

Emergency Support Function – 4 Firefighting



2025

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RECORD OF CHANGES

Each update or change to the plan should be tracked. The record of changes, usually in table format, contains, at a minimum, a change number, the date of the change, the name of the person who made the change, and a summary of the change. Other relevant information could be considered.

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted
1	12/26/2024	Updated the ESF Coordinator	12/26/24	Mathews

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Agency	Name, Title	Date of Delivery	Copies

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ESF – 4 Firefighting

ESF COORDINATOR:

Chatham Fire Department

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Chatham County Mosquito Control
Chatham Emergency Management Agency
City of Bloomingdale Fire Department
City of Garden City Fire Department
City of Pooler Fire Department
City of Port Wentworth Fire Department
City of Savannah Fire Department
City of Tybee Island Fire Department
Georgia Forestry Commission
Hunter Army Airfield Fire Department
Isle of Hope Fire Department
Town of Thunderbolt Fire Department
165th Airlift Wing Fire Department

INTRODUCTION

The emergency support function of firefighting services involves direction and coordination, operations, and follow-through during an emergency or disaster.

Purpose

ESF-4 Firefighting provides operational guidance to departments/organizations that are assigned to work within this ESF. The mission of ESF-4 is to provide a comprehensive mechanism to ensure the appropriate utilization of firefighting resources both prior to and post impact of an emergency or disaster event. This however is not a tactical response document. ESF-4 Firefighting serves as the mechanism to provide support to local jurisdictions during fire suppression operations to include the detection and suppression of urban, rural and wildland fires resulting from, or occurring simultaneously with a significant natural or man-made disaster.

Scope

ESF-4 acts to meet the Firefighting and essential elements of information needs of operations by establishing a framework for the management and coordination of firefighting resources in the detection and suppression of fires, conducting urban search

and rescue operations and upon mobilizing personnel, equipment and supplies to support local entities.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

During an emergency or disaster, ESF-4 may be activated to support operations and assist with the development of a common operating picture. The scope, scale and magnitude of the threat/incident will dictate which support agencies will be requested for the support of ESF-4 Firefighting in the EOC.

Preparedness

- a. Establish a state of readiness by maintaining situational awareness on fire and weather forecasting information.
- b. Maintain current inventories of fire service facilities, equipment and personnel throughout Chatham County.
- c. Organize and train fire service teams to rapidly deploy to requests for assistance.
- d. Conduct fire prevention and education activities to members of the general public.
- e. Establish a state of readiness for necessary equipment and personnel appropriate to existing conditions and/or anticipated conditions by mobilizing resources and staging them at appropriate locations.
- f. Establish an operational structure for incident command between supporting entities and the EOC.
- g. Establish a structure for reliable communications between supporting entities and the EOC.
- h. Coordinate the development of MOA's with appropriate agencies/organizations for the provision of fire service personnel and resources to support an emergency or disaster response.
- i. Ensure all ESF-4 personnel integrate NIMS principles.

Response

- a. Maintain a current listing of available fire service agencies and resource capabilities.
- b. Provide support to local fire departments and the Forestry Commission through identifying and mobilizing firefighting teams and resources as necessary.

- c. Ensure procedures are established to monitor the status of firefighting resources that have been committed to an incident.
- d. Identify and maintain staging area locations.
- e. Establish procedures to ensure communication with the State Regional Fire Coordinator as necessary to support fire service response operations beyond Chatham County's capabilities.
- f. Coordinate the use of state assets to support firefighting operations with GEMA/HS.
- g. Serve as a liaison to Chatham County Municipal Fire Chief's to coordinate specific requests for assistance.
- h. Establish procedures for the replacement or rotation of committed firefighting resources during extended operations.
- i. Support fire investigations as appropriate.
- j. Obtain, maintain and provide situational assessments pertaining to the fire situation and any associated damages.
- k. Provide technical assistance during firefighting operations that involve hazardous materials.

Recovery

- a. Maintain adequate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction in resources.
- b. Inventory lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
- c. Conduct reviews of firefighting operations with teams involved to improve future responses.

Mitigation

- a. Support and plan for mitigation measures.

Organization

The County EOC will be activated to coordinate a multijurisdictional level response.

Representatives from the applicable ESF-4 Agencies may be assigned to the EOC or alternate location, as best suited to meet incident needs and coordinate operations.

ESF Role Aligned to Core Capabilities

The following table lists the response capability that ESF-4 most directly supports, along with the related ESF-4 actions supporting the capability.

Core Capability	ESF-4 Firefighting
Fire Management and Suppression	• Provide structural, wildland and specialized firefighting capabilities to manage and suppress fires of all types, kinds and complexities while protecting the lives, property and environment of the affected area. This includes, among other things: ➤ Urban and Rural Fire Suppression ➤ Wildland Fire Suppression
Situational Assessment	• Provide all decision makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects and the status of the response. This includes, among other things: ➤ Size, scope and potential cascading effects

Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency	Actions
Chatham Fire Department	• Maintain contact with municipal liaisons to collect and relay information. • Coordinate with each supporting agency through ESF meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF. • Plan for, coordinate with and assign responding mutual aid resources as appropriate. • Coordinate with other ESFs as appropriate for the utilization of volunteer based Firefighting resources. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position: ➤ ESF-4 Firefighting

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies	• Attend ESF meetings to ensure planning and coordination functions are carried out to support this ESF. • Identify Agency staff representatives to support this ESF and other operational practices during emergency and disaster operations.

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies (Continued)	• Ensure the presence of resources (human and physical) are in sufficient numbers to support the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF. • Conduct recovery and restoration tasks in coordination with the EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidance. • Annually evaluate Critical Workforce staffing needs and report sheltering and/or equipment staging locations as requested. • Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC). • Identify damages and/or losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities. • Maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations. • Identify damages and/or losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities. • Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF. • Prepare to support the EOC as necessary. • Participate in drills, exercises and other preparedness events to evaluate the Agency's readiness to support this ESF. • Ensure Agency staff maintain NIMS compliance and report compliance measurements annually as requested
Chatham County Mosquito Control	• Provide available aviation assets to assist with fire suppression operations.
Chatham Emergency Management Agency	• Coordinate a situational assessment to determine incident priorities in support of firefighting operations.
City of Bloomingdale Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources.
City of Garden City Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources.

Supporting Agency	Actions
City of Pooler Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources. • Provide support to Chatham County and the surrounding region for Georgia Urban Search and Rescue (GSAR) responses. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position: ➤ ESF-9 Search and Rescue
City of Port Wentworth Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources.
City of Savannah Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources. • Provide support to Chatham County and surrounding region for Hazardous Materials and Georgia Urban Search and Rescue (GSAR) responses. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position: ➤ ESF-10 HAZMAT
City of Tybee Island Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources.
Georgia Forestry Commission	• Serve as a support entity of ESF-4 and assist with the coordination of state firefighting resources as necessary. • Establish procedures for the incorporation of volunteer and private agencies to contribute appropriate assets to the response and recovery effort.
Hunter Army Airfield Fire Department	• Provide Military Fire support to the Hunter Army Airfield • Participate in Mutual Aid Agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources as necessary.

Supporting Agency	Actions
Isle of Hope Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources.
Town of Thunderbolt Fire Department	• Provide support to fire suppression operations through the utilization of available resources and personnel to the affected jurisdiction. • Participate in Mutual Aid agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources.
165 th Airlift Wing Fire Department	• Provide Military and Aviation Fire support to the Savannah – Hilton Head International Airport. • Participate in Mutual Aid Agreements to support County Firefighting operations and augment resources as necessary.