

September 15, 2026

Mayor Cole and Members of the Fulton Town Council
Town of Fulton, Texas

Re: Aransas County Basic Emergency Management Plan

Mayor and Council Members:

I will not be able to attend your meeting in person, so I wanted to provide some background on the Basic Emergency Management Plan being presented for your consideration and explain why we need it.

The Basic Plan is meant to serve as the foundation for emergency management in Aransas County, the City of Rockport, and the Town of Fulton. Texas Government Code Chapter 418 requires local jurisdictions to maintain an emergency management plan, and this document provides the basic framework for how we will work together during emergencies and disasters.

One important thing to understand is that this plan is intentionally broad. I worked with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) while putting it together, and their guidance was to keep the Basic Plan general. We do not want to write a plan that locks us into one specific way of handling an emergency because no two incidents are exactly alike.

Because of that, putting together the Basic Plan did not require detailed input from every department or participating jurisdiction. At this level, the plan establishes that Aransas County, Rockport, and Fulton intend to work together. It also identifies general responsibilities and establishes who has the authority to make decisions during an emergency or disaster. Those authorities are the County Judge and the Mayors of Rockport and Fulton.

The more detailed planning will come after the Basic Plan is adopted, and that is where input from our local partners will be very important.

We can develop annexes and other supporting plans for specific hazards and operations. Those plans will require input from Fulton, Rockport, the County, law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, public works, utilities, transportation providers, schools, volunteer organizations, and others depending on the subject. Hurricane evacuation is one area that I believe should be one of our first priorities because it requires a great deal of coordination among all three jurisdictions and our outside partners.

Another reason for updating the Basic Plan is to align us with the Emergency Support Function, or ESF, system used by TDEM and FEMA. This is really not much different from the way we already operate during an emergency. It organizes things such as transportation, public works, firefighting, medical services, public information, law enforcement, and resource support into functional areas.

Using the ESF system puts us on the same page as the state and federal agencies we may need help from during a major disaster. If we need additional resources, it gives us a common way to identify what we need and request assistance. It also makes it easier to expand our organization as an incident becomes larger or more complicated.

Adoption of this Basic Plan is the beginning of the planning process, not the end of it. It gives us the foundation we need and gets the required document on file. From there, we can work together on the more detailed plans and annexes that address how we will actually handle specific situations.

The goal is simply to make sure Aransas County, the City of Rockport, and the Town of Fulton are prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies together while each jurisdiction maintains its own legal authority and responsibilities.

Thank you for considering the Basic Emergency Management Plan and for the Town of Fulton's continued partnership in emergency preparedness. I will be happy to answer any questions from the Mayor, Council, or Town staff.

Sincerely,

Mike Geer
Emergency Management Coordinator
Aransas County

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