

ESF 4

Emergency Operations Plan – Emergency Support Function 4 *Firefighting*

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Lead Agency

Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry – Maine Forest Service

1.2 Supporting Agencies

- Department of Public Safety - Fire Marshal's Office (FMO)
- Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management - Maine National Guard (MENG)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)

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Section 2: Purpose, Scope, Situation, and Assumptions

2.1 Purpose

Emergency Support Function 4 (ESF-4), Firefighting, provides a framework for coordination and cooperation across state agencies to provide state support to county, local, and tribal governments for detecting and suppressing urban, rural, and wildland fires resulting from, or coincidental with, an emergency or major disaster.

2.2 Scope

- This annex does not to supplant the Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan.
- County, local, and tribal Incident Commanders will have primary responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs and will have tactical control of on-scene resources.
- State assistance provided to counties, cities, and towns may consist of personnel, equipment, facilities, materials and supplies, and/or subject matter expertise.
- State assistance through ESF-4 will only be provided once a county, city, or town has fully committed all firefighting resources available to it, including resources available through existing mutual aid agreements and private-sector resources that the jurisdiction may have contracted.

2.3 Situation

The management and coordination of a large firefighting operation is complex and may involve multiple agencies and jurisdictions. Fires that are potentially of disastrous proportion, or which coincide with another disaster situation, will place stress on the resources of county, local, and tribal entities. A major disaster or emergency incident may result in numerous urban, rural, and wild land fires. Ignition sources normally of little concern can become more dangerous under a disaster condition.

In disaster conditions, fires can spread rapidly, cause severe damage, and seriously threaten lives and property. Fire departments in the immediate vicinity of the disaster will likely become fully committed and stretched beyond response capacity. Local fire agencies and other firefighting resources will be difficult to obtain, manage, coordinate, and utilize due to the disruption of communication, transportation, utility, and water systems within the vicinity of the disaster and adjacent localities.

2.4 Assumptions

- County and local governments have emergency management resources, plans, and procedures already in place.
- Most incidents that require firefighting assets are local in scope and can be addressed by county, local, or state agencies as part of their normal day-to-day operations or existing mutual aid systems, using resources that are readily available to them.
- When an incident occurs, county and local governments will use their own response resources first, supplemented, as needed, by resources available through mutual aid or private sector contracts.
- Secondary events or disasters will threaten lives and property as well as firefighting personnel.
- Demand on county and local resources in anticipation of a major threat may outstrip local firefighting capabilities.

- In a no-notice event, county and local resources may be damaged and potentially unavailable to support firefighting activities, requiring immediate assistance from outside the jurisdiction.
- Access to impacted areas may be severely limited and only reachable via air, water, or off-road vehicle.
- ESF-4 responsible agencies have developed internal plans and procedures for implementing response activities in their respective areas of responsibility.
- Maintaining state-level communications capabilities across agencies with responsibilities detailed in this ESF-4 annex will be critical to maintain situational awareness regarding fire conditions and resource needs.

Section 3: Concept of Operations

3.1 General

This annex will be activated at the direction of Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) when there is the potential for a disaster or an existing disaster requiring statewide coordination of resources. The lead agency will provide direction to and work in conjunction with the support agencies to coordinate the activities of ESF-4.

Each responsible agency/organization supporting this annex shall designate a minimum of four trained persons to serve as a representative for their respective agency/organization at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to support ESF-4 activities.

The following are the objectives of ESF-4:

- Establish a framework for state level disaster-related firefighting preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.
- Provide situational awareness on the status of firefighting assets in Maine.
- Share information and coordinate firefighting-related response activities across state agencies in a manner that ensures consistency with established plans, policies, and procedures.
- Assist county, local, and tribal entities in managing and coordinating urban, rural, or wildland fire detection and suppression efforts, to include mobilizing and providing state assistance, as needed.
- Coordinate with other ESFs as incident response needs dictate.

3.2 Activities

Responsible agencies for ESF-4 should conduct the following activities:

a. Prevention

- Communicate and share information across agencies with firefighting responsibilities.
- Collaborate and coordinate on fire prevention initiatives.
- Conduct public education and outreach to the general public on fire prevention and safety.

b. Preparedness

- Notify MEMA of any changes that may impact the operation of this ESF.
- Participate in meetings of ESF stakeholders if coordinated by MEMA to review and update the ESF annex.
- Develop and maintain internal agency operational plans and procedures to support ESF-4 activities.
- Maintain current inventories of agency facilities, equipment, and materials and supplies
- Complete appropriate training.
- Ensure that ESF-4 responsible agencies have pre-designated staff available to support SEOC operations.
- Participate in exercises and training in order to test, validate, and provide working experience for ESF liaisons on this annex and related procedures.

c. Response

i. Pre-Impact

- Provide at least two representatives to the SEOC to support ESF-4. A total of four personnel must be trained to support the lead agency.
- Maintain communications with the SEOC, obtain status reports, and keep the SEOC informed of progress of assigned tasks.
- Notify the appropriate points of contact at each respective agency and organization to pre-position resources and response personnel, as needed.
- Review existing plans and procedures.
- Ensure agency decision makers are kept informed of the situation.
- Test communications systems.
- Mobilize and pre-position response resources when it is apparent that state firefighting resources will be required.
- Monitor forested areas for signs of wildfires, as needed.
- During periods of high fire danger, coordinate resources to support fire patrols and surveillance of forested areas.

ii. Initial Response

- If agency has not already done so, provide at least two representatives to the SEOC to support ESF-4. A total of four personnel must be trained to support the lead agency.
- Designate appropriate staff to support response.
- Gain and maintain situational awareness in order to plan effective response actions.
- Verify inventories of available firefighting resources and services and provide a summary listing to the SEOC Operations Section.
- Establish communications with appropriate agency field personnel to coordinate response efforts.
- Implement pre-determined cost accounting measures for tracking overall ESF-4 personnel, equipment, materials, and other costs incurred during emergency response actions.
- Pre-position response resources when it appears that state firefighting resources will be required.
- Use existing firefighting mutual aid agreements to coordinate with other state, county, and local agencies, other ESFs, and the State's fire mobilization coordinators in the commitment of firefighting, transportation, and resource procurement from outside the affected areas(s).
- Coordinate resources to support requests from county and local jurisdictions or state agencies.
- Coordinate with federal ESFs, as needed.

iii. Coordination with other ESFs

- ESF-8, Public Health and Medical Services, regarding medical assistance and the transportation of victims beyond the established collection sites.
- ESF-9, Search and Rescue, regarding search and rescue efforts.
- ESF-15, External Affairs, regarding fire prevention or fire safety.

iv. Ongoing Response

- When appropriate, coordinate and oversee requests for federal fire suppression assistance and other federal firefighting resources.

- Re-assess priorities and strategies according to the most critical firefighting needs.
- Track committed firefighting resources and provide regular updates to the SEOC Operations Section on the status of all missions assigned to ESF-4.
- Provide information to the SEOC Planning Section as needed to update Situation Reports and Incident Action Plans (IAPs).
- Draft recommendations for after-action reports and other reports, as needed

d. Recovery

- Participate in after-action meetings and/or draft recommendations for after action reports and other reports, as appropriate.
- Coordinate the demobilization of ESF-4 personnel when appropriate to do so.

e. Mitigation

- Identify potential firefighting issues and collaborate to develop or recommend plans, protocols, procedures, and policies to prevent or mitigate their effects.
- Conduct assessments of ESF capabilities to identify potential resource shortfalls.
- Develop plans to mitigate identified shortfalls of resources.

Section 4: Responsibilities

4.1 Lead Agency

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Maine Forest Service

- Provide situational awareness on status of DACF firefighting assets and operations.
- Provide assets and technical assistance to assist counties, cities, and towns with preventing, detecting, and suppressing forest fires.
- Coordinate resources to support the construction and maintenance of fire breaks and water holes, and engage in general fuel reduction activity within forested areas.
- Coordinate resources to support monitoring activities in forested areas to detect signs of wildfires.
- During periods of high fire danger, coordinate resources to support the conduct of fire patrols of forested areas.
- Identify and coordinate ESF staffing requirements at the SEOC and at MEMA offices as the situation may dictate.
- Coordinate with support agencies and MEMA to coordinate firefighting resources and prioritize resource needs according to incident priorities and objectives.
- Support the actions of other ESFs in accordance with established priorities.
- Provide regular updates on ongoing ESF-4 operations to the SEOC Operations and Planning Sections.

4.2 Supporting Agencies

a. Department of Public Safety - Fire Marshal's Office

- Provide situational awareness on status of FMO facilities, assets, and operations.
- Conduct public education and outreach to the general public on fire prevention and safety.

b. Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management - Maine National Guard

Provide firefighting equipment (e.g., bambi baskets) if requested.

c. Department of Corrections

Provide resources as available to assist in debris management and general labor.

d. Department of Labor

Provide consultation on health and safety issues.

Section 5: Supplementary and Procedural Documents

- Maine Radiological Emergency Response Plan

Section 6: References

- Maine Title 25, Chapter 315
- Maine Title 30A Chapter 153
- Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact