

Annex 4 to Florence County EOP
ESF-4
Firefighting

PRIMARY: Florence County Emergency Management Department

SECONDARY: Johnsonville Fire Department
Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Fire Department
Pamlico Fire Department
South Lynches Fire Department
Lake City Fire Department
Olanta Fire Department
Sardis-Timmons Fire Department
Timmons Fire Department
West Florence Fire Department
Howe Springs Fire Department
Windy Hill Fire Department
City of Florence Fire Department
Florence Regional Airport Fire, Crash, Rescue
SC Forestry Commission (Florence County Forest Ranger)

I. Introduction

This ESF Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) is developed with the following understandings:

- A. Emergency Management Department serves as the primary agency for this ESF for the following reasons.
 - 1. It assumes the responsibility of maintaining this SOG.
 - 2. It assumes the responsibility of coordinating with each fire department from the EOC when the EOC is activated.
 - 3. It serves as the point of contact for mutual aid request.
 - 4. It serves as the lead agency for the Florence County Emergency Response Team (ERT) which is the county's primary HAZMAT response team.
- B. Each of the departments listed above as support agencies answer to their respective municipality, fireboard or commission and not the ESF-4 primary agency in all matters of internal policy, staffing, training and on scene operation.
- C. This ESF makes no distinction between urban and woodlands fire fighting operations.

II. Concept of Operations

Each of the ESF departments will conduct ongoing operational training keyed to their respective needs. Each department will follow its own SOG in respect to operations during the disaster cycle.

If the EM Director does not choose to activate the EOC (see paragraph IV, Concept of Operations; sub-paragraph A.2 of the Basic Plan for more details), a representative from EMD will go to the IC's location to provide assistance and/or coordination. If the event appears to be of long duration, the Mobile Dispatch and Command vehicle will be deployed to the scene upon the request of the IC.

If the EOC is fully activated, ESF-4 is staffed with one or more fireman/officers provided by the Florence County Fire Chief's Association. These firefighters will serve as a liaison between the fire departments and the EOC. The EM Director will provide this fire liaison with an 800 MHz radio, computer, Internet access, telephone and FAX. Using this equipment, the fire liaison will contact each fire department on an hourly basis to exchange information. The liaison will communicate and document all disaster related information between fire departments and the EOC.

The EM Director will ensure the fire liaison is afforded ample training opportunities on EOC operations. These training opportunities will normally coincide with annual hurricane response training sessions conducted at the beginning of hurricane season. Additionally, during any exercise in which the EOC is activated, the ESF-4 fire liaison will be included in the exercise play.

At the request of the EM Director, fire departments will conduct a Preliminary Damage/Needs Assessment of their respective jurisdictions following a disaster. Information concerning damage to roads, bridges, electrical systems, public structures and other infrastructure facilities will be reported to the ESF-4 liaison at the EOC. This information can be communicated via 800 MHz radio, talk group CD-2, telephone, fax or other means. Fire departments should use Attachment A (Damage Assessment – Quick Windshield Survey) to ESF-14 (Long -Term Recovery and Mitigation) as a guideline for conducting this assessment.

III. Specific Responsibilities

A. Fire:

a. Fire Departments

- i. The chief, or senior officer on scene, from the department having jurisdiction where the disaster occurs, serves as the Incident Commander (IC) and operates under the general guidelines of SC Code of Laws (Emergency Powers of Fire Districts). The IC will implement the Incident Command System (ICS) in accordance with NFPA 472, Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents and other related NIMS guidance.
- ii. If more than one jurisdiction is affected by the event or if there are multiple events ongoing, departments will be prepared to operate under a unified or area command concept.
- iii. If assistance is needed to conduct an evacuation ordered by the IC, it will be requested through the EOC or Central Dispatch. If assistance is needed in warning citizens of danger, the IC will request the EOC or Central Dispatch to activate REACHSC.
- iv. Fires which are the result of an airplane crash at the Florence Regional Airport will be handled in accordance with the emergency plan published by that facility.
- v. Fire departments will update EMD on the status of their equipment by federal typing standard.

b. EMD

- i. Respond to assistance request from fire departments through existing mutual aid agreements or by requesting resources through SEOC or Fire Fighter Mobilization (FFM).
- ii. Update WebEOC Resource list with information provided from fire departments.

B. HAZMAT:

a. Fire Departments

- i. Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) response operations are the responsibility of the fire department having jurisdiction at the scene of the accident.
- ii. Fire departments must be prepared to conduct or provide assistance to the ERT in conducting monitoring and decontamination of victims during chemical or radiological accidents.

b. EMD

- i. If assistance is requested by local fire departments during a HAZMAT response, the Florence County ERT will be deployed. The ERT will not assume command of any HAZMAT scene but rather fall into the IC structure under the Operations Branch. Specific ERT Operations are addressed in the Florence County ERT Response Plan: Appendix F (ERT Response Plan) to Annex 25 (Specific Hazards) of the Florence County EOP.

C. Urban Search and Rescue (SAR):

a. Fire Departments

- i. Unlike state ESF-4, county ESF-4 is only concerned with urban search and rescue operations. These types of operations are generally limited to recovery efforts of persons trapped within collapsed buildings or other confined spaces. Search and rescue operations dealing with the location of missing persons in rural terrain is the responsibility of ESF-13 (Law Enforcement) at the county level.
- ii. Because local fire departments have very limited SAR equipment and training, they will be prepared to request assistance through in-place mutual aid, the EOC (County EMD) or Central Dispatch.

b. EMD

- i. There is no county level urban SAR team or capability.
- ii. Upon request from local fire departments for SAR assistance, immediately submit a request for support from the Regional SAR team (Type II team) or SC Task Force 1 (Type I team).
- iii. Request will be documented on WebEOC and will be directed to the SEOC or the FFM.

IV. State Interface

This annex is supported ESF-4 (Fire Fighting), ESF-9 (Search and Rescue) at the state and federal level. County ESF-4 is authorized direct contact with these state agencies for the purpose of coordination and information exchange.

For structural fires the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (SC LL&R), Division of Life Safety is the state primary ESF-4 agency while for wild land fires, the SC Forestry Commission serves as the primary agency.

SC LL&R is the primary state agency for coordination of ESF-9 (Search and Rescue).

V. Update and Maintenance

This annex will be updated in accordance with paragraph XI (Plan Development and Maintenance) of the Basic Plan.