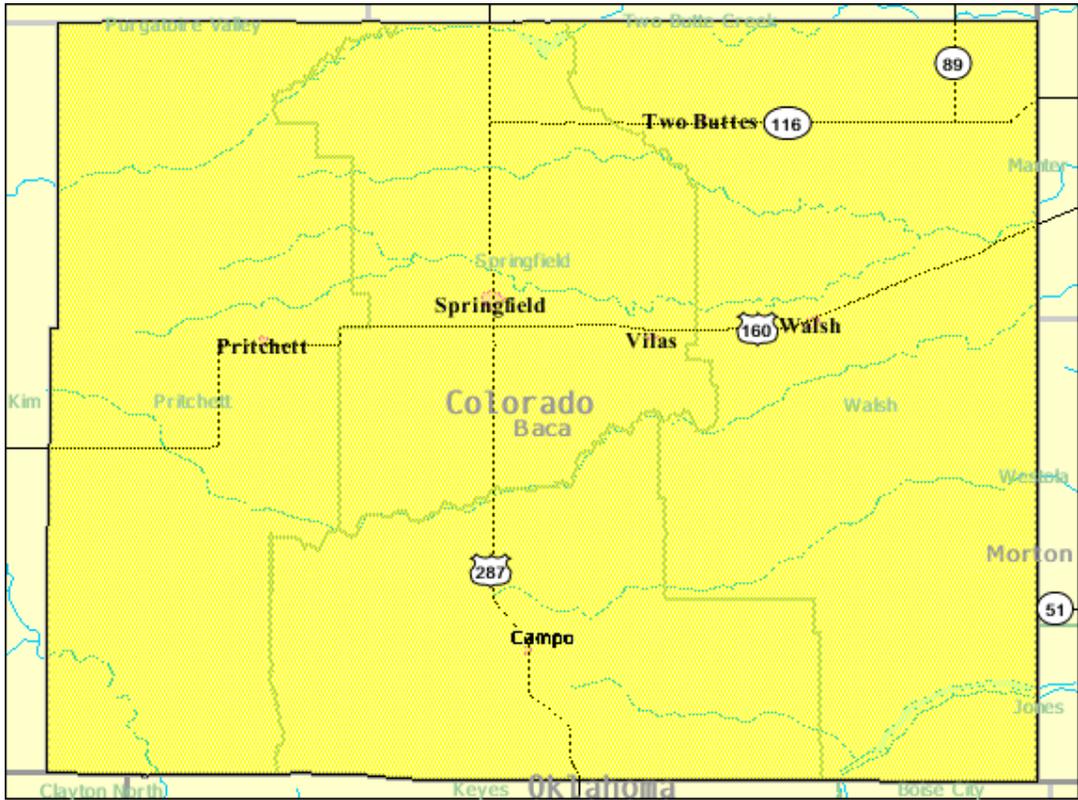


FIRE FIGHTING – ESF 4



Primary Agency: Baca County Division of Emergency Management

Support Agencies:

- Springfield Fire Department
- Walsh Fire Department
- Campo Fire Department
- Pritchett Fire Department
- Vilas Fire Department
- Two Buttes Fire Protection District
- United States Forest Service
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association
- Southeast Colorado Hospital Ambulance Service
- Walsh Ambulance Service
- Baca County Road and Bridge
- Baca County Search and Rescue
- Civil Air Patrol
- City, County, Private Utilities

I. Purpose

The purpose of ESF 4 is to provide fire service coordination and support services in support of emergency events in Baca County. Emergency Support Function 4 can provide personnel and resources to support prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in support of the primary emergency management objectives. ESF 4 resources are used when individual agencies are overwhelmed and County Emergency Response Team requests additional fire service assistance. ESF 4 will coordinate with other fire departments to provide adequate relief for fire service personnel. ESF 4 will process all requests for needs and donations of fire suppression and rescue equipment.

It has been generally accepted that a basic role of government is to provide services, which are not available and can not be provided by the private sector or an individual acting on his behalf. For the most part, local governments can not feasibly finance special services to operate only in times of a disaster, but which are unused at other times. Instead, the County must rely largely on regular emergency response service agencies augmented by citizen volunteers to meet wide scale disaster situations. It is this voluntary aspect carried to a fine degree upon which the County must rely on fire suppression beyond the municipal boundaries of the principal cities. By its very nature, fire fighting requires fire companies and equipment to be decentralized. Although the decentralization nature of fire fighting is clearly recognized, a large wide area disaster dictates coordination on an inter-jurisdiction basis. The County fire services are the largest manpower resource, ready for use during a disaster. A fire disaster covering a large area and affecting a

large segment of the public would be similar to the types of emergencies the fire service responds to routinely. It is expected that fire services available to a local community would be the first to respond to, and contain a fire. When local resources have been expended, and the fire has not been contained, it will be necessary to summon aid from other areas where fire fighting capability has not been committed.

Included could be the U.S. Forest Services as well as fire companies from adjacent counties. The purpose of this plan therefore, is to provide a mechanism by which fire services capability would be utilized for fire suppression on an inter-jurisdictional basis.

II. Concept of Operations

A. GENERAL

1. ESF 4 is organized consistent with State Emergency Operations Center and requirements of the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System in order to provide incident assessment, planning, procurement, deployment, coordination and support operations to Baca County through the Baca County Emergency Response Team, Area Operations and State Emergency Response Team officials to assure a timely and appropriate response to an emergency/disaster event.
2. Procedures, Protocols, and Plans for disaster response activities are developed to govern staff operations at the Baca County Emergency Operations Center and in the field. These are in the form of Emergency Operations Plan (i.e., Base Plan) and corresponding Appendices, Incident Annexes, Support Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines, which describe ESF 4 capabilities (based on the National Planning Scenarios, the Universal Task List and the Target Capabilities). Periodic training and exercises are also conducted to enhance effectiveness.
3. 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.
4. Throughout the response and recovery periods, ESF 4 will evaluate and analyze information regarding fire detection, suppression, and prevention requests for response, develop and update assessments of the fire service situation and status in the impact area, and do contingency planning to meet anticipated demands or needs.
5. When an event is focused in scope to a specific type or response mode technical and subject matter expertise may be provided by an appropriate

person(s) from a supporting agency with skills pertinent to the type of event, who will advise and/or direct operations within the context of the Incident Command System structure.

6. Each community supporting a fire service is expected to develop its own fire suppression system plan.
7. Each fire service organization, which enters into mutual aid agreements, is expected to furnish a copy of such agreement to Baca County Emergency Management Office.
8. Baca County Emergency Management will maintain up-to-date listings of fire services in the County including names of responsible officials, readiness status, and major items of fire apparatus
9. Fire Departments within Baca County are encouraged to develop a mutual aid agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, and other municipalities as appropriate.
10. Fire Service organizations are responsible for training and continuing education of their personnel.

B. ORGANIZATION

1. COUNTY

- a. During an activation of the EOC an chief member from either the Springfield Fire Department or Walsh Fire Department will serve as member to the EOC staff as liaison for Firefighting (ESF-4), and shall receive and facilitate the local fire departments needs and resource requests.
- b. During an emergency or disaster event, the Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief will coordinate the support resources from the support agencies with the Public Safety Branch Director.
- c. During the response phase, ESF 4 will evaluate and analyze information regarding fire service requests. Also, ESF 4 will develop and update assessments of the fire service status in the impact area and undertake contingency planning to meet anticipate demands and needs.
- d. A trained Chief or Officer from the Walsh or Springfield Fire Departments will be the lead for ESF 4 team. The trained officer will request assistance form the primary and support agencies to staff the ESF 4 position in the EOC on a 24-hour basis.

- e. Baca County Emergency Management develops and maintains overall ESF 4 Emergency Operations Plan and accompanying Appendices, Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines that govern response actions related to emergencies. However, support agencies may develop and maintain their own similar documents for internal use, which must be compatible with and in support of the overall Emergency Operations Plan. All such documents will be in compliance with the National Response Plan, The National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System and the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

2. AREA

- a. The Public Safety Branch Director, in consultation with the requesting jurisdiction, may obtain additional fire service resources via established mutual aid agreements
- b. The Colorado State Forest Service serves as the lead agency for the fire service coordination and may provide a liaison to the EOC. The liaisons have been trained to carry out ESF 4 responsibilities and will function as coordinators, assessors, and operational personnel in support of EOC or field activities.
- c. If more than one county emergency management operation center is activated the State may support the coordination of the event response with regional resources or request additional resources from the State Emergency Operations Center, the Fire Service agencies will participate in a Multi-Agency Coordinating Center to coordinate requests for fire service resources among multiple Emergency Operations Centers.

3. STATE

- a. During activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, the Colorado Division of Fire Safety, is the designated lead agency for Fire Fighting and will provide a provide a liaison to the State EOC to facilitate requests for State Fire Fighting resources to local Emergency Operations Center.
- b. During an emergency or disaster event, the primary and support agencies of ESF 4 at the State Emergency Operations Center will report to the Emergency Service Branch Chief who reports to the Operations Section Chief under the overall direction of the State Coordination Officer.
- c. During the response phase, ESF 4 will evaluate and analyze information regarding fire service requests. Also, ESF 4 will develop and update assessments of the fire service situation and status in the impact area and do contingency planning to meet anticipated demands and needs.

- d. The Division of Fire Safety develops and maintains the overall ESF 4 Emergency Operations Plan and accompanying Appendices, Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines that govern response actions related to emergencies. However, support agencies may develop and maintain their own similar documents for internal use, which must be compatible and in support of the overall Emergency Operations Plan. All such documents will be in compliance with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System and the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan..

C. ALERTS/NOTIFICATIONS

1. The County Warning Point, will notify the “on call” Emergency Duty Officer and/or Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) for ESF 4 when the county or an area of the County has been threatened or impacted by an emergency or disaster event as provided in the County Warning Point procedures.
2. ESF 4 will be activated or placed on standby upon notification by the County Emergency Management Office. The primary and support fire departments will jointly manage the emergency activities of ESF 4.
3. Upon instructions to activate ESF 4, Fire Departments will implement its operating procedures to notify and mobilize all personnel, facilities, and physical resources likely to be needed, based on the emergency circumstance.

D. ACTIONS

Actions carried out by ESF 4 are grouped into phases of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Each phase requires specific skills and knowledge to accomplish and requires significant cooperation and collaboration between all supporting agencies and the intended recipients of service. ESF 4 encompasses a full range of activities from training to provision of field services. It also functions as a coordinator and, at times, it assumes direct operational control of provided services. The following services may be provided:

- Assessment of Fire Service needs and potential impacts.
- Fire Service personnel.
- Fire Service equipment and supplies.
- Evacuation and Re-entry support.
- Emergency responder health and safety
- Radiological/Chemical/Biological hazards
- Mental health and crisis counseling for responders.
- Fire Service Public Information and risk communication.
- Fire Service Management, Command and Control of assets.
- Fire Service activities related to terrorist threats and/or events.
- Logistical Staging areas and Points of Dispensing.

- Catastrophic Incident and alternate Fire Service facility support.

1. PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

- a. Actions and activities that develop fire service response capabilities may include planning, training, orientation sessions, and exercises for ESF 4 personnel (i.e., County, State, Regional, and Federal) and other emergency support functions that will respond with ESF 4. This involves the active participation on inter-agency preparedness organizations, which collaborate in such activities on a regular basis.
- b. Local, State and Federal Fire Departments will jointly address planning issues on an on-going basis to identify response zones, potential staging areas, potential medical facilities and establish specialized teams.
- c. Conduct planning with ESF 4 support agencies and other emergency support functions to refine Fire Service Operations.
- d. Develop and refine procedures to be used in the following field surveys: Rapid Impact Assessment (i.e., recon), Community Fire Service Assessment.
- e. Conduct training and exercise for EOC and fire service response team members.
- f. Prepare and maintain emergency operating procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of the responsibilities of the lead agency. Ensure lead agency personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.
- g. Develop and implement emergency response and fire fighting strategies.
- h. Develop and present training courses for ESF 4 personnel, provide information on critical facilities to the County Emergency Management and develop protocols for frequently provide services.
- i. Maintain liaison with support agencies.
- j. Conduct vulnerability analysis at critical facilities and make recommendations to improve the physical security.
- k. Conduct all hazards exercise involving ESF 4.

2. RESPONSE ACTIONS

- a. Coordinate operations at the ESF 4 officer in the County Emergency Operations Center and/or at other locations as required.
- b. Coordinate needs and response actions with each Fire Department.
- c. Establish and maintain a system to support on-scene direction and control and coordination with County EOC, Regional Domestic Security Task Force and State EOC, or other coordination entities as appropriate.
- d. Establish Mutual Aid procedures for the following resources: Fire Suppression, Interoperable Communications and Command Vehicles.
- e. Resource Management and Logistical Support.
- f. Implementation of Impact Assessment Teams to determine post disaster impact to Emergency Services functional group resources and ability to perform Continuity of Operations of essential functions.
- g. Mutual Aid procedures to assist with supporting issues related to a terrorist event.
- h. Fire Service support in RDSTF in the investigation of a terrorist attack.
- i. Preposition response resources when it is apparent that fire-fighting resources will be necessary. Relocate fire fighting resources when it is apparent that they are endangered by the likely impacts of the emergency situation.
- j. Monitor and direct fire fighting resources and response activities.
- k. Participate in EOC briefings, Incident Action Plans, Situation Reports and meetings.
- l. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support emergency activities.
- m. Obtain State resources through the State EOC; Coordinate all resources into the affected areas from designated staging areas. All requests will be logged on the computer at Firefighting (ESF-4) desk. All requests will be forwarded to Documentation tracking and to then to the State EOC.
- n. Coordinate with other County ESF's to obtain resources and to facilitate an effective emergency response among all participating agencies.

3. RECOVERY ACTIONS

- a. The Public Safety Branch Director, in consultation with the requesting jurisdiction, may obtain additional fire service resources via established mutual aid agreements.
- b. The Colorado Division of Fire Safety serves as the lead agency for fire service coordination and support and will designate a liaison to the State EOC. The liaisons will have been trained to carry out Emergency Support Function 4 responsibilities and will function as coordinators, assessors, and operational personnel in support of EOC or field activities.
- c. If more than one county emergency operations is activated fire service may support the coordination of the event response with regional resources or request additional resources from the State Emergency Operations Center, The Colorado Division of Fire Safety will participate in a Multi-Agency Coordination Center to coordinate requests for fire service resources among multiple Emergency Operations Centers.
- d. ESF 4 will contact each Fire Department for initial damage assessment of personnel, equipment, and supplies.
- e. ESF 4 will maintain a documentation of all reported damage by Fire Departments.

4. MITIGATION ACTIONS

- a. Identify and seek funds for retrofitting critical facilities and providing auxiliary power.
- b. Provide personnel with appropriate expertise to participate in activities designed to reduce or minimize the impact of future disasters.
- c. Coordinate with the Emergency Management Director to have issues to the Public Safety Council.
- d. If evacuation is ordered, local fire departments may be requested to assist with evacuations and evacuations routes.

E. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- 1. ESF 4 compiles with the National Response Plan, The National Incident Management System and uses the Incident Command System composed of Planning, Operations, Logistics and Finance/Administration Sections with their standardized Units, Teams, positions, forms and terminology to manage its emergency/disaster responsibilities. Key to this system is the Division of Emergency Management, which functions as the official disaster prevention, protection, response, preparedness, recovery, and mitigation organization within Baca County. The Division of Emergency Management also serves as

the focal point for ESF 4 activities. It is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate program departments, support agencies, other Emergency Support Functions and other private voluntary agencies have knowledge about the system and ESF 4 expectations, as well as coordinate and cooperate efficiently during an event.

2. The ESF 4 system operates at two levels: 1) County Emergency Operations Center; and 2) Field operations.
3. During emergency activations, all management decisions regarding County or regional response are made at the County Emergency Operations by the ESF 4 coordinator. Under the Incident Command System structure, the Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Operations Section Coordinators and staff the County Emergency Operations Center assist the commander in carrying out the overall mission. Sections, Units, Teams, staffing levels, etc. are modular and scalable, depending on the type, size, scope and complexity of the emergency or disaster event.
4. A staffing directory and the ESF 4 Emergency Operations Plan, its accompanying Appendices, Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines are maintained by each Fire Department with the status of the call lists updated at least monthly and all other documents at least annually.
5. All Fire Departments filed personnel are subordinate to the ESF 4 at the County Emergency Operations Center.
6. In accordance with a mission assignment from ESF 4, and further mission tasking by a local primary agency, each support organization assisting ESF 4 assignment will retain administrative control over its own resources and personnel but will be under the operation control of ESF 4. Delegation of mission operational control may be delegated to management Support Unit, Multi-Agency Coordination Team or a local entity.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRIMARY AGENCY – EMERGENCY MANAGEMEMTN DIVISION

Springfield or Walsh Fire Departments will supply a Chief Officer to the EOC and will serve as a member of the EOC staff as liaison for Firefighting (ESF-4), and shall receive and facilitate the local fire departments needs and resource requests. Additional duties include:

- a. Provide leadership in directing, coordinating and integrating overall County efforts to provide fire service assistance to affected areas and populations.

- b. Staff and operate a National Incident Management System compliant command and control structure (i.e., Incident Command System) to assure that services and staff are provided to areas of need.
- c. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of County fire service personnel, supplies, and equipment and provide certain direct resources.
- d. ESF 4 representatives or designees will jointly evaluate the emergency situation, make strategic decisions, identify resource needs and secure resources required for field operations.
- e. Monitor fire fighting emergency response and recovery operations. ESF 4 Fire Chiefs or designees will coordinate all State and Federal fire fighting resources into the affected areas from staging areas.
- f. Manage fire fighting and other emergency incidents in accordance with each department's Standard Operating Guidelines and under the direction of ESF 4 representatives or designee.
- g. Make specific requests for fire fighting assistance to the State ESF4 / Division of Fire Safety, through the Baca County Liaison, as needed. The State will activate resources through the State Emergency Response Plan.
- h. Re-assess priorities and strategies, throughout the emergency, according to the most critical fire service needs.
- i. Assist with emergency evacuations and re-entry of threatened areas of the County.
- j. Demobilize resources and deactivate the ESF 4 station upon direction from the County Incident Commander.

2. SUPPORT AGENCIES

(NOTE: Each Support Agency should review its own roles and responsibilities and revise in conjunction with the Colorado Division of Fire Safety).

- a. Support agencies will provide assistance to the Emergency Support Function with services, staff, equipment, and supplies that compliment the entire emergency response effort as the County Emergency Response Team addresses the consequences generated by the hazards that may impact the County (i.e., severe weather, tropical cyclones, environmental biological, terrorism, technological, and mass migration, etc.) Because service and resources are subject to change from time to time, emergency

coordinators are responsible for frequently updating their resources capabilities with the ESF 4.

- b. The Division of Emergency Management will provide EOC support, conduct briefings, direct needs assessments, distribute key information, and serve as liaison to the State EOC to request resources.
- c. County and City law enforcement agencies (ESF-16) can provide crowd control, security measures, roadway assessments, and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in fire fighting operations; keep emergency forces informed of hazardous areas.
- d. Baca County Fire Departments/Districts provide first line response for fires, and other major disaster requiring trained personnel and equipment
- e. Baca County Schools (Transportation) provides transportation for response personnel if required.
- f. Walsh or Springfield Fire Department will provide EOC support; serve as a liaison to local fire departments as required.
- g. Civil Air Patrol provides over flight reconnaissance of disaster affected areas to assist in plan formulation.
- h. City, County and private utilities (ESF 12) will coordinate with ESF 4 to address fire prevention and suppression problems due to leaking natural gas, downed power lines, and water flow problems.
- i. City and County Public Works (ESF 3) and other departments will provide road clearing equipment and other major resources needed to clear roadways in support of emergency response actions.
- j. Southeast Colorado Hospital Ambulance Service and Walsh Ambulance Service will provide emergency medical care and transportation of victims beyond initial collection sites.
- k. Baca County Search and Rescue (ESF 9) will provide assistance in initial needs assessment, and augment fire service operations through specialized response capabilities.
- l. The Colorado Fire Chief's Association will work with the Colorado Division of Fire Safety by forwarding requests for fire fighting assistance to the nine regional zones designated by the Colorado Division of Emergency Management.

- m. The Colorado State Forest Service serves as a primary agency during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center for a wildfire, will also request and coordinate the use of all State controlled and/or Forestry Agency Compact assets that are ordered for control of wildfires.

G. FINANCIAL MANGEMENT

1. ESF 4 is responsible for managing financial matters related to resources that are procured and used during an event. During a response, each agency/department is responsible for recording and tracking its own expenditures and seeking reimbursement from the appropriate resource after the event. If a federally declared disaster exists, then a reimbursement formula is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that may be as much as 100 percent, but usually does not exceed 75 percent.
2. This section will coordinate closely with the Logistics Section to ensure that procurements and staff hours are properly documented and processed for payment and potential reimbursement. It will also be responsible for following up all financial issues after response has ceased by coordinating with Division of Emergency Management fiscal and personnel management officials, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency fiscal agents and directly with vendors as necessary.
3. Expenditures by other department entities will be documented by those entities and submitted directly to the Finance/Administration Section or designated Finance Service officer as soon as possible.

H. REFERENCE AND AUTHORITIES

- State Emergency Support Function 4
- Colorado State Statues
- Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, Section 943.0312, F.S.
- The Federal Response Plan for P.L. 93-288 (1992)
- DHS Homeland Security Act (2002)
- HSPD-5, Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-8, National Preparedness Goal
- DHS National Incident Management System (2004)
- DHS National Response Plan (2004)

