



SANDY RIVER PLANTATION  
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## **Emergency Management Plan**

### **I. Introduction**

This plan outlines emergency management procedures for Sandy River Plantation, ensuring the community is prepared to respond to natural, technological, and human-caused emergencies. The plan emphasizes preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts, with particular attention to wildfire risk due to the Plantation's extensive forested landscape and rural characteristics.

Due to its size and limited municipal capacity, Sandy River Plantation relies on contract services, mutual aid, regional partnerships, and coordination with Town of Rangeley Fire & Rescue, Franklin County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Maine Forest Service.

### **II. Emergency Management Phases**

- Preparedness: Training, public education, hazard mapping, drills, and planning to ensure readiness.
- Response: Immediate actions to protect life, property, and the environment.
- Recovery: Short- and long-term efforts to restore services and return the community to normal conditions.
- Mitigation: Actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people and property, including wildfire fuel reduction and infrastructure improvements.

### **III. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**

Sandy River Plantation faces a range of potential hazards, including:

- Flooding: Particularly in low-lying and river-adjacent areas.
- Severe Weather: Snowstorms, ice storms, high winds, and hurricanes.
- Wildland / Forest Fire: A high-priority hazard due to dense forest cover, seasonal drought conditions, limited water infrastructure, and proximity of structures to wooded areas.
- Technological Hazards: Power outages, hazardous material spills, and fuel shortages.

Fire risk areas will be periodically evaluated based on vegetation, terrain, weather patterns, and development patterns to support planning and response efforts.

### **IV. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activation**

- The EOC will be activated by the Emergency Management Director (EMD) during declared emergencies or elevated risk situations.
- Primary EOC Location: Sandy River Plantation Municipal Building, 33 Townhall Road, Sandy River Plantation, ME 04970.

- Alternate EOC: To be coordinated with The Town of Rangeley and/or Franklin County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) if necessary.

All incidents will operate under the Incident Command System (ICS). During significant wildland fire incidents, unified command may include local fire services, the Maine Forest Service, and mutual aid partners, with priorities including life safety, structure protection, and incident containment.

## **V. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Emergency Management Director (EMD):**

- Oversees coordination of emergency operations.
- Activates the EOC and authorizes emergency actions.
- Serves as liaison to Rangeley Fire & Rescue, Franklin County EMA, MEMA, FEMA, and the Maine Forest Service.
- Oversees hazard mitigation activities, including wildfire preparedness and risk reduction.

### **Law Enforcement (Franklin County Sheriff's Office):**

- Provides law enforcement, traffic control, and public safety services.
- Assists with evacuations and access control.

### **Fire Services (Contracted / Mutual Aid):**

- Fire response and rescue services are provided through contracted services & mutual aid agreements, including with Rangeley Fire & Rescue.
- Responds to structure fires, wildland fires, and hazardous material incidents.
- Supports evacuation operations and exposure protection.
- Utilizes firefighting resources including dry hydrants (when available), mobile water units, and specialized suppression techniques.

### **Public Works (Road Commissioners):**

- Supports road access, maintenance, and debris removal.
- Assists with maintaining emergency access routes and firebreaks where applicable.
- Supports temporary infrastructure repair during and after incidents.

### **Public Health and Medical Services (EMS):**

- Provides pre-hospital medical care and coordinates with regional hospitals.
- Supports emergency shelter operations and mass care needs.

### **Local Health Officer (LHO):**

- Investigates public health threats in accordance with state statutes.
- Coordinates with the EMD and Maine CDC on disease control, sanitation, and public health communication.
- Provides guidance for shelter operations, including hygiene, communicable disease prevention, and support for medically vulnerable individuals.
- Advises on environmental health concerns, including smoke exposure during wildfire events, contaminated water, septic issues, and post-disaster conditions such as mold.

**Volunteers:**

- Pre-identified volunteers may assist with sheltering, resource distribution, and community support under the coordination of the EMD.

**VI. Communication Plan**

- A Public Information Officer (PIO) will be designated by the EMD.
- Communication methods include Reverse 911, municipal website, social media, local radio, and in-person notifications.
- During wildfire events, communications will emphasize evacuation readiness, fire conditions, burn restrictions, and public safety guidance.

**VII. Evacuation and Shelter Procedures**

- Evacuation routes will be pre-identified and communicated to residents.
- Consideration will be given to wildfire conditions such as smoke, fire spread, and road accessibility.
- Primary Shelter: Sandy River Plantation Municipal Building (capacity approx. 40 people).
- Overflow Shelters: Coordinated with Franklin County EMA and neighboring communities.
- Assistance will be provided for individuals with disabilities, limited mobility, or medical needs.
- Pet sheltering options will be communicated as available.

**VIII. Resource Management**

- The EMD will maintain an inventory of emergency supplies, reviewed semi-annually.
- The municipal building is equipped with a backup generator and emergency lighting.
- Contracts and/or Mutual aid agreements support police, fire, and EMS operations.
- Strategic water access improvements, including dry hydrants, will be developed and maintained to support fire suppression.
- An updated inventory and map of dry hydrant locations will be maintained in coordination with fire service providers.

**IX. Recovery Procedures**

- Damage assessments will be conducted by the EMD in coordination with county, state, and federal partners.
- Applications for disaster assistance will be managed by the Assessors and EMD.
- Debris removal and infrastructure restoration will be prioritized based on safety and critical needs.
- Post-incident reviews will be conducted to evaluate response effectiveness and identify improvements.

- Mental health and community recovery services will be coordinated with regional providers.

## **X. Mitigation Strategies**

- **Flood Mitigation:** Maintenance of culverts, drainage systems, and water control infrastructure.
- **Wildfire Mitigation:**
  - Vegetation management, including thinning and removal of hazardous fuels.
  - Coordination with Rangeley Fire & Rescue and/or the Maine Forest Service on prescribed burns where appropriate.
  - Development of firebreaks in high-risk areas.
  - Expansion and maintenance of dry hydrant systems.
- **Property-Level Risk Reduction:**
  - Promotion of defensible space around structures.
  - Public education on fire-resistant landscaping and building materials.
- **Community Outreach:**
  - Distribution of seasonal preparedness materials.
  - Public workshops and education on emergency preparedness and fire prevention.

## **XI. Plan Maintenance and Training**

- The Emergency Management Plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.
- Training exercises, including wildfire scenarios, will be conducted periodically.
- Public awareness efforts will be conducted at least twice per year.
- After-action reviews will be conducted following significant incidents.

## **XII. Adoption and Acknowledgement**

This Emergency Management Plan is adopted by the Sandy River Plantation Board of Assessors on this day, *3/24/2026*.

### **Acknowledgement:**

**Name**

**Title**

**Signature**

**Date**