

HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

ANNEX D - EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 4 — FIREFIGHTING/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

COORDINATING AGENCY: Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Hamilton County Facilities Management
Hamilton County Engineer's Office
Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security
Local Fire/EMS Departments
Local Law Enforcement
Cincinnati Water Works

I. PURPOSE

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 — Fire/EMS, offers guidance to agencies and departments, who are responsible for fire suppression in rural, urban, wild land settings, medical emergencies or other incidents that are the result of natural, technological, or man-made disasters.

Each ESF representative is responsible for the dissemination of information that may be of value to other ESF representatives located in the Regional Operations Center (ROC). This information sharing contributes to the response and recovery during an emergency/disaster of any type.

II. SITUATION

Fire is the most likely disaster facing Hamilton County. It has the possibility of generating the secondary hazards of hazardous materials incidents and utility outages. The risks associated with a fire emergency are mainly to lives, property, utilities, and municipal infrastructure. Fire, always a danger, could become more lethal during a natural or man-made disaster that impacts the county. Fire, flood, aircraft crashes, train accidents, hazardous materials incidents and numerous other causes occasionally create situations which require dispersal of firefighting/EMS equipment beyond that which is normal.

- A. Virtually all of Hamilton County is provided with fire and emergency medical service protection through a network of paid, volunteer, and combination paid/volunteer fire and EMS departments.
- B. A majority of Hamilton County is serviced by fire hydrants. In the event of a long-term water outage a water contingency plan will have to be identified.
- C. Although these first responders receive extensive training prior to joining a department, and then often attend routine training to maintain their certifications, these men and women still face numerous severe hazards on a daily basis. Some of those hazards are: 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 wild land and/or forest fires, water rescue, rope rescue, terrorism attacks, hazardous materials incidents, and radiological emergencies.
- D. If necessary, specialized teams or response organizations may be brought in to assist on scene in the suppression of the fire or containment of the emergency. Examples of these teams are Urban Search and Rescue, Fast Water Rescue, and Rope Rescue Teams

(more information on these is located in ESF #9) and Hazardous Materials teams for WMD or Radiological Emergencies (more information on these is located in ESF #10).

- E. The Emergency Medical Services are capable of providing;
 - a. First responder emergency medical services
 - b. Medical transport
 - c. Mass Casualty services to include; Triage, Treatment, and Transport
 - d. Manage the forward movement of patients – moving patients from one region to another to reduce the burden on the local medical system.
- F. The State Fire Service Emergency Response Plan was developed to aid local fire/EMS departments in mobilizing large quantities of personnel and equipment.
- G. Assumptions
 - 1. Planning for every firefighting or EMS contingency is beyond the scope of this ESF but it will outline broad objectives that will provide the greatest protection of life and property that can be achieved with the resources available.
 - 2. In most situations, individual department personnel and equipment, in conjunction with personnel and equipment provided through preexisting mutual aid agreements, the State Fire Service Emergency Response Plan, and the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (ORC 5502.41) should be adequate enough to respond to any disaster.
 - 3. In Hamilton County, the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ Incident Command System (ICS) is utilized at the scene of emergencies. Requests for assistance will be forwarded to the Regional Operations Center from the Incident Commander or his/her representative. **For a description of the Incident Command System, see the Basic Plan.**
 - 4. Once local jurisdictions have exhausted all of their resources, and a local emergency declaration has been declared, state and federal resources may be made available.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. General Overview
 - 1. Local jurisdictions have the responsibility of providing fire and EMS 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 route information.
 - 2. The first fire/EMS department on the scene will establish command, following the NIMS/ICS, and alert other responders regarding the status of the situation. The Incident Commander will then be responsible for advising decision makers about the risks associated with the threat and recommending methods for suppression.
 - 3. Hamilton County Emergency Management is responsible for notifying the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association during emergencies. The representative from the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association who responds to the ROC is the primary coordinating agent for ESF #4. He/she will coordinate with the Incident

Commander(s) at the site of the disaster and work with ESF #4 support organizations to provide resources.

4. In the event of an emergency that requires the activation of ESF #4 there will also be a need for large numbers of volunteer resources to coordinate such things as emergency sheltering, feeding sites, and other duties not previously assigned. These volunteers, for example American Red Cross, CERT, RACES, and COAD are activated and coordinated under ESF #6 — Mass Care.

B. Relationship Between Levels of Government

1. The ESF #4, Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association Representative, will manage and coordinate firefighting/EMS activities between local, county, state, and federal agencies and departments. In non-emergency times, the ESF4 Coordinator will be an advocate for preparedness training.
2. Generally speaking, even in federally declared emergencies, most firefighting/EMS actions and support occur on a local, state, and intrastate level. Federal resources, such as the USDA – Forest Service, 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. Therefore it is paramount that mutual aid agreements are formalized on local, county, state and intrastate levels.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

All ESF #4 organizations are responsible for development of internal Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) that support ESF #4 and ROC operations.

- A. The lead agency for ESF #4 is the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association Representative. The lead agency acts as the spokesperson for the ESF on fire/EMS issues and maintains an overview of countywide operations during emergencies. The lead agency may defer to support organizations for briefings and information releases related to support agency's specific programs or areas of concern.

B. Assignment of Responsibility

1. The Hamilton County ESF4 Coordinator will:
 - a. Report to the ROC upon its activation. From this location the coordinator will report on the risks and methods for fire suppression, including coordination of fire and rescue activities within affected county disaster areas.
 - b. Brief other ESF representatives on the status of fire related activities.
 - c. Coordinate with the on-scene IC to assess the fire situation, including a determination of the area to which the fire might expand and an estimate of speed and direction of wind at the scene.
 - d. Coordinate with the on-scene IC to assess the EMS situation, including determination of incident type, number of casualties, and resource needs.
 - e. Evaluate the overall community situation. Compare reports from the scene by the incident commander with those of other services to obtain a comprehensive assessment of the threat. This evaluation will provide a basis for determining effective courses of action tailored to the situation

- f. Obtain from the local jurisdiction whether they have executed the Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response Plan and if their capabilities (including mutual aid) will meet the needs of the incident.
 - g. In conjunction with the IC, begin planning for the acquisition of additional equipment and personnel that may be required to effectively respond to the incident.
 - h. Begin developing secondary water supply contingencies.
 - i. Coordinate 24-hour ESF #4 staffing for the Hamilton County EOC during emergencies.
 - j. Review, and if directed by the IC, initiate plans for evacuation of risk areas as required. Designate exit routes for threatened citizens and entrance routes for Emergency Services. This is done in coordination with ESF #1 — Transportation, ESF #5 — Emergency Management, ESF #13 — Law Enforcement, and ESF#15 — Public Information.
 - k. Receive reports pertaining to casualties, injuries, damage observations, evacuation status, radiation levels, chemical exposures, and potential needs. Each fire/EMS organization will maintain authority within its own jurisdiction and will relay these reports to the ROC during an emergency.
 - l. Obtain an initial assessment of each fire/EMS organization's available personnel, apparatus, equipment and facilities.
2. Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security will:
- a. Assist in coordinating resource support for ESF #4 response.
 - b. Activate ESF #5 — Emergency Management to begin planning initial county level response and information support.
 - c. Notify the Hamilton County Commissioners.
 - d. Review emergency operations plans and procedures.
 - e. Activate the ROC as needed.
 - f. Establish periodic ROC briefing sessions.
 - g. Activate other Emergency Support Functions as needed.
 - h. Notify Ohio EMA of the current situation in Hamilton County to enable them to begin initial planning if the situation escalates.
 - i. If necessary, make a request to the Board of County Commissioners to issue a formal emergency declaration, thereby beginning the process of obtaining additional resource assistance and funding. Should the disaster exhaust county & state resources, the Governor may seek assistance from FEMA.
 - j. Assist in the consolidation and submittal of final reports, and disaster-associated costs.
3. Hamilton County Engineer's Office will:

- a. Assist in maintaining access to arterial roadway corridors for firefighting/EMS equipment.
 - b. Provide equipment such as trucks, backhoes, loaders, dozers, etc. on an as needed basis.
4. Hamilton County Facilities Management will:
- a. Provide equipment on an as needed basis.
5. Cincinnati Water Works will:
- a. Maintain pressure to the hydrant system and address disruptions to the water supply.
 - b. Maintain a listing of water resources in Hamilton County.
 - c. Provide equipment such as trucks, backhoes, loaders, dozers, etc. on an as needed basis.
6. Local Fire/EMS Departments will:
- a. Conduct firefighting/EMS operations in accordance to established plans, mutual aid agreements, and the State Fire Service Emergency Response Plan.
 - b. Maintain inventories of firefighting/EMS staffing and equipment.
 - c. Establish staging areas following ICS guidelines.
7. Law Enforcement will:
- a. Provide traffic control.
 - b. Provide security for firefighting, emergency medical, and rescue operations, as needed.
 - c. Maintain law and order.

V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF #4, FIREFIGHTING/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- A. Each fire/EMS 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 rehabilitation: food, water, fuel and emergency power.
- C. Each agency, department or jurisdiction shall be responsible for the maintenance of their own agreements, SOPs, SOGs, MOUs, and ESFs
- D. The Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response Plan, Hamilton County Fire/Rescue Coordinator, shall maintain a county inventory of available fire, EMS, and rescue

resources within each jurisdiction. This information can be found in the Hamilton County Resource Support (Future)

VI. TECHNICAL RESOURCES

- A. Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association Standard Operating Guidelines