

Emergency Support Function – 11
Agriculture/Food and Water



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	12/2024	Document Update	12/2024	C. Sawyer

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Agency	Name, Title	Date of Delivery	Copies

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ESF – 11 Agriculture/Food and Water

ESF COORDINATOR:

Chatham Emergency Management Agency
Chatham County Health Department

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

American Red Cross
America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia
Coastal Empire Disaster Recovery Committee
Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief
Georgia Department of Agriculture
Salvation Army
Savannah Chatham County Public School System
Savannah Food Truck Association

INTRODUCTION

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

Purpose

ESF-11 Agriculture/Food and Water provides operational guidance to departments/organizations that are assigned to work within this ESF. The mission of ESF - 11 is to provide coordination in conjunction with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering for nutrition assistance and administration of the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP), ensuring the safety and security of Chatham County's commercial food supply and eradicating highly infectious animal and plant based diseases. This however is not a tactical response document. ESF-11 Agriculture/Food and Water is designed to provide a framework for the integration of key resources and information for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities to address an emergency or disaster.

Scope

ESF-11 acts to meet the Agriculture/Food and Water essential elements of information needs of operations to include the provision and protection of the commercial food supply and response to diseases affecting animals and/or plants during an emergency or disaster event.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

During an emergency or disaster, ESF-11 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-11 Agriculture/Food and Water in the EOC.

Preparedness

- a. Maintain a roster of primary ESF support staff points of contact.
- b. Ensure that procedures are established and responsibilities identified for the issuance and distribution for feeding operations.
- c. Maintain a listing of potential food resources to include appropriate point of contact information.
- d. Coordinate with ESF-8 Health and Medical to ensure food safety inspection and monitoring procedures are established.
- e. Coordinate with ESF-8 Health and Medical to ensure the establishment of procedures for the response to a threatened food supply.
- f. Establish a process for public notifications regarding suspected and/or contaminated food supplies in conjunction with ESF-8 Health and Medical and ESF-15 External Affairs.
- g. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering to identify secured sources of food for distribution during mass feeding operations.
- h. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering to establish procedures and determine the availability of personnel and handling equipment to ensure the timely distribution of food and drinking water.
- i. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering to determine the availability of personnel and handling equipment to support mass feeding operations.
- j. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering for the availability and location of food storage facilities within Chatham County. This may include the ability to store dry, chilled and/or frozen food items.
- k. Work with the state Department of Agriculture to assist, when necessary, the surveillance of pests that may pose a potential and/or substantial threat to agriculture, horticulture, the economy or the public health.

- l. Coordinate the development of MOA's with appropriate agencies/organizations for the provision of services to assist individuals and families affected by the emergency or disaster.
- m. Participate in and/or attend meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF.
- n. Ensure all ESF-11 support entities integrate NIMS principles throughout planning activities.

Response

- a. Coordinate with ESF-5 Planning/Emergency Management and ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering to determine the critical feeding needs of disaster survivors and establishment of mass feeding sites, as appropriate.
- b. Establish procurement procedures for essential food and necessary supplies that are not available from existing inventories.
- c. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering for the incorporation of community resources and personnel for the provision and distribution of food and water and appropriate distribution procedures.
- d. Establish procedures for the notification of appropriate state and federal agencies in the event of suspicious activity contributing to the contamination of food supplies.
- e. Secure food supplies, transportation assets, and necessary equipment to include storage and/or distribution facilities to support operations.
- f. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering and ESF-8 Health and Medical to establish guideline for immediate local protective measures concerning a potential threat to the food supply.
- g. Coordinate with ESF-13 Law Enforcement for suspected cases of intentional food supply contamination. This may include the use of a chemical or biological agent.
- h. Coordinate the decontamination and/or destruction of animals, plants, cultured aquatic products, food and any associated facilities as necessary.
- i. Support efforts to quarantine, stop the sale or movement of and placement of restrictions upon animals, plants and products as necessary to eradicate diseases and pests.
- j. Coordinate with appropriate entities for technical assistance, equipment, supplies and personnel to respond to animal health emergencies or acts of agro-terrorism that may pose a substantial threat to the state.

- k. Coordinate the dissemination of essential public information with ESF-15 External Affairs.

Recovery

- a. Coordinate with ESF-5 Planning/Emergency Management, ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering and ESF-8 Health and Medical to support existing mass feeding sites to ensure optimal access for public service based upon emergency needs.
- b. Coordinate with state agencies as appropriate for the provision of food and water to mass feeding sites.
- c. Determine the need for mutual aid assistance and implement request for assistance through local mutual aid agreements or through GEMA/HS.
- d. Request Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs) as necessary through GEMA/HS.
- e. Coordinate operations to ensure appropriate occupational safety measures are followed.

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-11 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-11 most directly supports, along with the related ESF-11 actions supporting the capability.

Core Capability	ESF-11 Agriculture/Food and Water
Environmental Response/Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the public and workers, as well as the environment, from all-hazards, in support of responder operations and the affected communities. This includes but is not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Food and Water distribution➤ Bulk Food Storage

Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency	Actions
Chatham Emergency Management Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate ESF meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF. • Coordinate a situational assessment to determine priorities for conducting mass feeding operations within the community. • Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering for the establishment of Mass Feeding Sites. • Coordinate support staffing for the ESF-11 Food and Water Unit within the EOC. • Coordinate the establishment of Points of Distribution and operational procedures. • Ensure agencies providing support to ESF-11 Agriculture/Food and Water have the necessary guidance and support required to accomplish tasks.
Chatham County Health Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provisions to ensure food safety and sanitary conditions are maintained during retail food preparation and distribution. • Ensure the establishment of food safety inspection and monitoring procedures. • Support the Georgia Department of Agriculture as they respond to a threatened food supply. • Ensure proper notifications are made to the public during a suspected and/or contaminated food supply event. • Coordinate the surveillance of pests and/or animals that may pose a potential or substantial threat to the public health. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health and Human Services Branch ➤ ESF-8 Health and Medical

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings to ensure planning 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. • Ensure the presence of resources (human and physical) are sufficient in number to support the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF. • Conduct recovery and restoration tasks in coordination with the EOC and federal assistance program guidance. • Annually evaluate Critical Workforce staffing needs and report sheltering and/or equipment staging locations, as requested. • Coordinate pertinent disaster response and recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC) and ESF-15 External Affairs. • 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. • 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.
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide shelter listings for each facility with the names and contact numbers of each facility liaison. • Establish a protocol for prioritizing response actions. • Provide a system for recording incoming requests for sheltering, identifying response assignments and actions to be taken. • Coordinate bulk emergency relief distribution points, when possible. • Coordinate activities with other ESF's, as necessary. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce for awareness and support, if possible. • Coordinate the release of public information regarding the locations of shelters with ESF-15 External Affairs.

Supporting Agency	Actions
American Red Cross (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EOC Liaison
America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feeding support to disaster survivors. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce • Provide critical workforce sheltering location for EOC personnel, as necessary. • Provide feeding operations assistance to the general population, when available. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESF-11 Agriculture / Food/Water
Coastal Empire Disaster Recovery Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request volunteer agencies and private sector entities with resources contribute those assets to the response and recovery effort. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position as necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Volunteers & Donations
Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide listings of mass feeding sites and contact numbers for each site manager. • Establish a protocol for prioritizing response actions. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce. • Coordinate the release of public information regarding the locations of mass feeding sites with ESF-15 External Affairs.
Georgia Department of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to ESF-11 Agriculture/Food and Water through the provision of technical assistance, available resources and support for pre-event and post-event animal rescue and evacuations. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position as necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EOC Liaison

Supporting Agency	Actions
Salvation Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources to support mass feeding operations. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce. • Provide canteen services to members of Chatham County's Critical Workforce and supporting emergency responders.
Savannah Chatham County Public School System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to mass feeding operations through utilization of equipment, facilities and necessary resources. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce. • Coordinate the release of public information regarding the locations of mass feeding sites with ESF-15 External Affairs. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SCCPSS Transportation ➤ SCCPSS Police and Facilities
Savannah Food Truck Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure food items to support mass feeding operations. • Provide certified food truck vendors to support the overall feeding strategy. • Participate in the Chatham County Mass Feeding Taskforce. • Provide for the proper storage of food provided during the emergency or disaster event.

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