



Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Support Function # 4 Annex **Firefighting**



2015

ESF Coordinator and Support Agencies

ESF Coordinator

Georgia Forestry Commission

Primary Agency

Georgia Forestry Commission

Support Agencies

Georgia Air Operations Branch

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Georgia Department of Administrative Services

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Georgia Department of Correction

Georgia Department of Defense

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Georgia Department of Public Safety

*Georgia Emergency Management Agency/
Homeland Security*

Georgia Mutual Aid Group

Georgia Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 Firefighting serves as the mechanism to provide state support to local jurisdictions with fire suppression operations to include rural, wild land and urban fires resulting from incidents occurring in conjunction with or as the cause of activation of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP).

1.2 Scope

ESF#4 manages and coordinates firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on publicly and privately owned lands, provides personnel, equipment and supplies as well as subject matter expertise regarding incident management for all types of human-caused and natural disasters.

2.0 Concept of Operations

General

Agencies listed within this ESF are expected to manage the State response regarding firefighting operations by coordinating and mobilizing firefighting resources in support of local wild land, rural and urban firefighting agencies. The State of Georgia does not possess nor control significant structural firefighting resources; therefore the majority of requests for structural firefighting resources are often filled by municipal firefighting organizations from within Georgia or in jurisdictions close to State borders and or other municipal firefighting organizations from neighboring states. In catastrophic disasters or incidents of such significance as to warrant the activation of the GEOP, requests for structural fire suppression support are coordinated through ESF#4 within the SOC.

Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) representatives as well as those of support agencies listed within ESF#4, recognize the ongoing efforts of established firefighting organizations within Georgia regarding resource capability lists, mutual aid agreements and mobilization systems. The processes and procedures developed through these efforts will be utilized when applicable in preparedness and response activities coordinated through ESF#4 in the SOC. ESF#4 acknowledges responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs in firefighting activities lies primarily with the local emergency management officials and more importantly on scene incident commanders.

When local firefighting resources are overwhelmed and official requests for assistance are made of the State, ESF#4 will utilize both interstate and intrastate firefighting assistance and resources through statewide mutual aid agreements and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This is not intended to discourage local counties and municipal fire departments from entering into mutual aid agreements before significant incidents and disasters occur. Incidents requiring firefighting resources are normally quickly changing

situations involving life safety and property preservation operations that demand quick action. Mutual aid agreements at the municipal or county level can often times facilitate faster responses for requests for fire suppression resources in a more efficient and effective manner.

Requests for Federal assistance in obtaining firefighting resources for incidents occurring within Georgia are coordinated through ESF#4 and ESF#5 in the SOC to the Regional Response Coordination Center or Joint Field Office. Requests for State Department of Defense resources, in support of fire suppression operations are coordinated by ESF#4 through ESF#5 to the GA DOD Joint Operations Center.

Local governments are responsible for fire prevention and control within their designated jurisdictions and development of mutual aid agreements. Georgia Forestry Commission resources located within or assigned to county geographical areas are considered local first response resources for that that political jurisdiction or geographical area, though they ultimately remain under the command and control of the GFC. Local governments are responsible for requesting State support when a fire exceeds local capabilities.

The Primary Coordinator for ESF#4, Georgia Forestry Commission, is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of all State programs, as well as mutual aid agreements, State of Emergency and/or Presidential Declaration assistance. Execution of the Federal/State agreement for fire management is shared with ESF#5 Emergency Management.

In incidents calling for the activation of the GEOP, ESF#4 compiles damage assessment reports regarding areas impacted by fire. ESF#4 will also support local GFC Units, municipal and state firefighting agencies in documenting, collecting and processing all documents regarding reimbursable costs associated with response activities to natural and human-caused disasters resulting in State of Emergency or Presidential Disaster Declarations.

ESF#4 will report all activities to the ESF#5 Situation Unit, as described under ESF Coordination within the State Operations Center portion of this document, for inclusion in the development of incident action plans and situational reports. All public information reports regarding ESF#4 activities will be coordinated with ESF#15 External Affairs.

3.0 Assignment of Responsibilities

The assignment of responsibilities section establishes the organizations and agencies that will be relied upon to respond to a disaster or emergency situation. This section also includes tasks that these organizations and agencies are expected to perform.

3.1 ESF Coordinator

The Georgia Forestry Commission serves as the coordinator for ESF#4 and in partnership with Supporting Agencies listed within this ESF, coordinates all planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities regarding firefighting, and prevention.

3.2 Primary and Support Agencies

Georgia Air Operations

- Coordinates and prioritizes all requests for assistance for fixed wing or rotary aircraft within the State during disasters.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- Investigative expertise and coordination.

Georgia Department of Administrative Services

- Communications
- Equipment
- Vehicles

Georgia Department of Agriculture

- Equipment
- Personnel

Georgia Department of Corrections

- Equipment
- Personnel
- Vehicles

Georgia Department of Defense

- Aircraft
- Equipment
- Personnel

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

- Equipment
- Personnel
- Search and Rescue

Georgia Department of Public Safety

- Aircraft
- Escort
- Personnel
- Search and Rescue
- Traffic Control

Georgia Department of Transportation

- Aircraft
- Personnel
- Traffic Control

- Vehicles

Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security

- Communications
- Equipment
- Personnel

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

- Fire suppression expertise from the GA Fire Academy.

Georgia Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety

- Investigators
- Personnel

Local Emergency Management Agencies

- Coordination of Mutual Aid Requests for Fire Resources.

Local Fire Departments

- Equipment
- Personnel

Georgia Mutual Aid Group

- Assist in coordinating fire mutual aid requests.

3.3 Direction, Control, and Coordination

This section describes the framework for all direction, control, and coordination within the State of Georgia and other States.

3.3 A: ESF Coordination within State Operation Center

ESF#4 will report all activities to the ESF#5 Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of incident action plans and situational reports. All public information reports regarding ESF#4 activities will be coordinated with ESF#15 External Affairs.

When ESF#4 is activated, Georgia Forestry Commission, with assistance from supporting departments and agencies, assesses and responds to requests for assistance and planning or technical assistance from impacted local, state or federal agencies or other ESFs. ESF#4 may also be expected to provide planning and or technical assistance from impacted local, state or federal agencies or other ESFs.

In addition to the SOC, ESF#4 may provide personnel and/or equipment to field operations established in Georgia, including but not limited to: State Incident Command Posts (ICP) State Forward Operating Bases (FOB), Joint Field Offices (JFO), Disaster

Recovery Centers (DRC) and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each particular incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

3.3 B: Coordination of EMAC Request

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a national mutual aid agreement between the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. It is based on 13 Articles which have been enacted into state law by each state. In Georgia, EMAC is addressed in the O.C.G.A., Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 5.

States may only request assistance via EMAC when their governor has declared a state of emergency. EMAC requires that the state requesting assistance reimburse the state that provides the assistance. The Director of GEMA/HS is the EMAC Authorized Representative (AR) for the State of Georgia. The AR is tasked with the authority to commit and accept resources through EMAC partnerships. The AR may delegate this authority to the Operations Director, Deputy Operations Director and Finance Director of GEMA/HS. The GEMA/HS Logistics Program Manager is the designated contact (DC) for EMAC. In the absence of the Logistics Program Manager, the agency has identified alternate designated contacts. The DC is commonly referred to as the EMAC Coordinator. The DC coordinates EMAC operations and prepares the official EMAC Request for Assistance (commonly referred to as the REQ-A). When completed, the REQ-A becomes a contract between the requesting and assisting states for the provision of assistance in accordance with EMAC. When the SOC is activated, the Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit coordinates and manages EMAC missions. This unit will be initially staffed with GEMA/HS personnel, but will likely be augmented by trained EMAC personnel from other states as soon as possible. This unit is also referred to as an EMAC "A" Team.

ESF#4 will coordinate all EMAC requests with the GEMA/HS EMAC DC or the SOC Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit, when the SOC is activated. No resource (personnel or equipment) may deploy to another state via EMAC until the REQ-A has been approved and signed by the ARs of the requesting and assisting states, and they have been provided a copy of the REQ-A, briefed and prepared for the mission. To facilitate obtaining any assistance Georgia may need via EMAC, state ESFs should identify their shortfalls in capability and where resources may be obtained to provide this capability. This may be accomplished via informal coordination with sister agencies in other states to determine if the needed resource is available for potential deployment to Georgia, its location and the point of contact for the resource. Such information is critical in expediting a request for assistance via EMAC. For more information on EMAC, contact the GEMA/HS EMAC Designated Contact at 404-635-7200.

3.3 C: ESF Activation, Exercise & Improvement Planning

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles after action reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF#4 shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will

document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its annexes or ESF SOGs when applicable.

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF#4 will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops and conferences.

3.3 D: Development of Standard Operating Guides

The GEMA/HS Planning Section has provided standard operating guide development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the GEOP. All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready SOGs for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF# 4 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

3.3 E: Development of Resources Capability List

In conjunction with ESF#7 – Resource Support, ESF#4 will develop, review, refine and maintain lists of all resources currently available and under the control of the primary or support agencies listed in this plan. The development of these lists may be completed by several organizations and professional groups, which currently operate within this ESF. These resource lists should be compliant with the resource typing standards outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

4.0 ESF Annex Development and Maintenance

This Emergency Support Function Annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. In addition the document shall be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the Agency Exercise or Event After Action Reports / Improvement Plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow the issuance of any Governor Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.