

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 4 - FIREFIGHTING**

### **PRIMARY**

ESF 4 Coordinator – Henderson City Fire Chief and Henderson County Fire Chief's Association President

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

Henderson City and County Elected Officials  
Henderson City Fire Department  
Henderson County Volunteer Fire Departments  
Henderson County Emergency Management  
Henderson County Sheriff's Office  
Henderson City Police Department  
Henderson County EMS  
Henderson City / County Rescue Squad  
Local/Regional HazMat Team(s)

### **LOCAL RESOURCES**

Henderson City Fire Department  
Henderson County Volunteer Fire Departments  
Henderson County Emergency Management  
Henderson County EMS  
Henderson City / County Rescue Squad  
Local/Regional HazMat Team(s)  
Henderson City Public Works  
Henderson County Road Department  
Henderson City/County Airport  
Evansville / Vanderburgh County Fire Departments  
Owensboro / Daviess County Fire Departments  
Union County Fire Departments  
Webster County Fire Departments  
Century Aluminum Fire Brigade

### **STATE RESOURCES**

Kentucky State Forestry Service  
Kentucky State Fire Commission  
Kentucky State Fire Training  
Kentucky State Fire Marshall  
Kentucky Division of Emergency Management  
Kentucky State Emergency Response Team (ERT)  
Kentucky Fish and Wildlife  
Kentucky State Police

## **FEDERAL RESOURCES**

U.S. Coast Guard  
U.S. Forest Service

## **PURPOSE**

To identify direct service and the basic roles and responsibilities for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Firefighting. To enable detection and suppression of wild land, rural & urban fires resulting from an incident, and to protect life, property and the environment.

## **SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

- Fire protection and rescue operations are challenges faced daily by local fire departments and rescue squads. These activities become even more intense during emergency/multi-hazard situations such as fires, major hazardous materials incidents, flooding, widespread power outages, loss of supporting critical infrastructure, etc. Such occurrences may cause need for specialized emergency firefighting, hazardous materials response, and rescue activities including provisions for extended mass care/triage operations, and extensive decontamination operations.
- Fires can occur in any part of the City or County, rural and urban, and can be the result of an incident.
- Fire emergencies may reach such magnitudes as to require resources from adjacent local, state, federal, or private organizations, through local and State mutual aid agreements.
- The potential for a fire, due to an incident, can result in the same level of mobilization as an actual fire.
- Any disaster may necessitate mobilization of fire service resources for the preservation and protection of life and property from threats other than fire.
- Terrorist and violent activity may result in a potential emergency. There is also the potential for immobilization of local fire service resources through actual or threatened bombing, blackmail, sniping, or other acts of violence, directed at the fire resources.
- Civil disturbances frequently result in injuries to persons and property damage. Since explosives and firebombs are not uncommon components

of civil disturbances, fire service resources are likely to be mobilized for such occurrences.

- Available City and County fire protection, rescue personnel and equipment will be able to cope with most emergency situations using local resources and mutual aid agreements..
- Local fire departments and rescue squads must be prepared to support each other during emergency situations using available expertise, equipment, and manpower, to ensure efficient and effective emergency operations.
- Fire service personnel will assist in rescue operations.
- Drought conditions can be a contributing factor to wild land and forest fires. Wild land and forest areas are especially vulnerable to arson.
- A catastrophic earthquake could result in many urban, rural and wild land fires. Under the worst situation, such fires have the potential to spread rapidly, causing extensive damage and posing serious threats to life and property. Local fire services may be totally committed depending on the specific impact area.
- Local fire services may become involved in operations that do not directly involve fires and may be utilized to augment emergency services personnel during major disasters.
- When local resources do not exist or are depleted, outside assistance may be made available through other local, State, and Federal governments, but may not arrive on scene for many hours.

## **MISSION**

To provide for the protection of life, property and the environment and to minimize actual or potential fire damage resulting from an incident, and to assist in rescue operations.

## **DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

The Fire Chief (or his designee) of the jurisdiction affected, is responsible for managing and coordinating firefighting activities through the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when activated, including the detection and suppression of fires. Each jurisdiction should provide personnel, equipment and supplies in support of firefighting operations.

Each Incident Commander (IC) will be responsible for fire service/suppression within their jurisdiction.

All requests for assistance, such as assisting with public warning and/or decontamination of contaminated persons by a fire department, within or outside of the county, will be coordinated through the Henderson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when activated.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

The Incident Commander manages and coordinates firefighting activities by mobilizing firefighting resources within wildland, rural and urban firefighting agencies. ESF #4 uses established firefighting and support organizations, processes, and procedures. The responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resources needed lies primarily with the IC and are managed under the Incident Command System (ICS).

### **Phases of Management**

#### **Preparedness**

- Review and update disaster procedures as they relate to ESF #4 activities.
- Provide public education in the area of fire prevention and fire safety.
- Prepare and maintain current list of personnel, equipment and their locations needed to carry out responsibilities as assigned.
- Develop Continuity of Operations Plan to ensure uninterrupted operations during an incident.
- Prepare and maintain ESF administrative and financial procedures as required to properly document activities during activations.
- Develop and maintain Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) that allow for an equipment surge to meet the demands of fire suppression.

#### **Response**

- Activate ESF #4 when requested by the Chief Elected Official of the affected area, County Emergency Management Director, or the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- When the county EOC is activated, coordinate firefighting and fire department rescue operations through the EOC and provide the EOC with timely operational updates and normal incident reports, as appropriate.
- Coordinate logistics support for mobilizing resources for firefighting.

- Coordinate requests for firefighting mutual aid assistance from local municipalities (if applicable) and other counties, and direct them to the disaster site staging area.

### **Recovery**

- Provide coordination and support as required for Recovery Operations.
- Coordinate assistance to Local and County Governments in the removal of fire hazards from the impacted area.
- Conduct internal After Action Reviews (AARs) and document lessons learned and recommendations for improvement of Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), Procedures and Guidelines.

## **ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Fire Chief (or his designee) of the area affected or jurisdiction, will identify and coordinate local, state and federal agencies for fire suppression and control, and immediate life safety services, as delivered by fire service agencies. Other related functions such as rescue and hazardous materials response that may involve fire service personnel and resources which may also require outside assistance.

### **GENERAL ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

Operational control remains the same during emergency situations as during normal activities; however, operations may require 24-hour coverage, and a central point of overall coordination. The Fire Chief (or his designee) of the area affected must be prepared to assist in lengthy operations that start in response and continue through recovery and involve clean up activities and return of resources.

- During an emergency or following a major incident, the County and local governments will take a greater role in providing and coordinating resources, equipment and personnel used to maintain or restore the County's firefighting capabilities.
- As their capabilities allow, the various agencies in the County with firefighting capabilities will assist each other during an incident.
- The County EOC will receive requests, prioritize those tasks, and deploy available firefighting resources.

### **SPECIFIC KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Primary** – The Fire Chief (or his designee) of the area affected:

- Is responsible for developing and maintaining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Provide assistance in the development of mutual aid agreements as needed.
- Coordinate and support local fire-related training as needed.
- Recommend staging areas for mutual aid and volunteer forces responding from other areas.
- Coordinate requests for firefighting mutual aid assistance from local municipalities (if applicable), states, and other counties, and direct them to the disaster staging area.
- Acts as, or arranges for, a direct liaison between the fire departments (IC) and the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Assist in informing all firefighting personnel of known dangers associated with a technological hazard incident and of the recommended protective actions.
- Coordinate and assist in procuring outside assistance for radiological and hazardous material decontamination and monitoring support, if required.
- Advise City/County EOC Management and Policy Group on the hazards associated with hazardous materials.
- Coordinate and support firefighting activities for warning and notification of the population at risk from an existing or impending incident.
- Coordinate and support multiple/local fire department rescue operations.
- Coordinate and assist in handling inquiries and informing families on the status of individuals injured or missing due to an incident.
- Maintains a complete log of actions taken, resources ordered, records and reports.

### **Support**

- Supporting agencies will provide information and resources as required to ensure the proper functioning of ESF #4.
- Supporting Agencies will ensure their representatives to ESF #4 are properly trained and exercised on the plans and procedures relating to their work.

**Specific Agency Duties:**

## Henderson City &amp; County Local Fire Department(s)

- Provide for the protection of life and property and to minimize actual or potential fire damage resulting from: 1) a natural disaster, 2) a technological incident.
- Provide medical first response and vehicle extrication as needed.
- Provide water response assets, provide breathing air support, technical rescue, and Haz-Mat.

## City of Henderson Police Department

- Provide traffic control, water response assets, heavy equipment assets, and to secure the area.

## Henderson County Emergency Management

- Provide resources as needed to sustain operations.

## Henderson County Sheriff's Office

- Provide traffic control, water response assets, heavy equipment assets, and to secure the area.

## Henderson County EMS

- Respond, triage and transport injured to area hospitals.

## Henderson City/ County Rescue

- To provide for the protection of life by conducting search and rescue operations, provide breathing air support, water response assets, and vehicle extrication as needed.

## Local/Regional HazMat Team(s)

- Provide HazMat Response, when requested, and when the incident exceeds the capabilities (personnel, equipments, or expertise)of the fire department in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

## Evansville City &amp; Vanderburgh County Local Fire Department(s)

- Provide for the protection of life and property and to minimize actual or potential fire damage resulting from: 1) a natural disaster, 2) a technological incident.
- Provide medical first response and vehicle extrication as needed.
- Provide water response assets, provide breathing air support, and technical rescue.
- Emergency Hazardous Materials Response Team

Owensboro City & Daviess County Local Fire Department(s)

- Provide for the protection of life and property and to minimize actual or potential fire damage resulting from: 1) a natural disaster, 2) a technological incident.
- Provide medical first response and vehicle extrication as needed.
- Provide water response assets, provide breathing air support, technical rescue, and Haz-Mat.

## **REFERENCES**

KRS 39A-G

The National Response Framework

The National Incident Management System

Henderson County Emergency Operations Center, Standard Operating Procedures