



## **EF 12 – Utilities**

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Tasked Agencies	
Primary County Agency(s)	Public Works/Roads Department
Supporting County Agency(s)	Lassen Municipal Utility District, Susanville Consolidated Sanitary District
Primary City Agency(s)	Public Works Department
Supporting City Agency(s)	N/A
Community Partner(s)	Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, Surprise Valley Electric, Lassen Municipal Utility District, AT&T, Verizon, Frontier Communications, Honey Lake Power
State Agency(s)	California Natural Resources Agency California Utility Emergency Association
Federal Agency(s)	U.S. Department of Energy

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

Emergency Function (EF) 12 describes how the County and City will coordinate plans, procedures, and resources to support response to and recovery from damaged utility infrastructure and accompanying systems.

Operational priorities for EF 12 include:

- Restore utility services as soon as possible, prioritizing services to vital and essential facilities.
- Coordinate provision of temporary or alternate sources of power, fuel, water, and wastewater services to support response operations and protect public health and safety.

Preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities that may be conducted to complete these priorities are listed in Appendix B.

### 1.2 Scope

The following activities are within the scope of EF 12:

- Coordinate with utilities operating to ensure that the integrity of the supply systems is maintained during emergency situations and that any damages that may be incurred are repaired and services restored in an efficient and expedient manner afterward.
- Monitor and coordinate the restoration of utilities for normal community functioning.
- Monitor and coordinate the availability of electric generating capacity and reserves, the availability and supply of natural gas, and the supply of generation fuels.

- Coordinate with private-sector providers of energy and transportation fuels such as propane, fuel oil, diesel fuel, and gasoline.
- Assist departments and agencies in obtaining fuel for transportation, communications, emergency operations, and other critical functions.
- Help utilities obtain equipment, specialized labor, and transportation to repair or restore utility systems, including energy, water, gas, sewer, and telephone services.

## 1.3 Policies and Authorities

### 1.3.1 Policies

The following policies are currently in place:

- None at this time.

### 1.3.2 Agreements

The following agreements are currently in place:

- Memorandum of Understanding with the California Office of Emergency Services and the California Utility Emergency Association to provide emergency operations support for gas, electric, water, wastewater, telecommunications (including wireless), and petroleum pipeline utilities.

## 2 Situation and Assumptions

### 2.1 Situation

The following considerations should be taken into account when planning for and implementing EF 12 activities:

- Emergencies, both natural and human-caused, can have significant effects on public and privately owned utilities in a community. The ability to quickly restore damaged water, power, natural gas, telephone, and sewer systems is essential to minimizing a disaster's impacts on the safety, public and environmental health, and economy of the area.
- The electrical power industry is organized into a network of public and private generation and distribution facilities. Through such networks, the electrical power industry has developed a capability to provide, reroute, and restore power under even the most extreme circumstances.
- A major disaster could destroy or disrupt all or a portion of the energy and utility systems.

### 2.2 Assumptions

EF 12 is based on the following planning assumptions:

- A major disaster could destroy or damage portions of a region's energy and utility systems and disrupt local petroleum supplies.
- Widespread and possibly prolonged electric power failures could occur in a major disaster.
- The transportation and telecommunications infrastructures will be affected.

- Delays in the production, refining, and delivery of petroleum-based products may occur as a result of transportation infrastructure problems and loss of commercial power.
- There may be extensive distribution failure in water, wastewater, and gas utilities. These may take hours, days, or even weeks to repair.
- There may be panic hoarding of fuel in areas served by severed pipelines or by individuals from neighboring jurisdictions where shortages have occurred.
- Natural gas lines may break, causing fire, danger of explosion, or health hazards such as inhalation of toxic substances.
- Water pressure may be low, hampering firefighting and impairing sewer system function.
- County and City departments, under an emergency proclamation, may require the authority to enter private property to evaluate and shut off utilities that jeopardize public and private property or threaten public health, safety, or the environment. It is preferred that agencies coordinate with utilities as needed to evaluate the need for shut off.

### 3 Roles and Responsibilities

*See Appendix B for a checklist of responsibilities by phase of emergency management.*

## 4 Concept of Operations

### 4.1 General

Utility failures generally occur with little or no warning. Fortunately, they will likely be isolated to portions of the County or City. If the incident involves a government-owned utility, i.e., water or sanitary sewer, County or City responsibilities cover all phases of the planning process, including the development and maintenance of each department's standard operating procedures. For other utility failures, such as natural gas, electrical power, and telephone service, the planning responsibility includes coordination with the utility(s) affected, as well as evacuation and shelter planning for the affected population.

### 4.2 Repair and Restoration

If utility problems are created as a result of the disaster, agencies will coordinate with local utilities to repair and prioritize the restoration of vital utility services. If required, the County and City will coordinate safety inspections with local utilities before the general public is allowed to return to impacted areas.

### 4.3 Access and Functional Needs

Provision of EF 12-related activities will take into account populations with access and functional needs. The needs of children and adults who experience disabilities or access and functional needs shall be identified and planned for as directed by policy makers and according to State and federal regulations and guidance.

### 4.4 Coordination with Other EFs

The following EFs support EF 12-related activities:

- **EF 1 – Transportation:** Identify impacts to transportation infrastructure and develop priorities for repair and restoration.

- **EF 2 – Communications:** Identify impacts to communication infrastructure and develop priorities for repair and restoration.
- **EF 15 – Public Information:** Provide situation status updates and subject matter expertise to inform development of public messaging.

## 5 Annex Development and Maintenance

The County Public Works/Roads Department will be responsible for coordinating regular review and maintenance of this annex. Each primary and supporting agency will be responsible for developing plans and procedures that address assigned tasks.

## 6 Appendices

- Appendix A – EF 12 Resources
- Appendix B – Roles and Responsibilities



## Appendix A EF 12 Resources

The following resources provide additional information regarding EF 12 and utility-related issues at the local, state, and federal level:

### City

- None at this time

### County

- None at this time

### State

- State of California Blackout Power Restoration Plan
- California Emergency Plan: EF 12 – Utilities

### Federal

- National Response Framework

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## Appendix B Roles and Responsibilities

The following checklist identifies key roles and responsibilities for EF 12 – Utilities. It is broken out by phase of emergency management to inform tasked agencies of what activities they might be expected to perform before, during, and after an emergency to support the volunteers and donations function. All tasked agencies should maintain agency-specific plans and procedures that allow them to effectively accomplish these tasks.

### Preparedness

Preparedness activities take place before an emergency occurs and include plans or preparations made to save lives and help response and recovery operations. Preparedness roles and responsibilities for EF 12 include the following:

- Develop and maintain a complete directory of all utility services and products associated with this EF.
- Ensure the availability of necessary equipment to support energy and utilities activities.
- Coordinate the establishment of priorities to repair damaged energy services and the provision of temporary, alternate, or interim sources of portable generators and other utilities.
- Promote mutual assistance agreements with the vendors of all utility services.
- Develop and maintain alert rosters, plans, policies, and procedures necessary to support the implementation of this annex.
- Identify, train, and assign personnel to execute missions in support of restoration of energy and utility systems.
- Participate in an exercise at least annually to validate this annex and supporting annexes.

### Response

Response activities take place during an emergency and include actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage in an emergency situation. Response roles and responsibilities for EF 12 include the following:

- Establish communication with the EOC to determine resource needs to support incident response and operations.
- Assess the affected areas to determine operational priorities and emergency repair procedures with utility field personnel.
- Mobilize and transport resources for utility repairs and restoration.
- Prioritize utility rebuilding processes if necessary to restore utilities in the affected areas.
- Administer statutory authorities for utility priorities, as needed.
- Apply local, State, and federal resources as necessary, in accordance with established priorities to restore utility services.
- Provide emergency information, education, and conservation guidance to the public in coordination with the Public Information Officer.
- Assist local, State, and federal agencies and departments with obtaining fuel for transportation and communications in support of emergency operations.
- Coordinate with law enforcement for security and protection of supplies.

## Recovery

Recovery activities take place **after** an emergency occurs and include actions to return to a normal or an even safer situation following an emergency. Recovery roles and responsibilities for EF 12 include the following:

- Continue all activities in coordination with the EOC, based on the requirements of the incident.
- Support restoration activities.
- Replenish supplies and repair damaged equipment.
- Participate in after-action briefings and develop after-action reports.
- Make necessary changes to this EF Annex and supporting plans and procedures.

## Mitigation

Mitigation activities take place **before and after** an emergency occurs and include activities that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies. Mitigation roles and responsibilities for EF 12 include the following:

- Based on known hazards, identify and correct vulnerabilities in the energy and utilities function.
- When repairing damages, every attempt should be made to reduce the likelihood and severity of future damages.
- Implement a public awareness campaign regarding energy and utilities safety in emergencies.
- Develop internal Continuation of Operations Plans to identify resource needs and resources that can be provided to local agencies during response and recovery phases of an emergency or disaster event.