



## **WHAT IS AN E.O.C., AND WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?**

- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the single, central coordinating location for multi-jurisdictional disasters.
- There have been a number of incidents over the past two decades where the need for full activation of the EOC was needed, including:
  - 3 floods in a 16-year period that were 1,000-year flood events (2006, 2013, and 2021).
  - Church bombings in 2015
  - Planned terrorist attack against NMSU in 2015 (EOC not activated due to successful disruption by FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, but would have been needed if attack occurred)
  - Winter freeze of February 2011
- The existing EOC facility is too small (only 18 workstations) to handle full activation for disasters that impact large numbers of people. Space for at least 60 workstations is needed for complex incidents.
- The existing EOC facility does not have any space for recovery personnel to work. This limits the ability to provide family assistance center support, along with limiting integration with public and individual disaster assistance assessment teams from the State and FEMA. The new facility will have sufficient space in both the main EOC and the conference rooms to handle this coordination in order to properly serve people impacted by disasters.
- There is currently no warehouse capability for disaster supplies (emergency food and water, cots, bedding, hygiene supplies, protective equipment, medical care equipment, etc.). The new facility will include a stand-alone warehouse that will allow for management of sufficient supplies to handle emergency needs for at least 500 people immediately, and then receiving and distribution of additional supplies as needed.
- The existing facility does not have the ability to monitor and respond to news media and social media. The new facility will have dedicated space and equipment to support a Joint Information Center to ensure rapid, reliable communication with incident personnel and the general public.
- The existing EOC does not have a classroom for training personnel (including police, fire, medical, shelter, and support staff). A lot of training opportunities have been missed, and personnel often have to go out of the area to get training, limiting how many can receive it. The new facility will have a dedicated classroom that will not only support disaster response and recovery personnel, but also disaster preparedness training for the general public.

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