the proclamation of a “state of emergency,” in the county in which this city is located or existence of a “state of war emergency,” to command the aid of as many citizens of this community as he deems necessary in the execution of his duties; such persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits, and immunities as are provided by state law for registered disaster service workers.
 - d. To requisition necessary personnel or material of any city department or agency.
 - e. To execute all of his ordinary power as mayor, all of the special powers conferred upon him by this chapter or by resolution or emergency plan pursuant hereto adopted by the city council, all powers conferred upon him by any statute, agreement approved by the city council, and by any other lawful authority.
- b) The director of emergency services shall designate the order of succession to that office, to take effect in the event the director is unavailable to attend meetings and otherwise perform his duties during any emergency. Such order of succession shall be approved by the city council.
 - c) The assistant director shall, under the supervision of the director and with assistance of emergency service chiefs, develop emergency plans and manage the emergency programs of this city; and shall have such other powers and duties as may be assigned by the director. (Ord. 425)

7-7 Emergency organization. All officers and employees of this city, together with those volunteer forces enrolled to aid them during an emergency, and all groups, organizations and persons who may by agreement or operation of law, including persons impressed into service under the provisions of subsection (a) of section 7-6, be charged with duties incident to the protection of life and property in this city during such emergency, shall constitute the emergency organization of the city. (Ord. 425)

7-8. Emergency plan. The disaster council shall be responsible for the development of the city emergency plan, which plan shall provide for the effective mobilization of all of the resources of this city, both public and private, to meet any condition constituting a local emergency, state of emergency or state of war emergency; and shall provide for the organization, powers and effect upon adoption by resolution of the city council.

(Ord. 425)

7-9. Expenditures. Any expenditures made in connection with emergency activities, including mutual aid activities, shall be deemed conclusively to be for the direct protection and benefit of the inhabitants and property of the city. (Ord. 425)

- 7-9. Acts prohibited during emergencies. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, during an emergency, to:
- a) Willfully obstruct, hinder or delay any member of the emergency organization in the enforcement of any lawful rule or regulation issued pursuant to this chapter, or in the performance of any duty imposed upon him by virtue of this chapter.
 - b) Do any act forbidden by any lawful rule or regulation issued pursuant to this chapter, if such act is of such a nature as to give or be likely to give assistance to the enemy or to imperil the lives or property of inhabitants of this city, or prevent, hinder or delay the defense or protection thereof.
 - c) Wear, carry or display, without authority, any means of identification specified by the emergency agency of the state. (Ord. 425)