

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4 FIREFIGHTING

Primary Agency

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services

Support Agencies

City of Canton Fire Department

City of Woodstock Fire Department

I. INTRODUCTION

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

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, Search and Rescue and ESF10, Hazardous Materials, 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 and ICS principles in all planning and preparedness initiatives.

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 GEMA for use of state 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 capability of County.
- i. When the situation dictates, coordinate with GEMA and/or SOC to invoke mutual aid agreements.
- 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 state 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 the state 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. Fire Fighting Services

1 Strategy

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be developed and maintained by the agency or organization that has primary responsibility for this section of the ESF, in cooperation with the EMA. This function will be coordinated with and involve other support agencies and organizations.

The firefighting services function is the primary responsibility of Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services and support for this function is the responsibility of City of Canton Fire Department and City of Woodstock Fire Department.

2 Actions

a. Mitigation/Preparedness

- i. Keep abreast of fire and weather forecasting information and maintain a state of readiness.
- ii. Implement efficient and effective MOUs among local fire agencies.
- iii. Establish reliable communications and incident command systems between support agencies, for an emergency site and EOC.
- iv. Recruit, train, and designate fire service personnel to serve in the EOC.
- v. Participate in drills and exercises to evaluate fire service response capability.

b. Response/Recovery

- i. Maintain a list of current fire service agencies and resource capabilities.
- ii. Coordinate fire services support among and between the EOC, functional support agencies, organizations, and SOC.
- iii. Obtain, maintain, and provide fire situation and damage assessment information.
- iv. Channel fire service information for public release through EOC.
- v. Conduct fire fighting operations.
- vi. Provide technical assistance and advice in the event of fires that

- involve hazardous materials.
- vii. Continue fire service operations through reentry.
- viii. Maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during recovery.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services

The Cherokee County Fire-Emergency Services is the lead agency responsible for all aspects of fire protection within the unincorporated areas of Cherokee County and the cities of Ball Ground, Holly Springs, Nelson, and Waleska. The Cherokee County Fire-Emergency Services is responsible for providing emergency medical services to all areas of Cherokee County including the cities of Ball Ground, Canton, Holly Springs, Nelson, Waleska, and Woodstock. The Cherokee County Fire-Emergency Services provides support services to the City of Canton Fire Department and the City of Woodstock Fire Department following established mutual and automatic aid agreements.

B. City of Canton Fire Department

The City of Canton Fire Department is the lead agency responsible for all aspects of fire protection and emergency medical first response within the City of Canton, GA. The City of Canton Fire Department provides support services to the Cherokee County Fire - Emergency Services following established automatic and mutual aid agreements.

C. City of Woodstock Fire Department

The City of Woodstock Fire Department is the lead agency responsible for all aspects of fire protection and emergency medical first response within the City of Woodstock, GA. The City of Woodstock Fire Department provides support services to the Cherokee County Fire - Emergency Services following established automatic and mutual aid agreements.

IV. COUNTY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

No County-specific information provided.