

Emergency Support Function #4 - Firefighting

Primary Agencies

Fire Departments

Secondary/Support Agencies

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOT)

Introduction

Purpose:

Directs and controls operations regarding fire prevention, fire detection, fire suppression, rescue, and hazardous materials incidents; as well as to assist with warning and alerting, communications, evacuation, and other operations as required during an emergency.

Scope:

ESF #4 manages and coordinates firefighting activities including the detection and suppression of fires, and provides personnel, equipment, and supplies to support to the agencies involved in the firefighting operations.

Policies:

- Priority is given to, the public, community, firefighter safety and protecting property (in that order).
- For efficient and effective fire suppression, mutual aid may be required from various local firefighting agencies to aid in the community's emergency response team. This requires the use of the Incident Command System together with compatible equipment and communications.
- Personnel will stay up to date with procedures through education and training.

Concept of Operations

General:

Rockbridge County, City of Buena Vista, and the City of Lexington fire departments are prepared to assume primary operational control in fire prevention strategies, fire suppression, and hazardous material incidents. (See the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan.) Fire department personnel who are not otherwise engaged in emergency response operations may assist in warning and alerting the public, evacuation, and communications as is necessary and appropriate during an emergency situation.

When the Emergency Support Function is activated all requests for fire fighting support will, in most cases, be submitted to the 9-1-1 Center for coordination, validation, and/or action.

The director of Emergency Management and/or designee will determine the need to evacuate and issue orders for evacuation or other protective action as needed. The incident commander may order an immediate evacuation prior to requesting or obtaining approval, if in his/her judgment this action is necessary in order to safeguard lives and property. Warning and instructions will be communicated through the appropriate means.

Organization:

A fire representative will be assigned to the EOC in order to coordinate the fire service response. The fire representative will be a part of the EOC staff and will assist with the overall direction and control of emergency operations.

The Fire Departments will implement evacuations and the Sheriff's Office and Police Department will assist and provide security for the evacuated area. In the event of a hazardous materials incident, the Incident Commander should implement immediate protective actions to include evacuation as appropriate.

Actions

- Develop and maintain plans and procedures to provide fire and rescue services in time of emergency;
- Document expenses and continue for the duration of the emergency;
- Check fire fighting and communications equipment;
- Fire Service representatives should report to the Local Emergency Operations Center to assist with operations;
- Fire department personnel may be asked to assist with warning and alerting, evacuating, communications, and emergency medical transport;
- Follow established procedures in responding to fires and hazardous materials incidents and in providing rescue services; and
- Request mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions.
- The NWS may be contacted to provide weather forecast support and/or on-site support for Decision support services as/if needed.

Responsibilities

- Fire prevention and suppression;
- Emergency medical treatment;
- Hazardous materials incident response and training;
- Radiological monitoring and decontamination;
- Assist with evacuation;
- Search and rescue;
- Temporary shelter for evacuees at each fire station;
- Assist in initial warning and alerting;
- Provide qualified representative to assist in the State EOC;
- Requests assistance from supporting agencies when needed;
- Arranges direct liaison with fire chiefs in the area;
- Implements Mutual Aid;
- Assist with clean-up operations; and
- Assist with inspection of damaged facilities, if applicable.

**Tab 1 to Emergency Support Function #4
Fire Department Resources**

Department	Address	Phone Number(s)	Contact Person	Number Firefighters	Equipment
Effinger	2824 Collierstown Rd Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-7596	Chief Steve Emore		
Glasgow	P.O. Box 356 Glasgow, VA 24555	540-258-2400	Chief Ricky Taylor		
Goshen	140 Main St. Goshen, VA 24439	540-997-5411	Chief Mike Jolly		
Kerrs Creek	2880 W. Midland Trail Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-7515	Chief Dennis Goodbar		
Rockbridge Baths	5024 Maury River Rd Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473	540-348-5055	Chief Melvin Bauernfeind		
South River	5842 N. Lee Hwy P.O. Box 203 Fairfield, VA 24435	540-377-5988	Chief Ben Wilmer		
Walkers Creek	3964 Walkers Creek Rd Middlebrook, VA24459	540-348-5105	Chief Colby Irvine		
Lexington	708 S. Main St. Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-3210	Chief Ty Dickerson		
Buena Vista	2010 Sycamore Ave. Buena Vista, VA 24416	540-261-2390	Chief Tommy Keiser		
Natural Bridge	5705 S. Lee Highway Natural Bridge, VA 24579	540-291-1866	Chief Gomez Lee		
Raphine	2130 Raphine Rd Raphine, VA 24472	540-377-2888	Chief Jeremy Ramsey		

Table 4.1 – Fire Department Resources