

## Emergency Support Function 4 Firefighting

### ESF Coordinator:

Grant County Fire Districts  
Local Fire Departments

### Primary Agencies:

Fire Districts/Departments  
Port Fire Department

### Support Agencies:

Emergency Management  
Law Enforcement  
Public Works  
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose

This ESF is developed for the cooperative efforts of the fire service agencies of Grant County to coordinate effective response for suppression of wild land, rural, and urban fires which require a fire services response. These fires may result from or occur with natural or human-caused disasters or emergencies.

### B. Scope

Activities within the scope of this ESF include the coordination of fire fighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on public and private lands, and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of local jurisdictions involved in fire fighting operations.

## II. POLICIES

A. The process and procedures established in county, regional, and state mobilization guides will be followed in responding to an emergency or disaster. (See ESF 4B: Grant County Fire Task Force and Strike Team Response Plan, published separately).

B. Coordination with local and state fire suppression organizations will be accomplished through Emergency Management in cooperation with the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD), or other appropriate agencies. *Exception: specific contract fire fighting, i.e. Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management)*

- C. The Fire Chief has the authority to implement coordination for a fire resource mobilization and to request a state fire mobilization through Washington State Emergency Management (EMD).
- D. Fire services will provide a qualified representative to coordinate resources from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), during its activation.
- E. Standards for firefighting are set by RCW 52.02-52.33.
- F. Only trained personnel should be used in fire control activities. Emergency worker volunteers may be used for other emergency work when properly instructed in how to assist the trained personnel.

### III. SITUATION

#### A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Fires have the potential to spread rapidly, cause extensive damage, and pose a serious threat to life, property, and the environment. During a large fire event, normally available fire service resources will be difficult to obtain. Under the worst of conditions, fires will occur as a result of another disastrous event such as an earthquake, causing multiple fires which may place extraordinary demands on resources. Fire agencies respond daily to fire events which threaten life and property. However, daily events may quickly escalate into a disastrous situation.

#### B. Planning Assumptions

1. Equipment, personnel, and supplies can be quickly expended in any large fire. A shortage of resources may equate to more severe damages.
2. Limited communications capabilities may create overwhelming confusion and ineffective fire response strategies.
3. Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various county fire districts, local jurisdiction fire departments, and state and federal agencies requires the use of the Incident Command System (ICS). Fire fighting techniques, equipment, and communications should be compatible among the fire districts and departments.
4. Fire agencies within Grant County have established compliance to fire fighting standards and have developed department policies and procedures.

5. Fire service resources may be requested to respond to medical emergencies, search and rescue missions, and aid in dissemination of warning to the public of impending disaster.

## **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **A. General**

1. Fire agencies will rely on effective operations plans which utilize resources of personnel, equipment, and supplies in the most effective manner.
2. Fire operations must begin with the Incident Command System (ICS), established by the first unit in response to the scene. The Incident Commander's control and direction must be followed as long as they are in command. This command may be passed to a higher ranking officer when he or she arrives. The Incident Commander decides where the incident command post and staging areas are located.
3. The Incident Commander will direct operations from the incident command post, at a safe distance from the scene, with capability of escape. Coordination of resources may be conducted at the incident command post. When possible, these activities should be conducted by the Staging Officer and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Communications will be established between the incident command post and other tactical operations, as well as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if activated.
4. The Incident Commander will request traffic control from the nearest law enforcement agency if necessary. In the absence of law enforcement, nonessential fire personnel may be used. Public works resources for barricades may be coordinated through the EOC.

### **B. Organization**

#### **1. Fire Districts/Departments**

There are twelve Fire Protection Districts, six local jurisdiction Fire Departments, and one Port Safety Fire Department in Grant County. Close coordination and planning between the agencies is accomplished through the Columbia Basin Fire Chiefs and Commissioners Association. Fire fighters, whether paid or volunteer, are provided training and regular practice to effectively enhance their fire fighting skills. The implementation of mutual aid among the departments is commonplace for large fires.

#### **2. Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Public Works, EMS**

These agencies take on a supportive role to fire operations as necessary. Emergency Management maintains the Emergency Operations Center

(EOC) in a state of readiness for activation. Law Enforcement practices incident management techniques very similar to fire fighting, and the law enforcement agencies typically have interoperable communications with the fire agencies. Public Works has equipment to load and deliver barricades to the staging area if needed. In addition, Public Works is capable of transporting water supplies. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services are often a part of the local fire jurisdiction.

### **C. Procedures**

1. The command function may be conducted two ways. Single Command may be applied when there is no overlap of jurisdictional boundaries, or when a single Incident Commander is designated by agency with overall management responsibilities for the incident. When the incident is within one jurisdiction boundary, but more than one agency shares management responsibility, Unified Command should be implemented. If Unified Command is used, all agencies should contribute to command and build a consolidated action plan.
2. Comprehensive resource management may be accomplished using three methods, depending on the needs of the incident.

Resources All personnel and equipment necessary to fight the fires or respond to other disasters and support the efforts of firefighters.

TASK Force Any combination of single resources within the span of control, assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader.

Strike Team Five of the same kind of resources with common communications and a leader.

### **D. Mitigation Activities**

#### **1. Primary Agencies**

Fire agencies are familiar with identification systems for personnel and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) placarding for hazardous materials. Participation in Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) facilitate communication between fire agencies and industries and industrial hazards. Updated Mutual Aid Agreements and Fire Resource Listings mitigate risks by keeping agencies informed of what resources may be accessed. Some Fire Protection Districts and Departments participate in the Grant County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

#### **2. Support Agencies**

The support agencies make efforts to ensure interoperable communications are available.

## **E. Preparedness**

### **1. Primary Agencies**

The fire service agencies establish training in the Incident Command System. They review procedural plans such as the Grant County Fire Task Force and Strike Team Response Plan, ESF 4B, published separately. The fire agencies maintain equipment to be in a state of readiness for operations.

### **2. Support Agencies**

These agencies review emergency plans and coordinate communications with the EOC. They ensure staff preparedness through training with emergency plans. Public Works typically ensures that barrier and road block materials are in good condition and maintain maps of public works service areas. Emergency Management maintains a 24-hour alert and warning system and updates this ESF. Law Enforcement personnel are trained to serve as a liaison at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Emergency Medical Services keeps vehicles in a state of readiness through regular maintenance and replacement of materials.

## **F. Response Activities**

### **1. Primary Agencies**

The fire agencies assume responsibility for fire suppression on public and private lands. They provide and coordinate firefighting assistance to other fire organizations as requested under the terms of existing Mutual Aid Agreements. Fire service agencies report damages, initiate record keeping, perform light rescue, and assist Emergency Medical Services in basic life support. They arrange for direct liaison between fire chiefs and the Incident Commanders to coordinate requests for assistance in structural, wild land, or industrial fire protection.

### **2. Support Agencies**

Public Works provides personnel for Preliminary Damage Assessment teams if necessary and delivers road barricades to the fire staging area as requested. Emergency Management considers activation of the EOC and provides information to the highest elected official in coordination with other agencies, with which to make a decision on the implementation of the Grant County Fire Task Force and Strike Team Response Plan. Emergency Management provides resource logistics, or the procurement, maintenance, distribution, and replacement of personnel and equipment in coordination with the EOC. Law Enforcement provides vehicles, equipment, and facilities as available and requested. EMS provides emergency medical care and transportation to hospitals for victims.

## **G. Recovery Activities**

### **1. Primary Agencies**

Fire agencies conduct safety inspection of structures and contribute to the after-action incident report. They identify potential fire hazards, assist companies in fire control for issues such as downed power or gas lines.

### **2. Support Agencies**

Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Public Works, and EMS contribute to the after-action incident report.

## **V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Primary Agencies**

It is the responsibility of the fire service agencies to respond to all fire emergencies or disasters within their jurisdiction. Personnel provide initial first aid for victims and request transportation from the scene for the injured. The Incident Commander is responsible to direct (or assign) the need for resources to the dispatch center, their local fire station, or the EOC when activated.

### **B. Support Agencies**

Law Enforcement activities are assigned to the normal functions of law enforcement with special control for the security of the scene, and traffic control. Evacuation efforts are directed by Law Enforcement. Other functions of Law Enforcement at a fire scene or disaster include but are not limited to: investigations, situation assessment, providing first aid to victims, and patrolling and enforcing access to access controlled areas.

Emergency Medical Services coordinates the medical response to an incident including triage, treatment and transport of victims.

Public Works clears roads for emergency vehicles, maintains municipal water systems, and provides road barricades as available.

Emergency Management personnel respond to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to establish resource support and/or activate the EOC. Provides coordination between agencies and manages needed resources. The department supports County firefighting activities consistent with this ESF and ESF 4B: Grant County Fire Task Force and Strike Team Response Plan.

**VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The primary agencies provide the required personnel, facilities, and equipment to support their activities.
- B. Local jurisdiction, regional, and national fire suppression resources may be required. Resources are listed in the appropriate mobilization guides. Support organizations exist at each level of government to provide these assets.

**VII. REFERENCES**

*see Appendix 2 of the Basic CEMP*

**VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

*see Appendix 1 of the Basic CEMP*