

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 Fire Fighting

Lead Coordinating Agency: Escambia County Department of Fire-Rescue

Support Agencies: Escambia County Department of Public Safety
City of Pensacola Fire Department
Escambia County Road Department
Florida Division of Forestry
Escambia Search and Rescue, Inc.

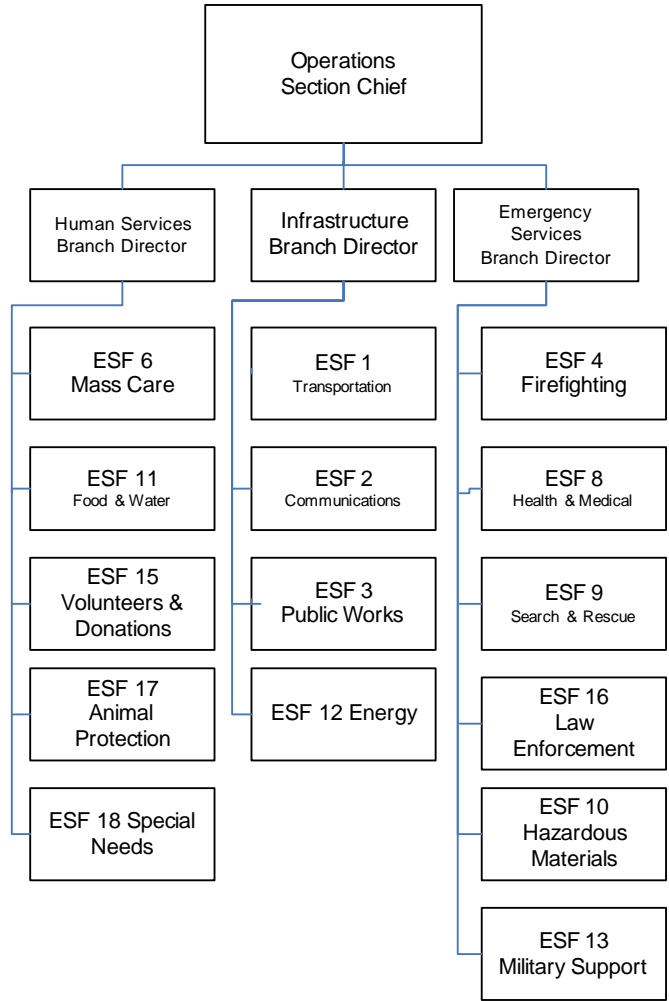
I. Purpose

The purpose of Emergency Support Function-4 (ESF-4) is to provide fire service coordination and support services in support of emergency events in Escambia County. ESF-4 can provide personnel and resources to support preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in support of the primary emergency management objectives. ESF-4 resources are used when individual agencies are overwhelmed and additional fire service assistance is requested.

II. Concept of Operations

A. GENERAL

1. ESF-4 is organized consistent with the CEMP. This structure and system supports incident command, assessment, planning, procurement, deployment, coordination, and support operations to Escambia County through the Escambia County Emergency Response Team.
2. Procedures, protocols and plans for disaster response activities are developed to govern staff operations at the Escambia Emergency Operations Center and in the field. These are in the form of the CEMP and corresponding Appendices, and Standard Operating Guidelines, which describe ESF-4 capabilities. Periodic training and exercises are also conducted to enhance effectiveness.
3. In a large event requiring local and State mutual aid assistance, ESF-4 will coordinate with support agency counterparts to seek and procure, plan, coordinate and direct the use of any required assets.
4. Throughout the response and recovery periods, ESF-4 will evaluate and analyze information regarding fire detection, suppression, and prevention requests for response, develop and update assessments of the fire service situation and status in the impact area, and do contingency planning to meet anticipated demands or needs.
5. When an event is focused in scope to a specific type or response mode technical and subject matter expertise may be provided by an appropriate person(s) from a supporting agency with skills pertinent to the type of event, who will advise and/or direct operations within the context of the Incident Command System structure.



Incident Command System: ESF 4 – Fire Fighting

B. ORGANIZATION

1. COUNTY

- a. During an activation of the County Emergency Operations Center, support agency staff are integrated with the Escambia County Department of Fire-Rescue staff to provide support that will allow for an appropriate, coordinated and timely response.
- b. During an emergency or disaster event, the Emergency Operations Center, Operations Section Chief will oversee resource prioritization and allocation from support agencies through the Emergency Services Branch Director.
- c. During the response phase, ESF-4 will evaluate and analyze information regarding fire service requests. Also, ESF-4 will develop and updates assessments of the fire service status in the impact area and undertake contingency planning to meet anticipate demands and needs.
- d. Escambia County Department of Fire-Rescue develops and maintains the overall ESF-4 Standard Operating Procedures that govern response actions related to emergencies. However, support agencies may develop and maintain their own similar documents for internal use, which must be compatible with and in support of the overall Emergency Operations Plan.

All such documents will be in compliance with the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

- e. ESF 4 will also provide impact assessment and needs assessment information back to the EOC as an organization in the field and in the community in the aftermath of a disaster to assist with data needed in the decision making process for prioritization of response in the community.

C. ALERTS/NOTIFICATIONS

1. Upon activation of the CEMP, the Department of Public Safety will notify the point of contact for ESF-4 through multiple methods.
2. The Lead ESF 4 Coordinating Agency representative or designee will coordinate all activities of ESF-4.
3. Upon instructions to activate ESF-4, The Lead Coordinating Agency will implement procedures to notify and mobilize all personnel, facilities, and physical resources likely to be needed, based on the emergency circumstance.

D. ACTIONS

Actions carried out by ESF-4 are grouped into phases. Each phase requires specific skills and knowledge to accomplish and requires significant cooperation and collaboration between all supporting agencies and the intended recipients of service. ESF-4 encompasses a full range of activities from training to the provision of field services. It also functions as a coordinator and, at times, assumes direct operational control of provided services. The following services may be provided:

- Assessment of Fire Rescue needs and potential impacts.
- Fire Rescue personnel.
- Fire Rescue equipment and supplies.
- Evacuation and Re-entry support.
- Emergency responder health and safety.
- Radiological/chemical/biological hazards.
- Mental health and crisis counseling for responders.
- Fire Rescue Public Information and risk communication.
- Fire Rescue Management, Command and control of assets.
- Fire Rescue activities related to terrorist threats and/or events.
- Catastrophic incident and alternate Fire Service facility support.

1. PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

- a. Actions and activities that develop fire service response capabilities may include planning, training, orientation sessions, and exercises for ESF-4 personnel and other emergency support functions that will respond with ESF-4. This involves the active participation on inter-agency preparedness organizations, which collaborate in such activities on a regular basis.
- b. Fire Departments will jointly address planning issues on an on-going basis to identify response zones, potential staging areas, potential medical facilities, and establish specialized teams as needed.

- c. Coordinate planning with ESF-4 support agencies and other emergency support functions as appropriate to refine fire- rescue operations.
- d. Coordinate the development and refine procedures to be used in the following field surveys: Rapid Impact Assessment, as required, and community Fire-Rescue assessments.
- e. Coordinate training and exercise for EOC and fire service response team members.
- f. Prepare and maintain standard operating procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of the responsibilities of the lead agency. Ensure lead agency personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.
- g. Coordinate the development and implementation of emergency response and fire fighting strategies.
- h. Coordinate and participate in training courses for ESF-4 personnel, provide information on critical facilities to the County Emergency Management and develop protocols for frequently provided services.
- i. Maintain liaison with support agencies.
- j. Coordinate vulnerability analysis at critical facilities and make recommendations to improve the physical security.
- k. Coordinate/participate in all-hazards exercises involving ESF-4.

2. RESPONSE ACTIONS

- a. Coordinate ESF-4 operations in the County Emergency Operations Center and/or at other locations as required.
- b. Establish and maintain a system to support on-scene direction and control and coordination with county EOC, Regional Domestic Security Task Force and the State EOC, or other coordination entities as appropriate.
- c. Coordinate implementation of Impact Assessment Teams to determine post-storm impact to Emergency Services functional group resources and ability to perform Continuity of Operations of essential functions.
- d. Fire-Rescue support to the RDSTF in the investigation of a terrorist attack.
- e. Pre-position response resources when it is apparent that fire-fighting resources will be necessary. Relocate fire-fighting resources when it is apparent that they are endangered by the likely impacts of the emergency situation.
- f. Monitor and direct fire fighting resources and response activities.
- g. Participate in EOC briefings, Incident Action Plans, Situation Reports and meetings.
- h. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support emergency activities.
- i. Obtain additional State resources through the Logistics section; coordinate all resources into the affected areas from designated staging areas.
- j. Coordinate with other County ESFs to obtain resources and to facilitate an effective emergency response among all participating agencies.

3. RECOVERY ACTIONS

- a. The Emergency Services Branch Director, in consultation with the requesting jurisdiction, may obtain additional fire service resources via established mutual aid agreements.
- b. The Florida Department of Financial Services, State Fire Marshals Office serves as the lead agency for fire rescue coordination for State resources in support of local operations and will designate a liaison to the EOC from the Regional Office and/or the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF). The liaisons have been trained to carry out ESF-4 responsibilities and will function as State coordinators, assessors, and operational personnel in support of local EOC or field activities.
- c. If more than one county emergency management operation center is activated, fire service may support the coordination of an event response with regional resources or request additional resources from the State Emergency Operations Center. The State Fire Service agencies will participate in a Multi-Agency coordinating entity to coordinate requests for fire service resources among multiple Emergency Operations Centers.

4. MITIGATION ACTIONS

- a. Identify and seek funds for retrofitting critical facilities (Fire-Rescue) and providing auxiliary power.
- b. Provide personnel with the appropriate expertise to participate in activities designed to reduce or minimize the impact of future disasters.

E. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

1. ESF-4 complies with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System and uses the Incident Command System to manage its emergency/disaster responsibilities.
2. The ESF-4 system operates at two levels:
 - a. County Emergency Operations Center;
 - b. Field operations.
4. During emergency activations, all management decisions regarding County or regional response are made at the County Emergency Operations Center in coordination with ESF-4 and the incident commander.
5. A staffing directory and the ESF-4 Standard Operating Procedures are maintained by the Lead Coordinating Agency and updated as required.
5. In accordance with a mission assignment from ESF-4, and further mission tasking by a local primary agency, each support organization assisting ESF-4 assignment will retain administrative control over its own resources and personnel but will be under the operation control of ESF-4. Delegation of mission operational control may be delegated to a management Support Unit, Multi-Agency Coordination Team or a local entity.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRIMARY AGENCY – ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE-RESCUE

- a. Provide leadership in directing, coordinating and integrating overall County efforts to provide fire rescue assistance to affected areas and populations through ESF 4 and the supporting agencies.
- b. Staff and operate a National Incident Management system compliant command and control structure (i.e., Incident Command System) to assure that services and staff are provided to areas of need.
- c. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of County agencies fire rescue personnel, supplies, and equipment and provide certain direct resources.
- d. ESF-4 Representatives or designees will jointly evaluate the emergency situation, make strategic decisions, identify resource needs and secure resources required for field operations.
- e. Monitor fire fighting emergency response and recovery operations. ESF-4 Fire Chiefs or designees will coordinate all State and Federal fire fighting resources into the affected areas from staging areas.
- f. Manage fire fighting and other emergency incidents in accordance with each department's Standard Operating Procedures and under the direction of ESF-4 Representatives or designee.
- g. Make specific requests for fire fighting assistance to the State ESF 4/State Fire Marshal's Office, through the Escambia County Liaison, as needed.
- h. Re-assess priorities and strategies, throughout the emergency, according to the most critical fire service needs.
- i. Assist with emergency evacuations and re-entry of threatened areas of the County.
- j. Demobilize resources and deactivate the ESF 4 station upon direction from the County Incident Commander.
- k. Coordinate field impact assessment information back through the EOC as appropriate.

2. SUPPORT AGENCIES

(NOTE: Each Support Agency should review its own roles and responsibilities and revise in conjunction with the Department of Financial Services, State Fire Marshals Office)

- a. Support agencies will provide assistance to the Emergency Support Function and coordinate services, staff, equipment, and supplies to meet the community needs and that compliment the entire emergency response effort generated by the hazards that may impact the County.
- b. The Department of Public Safety will provide EOC support, conduct briefings, direct needs assessments, distribute key information, and serve as liaison to the State EOC to request resources.
- c. Escambia Search and Rescue, Inc. (Emergency Support Function 9) will provide assistance in initial needs assessment, and augment fire service operations through specialized response capabilities.
- d. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will work with the Department of Financial Services by forwarding requests for fire fighting assistance to the seven regional response zones designated in the State of Florida Fire-

Rescue Disaster Response Plan (prepared by the Florida Fire Chiefs Association).

- e. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry serves as a primary agency during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center for a wildfire, will also request and coordinate the use of all State controlled and/or Forestry Agency Compact assets that are ordered for control of wildfires.

G. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. Each agency is responsible for managing financial matters related to resources that are procured or provided to fulfill a local, regional, statewide, or countrywide need and used during an event. ESF 4 will coordinate this information for reporting purposes with the support agencies and report the information to the EOC as appropriate. During a response, each agency/department is responsible for recording and tracking its own expenditures and seeking reimbursement from the appropriate resource during or after the event as required.
2. Expenditures by other departments and organizational entities will be documented by those individual entities and submitted directly to the Finance/Administration Section or a designated Finance Service officer as soon as possible for disaster documentation purposes only. Financial reimbursements will be managed and applied for by the individual organizations and agencies.

H. REFERENCES AND AUTHORITIES

- State ESF-4
- Fire Suppression Draft – Forestry
- The Guidelines of the State Emergency Response Team for Wildfire Events.” 1999 version
- The Florida fire Chiefs’ Association, Fire-Rescue Disaster Response Plan.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Emergency Support Function 8,” (March 1999).