

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
LEGAL NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 4031
Adopted by the City Council on OCTOBER 6, 2014**

“An Ordinance of the City of Huntington Beach Amending Chapter 8.60 of the Huntington Beach Municipal Code Relating to Emergency Management and Homeland Security”

SYNOPSIS:

The City of Huntington Beach initially added the Civil Defense Emergency Services chapter to the City Municipal Code in 1951. The purpose of this chapter is to clarify those authorities and responsibilities associated with municipal management of emergencies. Since its origination, the chapter has undergone intermittent updates, the most recent of which took place in 1980.

The increasing severity and impact of disaster incidents in recent years has helped to focus greater attention towards the practice of emergency management. Through the guidance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security, the practice of emergency preparedness and management has greatly evolved. As a result, the organizational approach, authorities and responsibilities of municipal personnel at the City has also changed, thus necessitating an update to the City Municipal Code.

Amendments made to the Code seek to enhance the ability of the City to conduct emergency planning activities and to strengthen the overall level of preparedness. The update process included the integration of guiding federal resources on best practices, as well as a review of existing emergency management codes currently employed in other cities in California.

The revisions reflect the contemporary shift away from a focus on civil defense. Instead, the revised Code exemplifies movement towards the blended practice of disaster preparedness and provision of homeland security through comprehensive municipal planning and management practices. The amendments to the existing Code involve changing the terms “Civil Defense and Emergency Services” to “Emergency Management and Homeland Security.” The updated Code reflects the definition of these terms.

In addition, the amendments provide for greater inclusion of the Fire Department within the Emergency Management and Homeland Security organizational structure through the establishment of the Fire Chief as the Vice Chair of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Council. The amendments also reflect the conversion of the City Administrator position to that of the City Manager and provide that the City Manager is empowered with the responsibility and title of Director of Emergency Management.

The Code amendments reflect greater coordination and conformity between federal, state, and local emergency management authorities. This revision is reflected in Section 8.60.100, which establishes a requirement for preparing the municipal Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to be consistent with the Standardized Emergency Management System, the National Incident Management System, and consistent with the plans of the state and federal governments. The effort to assure that the City’s approach to emergency management is consistent with federal and state approaches is noted in the definition of the EOP, which is located in Section 8.60.020(d).

In addition, the following substantial amendments to the existing Code are proposed, which change focus toward a more comprehensive approach to emergency management:

- The definition of the powers and duties of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Council (Section 8.60.040)
- The creation of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Office (Section 8.60.080)
- The definition of the powers and duties associated with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (Section 8.60.090)

This chapter of the Municipal Code has been revised to reflect the evolution of approaches related to preparing for and managing events that threaten life, property, and community resources. The revised Municipal Code reflects the current best practices regarding the authorities and responsibilities associated with municipal emergency management.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting held October 6, 2014 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Katapodis, Hardy, Shaw, Harper, Boardman, Sullivan, Carchio

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

THE FULL TEXT OF THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

This ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption.

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
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JOAN L. FLYNN, CITY CLERK**