

2015
Polk County
ESF #4
Firefighting

Public Version

DRAFT

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of ESF #4: Firefighting

The purpose of this plan is to provide for the coordination and implementation of fire detection and suppression operations. This plan further includes the support necessary to prepare the community and reduce the vulnerabilities in the event of a major incident. The goal of this plan is that firefighting activities are conducted safely and fire hazards are contained, controlled, extinguished, and investigated, and the incident is managed in accordance with the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).

The public version of ESF #4: Firefighting 'FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION' is designed to provide the public with the following information regarding the plan:

- **Section 1** provides the introduction and purpose of the emergency support function.
- **Section 2** is a description of the roles and responsibilities of the agencies that will respond.
- **Section 3** contains important contact numbers.

Please note that the ESF #4: Firefighting is a living document. It may undergo a major revision every three years and can be updated annually from submitted and committee approved changes.

For more general information please contact Polk County Emergency Management Agency at 515-286-2107 or your local emergency manager.

1.2 The role of ESF #4: Firefighting

The role of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4: Firefighting is to provide for the coordination and implementation of fire detection and suppression operations. It also includes the support necessary to prepare the community and reduce the vulnerabilities in the event of a major incident. The goal of this plan is that firefighting activities are conducted safely and fire hazards are contained, controlled, extinguished, and investigated, and the incident is managed in accordance with the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).

1.3 Core Capabilities List

The National Preparedness Goal identified 31 core capabilities—these are the distinct critical elements needed to achieve the goal.

These capabilities are referenced in many national preparedness efforts, including the National Planning Frameworks. The Goal grouped the capabilities into five mission areas, based on where they most logically fit. Some fall into only one mission area, while some others apply to several mission areas.

ESF #4: Firefighting includes the following Core Capabilities:

Intelligence Information Sharing & Dissemination

- **Mission Areas:** Prevention, Protection
- **Description:** Provide timely, accurate, and actionable information resulting from the planning, direction, collection, exploitation, processing, analysis, production, dissemination, evaluation, and feedback of available information concerning threats to the United States, its people, property, or interests; the development, proliferation, or use of WMDs; or any other matter bearing on U.S. national or homeland security by Federal, state, local, and other stakeholders. Information sharing is the ability to exchange intelligence, information, data, or knowledge among Federal, state, local, or private sector entities, as appropriate.

Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities

- **Mission Area:** Protection
- **Description:** Identify, assess, and prioritize risks to inform Protection activities and investments.

Public and Private Services and Resources

- **Mission Area:** Response
- **Description:** Provide essential public and private services and resources to the affected population and surrounding communities, to include emergency power to critical facilities, fuel support for emergency responders, and access to community staples (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, and banks) and fire and other first response services.

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2. Participating Agencies

ESF COORDINATOR:

Polk County Emergency Management

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Local Fire Departments

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Central Iowa Emergency Medical Service Directors Association

Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP)/9-1-1 Communications Centers

Local Law Enforcement

Local Public Works Departments

Polk County Air Quality

State Fire Marshal

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

2.1 Concept of Operations

The fire department of each jurisdiction is responsible for coordination, planning, training, and the development of operational policy for that jurisdiction and for the coordination of fire services during an emergency/disaster occurring within the jurisdictional boundaries of that department.

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster which affects more than one of the fire departments within Polk County, departments may select a member(s) to represent the fire service on the EOC staff. This representative will

- Coordinate data regarding resource requests (i.e., personnel, equipment, supplies, etc)
- Act as a liaison between the fire departments in Polk County and other agencies/organizations
- Report activities and status of fire service operations to the EOC staff

Additional resources for firefighting operations may be obtained via any of the following methods at the discretion of the Incident Commander:

- **Automatic aid.** Automatic aid is assistance that is dispatched automatically by a contractual agreement between two fire departments, communities or fire districts.
- **Mutual Aid.** Mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response that exceeds local resources, such as a disaster or a multiple-alarm fire. Chapter 28E of the Iowa Code permit state and local governments in Iowa to make efficient use of their powers by enabling them

to provide joint services and facilities with other agencies and to co-operate in other ways of mutual advantage. A listing of 28E agreements for the fire departments in Polk County is maintained on the webpage of the Polk County Fire Chief's Association.

- **Tiered Emergency Asset Management System (TEAMS).** TEAMS may be used to coordinate mutual aid deployments through pre-defined Response Cards. By predetermining a response pattern, an efficient use of resources may be accomplished in a timely fashion without depleting the resources of any given jurisdiction. TEAMS cards also identify participating jurisdictions' Change of Quarters assignments to maintain continuity of emergency service.
- **Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC).** IMAC provides a mechanism for intrastate mutual aid. IMAC covers such issues as liability, reimbursement, professional licenses and more. Polk County and all of its communities are Iowa Mutual Aid Compact signatories.
- **Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).** EMAC provides a mechanism for interstate mutual aid. Like IMAC, EMAC covers such issues as liability, reimbursement, professional licenses and more.

2.2 Organization

The organization of ESF #4 – Firefighting is scalable and can be adjusted based on incident needs, complexity and/or span of control. Outlined below is a fully activated organizational structure for incidents with high complexity.

- A. Firefighting task forces report to the Firefighting Group Supervisor
- B. The Firefighting Group Supervisor reports to the Emergency Services Branch Director
- C. The Emergency Services Branch Director reports to the Operations Section Chief

2.3 Responsibilities

A. All Firefighting Resources

Activities:

Conduct firefighting operations

Tasks:

- Receive notification of the incident
- Respond to the scene with initial fire suppression assignment that includes equipment, apparatus, and personnel with the ability to establish incident command, initiate fire suppression, victim rescue, ventilation, and Rapid Intervention operations
- Safely arrive on scene

- Establish and implement on-scene management for firefighting utilizing
- Observe incident site upon arrival and conduct initial 360-degree size-up
 - Obvious scene hazards noted, such as presence of hazardous materials, collapsed structures, etc.
 - Determine likelihood of trapped occupants based on type of structure, time of day, witness reports
- Provide verbal situation report to responding personnel
 - Observations communicated and hazards noted from 360-degree size-up
- Communicate need for additional resources
 - Additional resources requested in anticipation of need
 - Appropriate level of detail provided in request to ensure appropriate resources deployed
- Demobilize firefighting operations and support
 - Prepare apparatus and personnel to leave incident site and return to service
 - Tools and equipment are accounted for
 - Missing equipment is located
 - Equipment is ready to go back in service
 - Clean and repair equipment and apparatus prior to returning to service
 - Decontaminate as needed
 - Repair all damaged equipment/apparatus
- Participate in incident debriefing
 - Issues, accomplishments, and lessons learned documented
 - General incident stress management strategies discussed

B. Firefighting Group Supervisor

Activities:

In response to indication of fire, provide overall coordination and management of Firefighting Operations and support.

Tasks:

- Identify, establish, and communicate the location of a staging area for incoming resources
- Coordinate with onsite incident management
 - Request additional resources as needed
 - Provide situation reports to all incoming units (verbally)
- Assign a Safety Officer to oversee incident operations
 - At least one Safety Officer per incident
- Establish Rapid Intervention capability

- At least two (2) personnel remain in a safe place who are prepared to rescue lost or injured firefighters
- Prior to the start of interior structural firefighting operations, Rapid Intervention capability must be prepositioned
- Rapid Intervention capability must remain in place until Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) conditions are abated
- Coordinate with the Incident Commander to establish objectives for the incident scene
 - The following priorities are considered: Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, Property Conservation, Protection of the Environment
 - Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation, Salvage are included as incident objective priorities
- Assess resource requirements
 - Personnel and equipment shortfalls are identified
 - Additional resources are requested as necessary
- Coordinate fire attack, victim rescue, and ventilation operations
 - Operations are coordinated to ensure proper ventilation or suppression operations do not cause the fire to spread or endanger victim rescue efforts
- Ensure that personnel accountability systems are implemented and utilized
 - Track location and status of personnel operating at incident site
- Notify other agencies as required by policy or law
- Provide for responder safety, in coordination with the Safety Officer, including responder rehabilitation

C. Water Supply Task Force

Activities:

Provide and maintain an uninterrupted water supply for firefighting efforts

Tasks:

- Develop a water supply plan, to include alternate strategies
 - Multiple hydrants and supply lines should be utilized if available
- Implement water tender shuttles, drop tank operations, or other methods to ensure a continuous water supply in non-hydranted area

- Establish traffic flow/control plan for water tender shuttle operations
- Manage fill and dump sites for water tender shuttle operations
- Provide ongoing situation reports to the Firefighting Group Supervisor

D. Rapid Intervention Task Force

Activities:

Implement search and rescue techniques for firefighters who are unable to complete their tasks due to unforeseen complications such as entrapment, injury or illness in the fire scene

Tasks:

- Ensure implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) “Two In, Two Out” rule
- Initiate search for trapped or injured firefighters in distress

E. Search Task Force

Activities:

Upon arrival on scene, initiate search for trapped or endangered victims, remove victims to safe area, and request or provide medical treatment appropriate to the injuries/ burns they might have received

Tasks:

- Initiate search for trapped or injured victims
 - Coordinate with fire suppression and ventilation group
 - Utilize established SOP/SOGs to ensu
- Conduct primary search for trapped or endangered victims
- Conduct thorough secondary search once smoke conditions allow for a complete visual inspection

F. Ventilation Task Force

Activities:

Conduct ventilation activities for the expulsion of heat and smoke from a fire building, permitting firefighters to move easily and safely to find trapped individuals and attack the fire

Tasks:

- Monitor fire ground and take into account wind, heat and position of advancing hose lines before conducting ventilation evolutions
- Communicate with Firefighting Group Supervisor and gain permission before conducting ventilation evolutions

- Provide vertical or horizontal ventilation of combustion products as conditions warrant

G. Fire Suppression Task Force

Activities

Engage in fire suppression operations to confine, control, and extinguish fire.

Tasks:

- Deploy primary and back-up fire attack hose lines
 - Primary and backup line should each operate from independent water supplies
 - Deploy an appropriate number of personnel to operate lines
- Implement fire attack plans
 - Ensure coordination between fire attack, ventilation, and victim rescue groups
 - Monitor situation continuously for safety considerations
- Provide ongoing situation reports
 - Regular updates of status of interior conditions are provided to firefighting management
 - Regular Personnel Accountability Reports (PARs) provided to firefighting management
 - Intervals of reports are appropriate based on changing conditions
- Establish collapse zones and protect critical infrastructure
- Incorporate additional resources to contain, control, and extinguish fire
 - Appropriate assignments given to additional responding units
 - Rotate personnel as needed
- Conduct overhaul operations
 - Personnel are limited to an appropriate number
 - Areas of concern are identified
 - Locate and extinguish hot spots and hidden fire in void spaces
 - Test holes, thermal imaging technology, or direct observation may be employed
 - Appropriate reports made when hot spots/hidden fire located
 - Minimize overhaul operations, if possible, until after the cause and origin efforts have concluded
 - Preserve incident scene for fire investigators and/or law enforcement

H. Investigation Task Force

Activities:

Conduct onsite investigation to determine the origin of fire and the possible cause (s)

Tasks:

- Special attention is paid to area of origin
- Safety is not precluded when preserving evidence
- Collect and preserve evidence
 - Evidence is collected, marked, and preserved in accordance with established SOPs/SOGs or in accordance with national accepted guidelines (e.g., NFPA 921)
- Conduct interviews of responders, witnesses and others
- Investigate fires
 - Origin of fire is determined
 - Source of ignition is determined
 - Cause of fire is determined as accidental, intentional, or unknown
 - Information is shared with appropriate State, Local, and Federal authorities

3. Annex Development and Maintenance

3.1 Mandatory Review Requirements

As required by the Code of Iowa (statutes) and Iowa Administrative Code (rules and regulations), this annex will be reviewed and revised if necessary, at a minimum of every 5 years. A draft will be presented to the Polk County Emergency Management Commission for their approval and adoption.

3.2 Voluntary Review

The Polk County Emergency Management Commission will attempt to evaluate this annex continuously and revise annually based on input and feedback from support agencies and corrective action plans as recommended by after-action reporting. A draft will be presented to the Polk County Emergency Management Commission for their approval and adoption.

3.3 Plan Distribution

This annex and any subsequent revisions of this annex will be distributed to the primary and alternate Commission Members representing Polk County and all city governments within the county. The annex will also be shared with the specific primary and support agencies named at the beginning of this annex

Summary

It is hoped that this public version plan will provide the reader with an understanding of Polk County Emergency Management Agency and participating agencies' roles in the event of an incident.

The processes and agency roles and responsibilities specified may change without notice contingent upon the magnitude of the emergency or catastrophic event, as well as the actual availability of emergency response and emergency support personnel.

The ESF #2: Communications Public Version was developed for public distribution and excludes specific information that is protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and similar State and local disclosure laws, and from use in civil litigation and regulatory actions.

Access to the full plan is restricted to ESF #2: Communications emergency first responders and contains Security Sensitive Information that is For Official Use Only.

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