

**OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 4**

FIREFIGHTING

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

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)
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 offers guidance to agencies and departments who are responsible for fire suppression in rural, urban, and wildland settings, resulting from or occurring with natural, technological or man made disasters.

II. SITUATION

A Virtually all of Ohio has access to fire protection through a network of paid and volunteer fire agencies.

B Although many first responders receive extensive training prior to joining a fire service agency, and then often attend periodic training to maintain their certifications, these men and women still face numerous severe hazards on a daily basis, including: densely populated urban settings, ever increasing high-rise structures, limited equipment and personnel in rural settings, limited access to utilities or natural resources to suppress wildland and/or forest fires, terrorism attacks, hazardous materials incidents, and radiological emergencies.

C If necessary, specialized local response organizations/teams may be called upon brought in to assist at an emergency scene. Examples of the operational expertise such teams could provide include, Incident Management, Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Radiological Field Monitoring, Water Rescue and Emergency Medical Services.

- D 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.

The Headquarters for the Division of State Fire Marshal is located at:

Division of State Fire Marshal
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
(614) 752-7189 or 1-800-589-7347

- E 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. This system provides for rapid activation and response of fire service resources in quantities beyond the means of a single fire department and local mutual aid.
- F The ERS will be activated by local Incident Commander(s) through a central dispatch point. The 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. In most situations, individual fire and EMS department personnel and equipment, in conjunction with personnel and equipment provided through preexisting mutual aid agreements, will be adequate enough to respond to any disaster.
- B. Fire departments utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) at the scene of a disaster. The management and coordination of all resources, personnel, equipment, procedures, and communications will take place through the ICS. The Incident Commander, or their representative, will report this information, and any updates or changes to appropriate local emergency operations centers.
- C. Local emergency operations centers will communicate incident information and the status of resources to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
- D. Once local jurisdictions have exhausted all of their resources, state and federal resources may be made available.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A General Overview

1. Local jurisdictions have the responsibility of providing fire service protection. In disaster situations, the functions and duties of the responders will mimic normal day to day operations with the addition of the following duties. These include utilization of either the Emergency Alert System, or some type of public notification system and the dissemination of information pertaining to population protective actions including, if applicable, evacuation routes information.
2. Radiological hazard-specific information is addressed in the Ohio Plan for Response to Radiation Emergencies at Licensed Nuclear Facilities, local Radiological Emergency Response Plan, SARA Title III Plans, and the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan.
3. The first fire department on the scene will alert other responders regarding the status of the situation. The Incident Commander is responsible for advising decision makers about the risks associated with the threat and recommending methods for managing the incident.
4. In a disaster involving the likelihood of exposure to radiological contamination, trained personnel will be issued radiological monitoring equipment through the County EMAs, by Ohio EMA's Radiological Instrumentation Maintenance and Calibration Facility in order to detect and measure radiological exposures.
5. Procedures for addressing the radiological decontamination of response personnel, equipment, supplies, instruments and facilities will be established by local response organizations and/or county emergency operations plans.
6. When a local jurisdiction's fire department is called on 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 ERS be activated to provide additional assistance.
7. If fire response resources within the state of Ohio have been exhausted, then additional resources will be requested through EMAC and other means.

B Relationship Between Levels of Government

1. ESF-4 will coordinate firefighting response activities between local, state and federal agencies and departments. This management and coordination will include a mobilization of resources from the appropriate entities.
2. In federally-declared emergencies, most firefighting functions and support occur on a local and state level. Federal resources, such as USDA–FS, may be limited due to the fact that those same resources are being drawn upon on a national level rather than being available solely for a declared emergency site in a particular state.

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 comes 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. The end result is that local or state should not rely only on federal personnel or resources. This awareness then should be the catalyst to develop mutual aid agreements on a local, statewide, and contiguous state level if applicable.

3. 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>Comparison Chart for ESF-4 Organizations</u>		
<u>State Organizations</u>	<u>Federal Organizations</u>	<u>Local Organizations</u>
Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal	*	Local Fire Departments
Ohio EMA	U.S. Department of Homeland Security/ Federal Emergency Management Agency	County EMA
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service	Local USDA-trained forest fire fighters
Ohio Department of Transportation	*	County Engineers/City Street Depts.
Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association - ERS	*	Local Emergency Response Organizations (Fire/EMS)
	U.S. Department of Commerce	*
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	*
	U.S. Department of the Interior	*

C Phases of Emergency Management

Local, state and/or federal agencies and departments that have fire and rescue responsibilities should consider the following examples of Pre-Emergency, Emergency and Post-Emergency actions.

1. Mitigation

- a. Review hazard/vulnerability analysis, including forest and grassland areas.
- b. Review, upgrade and ensure enforcement of fire codes
- c. Present fire safety programs
- d. Require all new construction to conform to building fire codes
- e. Prepare EOPs/SOPs/mutual aid agreements and supporting checklists.

2. Preparedness

- a. Review mutual aid agreements.
- b. Review and upgrade existing fire warning plans.
- c. Test fire-warning systems.
- d. Train staff and volunteers for fire and rescue operations.
- e. Inspect equipment for serviceability.
- f. Review communication interaction with other county EOCs as well as the SEOC.
- g. Review and update auxiliary and supporting personnel information.
- h. Review the Incident Command System.
- i. Review fire safety and fire suppression with SEOC personnel.
- j. Inspect shelter sites for fire safety.
- k. Brief shelter personnel about fire safety and provide fire support.
- l. Identify and type emergency response resources.

3. Response

- a. Employ the Emergency Alert System.
- b. Establish communications with SEOC and report any damage observed.
- c. Deploy fire/rescue personnel with equipment based upon prioritization of need during emergencies.
- d. Track deployed resources.
- e. Call for mutual aid forces, as needed. Designate staging area for mutual aid and volunteer forces.
- f. Perform rescue operations.
- g. If trained, perform assigned radiological functions. Coordinate these and other actions and responsibilities with the Ohio Department of Health.
- h. Support SEOC as required.

4. Recovery

- a. Conduct fire inspections.
- b. Identify potential fire hazards, such as damaged gas lines and power lines.
- c. Provide for decontamination functions.
- d. Survey damage to fire equipment and facilities.
- e. Compile record of events.
- f. Review fire codes in relation to the disaster and recommend improvement where necessary.
- g. Inspect all repairs made to existing facilities and any new facility construction for fire prevention safety.
- h. Monitor all demolition operations.
- i. Determine cause and origin of the disaster if possible. Incidents involving arson or the use of an explosive device bombing should be investigated for the possibility of arson or terrorist activities.
- j. Perform after-action reviews and prepare corrective action plans.

V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

A Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal

1. Report on the risks and methods of operation, including coordination of fire and rescue activities with affected county incident/disaster areas.
2. Provide information on the availability of fire-fighting equipment on a statewide or area basis.
3. Provide data, information and feedback to the SEOC for the purposes of generating status reports and after-action reports.
4. Serve as trainers and mentors for personnel who are utilizing the ICS.
5. During emergency operations, acquire reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damages and evacuations from fire and rescue organizations, and provide them to the SEOC.

B Ohio Emergency Management Agency

1. Coordinate emergency fire operations when the SEOC is activated or as directed by the Governor.

C Ohio Department of Natural Resources

1. Provide trained personnel and equipment to assist with the suppression of wildland fires.
2. Provide a technical representative and support to the ICS and/or the SEOC.
3. Provide resources and/or support for rescue and related emergency response operations.
4. Provide information on the availability of fire-fighting equipment on a statewide or area basis.
5. Report on the risks and methods of operation, including coordination of fire and rescue activities with affected incident/disaster areas under their jurisdiction.
6. ODNR has developed and maintains a Fire Season Operational Plan. This document establishes guidelines for fire season preparedness and response. A copy of this plan can be found in ESF-4, Tab #3.

7. ODNR also serves 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.
8. During emergency operations, acquire reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damages and evacuations from fire and rescue organizations, and provide them to the SEOC.

D Ohio Department of Transportation

1. Assist in maintaining access to arterial roadway corridors for firefighting equipment.
2. Provide equipment such as trucks, backhoes, loaders, dozers, etc. on an as needed basis.
3. Provide information to the SEOC regarding road conditions, including opened, closed and impaired routes.

E United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

1. Provide fire protection within Wayne National Forest.
2. State and local fire suppression organizations may request assistance for the USDA-FS, through ODNR and OEMA, to provide assistance in the form of either equipment or personnel specific to wildland or forest firefighting. Personnel or equipment provided by USDA-FS may not necessarily be federal in origin. Instead, USDA-FS maintains a list of people and equipment from different departments across the United States that are available through mutual aid agreements to assist other organizations.

F Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, via the Emergency Response System

1. Provide information on the availability of fire-fighting equipment on a statewide or area basis.
2. Manage the typing and tracking of emergency response resources in and via the ERS.
3. Coordinate and facilitate the dissemination of information with ESF-4's Primary Agency through the SEOC.
4. Coordinate and facilitate the dissemination of information to local response organizations regarding resource requests through the regional and county ERS coordinators.

5. Provide data, information and feedback to the SEOC for the purposes of generating status reports and after-action reports.
6. During emergency operations, acquire reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damages and evacuations from fire and rescue organizations, and provide them to the SEOC.

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 and/or the president of the local fire association.
- 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.

VII. TABS

- A. Tab A – Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry - Wildfires
- B. Tab B – Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry – Fire Season Operations Plan