

Mississippi Emergency Support Function #4 – Firefighting Annex

ESF #4 Coordinator

Mississippi Fire Marshal's Office

Primary Agency

Mississippi Insurance Department

Support Agencies

Mississippi Forestry Commission
Mississippi State Fire Academy
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

Federal ESF Coordinator

Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest

Federal Primary Agency

Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest Service

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to provide state support to local government in major fire suppression which includes fires located in the wilderness, rural, suburban, or urban areas of the State. These major fires may result from or occur coincidentally with a catastrophic natural disaster, technological disaster, man made disaster, or act of terrorism.

Scope

If an emergency or major disaster occurs that overwhelms local fire resources, ESF #4 of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) will be activated to provide support to those jurisdictions affected. The support provided through ESF #4 will be obtained through the Statewide Mutual Aid Compact (SMAC) or Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

If such a fire-related emergency or major disaster grows beyond the State's capabilities, the National Response Framework (NRF) will be activated, with the US Department of Agriculture/Forest Service (USDAFS) having primary coordination responsibilities.

Relationship to Whole Community

This section describes how ESF #4 relates to other elements of the whole community.

State, Territorial, Tribal and Local

Firefighting is an inherently local responsibility. Local fire resources often receive assistance from other fire departments/agencies through established mechanisms identified in local mutual aid agreements. Further assistance can be obtained through an established intrastate mutual aid system. If additional assistance is required, firefighting resources can be requested from other jurisdictions through processes established under mutual aid agreements, state-to-state or regional compacts, or other agreements. If the governor of the affected state has declared an emergency, firefighting resources may be requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). If the President has declared an emergency or major disaster under the Stafford Act, firefighting resources may also be requested through ESF #4. Using

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existing authorities and agreements, ESF #4 can mobilize wildland and structure firefighting resources from across the country and from several foreign countries through the national firefighting mobilization system to incidents anywhere in the United States.

- Except where specified in agreements or through a formal delegation of authority, assisting firefighting resources report to and become part of the command structure of the requesting jurisdiction.
- Coordination with and support of local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area fire suppression organizations is accomplished through the state (or equivalent) forester, state fire marshal, state emergency management agency, or other appropriate state, tribal, territorial, or insular area agency or tribal fire suppression organization. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the local Incident Commander.
- Shortages of critical firefighting resources are adjudicated at the lowest jurisdictional level.
- Many firefighting agencies provide additional functions such as emergency medical services, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response. During a Federal response, these resources may support multiple ESFs in support of different core capabilities.

Private Sector/NGO

- Private-sector resources for firefighting support are mobilized through standard contract procedures.

Policies

- All state assistance provided to local areas, whether from state agencies, other states, or the federal government, will be coordinated by ESF #4, located at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
- Priority is given to protection of firefighters, the public, and property, in that order.
- Acquisition of resources acquired by ESF #4 in support of county and municipal structural fire suppression organizations is accomplished through state, regional, and county fire coordinators. Support of wildland fires is coordinated by the State Forestry Emergency Coordinator and the State Fire Coordinator.
- All local resources will be expended or committed by local government before assistance is requested from other local governments through the SMAC or from the Federal Government.
- There shall be frequent consultation between state officials who have emergency management responsibilities, other appropriate representatives of party states, and the Federal Government, with the objective of a free exchange of information, plans, and resource records relating to emergency capabilities.
- Each participating agency will coordinate its support with both ESF #4 and ESF #5. This coordination is essential whether or not the Mississippi Incident Management Assistance Team (MS IMAT) or Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNA) may be operating from the SEOC, from the forward

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State Hurricane Support Center (SHSC), the State Earthquake Support Center (SESC), or MEMA's Mobile Operations Center (MOBOPS).

- The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used in managing the response effort.

Concept of Operations

Assumptions

- Local fire services mutual aid agreements and other compacts will be activated as appropriate. Note that most fires are handled and suppressed by the local department of the affected area. However, this ESF would be activated when their resources and mutual aid agreements have been exhausted and State assistance is required.
- All available local, private, semi-private, and state resources will be deployed through SMAC to the maximum extent possible to contain and suppress both urban fires and wild land fires as needed.
- Should the above available resources become over-taxed for any reason, assistance from Federal ESF #4 agencies will be requested.

General

- When activated, ESF #4 will manage and coordinate the state firefighting activities from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). ESF #4 will operate under the Unified Command Concept. The nature of the fire dictates whether the State Fire Coordinator or the Chief Forrester leads the ESF #4 efforts.
- A catastrophic situation may require the establishment of an additional forward coordination element at one or more of the district offices or at another facility near the affected fire impacted area.
- State fire suppression operations will be accomplished by mobilizing state firefighting resources in support of local fire departments upon request by local government.
- The responsibility for a fire scene situation assessment lies primarily with local Incident Commanders and their firefighting personnel. A request is made to the local EOC for state resources, if needed, which in turn will contact the SEOC for that assistance.
- County Fire Coordinators are divided into ten regions coordinated through the State Fire Coordinator's office.
- The State Forestry Commission office is located in Jackson and has four districts offices, each headed by a District Forester, which are all coordinated through the state office.
- All designated ECOs from primary and support agencies report to the SEOC where direct coordination of firefighting resources and response activities will take place.
- Close coordination is maintained with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order to ensure awareness for potential mobilization.

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- If state emergency fire resources have either been exhausted or are expected to be exhausted prior to meeting the demand, the State ECO for ESF #4 will recommend that assistance be requested from other states through the EMAC or from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Such a request to FEMA for assistance could prompt the implementation of the NRF.

Organization

ESF #4 is part of the SEOC Operations Section, Emergency Services Branch.

Field Units

- Field units are each of the sites with an Incident Commander (IC).
- ESF #4 may be asked to provide personnel to the Joint Field Office (JFO) to work closely with their federal counterparts.

Administrative and Logistical Support

- All agencies supporting ESF #4 will receive primary administrative support from their parent organization with additional support from MEMA as needed.
- Logistical support will be provided to participating agencies at the established Point(s) of Arrival (POA), Mobilization Centers (MC), and Staging Areas (SA).

Actions

Preparedness

The State Fire Coordinator, Department of Insurance in conjunction with support agencies:

- Ensures that ESF Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are developed and maintained that conform to this plan and provide greater detail on the ESF operations.
- Trains and exercises ESF #4 personnel.
- Supports development and maintenance of SOPs to enable them to perform appropriate levels of fire-related response and recovery.

Pre-Incident

- Provide staffing of ESF #4 personnel if 24 hour coverage is necessary.

Incident

- Upon activation of ESF #4, the Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) will communicate information to all other ESF #4 members.

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- Establish communication links with the Regional/Area Fire Coordinators.
- Obtain an initial fire situation and damage assessment through established intelligence procedures.
- Provide technical advice and assistance for the containment and extinction of the fire(s) if requested.
- Coordinate the distribution of assets as requested.
- Coordinate the state's fire suppression resources with the federal supplemental resources if necessary.
- Maintain a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records, and reports utilizing the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Tracking System.
- Assist in gathering and providing information to ESF #5 for establishing priorities.
- Maintain close consultation with USDA/USFS in order to ensure awareness for potential federal ESF #4 mobilization, if required.
- Obtain, maintain, and provide incident situation and damage assessment information through established procedures.
- Coordinate all ESF #4 activities with MEMA and all support agencies tasked in this document.
- Assist in the overall assessment and evaluation of the magnitude of the fire(s).

Recovery

- For wild land fires, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) evaluates the burned areas. This evaluation will be conducted with regard to the need for salvage and reforestation.
- For wildland fires, MFC requests evaluations are conducted by responsible state agencies on wildlife habitat and watershed damage: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP).
- If the burn site was in an urban area, primary clean-up will be the responsibility of each individual business entity or homeowner that was affected.

Post-Incident

- Collects initial observations within 10 days of stand-down.
- Prepare an after-action report. The after-action report identifies key problems, indicates how they are to be/were solved, and makes recommendations for improving ESF response operations. All ESF #4 organizations assist in preparation of the after-action report.

Mitigation

- A mitigation plan is developed after the event.

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Responsibilities

In accordance with Section 3-15-14(2)(a)(viii), MS Code of 1972, annotated, all agencies with ESF #4 responsibilities will ensure that they have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to enable them to perform appropriate levels of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to firefighting.

State Fire Coordinator - ESF Coordinator

- Assist in the preparation and submission of damage assessment and other fire-related reports.
- Assist in the overall assessment and evaluation of the magnitude of the fire(s).

State Fire Coordinator - Primary Agency

- Develop and maintain a database of fire departments, personnel and equipment within Mississippi and make a determination of the types and amounts of assistance that might be available from the local departments in a catastrophic event.

Support Agencies

Agency	Functions
Mississippi Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administer and manage the Commission's current fire suppression capabilities.• Submit through the Governor/MEMA a request for federal assistance.
Mississippi State Fire Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist ESF #4 in staffing.• Provide technical assistance to local fire departments in the suppression of urban fires.• Provide procedures and resources for controlling and suppressing all fires created from a catastrophic disaster.• Assist MEMA in designing and delivering training and exercise programs.
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and deliver training to fire services organizations in areas such as Incident Command System (ICS), Hazardous Materials Incidents, Emergency Planning, etc.• Assist with hazard analysis to determine the potential impact of specific hazards on state and local fire suppression capabilities.• Coordinate exercises at the state and local level involving fire service/emergency management organizations.• Provide training materials, public education materials, and other items available through FEMA to local fire service organizations.

ESF #4 Review and Maintenance

As a minimum, the state agency contact will coordinate and conduct an annual review of this annex with all support agencies. Additional reviews may be conducted if experience with an incident or regulatory changes indicate a need. Recommendations for change will be submitted to MEMA for approval, publication, and distribution.