

CHAPTER VIII.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Article I.

8.0101 Disaster Plan.

The plan set out by this ordinance is hereby adopted as the official disaster plan of the City.

8.0102 Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended;

- A. City shall be the City of Columbus.
- B. Civil Emergency; Any disruption or threatened disruption of a substantial amount of public services, and any severe danger to the health and safety of a substantial number of persons, caused by a natural disaster, sabotage, riot act of war, power failure or similar event.
- C. Telephone Tree; A system using a list to notify a number of people rapidly of any event or emergency, by having one person call several, those each call several, and each of the next called people call several, continuing until everyone on the list has been called.

8.0103 Declaration of Emergency.

The provisions of this ordinance shall be followed when a civil emergency is declared by the Mayor, or other authorized person to do so. If the Mayor is dead, disabled, absent, the authority to make such declaration shall be vested in the Volunteer Emergency Defense coordinator. If neither the Mayor or the Emergency defense coordinator are present, alive and able, the person shown in Section 8.0104 of this ordinance to be the acting Emergency defense coordinator shall have authority to declare that a civil emergency exists.

8.0104 Chain of Succession.

If the mayor is absent, disabled or dead and the Emergency Defense Coordinator is absent, disabled or dead, the following shall be successors, in the following order:

- A. The Chief of Police.
- B. The President of the City Council.
- C. The city Council member with the next longest service.

8.0105 Notification of Disaster.

When a disaster is declared, notice shall be given to all city officers and employees whose services shall be required. Notice shall be given to federal and state agencies. Such notice shall also be given to each municipal corporation and private agency and to each person, firm or coporation capable of assisting during the disaster, to the extent possible. Officials of other communities that may be affected or that may be able to lend assistance shall be contacted. Notice shall be given by as many of the following means as are practical under the circumstances.

- A. Telephone Calls:
A telephone tree shall be prepared as soon as possible after the passage of this ordinance and distributed to the respective callers.
- B. Announcements on radio and television stations.

8.0106 Traffic Restrictions.

If the public safety requires emergency traffic restrictions, the Mayor, if he is present and able to act, or in the event of the Mayors absence, death or disability the acting Emergency Defense Coordinator, shall proclaim emergency traffic regulations to be in effect. Such restrictions shall be for a limited

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time, until the emergency is no longer in effect. Such restrictions may include but are not limited to:

- A. If there are excessive pollutants in the air, all traffic except emergency vehicle may be barred from the effected area, provided that any other vehicle may travel through such area to escape from the danger or to deal with a bonafide emergency that cannot otherwise be dealt with effectively.
- B. If there are dangers from fire, flood, other natural disasters, explosives, poison gas, or escape of flammable fluid, all traffic except emergency vehicles shall be barred from the immediate area of danger.

8.0107 Other Restrictions.

The following restrictions shall be imposed where absolutely necessary to protect the public from an immediate danger.

- A. If there is a danger of fire due to a spill of an inflammable material all persons except personnel dealing with the emergency may be barred from coming within a specified distance of the spill. Persons found in the area whether they live there or not, may be ordered to leave.
- B. If there is an escape or a danger of escape of poisonous gas, all persons except city employees or other authorized personnel dealing with the emergency shall be barred from the area where there is danger of the spread of gas, consider- wind conditions. Persons in the area shall be ordered to evacuate.

- C. If any part of the city or all of the city shall be evacuated, the Police Department shall take steps to prevent looting. The police department may seek help from other law enforcement agencies, the Sheriff's office, the State Police or Police Departments in neighboring areas.

8.0108 Evacuation of Entire City Restricted.

Due to traffic problems and possibility of looting, it is not the policy of the city to order the evacuation of the entire city for any emergency which can be handled in any other way.

8.0109 Evacuation.

Subject to the requirements of 8.0108 of this ordinance, the Emergency Defense Coordinator along with the City Council, or there designated representative shall prepare plans, considering public and private transportation, for evacuating all of the City. Such plans shall contain feasible programs. Such plans shall not be put into effect until approved by the City Council by resolution.

8.0110 Penalty.

Any person, firm or corporation persisting in violating any provision of this ordinance after a warning shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for each offense, and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continue.