

STATE OF OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN



EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #4 FIREFIGHTING

COORDINATING AGENCY

Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal

PRIMARY AGENCY

Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal

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FIREFIGHTING

PRIMARY AGENCY: Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)
Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, (OFCA)
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA-FS)

I. INTRODUCTION

A Purpose

ESF-4 provides guidance to agencies, departments and organizations that are responsible for carrying-out fire suppression and related activities in rural, urban, and wildland settings, resulting from or occurring along with natural, technological or man-made disasters.

II. SITUATION

A All of Ohio has access to fire protection through a network of paid volunteer, private and public fire agencies.

B First responders are required to obtain certification to function as a firefighter in the State of Ohio, and firefighters are further required to maintain their certifications through continuing education.

C Firefighters are faced with numerous hazards, including:

1. Densely populated urban settings
2. High-rise structures
3. Limited equipment and personnel in rural settings
4. Limited access to utilities or natural resources to suppress wildland and/or forest fires

5. Terrorism attacks
 6. Hazardous materials incidents
- D. If necessary, specialized local response organizations/teams (Incident Management, Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Water Rescue and Emergency Medical Services) may be called upon to assist at an emergency scene.
 - E. The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of the State Fire Marshal, is responsible for the coordination and application of state resources to support local jurisdictions during a disaster.
 - F. The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association's Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response System (ERS) provides local fire chiefs with easy access to large quantities of fire service resources (hazmat, water rescue, fire response resources, emergency medical services, incident management assistance, etc.) that may be needed to respond to a major fire or natural or man-made disaster. The ERS provides for rapid activation and response of fire service resources in quantities beyond the means of a single fire department and local mutual aid.
 - G. The ERS is activated by local Incident Commander(s) through a central dispatch point. ERS response will be coordinated by one-or-more of eight Regional System Coordinators who will interact and coordinate with County System Coordinators in their region. County and regional coordinators will gather and analyze information on available resources, type resources in accordance with NIMS resource typing guidelines, and input the data into a central database. Regional and county coordinators will also train personnel regarding the use of and participation in the ERS.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Fire departments will employ the Incident Command System (ICS) at the scene of emergencies. The management and coordination of the response, including personnel, equipment, operating procedures, and communications will take place through the ICS.
- B. In most situations, local fire department personnel and equipment, in conjunction with personnel and equipment provided through preexisting mutual aid agreements, will be adequate to respond to emergencies facing local jurisdictions.
- C. The incident severity level for which resource needs will exceed local and preexisting mutual aid resources will vary across the state of Ohio, with urban areas more likely to manage larger incidents without additional assistance.

- D. A large-scale disaster's response needs will likely exceed the capabilities of a jurisdiction's local fire department and preexisting mutual aid resources.
- E. During major fires, large scale disasters, and other significant emergencies, the Incident Commander, or their designee, will report incident information, updates and/or changes to the appropriate local emergency operations center.
- F. Local emergency operations centers will communicate incident information regarding major fires, large scale disasters and other significant emergencies, including the status of resources, to the State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC).
- G. If it appears that a local jurisdiction may exhaust all of their resources and resources available through pre-existing mutual aid agreements, they will request additional resources from the Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response Plan, a system designed to commit local fire, EMS, and special resources to emergencies beyond the scope of normal preexisting mutual aid agreements.
- H. Once local jurisdictions have exhausted all available resources, state and federal resources may be made available.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A General Overview

1. Local jurisdictions have the responsibility of providing the first line of fire service protection. In disaster situations, the functions and duties of the responders will mirror normal day-to-day operations, with additional duties and procedures added as needed to maintain disaster-related continuity of operations, an adequate response level, and management of the prioritization of response.
2. As needed, local responders may employ the Emergency Alert System, or some type of public notification system and/or the dissemination of information pertaining to population protective actions including, if applicable, evacuation route information and instructions.
3. The first responding fire, law enforcement or other agency on the scene will alert other responders regarding the status of the situation.

4. The Incident Commander will be responsible for advising government executives regarding threat-related risks, recommending incident management methods, and resource needs and priorities.
5. When a local jurisdiction fire department is called upon to respond to a disaster situation, the Incident Commander may initially request additional services via local mutual aid. When a local jurisdiction's resources (from within the jurisdiction and through local mutual aid agreements) have been exhausted, they may request that the ERP be activated to provide additional assistance.
6. If fire response resources within the state of Ohio have been exhausted, then additional resources will be requested through EMAC and/or other means.

B. Wildfires

1. A wildfire or wildland fire is a fire in an area of combustible vegetation that occurs in the countryside or in a rural areas.
2. Depending on the type and location of impacted vegetation, a wildfire can also be classified more specifically as a forest fire, brush fire, bush fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire, or vegetation fire
3. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry will be the lead agency for wildfire response and will be supported by the following agencies:
 - a. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Air Pollution Control
 - b. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife
 - c. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation
 - d. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
 - e. Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of the State Fire Marshal
 - f. U.S. Forest Service
4. When called for to address resource allocation and prioritization issues, the Wildfire Task Force will be assembled and will be chaired by the ODNR Division of Forestry. The Task Force will be made up of the same agencies listed above.
5. The Wildfire Task Force will address the following considerations:
 - a. Identification of key response personnel and contacts.
 - b. Assessment and projection of the extent and potential impacts of wildfire threats.

- c. Review of existing wildfire protection capabilities and inventory ponds, lakes and dry hydrants which may be available in firefighting operations.
- d. Projections of needs for additional resources.
- e. Provision of technical planning and preparedness assistance.
- f. Recommendations of burning bans, in specified areas or statewide, based on current and expected wildfire activity.
- g. Provision of incident-related information and preparation of reports.

B. Relationship between Levels of Government

1. ESF-4 will coordinate disaster response-related firefighting response activities between local, state and federal agencies and departments, including the management and coordination of the mobilization of resources from the appropriate entities.
2. In federally-declared emergencies, most firefighting functions and support will be managed at the local and state level. Federal resources, such as USDA–FS, may be limited because those resources are being drawn upon on a national level rather than being available solely for a declared emergency site in a particular state.
3. The USDA-FS is responsible for fire suppression in the Wayne National Forest, however, the manpower or resources that would be called in by USDA-FS to fight a forest fire will be drawn from specially-trained volunteers throughout Ohio and the rest of the nation. Personnel who would have been activated to fight a fire in Wayne National Forest may already be committed to fighting a fire in their own Ohio local communities or in some other location in the United States.
4. The Agency Comparison Chart for ESF-4 organizations, below, lists the organizations in the federal ESF-4 team according to the National Response Framework and associated agencies at the state and local level.

<u>Local Organizations</u>	<u>State Organizations</u>	<u>Federal Organizations</u>
Local Fire Departments	Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal	*
County EMA	Ohio EMA	U.S. Department of Homeland Security/ Federal Emergency Management Agency
Local USDA-trained forest fire fighters	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service
County Engineers/City Street Departments	Ohio Department of Transportation	*
Local Emergency Response Organizations (Fire/EMS)	Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association – ERS	*
*		U.S. Department of Commerce
*		U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
*		U.S. Department of the Interior

V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) is the Coordinating Agency for ESF-4, and will be responsible for working with Support Agencies to ensure that there is a seamless integration of, and transition between preparedness, response, and recovery activities. The Coordinating Agency's primary responsibility will be to focus on engaging Support Agencies in pre-incident planning and coordination opportunities.
2. SFM is the Primary Agency for ESF-4, and will take the lead in coordinating and reporting on ESF-4-related missions and operations.
3. ESF-4 agencies will be activated through the State EOC for assessment, response, and recovery operations based on the needs of the emergency. Primary and Support Agencies will coordinate with one another to ensure the most effective use of personnel and equipment, to avoid redundant activities, and to cooperate on emergency response missions.
4. Agency-based resources will be provided as they are needed, and as agencies are able to provide them.

5. The activation of state-level response agencies through the State EOC will be dependent on an incident's type and magnitude. Minor incidents might be adequately addressed locally, while larger incidents might necessitate the activation of the State EOC's assessment, response and recovery capabilities, and the creation and completion of missions for and by State-level agencies through the State EOC.
6. Support agencies to this plan will provide support, personnel, advice, and equipment to local and state agencies and responders.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal

- a. Through onsite liaison(s) and/or other sources, report on the risks and methods of operation, including coordination of fire and rescue activities with affected county incident/disaster areas.
- b. Provide information on the availability of fire-fighting and EMS equipment on a statewide or area basis.
- c. Provide data, information and feedback to the State EOC for the purposes of generating status reports and after-action reports.
- d. Serve as trainers, advisors and SMEs; and provide onsite support for personnel who are operating through EOCs and ICSs.
- e. During emergency operations, through liaisons and/or other sources, acquire reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damages and evacuations from fire and rescue organizations, and provide them to the State EOC.

2. Ohio Emergency Management Agency

- a. Coordinate and facilitate emergency/disaster fire operations when the State EOC is activated or as directed by the Governor.

3. Ohio Department of Natural Resources

- a. Provide trained personnel and equipment to assist with the suppression of wildland fires throughout the forest fire protection areas of the state.
- b. Provide a technical representative and support to the ICS and/or the State EOC.
- c. Provide resources and/or support for rescue and related emergency response operations for wildland fires.

- d. Provide information on the availability of wildland fire-fighting equipment on a statewide or area basis.
 - e. Report on the risks and methods of operation, including coordination of fire and rescue activities with affected incident/disaster areas under their jurisdiction.
 - f. Develop and maintain a Fire Season Operational Plan that establishes guidelines for fire season preparedness and response.
 - g. Serve as the chair of a task force, which assesses and addresses drought-related impacts and threats of wildfire. The specific activities, as well as a listing of other agencies who serve on the task force, can be found in the Ohio Drought Appendix.
 - h. During emergency wildland fire operations, acquire reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damages and evacuations from fire and rescue organizations, and provide them to the State EOC.
 - i. Obtain additional firefighting resources via the Mid-Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Compact, and/or from other federal and state agencies via an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.
4. Ohio Department of Transportation
- a. Assist in maintaining access to arterial roadway corridors for firefighting equipment.
 - b. Provide equipment such as trucks, backhoes, loaders, dozers, etc. as permitted by statute.
 - c. Provide information to the State EOC regarding road conditions, including opened, closed and impaired routes.
5. United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
- a. Provide fire protection within Wayne National Forest and adjacent private lands.
6. Ohio Fire Chiefs’ Association
- a. Provide information on the availability of fire-fighting equipment on a statewide or area basis.
 - b. Manage the typing and tracking of emergency response resources in and via the ERS.

- c. Coordinate and facilitate the dissemination of information with ESF-4's Primary Agency through the State EOC.
- d. Coordinate and facilitate the dissemination of information to local response organizations regarding resource requests through the regional and county ERS coordinators.
- e. Provide data, information and feedback to the State EOC for the purposes of generating status reports and after-action reports.
- f. During emergency operations, assist the primary agency with acquiring reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damages and evacuations from fire and rescue organizations, and provide them to the State EOC.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each fire/rescue organization will maintain internal personnel notification and recall rosters, including communications, to implement call down of personnel assigned to the EOC, dispatch centers and response teams.
- B. These organizations will also be responsible for providing necessary support to their personnel for food, water, fuel and emergency power.
- C. A listing of available fire and rescue resources within each jurisdiction should be maintained by each County EMA Director.
- D. The Ohio Department of Public Safety maintains a resource database that lists all of Ohio's fire and rescue organization's resources, under direction and in cooperation with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association.
- E. The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association's Emergency Response System provides resource information to the Division of State Fire Marshal when requested.
- F. County and municipal coordinators encourage their jurisdictions to employ the state-wide mutual aid agreement as discussed in ORC 9.60.
- G. The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association will maintain the Emergency Response System, including the database.