

**ANNEX 4**  
**ESF-4 - FIREFIGHTING**

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**COORDINATING:** South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of State Fire (structural fires); South Carolina Forestry Commission (wildland fires)

**PRIMARY:** South Carolina Department of Transportation; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; South Carolina Department of Public Safety; South Carolina National Guard

**SUPPORT:** South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. State program assistance under this function includes actions taken through the application of equipment, manpower and technical expertise to control and suppress urban, rural, and wildland fires that have, or threaten to, become disasters.
- B. Provision of services will be in accordance with the Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000, as amended 2013 (South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 23, Chapter 49), mutual aid compact agreements with local governments, private industry, other States and established recognized standard firefighting methods.

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. Coordinate and mobilize fire, rescue and emergency services resources, personnel and equipment.
- B. Coordinate other State resources to support local governments and other states with these resources to detect and suppress urban, rural, wildland fires, and other fire protection issues.

**III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. ESF-4 consists of two distinct components, structural fires and wildland fires, with a separate agency responsible for each component.
  - 1. Structural Fires. SC Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (SCLLR), Division of State Fire is responsible for the coordination of all administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities pertaining to structural fires.
  - 2. Wildland Fires. SC Forestry Commission is responsible for the coordination of all administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities pertaining to wildland fires.
    - a. Once on the scene, the SC Forestry Commission will assume incident command responsibilities if the incident is a forest or wildland fire.

- b. The SC Forestry Commission will function under its own statutory and internal guidelines.
  - c. Wildland fire protection in unincorporated areas is the responsibility of the SC Forestry Commission, but may be supplemented by other resources when required.
  - d. If public fire service organizations are involved, they will support the SC Forestry Commission by protecting structures and property as assigned, and will provide a Liaison Officer to the Incident Command staff (see South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 48, Section 48-33-40).
- B. SCLLR, Division of State Fire, and the SC Forestry Commission are jointly responsible for developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-4 SOP.
- C. ESF-4 Supporting Agencies will assist SCLLR, Division of State Fire, and the Forestry Commission in the planning and execution of the above.
- D. ESF-4 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the corresponding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the structure, organization, functions and responsibilities of the Incident Management Assist Teams (IMAT) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- E. ESF-4 will coordinate with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations who may support ESF-4 to ensure operational readiness prior to, during or after an incident, emergency, or disaster.
- F. Municipal governments and fire districts are responsible for providing fire prevention and suppression services within their incorporated areas. ESF-4 will provide assistance when requested as per the Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000.
- G. County, city, towns and other fire protection organizations are responsible for requesting State support through the appropriate County Emergency Management Agency when a fire hazard, fire incident, or disaster exceeds local capabilities. Additional assistance may be provided by other State agencies, private companies, and cooperating industries.
- H. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the local Incident Commanders in coordination with the IMAT.
- I. Based on known or projected threats, imminent hazards or predicted disasters that may require additional resources, ESF-4 may coordinate the mobilization of resources and the staging of them at designated locations in a condition to respond if assistance is requested.

- J. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000, amended 2013, (South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 23, Chapter 49) mobilizes fire and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency that requires additional resources. ESF-4 will use the mobilization plan to obtain additional fire resources, as needed.
- K. In coordination with and in support of the Counties, ESF-4 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and, in coordination with local emergency management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.
- L. ESF-4 will coordinate with Federal ESF-4 to obtain Federal assistance as required.

#### **IV. ESF ACTIONS**

##### **A. Prevention/Protection**

- 1. In coordination with supporting agencies, maintain situational awareness of operational readiness as well as current inventories/databases of fire service facilities, equipment, and qualified personnel throughout the State.
- 2. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
- 3. Conduct prior coordination for military and air support assets for firefighting operations.
- 4. Participate at least annually in State exercises and/or conduct an exercise to validate this Annex and supporting SOPs.

##### **B. Response**

- 1. Receive request for support and coordinate with Firefighter Mobilization to determine resource availability.
- 2. Coordinate with ESF-19 (Military Support) for use of state military assets to support firefighting operations.
- 3. Maintain situational awareness of firefighting assets/resources to include:
  - a) Assets/Resources committed
  - b) Assets/Resources available
  - c) Assets/Resources requested
- 4. In accordance with the Firefighter Mobilization Plan, plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.
- 5. Support fire investigations and inspections, as requested.

6. Obtain and submit fire situation and damage assessment reports and provide information to SEOC.
7. In response to wildland fires, establish communications with the Federal Regional Fire Coordinator, when activated, to coordinate fire response beyond the State's capability.
8. When the situation dictates, request additional assistance through the local and regional fire service mutual aid, Firefighter Mobilization, Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, and EMAC.
9. Provide ESF-4 representation on the Recovery Task Force.

C. Recovery

1. Coordinate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction of resources.
2. Participate in agency after action reviews of incident actions with teams involved to improve future operations.
3. Maintain reports of lost or damaged equipment and records of injuries or equipment accidents.
4. Coordinate with FEMA and plan for the arrival of Federal ESF-4 personnel in the SEOC and JFO.
5. Inform agencies that provided resources where to send records for costs incurred during an event.
6. Support long-term recovery priorities as identified by the Recovery Task Force.

D. Mitigation

1. Review, evaluate, and comment on proposed State Hazard Mitigation Plan amendments, upon initiation and within review period.
2. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or State/Federal briefings, situation reports, and action plans.

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. General. ESF-4 coordinating, primary, and support agencies will:

1. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.
  2. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-4 during periods of activation.
  3. Conduct agency after action reviews of incident actions with involved.
  4. Document any lost or damaged equipment, record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents and provide reports through ESF-4.
- B. South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of State Fire
1. Identify, train, and provide Division of State Fire personnel to staff ESF-4 in the SEOC.
  2. Notify all ESF-4 (i.e., structural fires) supporting agencies upon activation.
  3. In accordance with the Firefighter Mobilization Plan, maintain database of fire service facilities, equipment, and qualified personnel throughout the state.
  4. Develop, organize, alert, activate, and deploy firefighting and rescue resources.
  5. Maintain situational awareness of fire service operations and provide updates to SEOC.
  6. Monitor weather conditions that contribute to increased fire danger.
  7. Support local fire departments and the Forestry Commission with appropriate resources to include mobilizing and deploying firefighting teams and resources as needed.
  8. Assist with the coordination of fire service resources that may be required during an animal disease emergency.
- C. South Carolina Forestry Commission
1. Identify, train, and provide SC Forestry Commission personnel to staff ESF-4 in the SEOC.
  2. Notify all ESF-4 (i.e., wildland fires) supporting agencies upon activation.
  3. Maintain a database of SC Forestry Commission facilities, equipment, and personnel throughout the state.

4. Support ESF-4 with technical staff and maintain SC Forestry Commission resources ready to respond to support ESF-4 and wildland fires.
5. Provide fire weather and danger forecasts to all wildfire suppression forces through the SC Forestry Commission communication network.
6. Monitor weather and forest fuel conditions that contribute to increased fire danger.
7. Conduct statewide wildfire prevention to include public wildfire information and education activities for the public.
8. Issue Red Flag Fire Alert warnings and State Forester's Burning Bans (South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 48, Section 48-35-50) as needed.
9. Request Governor's Burning Ban (South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 48, Section 48-31-10) as appropriate.
10. Conduct evaluation of burned areas with regard to need for salvage and reforestation.
11. If required, coordinate the evaluation of wildlife habitat and watershed damage from responsible agencies.
12. Conduct origin and cause determinations on wildland fires and cooperate with support agencies to prosecute wildland arson.
13. Provide incident management teams to support suppression of large wildfires.

D. South Carolina Department of Transportation

1. Maintain a database of DOT assets used to support fire service operations.
2. Provide equipment, fuel, personnel, shop service, and transportation assets to support fire service operations.

E. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Assist with conducting arson investigations as requested.

F. South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Assist with evacuations, traffic management, and monitor highway closings resulting from fires.

G. South Carolina National Guard

Identify, train, and assign personnel to execute missions to include aerial fire suppression in support of ESF-4 during periods of activation.

H. South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

Conduct air sampling and provide appropriate air quality notification in order to protect the public.

**VI. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

- A. This Annex is supported by National Response Framework, ESF-4 (Firefighting).
- B. Federal ESF-4 provides Federal support for the detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response for assistance.
- C. Federal wildfire response support is coordinated by the Regional Fire Coordinator provided by the Forest Service Regional Office.
- D. The Regional Fire Coordinator is responsible for establishing and maintaining coordination with the National Fire Suppression Liaison Officer, Forest Service Region, Regional Support Agencies, and IMATs.
- E. A Fire Suppression Support Coordinator at the JFO will represent Federal ESF-4.
- F. Coordination with Federal ESF-4 and support of state and local fire suppression organizations by Federal assets is accomplished through the State Forester; SCEMD; State Fire Marshal (Deputy Director), SCLLR State Fire; and other appropriate fire suppression organizations operating under NIMS and ICS.
- G. Federal ESF-4 will manage and coordinate Federal firefighting activities. This will be accomplished by mobilizing firefighting resources in support of state and local wildland, rural, and urban firefighting agencies. Federal ESF-4 will use established firefighting and support organizations, processes, and procedures.