

ESF 4 – Firefighting

Purpose

This ESF Annex provides guidance for the organization of Sumner County resources to respond to fires resulting in an emergency situation exceeding normal firefighting capabilities. Specifically, it discusses:

- Fire suppression and prevention activities
- Mutual aid and resource augmentation
- Fire command and control structure

Fire prevention and control are daily problems faced by fire service personnel. These problems become more significant during disaster/emergency situations. Several hazards present difficulties with regard to fire protection including extensive fires, wildfires and hazardous material incidents/accidents.

The Sumner County Fire Districts, city fire departments and other supporting agencies have existing emergency plans and procedures. ESF-4 is not designed to take the place of these plans, rather it is designed to complement and support the departmental staffing and procedures already in place.

Scope

This ESF Annex is designed to provide a flexible organizational structure capable of meeting the varied requirements of many emergency scenarios with the potential to require activation of the Sumner County Emergency Operations Center (SuCoEOC) and implementation of the Sumner County Emergency Operations Plan (SuCoEOP).

ESF-4 is a functional annex to the SuCoEOP and to the extent possible, information contained in other sections of the EOP will not be repeated in this document.

Policies

This ESF annex applies to all agencies and organizations with assigned emergency responsibilities as described in the SuCoEOP.

The ESF-4 Coordinator, the Sumner County Fire Chiefs Association and the support agencies are critical members of the EOC Team and will work within the EOC structure described in ESF-5 Emergency Management.

Sumner County Fire Districts and the city fire departments train their personnel in the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to help ensure coordination during emergency situations.

REFERENCES:

- K.S.A. 12-111, Fire Fighting Beyond Territorial Limits of the City.
- K.S.A. 80-1502, Contracts by Cities.
- K.S.A. 19-3621, Mutual Aid between Fire Service Units.
- K.S.A. 12-16, Rendering Assistance to Other Jurisdictions during Disasters.
- Sumner County Resolution No. 2005-28, dated August 29, 2005, establishing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the system to be used for planning, responding, recovery and mitigating from both natural and man-made disasters within the county.

Concept of Operations

General

The Sumner County Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the Sumner County Fire Chiefs Association is designated as the coordinator for ESF-4. As ESF coordinator, Sumner County Emergency Management coordinates meetings, plans, exercises, trainings, and other activities with the private sector and the ESF-4 support agencies.

Fire Fighting resources within Sumner County are dispatched by the Sumner County E-911 Emergency Communications Center. The exceptions to this are Clearwater Fire/Rescue who is dispatched by the Sedgwick County Communications Center, Mulvane Fire/Rescue who is dispatched by Mulvane Department of Public Safety, Norwich Fire/Rescue (Norwich) who is dispatched by the Kingman County Sheriff Dispatch, Udall Fire/Rescue (Udall) who is dispatched by Cowley County (Winfield) Emergency Dispatch Center. All of these excepted agencies have the ability to communicate on all frequencies utilized by agencies within Sumner County and will utilize a frequency assigned by Sumner County E-911 Emergency Communications if the response area lies outside of their normal areas of operation (i.e. mutual aid response and/or automatic aid response).

A comprehensive resource inventory of county fire department apparatus and equipment is maintained by Sumner County Emergency Management.

The Fire Chief of each jurisdiction is responsible for coordination, planning, training and the development of fire fighting operational policy for that jurisdiction. Included is the coordination of fire services during an emergency/disaster occurring within the boundaries of that department's responsibility. Control over personnel and equipment will be retained within the given jurisdiction at all times. Providers of specialized equipment are responsible for ensuring the proper training and certification of equipment operators.

Under NIMS, the Safety Officer assesses hazardous and/or unsafe situations, and either develops measures or ensures compliance with existing policies for assuring personnel safety of responders.

Organization

Incident Commander(s) will assess the need for additional resources and request that the SuCoEOC deploy assets to support field operations.

Outside firefighting resources will be controlled by the procedures outlined in mutual aid agreements. These agencies will remain under the direct control of the sponsoring agency, but will be assigned by the Incident Commander and/or the SuCoEOC to respond as necessary. The Sumner County Emergency Operations Center (SuCoEOC) will serve as the central location for interagency coordination and executive decision-making, including all activities associated with ESF-4.

The ESF-4 team members are critical members of the EOC Team and will work within the EOC structure as described in ESF-5 Emergency Management.

Critical/Specialized Capabilities

Rescue

Sumner County has a specialized rescue team composed of members from the Wellington Fire/EMS Department. The Rescue Team is trained in specialized auto extrications, high angle rescue, water rescue and terrestrial search and rescue.

Medical

The majority of fire districts/departments that serve Sumner County have medically trained First Responders. These first responders will act as Medical Control and begin initial treatment and triage for the eventual transportation to a medical facility by the various Sumner County EMS departments.

Mass Care

Fire departments/districts serving Sumner County can assist with the delivery of non potable water for critical facilities in the event of a disaster. Caldwell Fire Department has been designated as the primary potable water source in a disaster or water emergency.

Damage Assessment/Inspections

During the initial stages of a disaster, the fire departments/districts serving Sumner County can assist in the preliminary damage assessment. During the recovery phase, each city/fire district Fire Chief can assist in fire safety inspections of post-disaster housing, sheltering, and feeding facilities as required.

Hazardous Material Incidents/Accidents

Local fire departments are responsible for the initial response and, if possible, containment of hazardous materials. If the scope of the problem is beyond the capabilities of the local fire department, the Incident Commander may call for the response of the County Hazardous Materials Team through the Sumner County Emergency Management Agency.

The Incident Commander will determine the hazard level of the incident, identification of the material and direct the activities of responders and affected population. Certain members of the fire departments in Wellington, Arkansas City and have been trained to Technician Level for hazardous materials, and make up a Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team through the Kansas Fire Marshal's office. Most fire department personnel in Sumner County are trained to at least the Awareness Level for hazardous materials in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120.

Notifications

The Incident Commander will keep the Sumner County Emergency Management Agency informed of escalating fire situations with the potential to require activation of the Sumner County EOC. Once notified, the Sumner County Emergency Management Director, or designee, will activate the SuCoEOC.

Once activated, the Sumner County Emergency Management Director, or designee, will request that an appropriate Fire Department representative report to the EOC to serve as the ESF-4 Coordinator. As additional EOC staffing needs become apparent, other department and support agency representatives may be asked to report to the EOC.

Actions

Preparedness

- Maintain this ESF Annex as well as supporting operating procedures and guidelines.
- Ensure fire personnel receive appropriate emergency operations training.
- Ensure fire mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions are current.
- Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements with private area resources that could be useful for fire prevention or suppression.
- Develop and maintain standard operating guides and checklists to support emergency firefighting operations.
- Ensure emergency call-up and resource lists are current.
- Ensure the availability of necessary equipment to support firefighting activities.
- Participate in emergency training and exercises.

Response

- Respond as required on a priority basis.
- Activate mutual aid if needed.
- Coordinate activities with other responding agencies.
- Coordinate outside fire resources.
- Alert or activate off-duty and auxiliary personnel as required by the emergency.
- Conduct other specific response actions as dictated by the situation.

Recovery

- Support clean up and restoration activities.
- Review plans and procedures with key personnel and make revisions and changes.
- Replenish supplies and repair damaged equipment.
- Continue all activities in coordination with the EOC based on the requirements of the incident.
- Participate in after-action briefings and develop after-action reports.
- Make recommendations for necessary changes in this ESF Annex and supporting plans and procedures.

Prevention

- Participate in hazard identification process and identify and correct vulnerabilities in the firefighting function.
- Develop fire safety programs that include disaster situations and present them to the public.

Direction and Control

The ESF-4 Firefighting Coordinator will:

- Work with the EOC Team to rapidly assess the situation and take appropriate actions to support firefighting activities at the scene(s).
- Deploy fire personnel and equipment to the location(s) of greatest need.
- Assess the need for outside fire resources and request assistance as needed.
- Coordinate all responding firefighting resources, assess their needs, help them obtain resources and ensure required tasks can be accomplished.
- Serve as liaison with firefighting resources from outside the County and if necessary, with State and Federal firefighting resources.
- Work with the Coordinators of other closely related ESFs, when activated (particularly, ESF-9 Search and Rescue and ESF-10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response).
- Work with the Incident Commander(s) to ensure fire personnel deployed to the scene are appropriately outfitted with, and trained to use, personal protective equipment required by the presence of any potentially hazardous materials/substances.
- Work closely with local law enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding credible terrorist threat assessments.
- In the event of terrorist incident, the FBI will serve as the Lead Agency for criminal investigation and the ESF-13 Public Safety and Security Coordinators will work closely with the FBI Joint Operations Center.

Responsibilities

All Tasked Agencies will:

- Develop applicable standard operating procedures, guidelines and/or checklists detailing the accomplishment of their assigned functions.
- Use "plain text" when communicating by radio transmission during disaster situations.
- Provide ongoing status reports as requested.
- When requested, deploy a representative to the EOC to assist with ESF-4 activities.
- Maintain updated resource inventories of supplies, equipment, and personnel resources, including possible sources of augmentation or replacement.
- Document all costs and expenses associated with response and recovery activities taking care to clearly segregate disaster related work in the event that reimbursement becomes available from the state and federal government.
- Maintain up-to-date rosters for notifying personnel and 24-hour EOC staffing capabilities.
- Perform other emergency tasks as needed or assigned.
- Assist Sumner County Emergency Management in weather spotting capabilities during severe weather events.
- Help to communicate warnings within incorporated areas of Sumner County without outdoor warning devices.

Public Works

- Provide resources and personnel to support emergency firefighting operations

Sheriff's Department

- Assist with traffic control and security at the fire scene(s)

Local Police Departments

- Assist with traffic control and security at the fire scene(s)

Administration and Support

Support

Requests for emergency assistance will be resolved at the lowest level direction and control facility with appropriate response resources capabilities. Unresolved assistance requests will normally flow upward from cities to the county, and/or field deployed command posts to the Sumner County EOC, from there they will be requested from responsible representatives in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), and as required to other states or the federal government for assistance support.

Agreements and Understandings

All agreements and understandings entered into for the purchase, lease, or otherwise use of equipment and services, will be in accordance with the provision of laws and procedures.

The Proclamation of a State of Local Emergency by the Sumner County Board of County Commissioners or a State Disaster issued by the Governor may suspend selected rules and regulations that affect support operations. The primary agency will determine the specific impact of the situation and inform the ESF group members.

Status Reports

The Commanding Fire Department and the Sumner County Emergency Operations Center will maintain status of all outstanding assistance requests and unresolved ESF-4 related issues. This information will be summarized into periodic status reports and submitted in accordance with applicable operating procedures.

Expenditures and Recordkeeping

Each ESF agency is responsible for establishing administrative controls necessary to manage the expenditure of funds and to provide reasonable accountability and justification for federal reimbursement in accordance with the established guidelines.

The first source of funds for expenditures by agencies in response to an emergency, imminent disaster, or recovery from a catastrophic incident, is to be from local budget funds such as the County's General Fund.

Critiques

Following the conclusion of any significant emergency event/incident or exercise, the Commanding Fire Department representative will conduct a critique of the group activities during the event/incident/exercise.

Support agencies will provide written and/or oral inputs for this critique and the primary agency representative will consolidate all inputs into a final report and submit it to the Sumner County Emergency Management Director.