



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Ave., West Triangle, Quezon City
<http://www.dilg.com.ph>

March 15, 2019

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO 2019-40

**SUBJECT: Implementation of OPLAN LIGTAS NA PAMAYANAN in All Barangays
Nationwide**

I. RATIONALE

Pursuant to Section 389 paragraph "f" of the Local Government Code, it is the mandate of the Punong Barangay to "organize and lead an emergency group whenever the same may be necessary for the maintenance of peace and order or on occasions of emergency or calamity within the Barangay" subsequently transcending the mandate of the barangay as the basic political unit of the government. Furthermore, under Section 21 and 22 of the Republic Act No. 10121, the barangay council is mandated to implement programs and projects aimed at the prevention and mitigation of man-made disasters and natural hazards through its Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF).

As such, the state recognizes the responsibility and the capabilities of the barangay units to mobilize resources and immediately respond to localized natural hazards and human-induced disasters. To help barangays fully attain self-reliance, they may be assisted on developing strategies and proactive approaches in addressing emergencies and calamities in organizing and leading an emergency response group and promoting community and citizen participation.

The Bureau of Fire Protection, by virtue of both Republic Act No. 6975 otherwise known as the DILG Act of 1990 and the Republic Act No. 9514 otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008, has the mandate to prevent and suppress destructive fires at all cost with the active participation of the community. In its desire to institutionalize fire prevention initiatives in the grassroots level, it initiated the creation of the OPLAN LIGTAS NA PAMAYANAN, the BFP's response to the ever growing demand for a more adaptive, comprehensive and immersive fire protection program for the communities, rural and urban villages and barangays.

The OPLAN lays down a series of interconnected activities focused on capacitating the barangays with systematic, comprehensive methodologies and tactical procedures to prevent and respond to fires with the ultimate goal of providing a “Quality of Life through a Fire-Safe Community with Proactive, Responsive, Resilient, Self-reliant and Empowered People”. The BFP recognizes the important role of the barangays, duly represented by their barangay officials, in ensuring a successful and effective implementation of the program as it will directly benefit them and their constituency, hence this circular.

II. GENERAL POLICY

1. All local government units, especially the barangay councils and the city/municipal local governments shall adopt and facilitate the implementation of OPLAN LIGTAS NA PAMAYANAN (OLP) in close partnership with the Bureau of Fire Protection.
2. The barangay council shall prioritize along with other disaster preparedness initiatives the implementation of the OLP as they are to endeavor the reduction or mitigation of destructive fires in their communities.
3. The BFP shall serve as primary facilitators and coordinators of the OLP in the barangays and are expected to render all necessary trainings and assistance to the local councils in their implementation of the component activities of the OLP.
4. The BFP and all local government units and barangay councils shall incorporate into their annual budgets the implementation of the OLP.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Responsibilities of the Barangay Councils

All barangay councils shall adopt the **OPLAN LIGTAS NA PAMAYANAN** in cooperation with the local Fire Stations in their area.

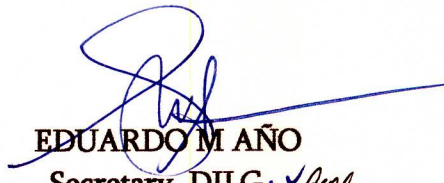

1. They are to:
 - a. Facilitate the creation of the Community Fire Protection Plan, its component field survey and workshop assisted by the BFP;
 - b. Print and post in conspicuous areas in the barangay the Community Fire Hazard-Vulnerability Map and the Community Evacuation Map. The conduct of the workshop and the printing of the maps shall be financed by the barangay council;



- c. Assist the designated Bumbero sa Pamayanan in the conduct of household fire safety surveys and coordinate with the household the immediate removal of identified fire hazards;
 - d. Ensure immediate abatement of identified fire hazards within the barangay; and,
 - e. Assist the Bumbero sa Pamayanan in the conduct of other fire prevention interventions such as lectures, demonstrations and information dissemination.
2. All local barangay councils shall also establish the Community Fire Auxillary Group (CFAG) or Barangay Bantay Sunog within their barangay subject to the form and structure indicated in the OPLAN with the following functions;
- a. Assist the BFP in the inspection and removal of fire hazards in the community and household such as illegal electrical connections, street obstructions, flammable and easily ignitable piles of materials and the like;
 - b. Assist the BFP in delivering the message of fire prevention through their own activities;
 - c. Develop fire prevention programs and plans of action for the company or organization to address possible fire situation in the community;
 - d. Conduct evaluation of necessary precautionary measures in the barangay such as:
 - Identify hazards and obstructions to fire truck access;
 - Post of alarm and evacuation signage;
 - Establishment of evacuation areas;
 - Setting up localized fire hydrants specially in interior areas where accessibility through fire truck is not possible
 - Proper marking of street Fire Hydrants; and,
 - Provision of immediate fire fighting implements such as fire hose, buckets and water drums, sand bags, etc.
 - e. Assist the responding team of the BFP in the discharge of other duties and responsibilities; and,

- f. Conduct Fire Drills according to the established hazard zone in the area.

B. Responsibilities of the BFP

1. Assist the Barangay councils in the crafting of the Community Fire Protection Plan, the conduct of its workshop and component field survey.
2. Establish in every barangay a fire response data as mandated by the OPLAN beneficial for the conduct of an effective fire operation.
3. Designate a Bumbero sa Pamayanan who will assist the local barangay councils in implementing the various program and component activities of the OPLAN.
4. Assist the barangay council in organizing the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) as well as provide them with adequate and relevant trainings.
5. Evaluate the conduct of simulated fire drills and exercises using the prescribed methodologies of the OPLAN.
6. Implement in all its entirety and substance the OPLAN in the barangays.


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Secretary, DILG 

 
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