

Annex 4 (ESF-4 - Fire Service) to the Darlington County Emergency Operations Plan

Primary: Darlington County Fire District

Support: Hartsville Fire Department, Darlington Fire Department, Palmetto Rural Fire Department

I. Introduction:

- A. Darlington County is subject to disasters (natural or man-made) that could result in a need for increased Fire Service operations, greatly affect the public health, result in a large number of deaths and injuries while causing significant damage. Darlington County has the capability and adequate resources to meet routine Fire Service needs, however, during a disaster problems are multiplied and more complex.
- B. The potential for damage from fires in urban areas during and after a major disaster is extremely high. Numerous fires have the potential to spread rapidly causing extensive damage and threatening life and property. Normally available firefighting resources may be difficult to obtain and utilize because of disruptions transportation, utility and water systems.
- C. In order for the Fire Service to function effectively during a disaster one or more annexes in the emergency plan may require implementation simultaneously. The Fire Service will be required to interact with a variety of agencies, municipalities and political subdivisions during an emergency. While certain powers are granted to the Fire Service under the Emergency Powers Act, other agencies have responsibilities that must legally be satisfied under various laws to adequately protect the citizens. Provision of such services will be in accordance with the Act of 2000, mutual aid agreements with adjacent counties, private industry and established recognized standard fire fighting methods.

II. Mission: To coordinate and mobilize fire service resources, personnel and equipment; to coordinate state resources responding to support local government with the resources required to detect and suppress urban, rural and wildland fires.

III. Concept of Operations:

- A. The Chief of the Darlington County Fire District is designated as the County Fire Services Coordinator and is responsible for coordinating with all agencies and departments who may respond in support of this annex. The Fire Service Coordinator will ensure the operational readiness of all county fire service assets prior to, during and after an emergency. The Darlington County Fire Chief is responsible for and has overall responsibility for the coordination of all fire fighting forces during emergencies and will make mission assignments as required. The Fire Service consists of the following fire departments; City of

Darlington Fire Department (Paid and Volunteer); City of Hartsville Fire Department (Paid and Volunteer); Palmetto Rural Fire District (Paid and Volunteer); Darlington County Fire District (Paid and Volunteer) and the South Carolina Forestry Commission when state assets are provided.

- B. Fire fighting activities will be coordinated from the EOC.
- C. Fire fighting operations will be directed over County Fire District and municipal fire department radio nets and telephones.
- D. The Chief of each fire department and station will direct fire fighting operations in their respective coverage zones.
- E. Municipalities and separate fire districts are responsible for requesting state support through the County EOC when a fire incident exceeds local capabilities.
- F. State forces used in support of this Annex will be committed on a mission type basis when requested.
- G. Mutual Aid Agreements: Agreements have been made between City, County, State, and adjacent counties for fire departments to aid each other as requested. The Darlington County Fire Chief is responsible for insuring the required Mutual Aid agreements are executed, for having copies of these agreements on file and having these agreements available for review upon request.

IV. Responsibilities:

A. Preparedness Phase:

1. Develop the procedures required to implement this Annex.
2. Maintain current inventories of fire service facilities, equipment and personnel throughout the county .
3. Maintain agreements and working relationships with supporting agencies and departments.
4. Upon notification that a disaster is imminent, provide a representative to staff the ESF-4, Firefighting desk in the EOC.
5. Keep all Fire Service personnel on alert and informed of the situation.
6. Notify Emergency Services Director of the Fire Services operational status.
7. Develop procedures for inspection of congregate care facilities for

fire protection.

8. Ensure all ESF-4, Firefighting personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All firefighting personnel will complete FEMA's NIMS Awareness course or an equivalent course.
9. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
10. Organize and train fire service emergency teams to rapidly respond to requests for assistance.
11. Monitor weather and hazardous conditions that contribute to increased fire danger.
12. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.
13. Based on hazardous conditions, conduct fire prevention and education activities for the public.
14. Develop procedures for each fire station to serve as Reception Point for evacuees following a disaster or emergency.
15. Train personnel on procedures for accounting of evacuees.
16. Develop and train personnel on procedures (in conjunction with the County Disaster Logistics Support Plan) for fire stations to serve as small Distribution Centers for food and water following a disaster.
17. Participate in an exercise at least annually to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.

B. Response Phase:

NOTE: All incidents in Darlington County will be managed using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System/Unified Command System.

1. Maintain liaison with the EOC, including the staffing of the ESF-4, Firefighting desk.
2. Perform fire-fighting duties as needed.
3. Monitor the status of firefighting resources committed to an incident.

4. Maintain staging area locations.
5. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.
6. Keep the EOC informed of the situation within the areas of responsibility for all stations and departments.
7. Obtain and submit fire situation and damage assessment reports to fire service facilities. Submit damage assessment information to ESF-14 (Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation) for inclusion in the consolidated county report.
8. Require all agencies and departments to maintain the appropriate record of costs incurred during the event.
9. Document any lost or damaged equipment, including any personnel or equipment accidents.
10. Assist in search and rescue duties as necessary and other areas when feasible.
11. If radioactive material is involved, notify the EOC and then coordinate with the Hazmat Team for response.
12. Insure fire stations are available to serve a Reception Center for evacuees for purposes of registration and movement to the appropriate shelter.
13. Insure fire stations are available to serve as small Distribution Centers for food and water following a disaster.
14. Be prepared to assist in debris removal from roadways (except for power and utility lines) so that citizens can get to fire stations for relief supplies and response units can get through to deliver relief supplies.

C. Recovery Phase:

1. Maintain liaison with the Darlington County EOC.
2. Continue to provide fire-fighting capabilities within affected area(s) until conditions return to normal.
3. Maintain adequate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction of resources.
4. If radioactive material is involved, coordinate with the Hazmat Team for

decontamination activities.

5. Insure that the appropriate records are maintained to document time and costs incurred in the disaster.
6. Conduct a review of incident actions with personnel involved to improve future operations.
7. Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel or equipment accidents.
8. Inform agencies that provided resources where to send records for costs incurred during the event.
9. Coordinate with the Resource Support Coordinator to insure that adequate relief supplies are being sent to each station to meet the needs of the affected community.
10. Develop plans for the demobilization of personnel and in coordination with Resource Support plan for the consolidation of the Distribution Points.

D. Mitigation Phase:

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in emergency plans.

E. Search and Rescue Procedures: See Annex 9 (ESF-9 – Search and Rescue).

F. Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination: See Annex 25, Specific Impact Hazards, Appendices, A (Radiological Hazards) and I (Radiological Protection).

V. Administration and Logistics:

A. Administration: Initial situation reports will be submitted to the Chief of the Darlington County Fire District, as soon as practicable. Reports will be consolidated and submitted to the Darlington County Emergency Services for analysis and should contain but not be limited to the following information:

1. Type fire
2. Damage
3. Action taken
4. Casualties incurred

5. Nature and extent of any assistance required

6. Estimated cost of damage

B. Logistics: Individual fire departments will utilize supplies, equipment and transportation organic to their specific department. Additional supplies, fire fighting equipment, transportation and personnel will be requested through the EOC.

C. Provide a laptop computer for use in the ESF for WEBEOC access.

VI. Annex review and maintenance: This annex (ESF) will be reviewed annually by the primary action agency, department or individual with changes submitted to the Emergency Services Department by November 30th of each year for inclusion into the EOP. Following exercises or actual events the annex will be reviewed to determine if changes are required. If no changes are required, the primary action agency, department or individual will certify to the Emergency Services Director that the annex has been reviewed and changes are not required.

VII. Coordinating Instructions: This annex is effective for planning upon receipt and execution upon order.

APPENDICES

1. Critical facilities

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Appendix 1 (Critical Facilities) to Annex F (Fire Service) to the Darlington County
Emergency Operations Plan

(The Critical Facilities Database is maintained under
separate cover in an MS Excel database).