

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 Fire Fighting

Primary Agency: City of Boulder Fire Department and BCSO – County

Supporting Agencies: Any Boulder County Fire Agency
Boulder Police Department
Pridemark Ambulance
American Red Cross
Xcel Energy

Purpose: The purpose of ESF 4 is to provide fire service coordination and support services in support of emergency events in Boulder County. ESF 4 can provide personnel and resources to support prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in support to the primary emergency management objectives. ESF 4 resources are used when individual agencies are overwhelmed and County resources are needed to support the field operations. ESF 4 will process all requests for needs and donations of fire suppression and rescue equipment.

Scope: For the most part, local governments cannot feasibly finance all needed services to operate only in times of a disaster. A fire disaster covering a large area and requiring more resources than are available will find it necessary to summons additional resources to meet the goals and objectives as set forth by the operational plan.

Situation: Under the best of circumstances, the management of a large fire fighting operation is complex, often involving hundreds of people and equipment from many agencies. Large scale fire events will require additional resources that will place extraordinary demands on available resources and logistical support.

Large fires have the potential for spreading rapidly and affecting large numbers of people. The impact of such fires can have an adverse effect on City operations and the availability of City services.

Assumptions: Major fires will occur that exceed local capabilities. Terrorism events may result in major structure fires. Successful suppression and extinguishment of catastrophic fires will require organized, interagency cooperation at all levels of government. Mutual aid among fire agencies is the most efficient and effective way to share resources under extreme fire conditions.

Concept of Operations:

General: ESF 4 is organized consistent with the State EOC and the requirements of the National Response Plan, NIMS and the Incident Command System. In a large event requiring local and State mutual aid assistance, ESF 4 will coordinate with support agency counterparts to seek and procure, plan, coordinate and direct the use of any

required assets. County resources are typed within a resource list that is maintained by the EOC.

Organization and Assignments of Responsibilities: The City of Boulder and Boulder County OEM are in partnership to develop, coordinate and prepare a comprehensive emergency management program that will enable a coordinated approach to respond and recovery from large fire related incidents.

During an activation of the EOC, Communications will send out a page to staff the ESF 4 function. Response to the page will be from designated command staff that has an understanding of the ESF 4 responsibilities. ESF 4 will analyze the needs of the incident and begin to determine what kind and type of resources will be needed. It is imperative to maintain a resource list within Boulder County fire agencies as to the resources available. ESF 4 may need to access the State R.O.S.S. for further assistance.

Response: Coordinate operations at the ESF 4 office within the EOC. Direction of the EOC Manager will provide a ESF 4 with situation and resource status in the field. ESF 4 will establish a point of contact in the ICS field operations. ESF 4 will begin resource and logistical support at the County and State level. ESF 4 will coordinate with other ESFs within the EOC to obtain and to facilitate an effective emergency response among all participating agencies.

Recovery: Planning for recovery will begin with initial analysis of the potential impact of the incident. ESF 4 will coordinate with the IC and other command staff to determine the needed fire fighting resources for recovery. This phase will include security, search and rescue, and other logistical needs. Fire fighting operations in recovery will include the Division of Fire Safety and engine crews to support investigations, building construction, and other related safety concerns.

Direction and Control: The Boulder EOC is organized to serve both Boulder County and the City of Boulder. ESF 4 will be part of the overall direction of the EOC Manager. The ESF 4 Coordinator will direct and control the needs of the incident based on the field IC. In some cases there may be no field component. Under the direction of the EOC Manager, ESF 4 will support the goals and strategies of the incident.

Continuity of Operations: The City of Boulder currently has a contract in place with Bold Planning Solutions. All City of Boulder departments have been tasked with completing the COOP plan as spelled out in the Bold Solution software.

Plan Development and Maintenance: The OEM with the assistance of the Boulder Fire Department will be responsible for updating ESF 4 Annex and related exhibits and Appendices.

Authorities and References: See the Basic Plan listing all laws, regulations and executive orders.