

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) 4 FIRE RESPONSE COORDINATION (FIREFIGHTING)

Primary Agency: Southside Fire/EMS

Support Agencies: Bloomingdale FD, Pooler FD, Port Wentworth FD, Garden City FD, Savannah FD, Thunderbolt FD, Tybee Island FD, Isle of Hope FD, Hunter Army Airfield FD, Travis Air National Guard FD, The Islands FD, Skidaway Island FD, Montgomery FD, Seventh District FD, Southside FD, CEMA
Association of Chatham County Fire Chiefs
Georgia Forestry
Georgia Office of Homeland Security
Georgia Mutual Aid Group

Supporting information, documentation, activation instructions and checklists are contained in the Introduction to Emergency Support Functions Annex.

I. Introduction

- A. Purpose: This ESF provides a comprehensive mechanism to ensure appropriate utilization of local fire resources before and after the impact of a disaster. This will include but is not limited to the detection and suppression of urban, rural, and wildland fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with a significant natural or man-made disaster.

- B. Scope: ESF# 4 involves the management and coordination of firefighting resources in the detection and suppression of fires, during rescue situations, and when mobilizing and coordinating personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of local entities. ESF # 9 and # 10, Rescue & Hazardous Materials, respectively, will be collocated with ESF # 4 and are integral components of the function of ESF # 4 support agencies. In preparation for and execution of its fire protection mission, ESF #4 will:
 - 1. Preparedness
 - a. Maintain current inventories of fire service facilities, equipment, and personnel throughout the County.
 - b. Organize and train fire service emergency teams to rapidly respond to requests for assistance.
 - c. Monitor weather and hazardous conditions that contribute to increased fire danger.
 - d. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.

- e. Based on hazardous conditions, conduct fire prevention and education activities for the public.
- f. Participate in exercises and training to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
- g. Ensure all ESF #4 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. As a minimum, primary action officers for all ESF #4 agencies will complete ICS 200, 300, and 700 courses.

2. Response

- a. Support local fire departments and the Forestry Commission with appropriate resources to include mobilizing and deploying firefighting teams and resources as needed.
- b. Coordinate with the GANG for use of state military assets to support firefighting operations.
- c. Monitor status of firefighting resources committed to an incident.
- d. Maintain staging area locations.
- e. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.
- f. Support fire investigations, as requested.
- g. Obtain and submit fire situation and damage assessment reports and provide information to EOC.
- h. Establish communications with the State Regional Fire Coordinator, when activated, to coordinate fire service response beyond the County's capability.
- i. When the situation dictates, coordinate with the Forestry Commission to invoke Forest Fire Compacts.
- j. Once resources are requested, provide for direct liaison with fire chiefs in affected areas to coordinate requests for specific assistance.
- k. Require supporting agencies maintain appropriate records of cost incurred during an event.
- l. Document any lost or damaged equipment, any personnel or equipment accidents.

3. Recovery

- a. Maintain adequate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction of resources.
- b. Conduct reviews of incident actions with teams involved to improve future operations.
- c. Inventory lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
- d. Anticipate and plan for arrival of and coordination with GEMA ESF #4 personnel in the EOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- e. Inform agencies that provided resources where to send records for costs incurred during an event.

4. Mitigation
 - a. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
 - b. Support requests and directives from GEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
 - c. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

II. Concept of Operations

A. Assumptions:

1. All available local fire-fighting resources will be committed, and additional help will be needed from around the state.
2. Coordination and direction of the local efforts, including volunteers, will be required.
3. Fire resources will be tasked with a variety of missions, many of which will not directly relate to fire suppression.

B. General:

1. County, Private and Municipal Authorities have overall responsibility for incident prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in their area.
 - a. This ESF will be activated at the discretion of CEMA and will be coordinated through the Primary Agency.
 - b. Each Primary and Support Agency shall participate in training and exercises to ensure continuity.
 - c. The Primary Agency and CEMA will review this ESF annually to ensure its accuracy for implementation. The date of review will be based on the adoption date of the EOP.
 - d. ESF #4 will interface with other ESF as necessary to coordinate resource needs for a given incident.

C. Response:

1. Initial Actions:
 - a. When activated to respond to an incident the Primary Agency develops work priorities in cooperation with the County and municipal governments.
 - b. ESF # 4 will interface with ESF # 8 as to medical assistance and transportation of victims beyond initial collection points.
 - c. ESF # 4 will coordinate response efforts with the other ESF's during and incident of critical significance with special efforts related to coordination with ESF # 9 and # 10. This ESF will coordinate the provision of local fire-

fighting personnel and equipment; it will also plan for, coordinate, and assign any responding mutual aid resources.

- d. The fire chief and/or designee will request assistance from local fire departments for EOC staffing. The Georgia Division of Forestry will be requested to provide an EOC representative to coordinate state resources as staffing allows.
- e. When an actual or pending emergency exists with the potential to impact Chatham County, Fire Departments will be notified through the EOC and made aware of the situation status.
- f. All support agency contact persons for this ESF will be notified for potential availability for assignments.
- g. ESF 4 will coordinate needs and response actions through field command to include pre-positioning of resources as necessary.
- h. Determination of additional resources required through mutual aid will be requested through CEMA and the EOC.

D. Continuous Actions:

1. Coordination between state, local, and Federal firefighting resources is managed by the appropriate primary agency with assistance from CEMA.
2. Firefighting resources are reassigned, as needed and as requested and will be withdrawn when no longer needed.
3. Upon request, this ESF will provide firefighting resources to assist recovery efforts.

III. Responsibilities

A. Primary Agency: As the primary agency for ESF # 4, Southside Fire/EMS will coordinate the provision of local firefighting personnel and equipment. It will also plan, coordinate, and assign any responding mutual aid resources. It additionally will coordinate those resources volunteered for ESF # 4 from other unidentified sources.

B. Support Agencies:

1. Local fire departments, as listed under Support Agencies, will coordinate through ESF # 4 by forwarding their requests for mutual aid firefighting assistance to the EOC ESF # 4 Coordinator during an incident of critical significance or other activation of the EOC.
2. During activation, the GA Forestry and/or Georgia Mutual Aid Group will serve as a support agency of ESF # 4 and, as staffing

allows, will coordinate State resources as needed and requested by ESF # 4

3. Attend at least quarterly meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF.
4. Assess the need for and prioritize the deployment of services based on available resources and critical needs.
5. Assemble a complete list of available firefighting resources within Chatham County and surrounding counties and municipalities that may be available for response and coordinate this information with the EOC.
6. Request volunteer and private agencies with assets to contribute those assets to response efforts.

