Emergency Support Function – 14 Private Sector

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 – 14 Private Sector

ESF COORDINATOR:
Chatham Emergency Management Agency
Savannah Economic Development Authority

SUPPORT AGENCIES:
Buy Local Savannah
Greater Savannah Black Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Savannah Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Pooler Chamber of Commerce
Port Wentworth Chamber of Commerce
Savannah Chamber of Commerce
Savannah Downtown Business Association
Savannah Waterfront Association
South of DeRenne Avenue
Tourism Leadership Council – Savannah

INTRODUCTION

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

Purpose

ESF-14 Private Sector Annex supports the EOP and complies with standards set forth in the National Response Framework. This document provides guidance to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of a disaster or emergency on Chatham County's Private Sector community. This, however, is not a tactical response document. ESF-14 Private Sector is designed to ensure communication, resources and information for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities to address an emergency or disaster are occurring between both the public and private sectors.

Scope

ESF-14 acts to assist business and industry in disaster preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery actions in response to an emergency or disaster.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

During an emergency or disaster, ESF-14 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 staffing for the Private Sector Liaison position within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Preparedness

a. Develop strategies in coordination with CEMA to incorporate private sector/businesses into ESF-14.

b. Conduct outreach activities for private sector preparedness, such as a lessons learned workshop.

c. Inform businesses of re-entry procedures. Encourage registration for re-entry permits through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/ Homeland Security.

d. Determine which industries may be willing to assist with disaster operations.

e. Develop necessary MOU's and MOA's with identified membership organizations to support disaster response and recovery operations.

f. Coordinate with identified organizations to maintain membership lists of commercial and industrial suppliers of services and products to include points of contact associated with business and industry related functions.

g. Participate in training and/or exercises on an annual basis. Topics should include business continuity and private sector plan development for natural and man-made disasters.

h. Ensure all ESF-14 personnel integrate NIMS principles, where possible.

Response

a. Facilitate information sharing between government entities and private sector stakeholders.

b. Amplify emergency response messaging and communicate risk/vulnerability to business and industry stakeholders.

c. Assist the EOC with developing protection and response priorities for private sector critical lifelines and other economic/business centers.

d. Coordinate with business community needing assistance, as well as those that can donate support and how to receive support.

e. Assist with facilitation of in-kind and monetary donations from businesses.

Recovery

a. Assist EOC with restoration and recovery priorities and plans for private sector critical lifelines and other economic and business sectors.

b. Assist EOC with gathering damage assessment information for private sector organizations.

c. Amplify recovery messaging and communicate recovery resources (Small Business Administration – SBA) to business and industry stakeholders.

d. Coordinate with business community needing assistance, as well as those that can donate support and how to receive support.

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-14 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-14 most directly supports, along with the related ESF-14 actions supporting the capability.

Core Capability	ESF-14 Private Sector
Community Resilience	• Enable the recognition, understanding, communication of, and planning for risk and empower individuals and communities to make informed risk management decisions necessary to adapt to, withstand, and quickly recover from future incidents. This includes, but is not limited to: ➢ Business Continuity ➢ Operational Coordination ➢ Hazard Mitigation
Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment	• Assess risk and disaster resilience so that decision makers, responders, and community members can take informed action to reduce their entity's risk and increase their resilience. This includes, but is not limited to: ➢ Hazard Mitigation ➢ Business Continuity

Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency	Actions
Savannah Economic Development Authority	• Coordinate with private sector businesses and provide information to the EOC. • Coordinate the identification of businesses and industry needing immediate assistance. • Provide input on operational needs for restoration of business and industry during an emergency. • Provide virtual support to the EOC, if requested.
Chatham Emergency Management Agency	• Coordinate ESF-14 administrative, management, planning, training and preparedness activities. • Coordinate with ESF-14 stakeholders to provide pertinent emergency information. • Develop plans and procedures to support emergency or disaster operations.

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies	• Assist in the identification of businesses and industry needing immediate assistance. • Coordinate with business community needing assistance to amplify messaging from government sources. • Collect information and refer private sector organizations that are interested in donating either in-kind or monetary donations to non-profit organizations providing relief efforts. • Collaborate with the business community to create local employment opportunities that accelerate disaster recovery efforts. For example, encourage private sector partnerships to prioritize hiring displaced workers. • Develop appropriate plans, policies, procedures, mutual aid agreements, and other supporting documentation, as needed, to facilitate execution of responsibilities to this ESF. • Participate in training, exercises, and other preparedness events to support the readiness of this ESF. • Prepare to support the Emergency Operations Center virtually, as needed. • Document disaster-related activities in alignment with this ESF to ensure eligibility for federal public assistance. Detailed records of actions, such as resource use, personnel hours, and expenditures, are critical for securing reimbursement through programs like FEMA's Public Assistance Program. This documentation promotes

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies (continued)	• transparency, expedites funding, offsets financial burdens, and strengthens long-term resilience by demonstrating compliance with federal requirements.