

ESF 04 - Fire Fighting Annex, 2015

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Coordinating Agency : PA Fire Commissioner's Office
Primary Agency(ies) : PA Fire Commissioner's Office
Support Agency(ies) : PA State Police
PA Department of Human Services
PA Game Commission
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
PA Department of General Services
PA Department of Corrections
PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
PA Fish & Boat Commission

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. Provide for the safety and welfare of the population of the Commonwealth from fire and other life safety hazards.
2. Protect property and resources.
3. Reduce commonwealth civilian death and injuries.
4. Reduce firefighter death and injuries.

B. Scope of Operations

1. Responsible for coordinating firefighting resources so they are available for primary life-saving, property protection and incident stabilization assignments, where related to a fire or another type of incident/emergency.
2. Firefighting operations will coordinate actions that will provide for the state-wide safety and protection of people and property by detecting and suppressing wild land, rural and urban fires.
3. These coordinating activities are ongoing, however the activation level will increase, as needed, in the event of a human caused or naturally occurring emergency or disaster when county resources are in danger of being overwhelmed.
4. In addition, this support function will reduce civilian and firefighter death and injuries.

II. Situation and Assumptions

A. Situation

1. The Pennsylvania fire/rescue service operates at all levels of government and covers all urban, suburban and rural areas of the Commonwealth.
2. Existing fire/rescue personnel and equipment operate in emergency situations.
3. Fire prevention, protection and suppression activities, basic life support, and rescue are daily problems faced by fire/rescue service personnel. These problems become more significant during major emergency situations.

B. Assumptions

1. Every day in Pennsylvania, fire departments are dispatched to fire and life safety emergencies and are the first to respond.
2. The potential for a fire in emergency disaster situations may result in an unusual mobilization rather than the level of mobilization for a normal fire or rescue.
3. A disaster may necessitate mobilization of fire/rescue resources for threats other than fires.
4. Fire/rescue resources may be required to respond to terrorist incidents.

III. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. The majority of firefighting resources will be provided through local, regional, intra-state and inter-state mutual aid and usually come from Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), Emergency Management Agencies, or state and federal agencies.
2. The Office of the State Fire Commissioner will establish minimum criteria and define procedures for coordination and sharing of resources between jurisdictions.
3. Fire/rescue units operating in their normal jurisdictions will continue to use their normal internal command structure.
4. Command structure and control of operations under mutual aid agreements will be in accordance with the terms of such agreements when/where they exist.
5. All units will operate under the NIMS, reporting to the operations supervisor to whom they have been assigned.
6. During the response phase of an emergency or disaster, each level of the fire/rescue services will use all available sources of information to provide a continually current assessment of the fire defense problem.

7. Assessments will be reported to the next higher level as specified in local, county, regional and state emergency plans. Based on these reports, and on specific requests from county and local governments, the Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) and PEMA will coordinate requested assistance.

B. Organization

1. Urban, suburban and rural fire/rescue services and resources will be coordinated at the state level by the State Fire Commissioner (SFC) in consultation with the PEMA Director.
2. Forest fire services will be coordinated at the state level by the State Forester, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Division of Forest Fire Protection will function as command, control, and trainer for grass, forest, and wild land fires. The division will work closely with the State Fire Academy to train firefighting personnel in wild land fire suppression and command.
3. DCNR will administer the FIREWISE program.
4. Other state departments/agencies assigned fire-related responsibilities as they pertain to emergency management will be coordinated by the SFC.
5. Fish and Boat Commission will function in a support role for water rescue operations on Commonwealth rivers and lakes. The Fish and Boat Commission will assist with evacuations, high water or rising water notices, etc. They will work closely with the State Fire Academy to train fire/rescue personnel in water and swift-water rescue.

IV. Responsibilities

A. Coordinating Agency

1. Office of State Fire Commissioner
 - a. Coordinate the activities of state, county and municipal interests engaged in fire control, and rescue activities.
 - b. Serve as focal point for information relative to fires, property damage, injuries and the loss of life.
 - c. Disseminate, through periodic reports, information about fire prevention efforts, public fire education, fire control techniques, and specialized rescue techniques.
 - d. Develop and participate in a program of public information and education designed to create public awareness and increase individual prevention techniques.
 - e. Serve as a focal point in matters pertinent to fire prevention and control.
 - f. Train and certify fire/rescue personnel and services in accordance with NFPA standards and NBFSPQ and IFSAC accreditation criteria.

- g. Provide Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

B. Support Agencies

1. Department of Corrections (DOC)
 - a. Provide specialized firefighting teams for the DOC facilities.
 - b. Provide emergency response personnel to the State Emergency Operations Center, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities
2. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - a. Direct overall operations associated with extinguishing wild land fires.
 - b. In accordance with PEIRS, collect and report to PEMA/OSFC any information on wild land fires.
 - c. Support fire control operations, as requested by PEMA/OSFC.
 - d. Provide a liaison representative to the State EOC as required.
 - e. Collect and report to PEMA/OSFC any information on damage to and disruption of state owned forest, park and recreational facilities and services.
 - f. The Bureau of Forestry will prepare and submit requests for federal financial assistance in timber removal operations necessitated by major emergencies or disasters as declared by the President and direct overall timber removal operations.
 - g. Prepare and maintain plans and procedures for Commonwealth wild land fire detection and suppression activities.
 - h. Provide, as requested by PEMA/OSFC, needed wild land fire detection and suppression services and activities.
 - i. Reestablish the use of natural and recreational use on Commonwealth-owned areas after declared major emergencies and/or disasters.
 - j. In coordination with the Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission, provide a process to mitigate the long term impacts on the affected indigenous wildlife.
 - k. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities
3. Department of Environmental Protection
 - a. Provide advice and assistance on the impact of firefighting runoff water on streams and water users.
 - b. Provide advice on air quality and assist in issuing air quality advisories during large fires.

- c. Provide technological assistance for firefighting strategies during fires involving hazardous materials.
 - d. Provide technical advisory in mitigation of the hazard when the fire is out.
 - e. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities.
4. Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
- a. Based on specific reports and requests from county and local governments, PEMA will coordinate requested ESF-4 assistance with the OSFC.
 - b. PEMA will provide communication support to the OSFC.
 - c. Following a disaster or an emergency, PEMA will evaluate state-wide community recovery needs and act as a coordinator between the affected communities and various states, federal, and county departments, agencies and offices. These actions will be targeted to expedite and support community recovery activities and mitigate hazards and will include but not be limited to health risk studies, health monitoring, development of a plan for recovery, impact assessments and providing assistance to special needs populations.
5. Fish & Boat Commission
- a. Support fire control operations as requested by PEMA/OSFC. Assist with emergency water transport of personnel, equipment and supplies.
 - b. Assist Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with operations associated with the extinguishment of major forest and grassland fires.
 - c. Collect and report to PEMA any information on damage to, and problems faced at commission installations and facilities.
 - d. Assist, as requested by PEMA, in county and municipal rescue and evacuation operations.
 - e. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities.
6. Game Commission
- a. Support fire control operations as requested by PEMA/OSFC. Assist Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with operations associated with the extinguishment of major forest and grassland fires.
 - b. Establish methods for wildlife habitat restoration.
 - c. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of commission emergency response activities.
 - d. Collect and report to PEMA any information on damage to and problems faced at commission installations and facilities.

- e. Assist, as requested by PEMA, in county and municipal rescue and evacuation operations in state game lands.
 - f. Assist as requested by PEMA in site assessments at rural areas of the Commonwealth.
 - g. Provide trained personnel to assist in fire control activities on state game lands and adjoining areas.
7. Department of General Services
- a. Maintain emergency action plans for fire for all Commonwealth properties.
 - b. Assist with the acquisition and allocation of excess and surplus federal property made available for use under a federal emergency and disaster declaration.
 - c. Manage the Commonwealth insurance program that will cover losses sustained by Commonwealth owned buildings, including leased buildings, and of their contents.
 - d. Collect and report to PEMA any information on major dangers or damages faced or suffered at facilities under jurisdiction of the department.
 - e. Conduct emergency actions essential to life safety, the protection of people and property, or the maintenance or restoration of basic services at facilities under jurisdiction of the department.
 - f. Procure or assist in the procurement of equipment, materials and supplies required by Commonwealth departments/agencies to be used for emergency operational purposes, including the emergency supply of surplus state property.
 - g. Establish and operate, as requested by PEMA, strategic supply locations for the provision of essential materials and equipment to a disaster area.
 - h. Assign, in accordance with such priorities as may be established by PEMA, state owned motor vehicles to Commonwealth departments/agencies to be used for emergency operational purpose.
 - i. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities.
8. Pennsylvania State Police
- a. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities
 - b. Fire Marshal's Office shall Investigate and determine fire cause and origin as required in areas of primary PSP jurisdiction
 - c. Consult with the OSFC on matters pertaining to fire hazards, unsafe conditions or other unusual incidents/events.
 - d. Provide appropriate security, traffic and access control at the scene of firefighting operations in areas of primary PSP jurisdiction.
9. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

- a. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities.
 - b. Assist, as directed by the Governor and as authorized by military regulations, in forest fire fighting. Provide emergency response personnel to fight forest fires, provide aerial fire suppression equipment (Helicopter with Water Bucket). Response to these missions will be on a temporary emergency basis and will only be requested when all other state, county and municipal forces have been committed.
10. Department of Public Welfare
- a. Provide emergency response personnel to the state EOC, as requested by PEMA, for the coordination of department emergency response activities.

V. Administration and Logistics

A. Administration

1. Establish written mutual aid agreements with adjacent organizations where no written agreements exist.
2. Prepare and maintain a current communications plan.

B. Logistics

1. PEMA will provide administrative support for the State Fire Academy through Department of General Services, Office of Administration, and other state agencies.