

ANNEX 4 (ESF-4)

FIREFIGHTING

PRIMARY: Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR), Division of Fire and Life Safety (Structural Fires)

SC Forestry Commission (SCFC) (Wildland Fires)

SUPPORT: As directed within the SCEOP, each supporting agency and organization will respond to coordinate the emergency activities of its department for a declared earthquake disaster.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In the event of a catastrophic earthquake, coordinating and planning at the state level is essential to support local governments for fire incidents. This coordination is particularly important under conditions where fire incidents will be widespread, occurring simultaneously, and when many of the same resources will or may be utilized for search and rescue of trapped persons and control/containment of HAZMAT.
- B. In the earthquake situation described within the loss estimation reports, it can be expected that fires will occur primarily due to ruptured gas lines and electrical shortages.
- C. ESF-4 will prepare for disaster response using the Operational Area Concept and worst case loss estimation data in Attachment C to the Basic Plan.

II. MISSION

To coordinate and mobilize fire and emergency services resources, personnel and equipment; and to coordinate other state resources to support local governments and other states with these resources to detect and suppress urban, rural, and wildland fires following an earthquake disaster.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. It can be expected that fire mutual aid within the affected area may be sharply curtailed because of the earthquake. The widespread regional nature of the event will affect many jurisdictions simultaneously. Broken water supply pipelines, search and rescue incidents, communication services, and lack of mobility resulting from transportation network usage will hamper local fire response and assets available to respond.
- B. Response operations will use an Earthquake Checklist that will be executed following a strong earthquake. Activities in the Earthquake

Checklist do not replace required activities normally assigned to ESF in the SCEOP and supporting ESF SOP. The Checklist activities are to ensure that critical actions are completed or continuing at the appropriate time during an earthquake response. See Attachment A to this Annex for Checklist.

- C. The SC Firefighter Mobilization Plan will be activated in conjunction with SEOC activation. Fire service units will self-mobilize to staging areas as outlined in the Firefighter Mobilization Plan. Currently, the SC Fire Academy and Columbia Metropolitan Airport are designated as staging areas for fire services. If other staging areas are needed, ESF-4, in coordination with ESF-9 will select locations.

- D. ESF-4 will:
 - 1. Integrate the Firefighter Mobilization Plan within the Operational Area Concept to include assigning a regional coordinator to serve as a liaison in the Operational Areas. This will also include:
 - a. Strategy to provide fire services assets to support the Operational Areas;
 - b. Supporting personnel to support ESF-1 Air Branch missions to assess damage to critical facilities, to include compacts with Southeastern Forest Fire and USDA Forest Service Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC);
 - c. Pre-packaged equipment to include type; and
 - d. Equipment and personnel shortfalls including sources and delivery timeline.
 - 2. Coordinate with ESF-1 to provide transportation requirements for communication teams and equipment.
 - 3. Identify alternative water sources in the Operational Areas. Water can be obtained from sources such as dry-hydrants, ponds, lakes, rivers, or the ocean.
 - 4. Coordinate communication requirements with ESF-2.
 - 5. Request to activate the Southeastern Forest Fire Compact and notify the USDA Forest Service SACC in Atlanta for mobilizing aerial resources (i.e., helicopters with buckets and air tankers) as well as Incident Management Teams (IMT).

6. Coordinate with ESF-19 to support ESF-4 shortfalls if heavy-duty equipment is available.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of the fire protection mission, ESF-4 functions include but are not limited to:

A. Preparedness

1. Analyze the Loss Estimation Reports prepared by SCEMD on fire ignitions in the Operational Areas.
2. Integrate the Firefighter Mobilization Plan within the Operational Area Concept. See Section III.C.1.
3. Assign regional coordinator(s) to coordinate the fire service in the Operational Areas.
4. Determine procedures for ensuring effective radio communication with all responding fire service units.
5. Provide State and Regional Firefighter Mobilization Coordinators with the Operational Area Concept to include information on the potential number of fires for each Operational Area.
6. Prepare and coordinate with ESF-1 to provide transportation requirements for fire services equipment.
7. Identify resource shortfalls and prepare documentation to request additional resources.
8. Prepare and coordinate with ESF-19 to support ESF-4 shortfalls if equipment is available.
9. Activate and test communications systems in the Operational Areas.

B. Response

1. Implement the ESF-4, Earthquake Checklist. See Attachment A to this Annex.
2. Conduct area assessment for potential fire hazards in the area.

3. Implement the Firefighter Mobilization Plan for the Operational Areas.
4. Activate communication systems.
5. Request transportation support from ESF-1.
6. Coordinate with ESF-19 to provide heavy equipment to suppress wildfire.
7. Identify broken gas lines where wildfires are burning, and deploy aerial resources to suppress wildfires.
8. Utilize heavy equipment to assist in opening access routes by removing debris.
9. Coordinate with ESF-1 Air Branch and notify and mobilize SCFC pilots for aerial recon missions.
10. Activate SCFC LSA team, and stage them at the SCFC Columbia headquarters awaiting decision on LSA location.
11. Contact SCFC personnel in affected area to determine usability of communications and heavy equipment operation.
12. Activate LSA with IMT; work with ESF-7 to obtain items for operating the LSA, and have it operational within 24 hours.
13. Coordinate with Federal ESF 4 and SACC deploy IMT to run base camps or perform other incident management functions.

C. Recovery

See Recovery Section, Annex 4, (ESF-4) to the SCEOP.

D. Mitigation

See Mitigation Section Annex 4, (ESF-4) to the SCEOP.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LLR, Division of Fire and Life Safety

1. Analyze the Loss Estimation Reports prepared by SCEMD on fire ignitions in the Operational Areas.
2. Review and update as necessary the Earthquake Checklist for ESF-4.

3. Integrate the Firefighter Mobilization Plan within the Operational Area Concept. See III.C.1.
4. Assign regional coordinator(s) to coordinate the fire service in the Operational Areas.
5. Provide State and Regional Firefighter Mobilization Coordinators with the Operational Area Concept and the loss estimates for each Operational Area.
6. Determine procedures for ensuring effective radio communication with all responding fire service units.
7. Coordinate with ESF-2 on communications requirements for earthquake response.
8. Develop plans to transport resources by air and sea. Coordinate with ESF-1 to identify transportation requirements to support ESF-4.

B. Forestry Commission

1. Analyze the Loss Estimation Reports prepared by SCEMD on fire ignitions in Operational Areas.
2. Review and update as necessary the Earthquake Checklist for ESF-4.
3. Activate the Southeastern Forest Fire Compact and coordinate activities with the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) and the USFS as required.
4. Determine procedures for ensuring effective radio communication with all responding wildfire control units.
5. Coordinate with ESF-2 on communications requirements for earthquake response.
6. Develop plans to transport resources by air and sea. Coordinate with ESF-1 to identify transportation requirements to support ESF-4.
7. Develop plans to incorporate IMT teams into operational area planning.

VI. FEDERAL INTERFACE

The National Response (NRF) ESF-4, Firefighting, supports this Annex.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A ESF-4 Earthquake Checklist

ESF-4 (Firefighting)

Date/Time complete

1. * _____ Activate and test communications systems in the Operational Areas.
2. * _____ Activate SC Firefighter Mobilization Plan
3. _____ In coordination with the Air Branch, notify SCFC pilots, and mobilizes SCFC aircraft for aerial recon missions.
4. _____ Notify Southeastern Forest Fire Compact and the USDA Forest Service SACC in Atlanta for mobilizing aerial resources (i.e., helicopters with buckets and air tankers) as well as Incident Management Support Teams (IMSTs) for running base camps.
5. _____ Notify SCNG for the availability of Blackhawks and/or Chinooks with Bambi buckets for wildfire suppression or for transportation of heavy equipment such as dozers and engines.
6. _____ Activate SCFC LSA team, and stage them at the SCFC Columbia headquarters awaiting decision on LSA location.
7. _____ Contact SCFC personnel in affected area to determine usability of communications and heavy equipment operation.
8. _____ Identify broken gas lines where wildfires are burning, and deploy aerial resources to suppress wildfires.
9. _____ Utilize heavy equipment to assist in opening access routes by removing debris.
10. _____ Activate LSA with IMT; work with ESF-7 to obtain items for operating the LSA, and have it operational within 24 hours.
11. _____ In coordination with Federal ESF 4 and SACC deploy IMTs to run base camps.
12. _____ Provide ESF-1 transportation requirements into the area.
13. _____ Keep abreast of current and forecast weather conditions for fire suppression.

Attachment A to Annex 4
Earthquake Checklist

***NOTE:** All Checklist activities listed are essential, and should be completed. However, Checklist activities denoted with an asterisk are critical, and should be completed first. Other action items can be executed simultaneously to expedite response actions.