



EF 4 – Fire and Rescue

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Tasked Agencies	
Primary County Agency(s)	Local Fire Districts and Departments, Operational Area Fire Rescue Coordinator
Supporting County Agency(s)	County Office of Emergency Services
Primary City Agency(s)	Susanville Fire Department
Supporting City Agency(s)	N/A
Community Partner(s)	National Park Service
State Agency(s)	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services – Fire and Rescue Division, CAL FIRE
Federal Agency(s)	U.S. Department of Agriculture /Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Emergency Function (EF) 4 describes how the County and City will detect and suppress urban, rural, and wildland fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, a significant disaster condition or incident.

Operational priorities for EF 4 include:

- Protect human health and safety and support actions taken to mitigate life-safety risk during response operations.
- Provide mutual aid support as able.

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 4:

- Coordinate support for firefighting activities, including detection of fires on State and private lands.
- Provide personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of all agencies involved in rural and urban and wildland firefighting operations.

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:

- Local mutual aid agreements are maintained with neighboring state and federal wildland fire service agencies to support wildland fire operations.
- California Fire Assistance Agreement
- California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement
- California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- County Fire Mutual Aid

2 Situation and Assumptions

2.1 Situation

The following considerations should be taken into account when planning for and implementing EF 4 activities:

- Fires are often a secondary hazard after a large-scale disaster such as an earthquake. These hazards often overwhelm a community's response capabilities and can exacerbate already dangerous situations as resources become overstretched.
- Dealing with fires involving hazardous materials may require the use of specialized equipment and training.
- All fire personnel are trained in the Incident Command System (ICS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS), and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

2.2 Assumptions

EF 4 is based on the following planning assumptions:

- Urban, rural, and wildland fires will be significant secondary hazards after a major, widespread disaster such as an earthquake.
- In a disaster, some firefighting resources may become scarce or damaged. Assistance from mutual aid agreements, neighboring jurisdictions, and State and federal resources may be relied upon.
- Wheeled-vehicle access may be hampered by road or bridge failures, landslides, etc., making conventional travel to the fire locations extremely difficult or impossible. Aerial attack by air tankers, helicopters, and smoke jumpers may be needed in these situations.
- Wildland firefighting techniques may have to be applied to rural and urban fire situations, particularly where water systems are inoperative. Aerial delivery of fire retardants or water for structural protection may be essential. In the case of multiple fires, firebreaks may be cleared, and burning-out and backfiring techniques may be used.
- Efficient and effective mutual aid among partners requires the use of ICS together with compatible firefighting equipment and communications.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

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

4 Concept of Operations

4.1 General

- Fire departments share resources using automatic and/or mutual aid and also exchange resources with other fire agencies in the region.
- Fire departments are responsible for designated Fire Districts. The first fire responder unit to arrive at the incident location assumes Incident Command responsibility.
- Structural fires become emergencies when their numbers, size, or rates of spread make them difficult or impossible to control without additional resources.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provides support to the Incident Commander and/or Fire Chief, activating the EOC if requested or needed to coordinate emergency operations with cities, special districts, regional partners, and State agencies.
- The EOC or Incident Command may request resource assistance whenever available resources (including mutual aid) will be insufficient to meet incident needs. The EOC Command coordinates the recommendation for a declaration of emergency and request for assistance with the Fire Chief.

4.2 Access and Functional Needs

Fire and rescue operations that require dissemination of emergency public information or evacuation operations will take into account populations with access and functional needs.

4.3 Coordination with Other EFs

The following EFs support firefighting-related activities:

- **EF 1 – Transportation.** Assist in moving firefighting resources and personnel to the incident.
- **EF 6 – Care and Shelter.** Provide mass care support for residents displaced by a fire incident.
- **EF 13 – Law Enforcement.** Support evacuations and scene security.

5 EF Annex Development and Maintenance

Fire Rescue Operational Area Coordinator and City Fire Chief will be responsible for ensuring 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 4 Resources
- Appendix B – Capabilities
- Appendix C – Roles and Responsibilities

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Appendix A EF 4 Resources

The following resources provide additional information regarding EF 4–related issues at the local, state, and federal level:

City

- None at this time

County

- Hazardous Materials Response Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan (in progress)
- Lightning Coordination Areas Plan
- Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement – Operating Plan

State

- California Fire Plan
- California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement
- California Fire Assistance Agreement
- California Strategic Plan
- California Emergency Plan: EF 4 – Fire and Rescue

Federal

- National Response Framework

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Appendix A EF 4 Capabilities

The following capabilities are available:

- City of Susanville Fire Department
 - Medical aid
 - Swift Water Team (not complete – 4 individuals)
 - Low Angle Rescue
 - Type 2 Hazmat Response Vehicle
- County Fire Districts
 - Thermal Imagery
 - Compressed Air Trailer (Janesville FD)
- CALFIRE – Lassen Modoc Unit
 - Air Rescue – Hoist
 - Low Angle Rescue

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Appendix B Roles and Responsibilities

The following checklist identifies key roles and responsibilities for EF 4 – Fire and Rescue. 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 fire services 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 4 include the following:

- Develop plans and procedures for EF 4 activities, as appropriate.
- Participate in EF 4–related trainings and exercises as appropriate.
- Appoint a representative to assist in the EOC when requested.
- Develop procedures and protocols for coordinating protective action communications with the at-risk population on scene.
- Review, revise, and develop plans, programs, and agreements on fire-related public safety protection activities, including region-wide mutual aid response protocols.
- Establish criteria for relocating fire operations in the event that present facilities must be evacuated.
- Establish communication links with law enforcement agencies for coordinating warning and evacuation confirmation functions.
- Encourage active participation of inter-agency preparedness organizations.
- Identify response zones, potential staging areas, and potential medical facilities with local and regional search and rescue teams and establish specialized teams.
- Develop procedures and protocols for coordinating protective action communications with the at-risk population on scene.
- Develop plans, procedures, and protocols for resource management in accordance with NIMS resource typing, including pre-positioning of resources to efficiently and effectively respond to an event.
- Establish procedures for coordinating all public information releases through the Public Information Officer (PIO).
- Establish criteria for relocating fire operations in the event that present facilities must be evacuated.
- Establish communication links with law enforcement agencies for coordinating warning and evacuation confirmation functions.
- Maintain liaison with support agencies.

Mutual Aid Partners

- Establish procedures for coordinating all public information releases through the PIO.

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 4 include the following:

All Tasked Agencies

- Provide situational updates to the EOC as required to maintain situational awareness and foster a common operating picture.

Command and Control

- SEMS is the system required by California Government Code § 8607(a) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies in California. SEMS incorporates the use of ICS, the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, existing mutual aid systems, the Operational Area concept, and multi-agency or inter-agency coordination. It creates a measure of performance by which responses to emergencies can be evaluated and improved.
- ICS has been adopted and is used by many first responders and local jurisdictions in the State to manage incidents and events. The purpose of ICS is to establish command and control with a system recognized by all responders, using the same organization and nomenclature.
- The ranking member of the first arriving response unit assumes command until relieved. An Incident Command Post is established as the focal point for all emergency operations.
- Upon determination of fire protection responsibility and the need for additional resources, management responsibility may pass from local to State or federal agencies.
- In a disaster, several ICS units may be established to manage the significant areas of need. The Incident Commander should adapt the management structure to reflect the need and complexity of the incident. A Unified Command may be established.
- The Incident Commander may also take other management steps such as requesting that the EOC be activated and that a Fire Coordinator within the EOC coordinate fire response activities.
- The EOC may provide support to the Incident Commander(s) in evacuation, communications, transportation, shelter, and any other resources required.
- A situation map may be maintained by the EOC Planning Section to illustrate the affected areas and any other pertinent information such as anticipated fire and rescue activity and possible evacuation routes.
- Fire agencies may request activation of the Local Incident Support Team or a State or federal Incident Management Team to assist with managing the incident.
- Fire agencies may request activation of other local agency resources such as search and rescue units or law enforcement. These resources may be made available if they are not otherwise engaged. All non-traditional resource requests should be directed to the County EOC.
- Law enforcement may provide traffic control, establish scene security, and assist with movement of people and animals in the case of evacuation.

- Activate the EOC and coordinate emergency warning(s). Coordinate with appropriate agencies, including government, public service, and private and volunteer organizations.
- Notify key staff based on information received from the Communications Center and/or the EOC.
- Activate emergency operating procedures.
- Respond to calls for fire, rescue/extrication, emergency medical assistance, hazardous material response, and evacuation.
- Provide temporary power and emergency lighting at emergency scenes when needed.
- Assist in warning the public of evacuations, traffic routing, and/or traffic control, when possible.
- Initiate mutual aid contingency plans, when needed.
- Track personnel assignments/locations. Relocate fire apparatus as conditions warrant.
- Support emergency operations as defined in agency emergency operations procedures or as requested by the EOC, such as damage assessment.

Mutual Aid-Partners

- Respond to calls for support under established agreements, including, but not limited to, fire, rescue/extrication, emergency medical assistance, hazardous material response, and evacuation.
- Support emergency operations as defined in agency emergency operations procedures or as requested by the EOC, such as damage assessment.

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 4 include the following:

- Continue to render support when and where required as long as emergency conditions exist.
- Demobilize any communication staging areas, mobile communication centers, and other applicable response operations according to established plans, policies, and procedures and return to normal day-to-day activities.
- Keep detailed records of expenses in case there is potential for federal and State reimbursement assistance.
- Initiate a financial reimbursement process for response activities when such support is available.
- Update plans and procedures based on critiques and lessons learned during an actual event.
- Participate in all after-action activities and implement corrective actions as appropriate.
- Return vehicles and equipment to regularly assigned locations.
- Assist the public in recovery operations as resources allow.
- Support other recovery efforts as requested by the EOC.
- Provide critical payroll and other financial information for cost recovery through appropriate channels.

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 4 include the following:

- Participate in the hazard/vulnerability identification and analysis process.
- Take steps to correct deficiencies identified during the hazard/vulnerability identification and analysis process as appropriate.
- Conduct fire code inspections and coordinate with appropriate personnel for building inspections and compliance strategies.
- Conduct fire education and life safety training and education programs.
- Conduct building plan reviews to reduce or eliminate hazards.
- Develop plans to overcome identified vulnerabilities (e.g., new equipment, training, and mutual aid procedures).
- Ensure that all equipment is regularly checked and maintained for instant deployment.