

ESF 4: Firefighting

Primary Agency

Pacific County Fire District # 1 (PCFD1)

Support Agencies

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA)
Pacific County Fire Districts
Municipal Fire Departments
Washington State EMD
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Corrections
Federal Emergency Management Agency
US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service
Washington State Patrol, Office of the Fire Marshal

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. To provide an organizational framework that will effectively utilize all available fire fighting apparatus and personnel within Pacific County, control the dispatching of such equipment and manpower to locations where needed, and provide for effective operations at the scene during an emergency/disaster.

B. Scope

1. This ESF addresses all firefighting activities including the detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires occurring separately or coincidentally with a significant natural or technological disaster. This ESF will be applied in coordination with the Washington State Fire Mobilization, Central Region Fire Mobilization Plan, and any existing mutual aid agreements.

C. Policies

1. During emergency situations, local fire agencies mobilize all available apparatus and personnel required to cope with the situation. Mutual Aid Agreements are activated when initial resources are inadequate. When mutual aid resources are exhausted, then the provisions for regional/state fire mobilization apply.
2. Each local, state, or federal agency will assume the full cost of protection of the lands within its respective boundaries unless other arrangements are made. Fire

protection agencies may choose not to incur costs in jurisdictions outside their area without reimbursement unless there is a local mutual aid agreement between those jurisdictions. It is essential that the issue of financial limitation be clarified through proper official channels prior to assignment for efficient execution of fire support.

3. Priority shall be given to saving lives and protecting property, in that order.

II. Situations and Assumptions

A. Situations

1. Urban, rural, and wildland fires will occur within Pacific County. In the event of an earthquake or other significant event, large, damaging fires could occur.
2. In a disaster some firefighting resources will become scarce or damaged.

B. Assumptions

1. Wheeled-vehicle access may be hampered by bridge failures, landslides, etc., making conventional travel to the fire locations extremely difficult or impossible. Aerial attack may be needed in these situations, provided airports are not impeded.
2. State and other resources may be called upon.
3. Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local, county, state, and federal fire agencies requires the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) together with compatible firefighting equipment and communications.
4. The majority of first responders in Pacific County are volunteers. Although they are dedicated in a major disaster, they are not obliged to leave a family crisis or their workplace to assist emergency efforts.

III. Concept of Operations

A. Fire suppression is divided into two distinct response categories:

1. Urban/Rural Fires
 - a. Local fire protection districts and municipal fire departments have the primary responsibility for the suppression and control of fires within their respective fire protection jurisdictions. For those incidents requiring additional support, mutual aid agreements may be executed.
 - b. In 1992, the State Legislature directed the creation of a State Fire Services Mobilization Plan to deal with the growing problem of urban/wildland interface fires. This action also called for the establishment of the State Fire

Defense Board, made up of representatives from nine fire defense regions throughout the state. Pacific County is part of the Central Region Fire Defense area.

- c. Fire suppression and control assistance may, in some instances, be provided on a limited basis by federal agencies and the military by pre-established mutual aid agreements.

2. Forest Fires

- a. The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and supporting agencies, per the Washington State Fire Mobilization Plan, take action on wildfires, regardless of land ownership, which jeopardize DNR protected lands outside incorporated cities and towns and on adjacent U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior protected areas.
 - b. Additional assistance may be made available as defined in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
 - c. A fire protection district that takes immediate action on DNR (State) protected lands outside of its jurisdictional boundaries, if such response could prevent the spread of the fire onto lands protected by the district, could be reimbursed by the state agency for its reasonable fire suppression costs that are incurred until the responsible agency takes charge (not to exceed a 24-hour period).
- B. Fire agencies, in addition to having 24-hour operational capability, have two-way radio communication links between their respective mobile units and the Pacific County EOC.
 - C. Fire units, with the use of their sirens and public address systems, are a valuable resource for disseminating warning and emergency information, and will do so when requested by the EOC unless otherwise involved.
 - D. Some fire agencies within Pacific County operate response vehicles that have the capability of Advanced Life Support (ALS) and/or Basic Life Support (BLS). In addition, some areas are served by private ambulance service that provides both Advanced and Basic Life Support transport.
 - E. Fire agencies may request activation of other local agency resources, such as Search and Rescue units. These resources will be made available if not otherwise occupied. All non-traditional resource requests should be made to the County EOC.

IV. Organization

Incident Command System (ICS) - Many first responders and local jurisdictions in the State of Washington use ICS to manage an emergency incident. 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 (ICP) is established as the focal point for all emergency operations. ICS will be used in Pacific County by first responders. In a disaster, several ICS units may be established to manage the significant areas of need.

V. Actions

A. Initial

1. If requested, Pacific County EOC will activate in support of fire services.
2. Coordinate ESF 4 from the Incident Command Post or within the Operations Section of the Pacific County EOC and/or at other locations as required.
3. Coordinate needs and response actions among all firefighting and EMS response agencies.
4. Coordinate on scene direction and control with the EOC or other coordination entities as appropriate.
5. Maintain communications with appropriate field personnel to ensure readiness for timely response.
6. Maintain situational awareness regarding firefighting support for threatened and/or impacted areas to determine post-event effect on emergency services.
7. Monitor and direct firefighting resources and response activities to include pre-positioning for response/relocation due to the potential impact(s) of the emergency situation.
8. Participate in/contribute to EOC briefings, development of Incident Action Plans, and Situation Reports, and meetings.
9. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support emergency activities.
10. Obtain other resources through state or regional Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreements.
11. Upon request, coordinate all resources into the affected areas from designated staging areas.
12. Coordinate with ESF 13 (Public Safety and Security) regarding scene security and traffic control.

B. Continuing

1. Contact participating firefighting agencies for initial damage assessment of personnel, equipment, and supplies.
2. Continue to provide support and coordination as required until response activities are concluded or until they can be managed and staffed by the primary incident agency or Jurisdictions.
3. Assist in recovery operations.
4. Coordinate with the All Hazards Mitigation Committee to identify potential

hazards and their impacts, include in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan and seek funding.

5. Provide personnel with the appropriate expertise to participate in activities designed to reduce or minimize the impact of future disasters.
6. Conduct planning with ESF 4 support agencies and other emergency support functions to refine firefighting operations.
7. Prepare and maintain emergency operating procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters, and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of the responsibilities of the lead agency.
8. Maintain an inventory of ESF 4 assets that can be deployed during an emergency; refer to the NIMS Resource Typing in organizing these resources.
9. Assign and schedule sufficient personnel to implement ESF 4 tasks for an extended period of time with assistance from EOC Logistics as appropriate.
10. Ensure lead agency personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.
11. Maintain liaison with the EOC and support agencies, participate in training and exercises involving the EOC Operations Section.
12. Homeland Security Region 3 Incident Management Team 3 may be requested in support of fire services.

VI. Responsibilities

A. Primary Agency

Pacific County Fire District 1

Coordinator for the Central Region Fire Mobilization Defense Plan

B. Support Agencies

1. Local

a. Fire Agencies Available

District #	Geographic Area
District 1	Ocean Park, Seaview
District 2	Chinook and outlying areas
District 3	Unincorporated Raymond and outlying areas
District 4	Naselle
District 5	North Cove

District 6	Bay Center
District 7	Nemah
District 8	South Bend
Municipal Fire Depts	Ilwaco, Long Beach, Raymond, South Bend

2. Fire Agency Authority

- a. If an emergency occurs within the county geographic boundaries, the Fire Agency for the district or city in which the emergency occurs will exercise overall authority for fire services activities and responsibilities but may turn authority over to another Pacific County Fire Agency.

If an emergency occurs within the county geographic boundaries but not within the boundaries of a district or city fire agency, fire authority shall be the responsibility of the responding agency.

3. Fire Agency Duties

- a. Provide suppression and control of fires within their respective fire protection jurisdictions and/or response area (including those DNR or government lands that are contracted with the local district). Support other fire protection agencies as signatories to a mutual aid agreement, and support the provisions of the Central Region Fire Defense/Mobilization Plan.
- b. Support warning and evacuation efforts.
- c. Provide hazardous materials response, as appropriate, upon acceptance of and within the boundaries of the incident command structure and agency training and capability. Washington State Patrol acts as Incident Command within Pacific County with the exception of geographic boundaries of PCFD1.

4. Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

- a. May provide for alert and warning of persons located in the affected area.
- b. As requested, serve as liaison between local jurisdictions, response agencies, and the State for requesting resources when the capabilities of local response agencies are exceeded.
- c. May provide for information and resource management.

C. Central Region Fire Defense Board

1. Coordinate resource assistance to regional jurisdictions per the Washington State Mobilization and the Central Region Fire Mobilization Plans (See References D and E).

D. State

1. State Emergency Management

- a. Coordinate assistance to local government for fire activities and mobilization resources per the provisions of the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan.

2. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- a. Coordinates fire suppression efforts and provide resources to control wildland fires in the state on DNR protected lands. May provide resources for non-DNR protected lands, if available, at reasonable cost.

3. Department of Corrections

- a. Provide trained minimum-security inmate firefighters to supplement the efforts of the Department of Natural Resources in suppressing and controlling forest fires and provide personnel for other activities.

E. Federal

1. Limited fire suppression and control assistance is available from federal agencies and the military by pre-established agreement.

2. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- a. Administers fire suppression assistance to the state pursuant to PL 93-288 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Section 417, when a fire destruction threat would constitute a major disaster.
- b. Provides training for fire suppression and hazardous materials control to local fire jurisdictions through the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

3. U. S. Department of Agriculture, U. S. Forest Service (USDA-USFS)

- a. Acts as the Principal Advisor to the FEMA Regional Director to assist in the administration of the terms of the Federal/State Agreement for Fire Suppression.
- b. Provides protection in National Forests and assists in control of fires that threaten to spread from nearby lands into National Forests.

VII. References

- A. The National Response Framework
- B. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- C. Revised Code of Washington, 39.34.030, 38.54, 76.04, 38.52; and Title 52 and 35 RCW
- D. Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan
- E. Central Region Fire Defense Mobilization Plan
- F. Interlocal Agreement Between Pacific County and Pacific County Fire District Number 1
- G. Interlocal Agreement Between Pacific County and Pacific County Fire District Number 2

VIII. Attachments