

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

ESF 4: FIREFIGHTING

Primary Agency: Richland County EMA

Supporting Agencies: Richland County Fire Departments

1. PURPOSE

This ESF offers guidance to agencies and departments who are responsible for fire suppression in rural, urban, and wild land settings resulting from or occurring with natural, technological, or man-made disasters

2. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

a. Situations

- i. Firefighting service is provided in Richland County by a combination of career, part-paid, paid-per-call, and volunteer agencies.
- ii. Although all firefighters receive standardized training, their work is dangerous and requires ongoing training and skill development. For that reason they meet on a regular basis to update and build upon their knowledge and skills to do the job of firefighting.
- iii. Specialized teams exist and are available to assist with highly technical or complex fires. These resources are regional, statewide, and federally developed and maintained teams.
- iv. Firefighting agencies in Richland County establish an Incident Command System and Command Post at emergency incidents. The purpose of the command system and post is to manage organization resources and response personnel at the scene in order to establish accountability, flexibility, unity of command, safety, and span of control regardless of the characteristics of the incident. Incident Commanders coordinate their activities with the Liaison Officer in the Emergency Operations Center when the center is activated.

b. Assumptions

- i. Fires will occur as a result of a hazard and will include, but not necessarily be limited to structure fires, industrial fires, vehicle fires, utility fires, and wild land fires.

- ii. Fires may include occupied structures and simultaneously involve search and rescue operations and emergency medical services.
- iii. Existing fire personnel and equipment will be able to handle most emergency situations through the use of mutual aid agreements and the mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS). When additional support is required, assistance can be obtained through requested mutual aid with adjacent county departments.
- iv. If the need exceeds what can be supplied by Richland County and adjacent departments, additional assistance can be arranged through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association Mutual Aid Plan for Ohio.

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. General Overview

- i. Ultimate responsibility for providing firefighting capabilities lies with each local government entity.
- ii. The responsibilities of firefighting services in disaster situations will mirror normal day-to-day operations. Disaster operations differ in that fire departments may be called upon to perform additional tasks. Firefighting services may have additional duties and procedures added as needed to maintain disaster-related continuity of operations, an adequate response level, and management of the prioritization of response. The concept of a unified command may be employed to better serve the disaster.
- iii. The Incident Commander will coordinate and report their on-scene activities to the Fire Service Liaison operating in the EOC when activated.
- iv. The Incident Commander will be responsible for advising government executives regarding threat-related risks, recommending incident management methods, and resource needs and priorities.
- v. Radiological, Hazardous materials, search and rescue information is provided in other sections of this plan.

b. Relationship Between Levels of Government

- i. ESF 4 will coordinate disaster response-related firefighting response activities between local, state, and federal agencies and departments,

including the management and coordination of the mobilization of resources from the appropriate entities.

- ii. Mutual aid agreements can access additional firefighters and equipment from areas across Ohio using the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association Mutual Aid Plan.

c. Phases of Emergency Management

i. Mitigation

1. Review hazard/vulnerability analysis
2. Review, upgrade and ensure enforcement of fire codes
3. Present fire safety programs
4. Require all new construction to conform to building codes
5. Prepare EOP's, SOP's, SOG's, mutual aid agreements

ii. Preparedness

1. Develop and review mutual aid agreements
2. Review existing dispatch procedures
3. Train response personnel for emergency functions
4. Ensure serviceability of equipment
5. Review communication interaction with Richland County EOC and other county and state EOCs
6. Implement Incident Command System training
7. Participate in annual Richland County Emergency Preparedness Exercise

iii. Response

1. Provide for an emergency first response to incidents that threaten lives or property

2. Deploy equipment and personnel to sites in greatest need during an emergency
3. Provide fire protection in public shelters
4. Establish radio communications between EOC and site of emergency
5. Assist in dissemination of warning to public
6. Assess scope, magnitude, extent, and potential duration of incident
7. Provide representation to the EOC
8. Coordinate with communications to provide emergency communications as needed
9. Document response activities taken, noting improvements or corrective actions required
10. Provide technical assistance as required
11. Provide situation reports to EOC
12. Attend meeting for periodic situation updates
13. Identifying all personnel and resources required to perform assigned missions which are in excess of the support agencies' capabilities
14. Maintain communications with support agencies to ensure resource procurement
15. Continually reassess and address the most critical fire service needs and the development of strategies to meet them
16. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations
17. Require supporting agencies maintain appropriate records of cost incurred during an event

18. Document any lost or damaged equipment, any personnel or equipment accidents
19. Request state and federal resources as needed through EOC

iv. Recovery

1. Conduct fire inspections and inform owners of hazards
2. Provide decontamination
3. Assist other functions with clearing debris to open streets with major thoroughfares
4. Collect and inventory all equipment used during the incident
5. Provide guidance on local, state, and federal fire code regulations
6. Support cleanup and recovery operations
7. Monitor demolition operations
8. Repair/Replace damaged and expended equipment
9. Identify and contain potential fire hazards
10. Maintain adequate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction of resources
11. Provide for the emotional needs of emergency responders, and their families by establishing critical incident stress debriefing
12. Conduct reviews of incident actions with teams involved to improve future operations
13. Prepare appropriate after action reports
14. Revise, update, change or create policies and standard operating procedures or guides as necessary
15. Conduct training on new or revised policies and procedures
16. Conduct exercises to validate and familiarize team members with new procedures

4. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Local Jurisdictional Fire Department
 - i. The responding fire department shall establish command based on Standard Operating Procedures, and will expand the structure of the incident response according to the Incident Command System principals.
 - ii. If a Hazardous Materials/WMD component is or could potentially be a part of the response, the Richland/Ashland County Regional Haz-Mat Team will be called upon and response procedures will be followed according to ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response.
 - iii. EMS, Search and Rescue responsibilities will be followed according to ESF #8 and ESF #9 of the Richland County Emergency Operations Plan.
 - iv. Will coordinate and inform the EOC, when activated, of the incident status and the need for resources and support.
- b. Richland County Fire Chief's Association
 - i. Will support and provide training and expertise in the development of SOP's and aid in the continual development of MABAS.
 - ii. Will support incident operations by lending expertise and personnel to Incident Command for Command Staff Positions and positions within the EOC.
- c. Ohio Fire Chief's Association
 - i. Will maintain the Ohio Mutual Aid Plan for fire response.
 - ii. Will provide Incident Management Teams for communities experiencing major disasters and deploy through requests at the state level of government.
- d. Richland County Emergency Management Agency
 - i. Will establish and maintain a countywide resource list for firefighting assets and resources.
 - ii. Will establish and maintain resource lists for technical expertise and skills in specialty areas of fire response.

- iii. Will establish and maintain the EOC during an incident for the support of firefighting activities at the scene.
- iv. Will establish and maintain a resource list of current equipment and supplementary needed equipment for all firefighting purposes.

5. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

a. Incident Command

- i. When multiple public safety agencies (i.e., fire, law enforcement, EMS) responds to the scene of an incident, the highest ranking fire official shall be the on-scene incident commander for the direction of the response effort. This shall be performed in accordance to Ohio Revised Code 1301:7-7, Ohio Fire Code 104.11. When appropriate Unified Command may be established.
- ii. The highest ranking officer of the first arriving fire department will be the Incident Commander and will be in charge of emergency incident, unless and until relieved of command by a higher ranking fire official.
- iii. All requests for mutual aid support will be transmitted through established procedures (911 dispatch, MABAS, Ohio Fire Chief's Mutual Aid Plan). When mutual-aid is activated, the on-scene commander will follow ICS procedures to integrate and manage fire and rescue resources from other responding jurisdictions.
- iv. The Incident Commander will convey reports on the status of the emergency to include the number of casualties, injuries, extent of damage, potential for evacuation, radiation/chemical exposure levels, and support requirements to the Fire Service Liaison.

b. Fire Service Liaison

- i. A Fire Service Liaison will relocate to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) upon its activation. While operating from the EOC he/she will advise decision makers and coordinate fire activities with the Incident Commander and act as liaison between fire organizations and EOC representatives for equipment and personnel support.
- ii. Internal resources of all operating departments will be managed by individual department procedures and policies.

- iii. Each operating department at the incident will communicate directly within the span of control as established by the Incident Commander.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. Firefighting related resources needed for field operations will be requested by the IC through the Firefighting Liaison Officer in the EOC.
- b. The Richland County Resource List will contain current points of contact for fire departments and will be updated annually, as appropriate.
- c. All parties will participate in after-action review when incidents occur; lessons learned and best practices should be recorded and incorporated into this section when reasonable.

7. RESOURCE REQUIREMENT FOR ESF

- a. Each fire department will maintain internal personnel notification and recall rosters, including communications, to implement call down of personnel assigned to the EOC and response teams.
- b. Fire departments will maintain resources for logistical support (food, water, fuel, ect.) for their personnel during operations.
- c. Each department will supply the Director of the Richland County Emergency Management Agency with the internal and external resources available to the department for specialty response and operations.
- d. Each department will establish and maintain mutual aid agreements with adjacent and nearby departments.

8. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- a. The Richland County Fire Chiefs Association and all agencies involved in Fire, EMS, Haz-Mat, and Rescue operations in Richland County are invited to be involved with review of ESF-4. Representatives of the RCFCA and of each agency are responsible for reviewing ESF-4 and submitting changes to the county EMA Director. These recommendations should be based upon opportunities for improvement identified through exercises, actual events, and changes in organizational structure.
- b. Richland County EMA will coordinate any necessary meetings to review the recommendations identified and incorporate any needed changes to this ESF-4 to include any state and federal requirements.

- c. The Richland County EMA will publish and distribute all changes to this ESF-4 and forward revisions to all responsible organizations listed within the EOP.

9. ADDENDA AND NOTES

A complete list of all fire departments, personnel, equipment, and resources can be found in the Resource List.

10. AUTHENTICATION

Date of Adoption

Richland County EMA Director