

ANNEX K – FIRE AND RESCUE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
I. Situation and Assumptions	1
A. Situation	1
B. Assumptions	1
II. Concept of Operations	1
A. General	1
B. Search and Rescue	3
C. Search and Rescue Categories	3
D. Search and Rescue Operations	3
III. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities	4
A. Organization	4
B. Responsibilities	4
IV. Direction and Control	5
V. Administration and Logistics	6
A. Administration	6
B. Logistics	6
VI. Continuity of Government	7
VII. Plan Development and Maintenance	7
VIII. List of Appendices	7
IX. Authentication	7
Appendices	Page
Appendix 1 – Tucker County Fire & Ambulance Departments	8

ANNEX K – FIRE AND RESCUE

I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Fire prevention, control, and rescue operations are daily problems faced by fire service personnel. These problems become more significant during emergency situations. Several hazards present difficulties with regard to fire protection, including conflagrations, nuclear incidents, hazardous materials, and terrorist activities.
2. During response, firefighting and rescue personnel establish an Incident Command System (ICS) in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

B. Assumptions

1. Local fire personnel and equipment will be able to handle most emergency situations through the use of existing mutual aid agreements. When additional support is required, assistance can be obtained from neighboring counties and state and federal agencies through the Tucker County EOC.
2. Disaster operations differ from daily operations in that fire departments may be called upon to perform various additional tasks and will have to coordinate their operations with other disaster response forces.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The responsibilities of fire service personnel in disaster situations are basically the same as in daily operations. Their primary responsibility is fire control and suppression. They are also involved on a regular basis with rescue operations and hazardous materials response. Firefighting responsibilities as they pertain to hazardous materials incidents can be found in Annex N (Hazardous Materials).
2. There are four (4) fire departments located within the county; each of them operates within a mutually recognized territory and all have mutual-aid agreements with adjacent departments.
3. In a disaster situation, each department will allocate such personnel and equipment to EOC control (through the Fire Service Coordinator in the EOC) as can be spared from the primary mission of the department. Such allotment will permit, but not require deployment of this personnel and equipment into other parts of the county or into other counties or states.
4. The highest-ranking firefighting official on-scene will assume the role of Incident Commander (IC). If the incident involves more than one jurisdiction, the highest-ranking firefighting official of the affected jurisdiction will assume the role of IC (in accordance with the West Virginia Code, Chapter 29, Article 3A, Section1).
 - a. Responsibilities for the Incident Commander can be found in Annex A: Direction and Control.
5. Fire service personnel are responsible for their own knowledge of the Incident Command System (ICS). This knowledge must include cooperation and interaction with law enforcement and EMS.
6. Federal agencies may become involved when wildland, rural, or urban firefighting operations result from or happen coincidentally with an incident of national significance. Their actions are in accordance with ESF #4 of the National Response Plan.
 - a. Federal agencies are responsible for the detection and suppression of fires on federal lands. The initial notification may come from local agencies and operations may be supplemented by the jurisdictional local fire department.
 - b. The responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the local incident commander.
 - c. Requests for federal assistance are transmitted from the local EOC through the Joint Field Office (JFO). If the JFO is not activated, requests for firefighting assistance

should be made to the US Department of Agriculture/Forest Service from the EOC.
The Forest Service may establish a JFO.

B. Search and Rescue (SAR)

1. The county OEM Director shall designate an individual or agency to direct SAR operations within the jurisdiction. Tucker County's designate is the Chief of the Tactical Rescue Team and the Tucker County Sheriff Department.
2. Local fire departments provide significant manpower for SAR. The Canaan Valley VFD maintains a tactical squad, trained for high angle rescues.
3. Law enforcement may help with SAR activities, as they are available.
4. Other organizations such as the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) may become involved if search by aircraft is initiated.
5. If personnel or other resources are needed to assist SAR operations, requests should be made through the local EOC in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). See Annex H.

C. Search and Rescue Categories

1. Category 1: Lost person(s)/aircraft. This type of situation may involve any number of searchers over a large area, but the important distinction is that the lost/missing person(s) or aircraft are the sole reason for the emergency.
2. Category 2: Industrial explosions/transportation accidents. This type of situation will involve a large number of searchers, but the important distinction is that the SAR operation is a function of the emergency rather than the emergency itself.
3. Category 3: Widespread disaster (major flood, tornadoes). This type of situation utilizes a large number of searchers and its important distinction is that the SAR operation is a function of the emergency wherein a large number of people are being searched for over a large area.

D. Search and Rescue Operations

1. Category 1: Operations involve lost aircraft are accomplished in accordance with the West Virginia Civil Air Patrol's SAR Plans and the National Search and Rescue Plan. Government organizations may be requested to assist in operations; however, overall direction of the operation is by a federal agency (USAF or USCG). Operations will be

- under the control of local government and Sheriff's Department, except on state property.
2. Category 2: Operations are directed and accomplished by local government utilizing local resources supplemented by support from the local industrial/transportation company concerned.
 3. Category 3: Local government must utilize all resources before requesting assistance from the state. The Governor directs state coordination of SAR operations in a multi-county area due to the magnitude and severity of the situation.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. During large-scale emergencies, the fire departments of the county will coordinate response efforts and assist other entities within the county to the extent possible with additional manpower and equipment to protect lives and provide for the safety of all citizens within the county.
2. The Tucker County Fire Association promotes cooperation and mutual aid between fire departments and provides training and educational opportunities to the fire departments.
3. The Fire Service Coordinator (FSC) is not a designated individual; rather the FSC is chosen on an as-needed basis and should come from the department with greatest jurisdictional involvement.

B. Responsibilities

1. Fire Service Coordinator (FSC)
 - a. The FSC is responsible for the direction and control of the fire department's operations from the EOC during an emergency. This section will maintain coordination with all fire departments on manpower, firefighting and rescue vehicles.
 - b. The FSC should coordinate with Operations Group Chief on the status of major operational activity.
 - c. The Chief Executives should be briefed periodically on the status of emergency operations and problems confronting the Fire Services Coordinator.
 - d. Requests for out of the county assistance should be directed to the resource

management section of the EOC.

2. First Fire Department On-Scene
 - a. Activate the Incident Command System (ICS) as required by the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
 - b. Designate an Incident Commander (Chief of the first department on-scene).
 - c. Direct firefighting operations.
 - d. Prioritize the assignment of personnel and equipment to emergency sites.
 - e. Provide fire protection for public shelters.
 - f. Designate staging areas for equipment and personnel.
 - g. Support search and rescue operations, as necessary.
 - h. Supply initial damage assessment information to the EOC.
 - i. Provide decontamination assistance.
3. Tactical Rescue Team
 - a. Location of lost persons or aircraft.
 - b. Searches in caves, swift water and high angle (vertical).
 - c. Respond to natural disasters, where search and rescue is an integral part of the overall disaster operations.
4. Other Fire Departments
 - a. Support the ICS, as required.
 - b. Support firefighting and rescue operations.
 - c. Maintain contact with the EOC through the IC.

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The appointed Fire Service Coordinator (FSC) is responsible for the overall direction and control of the fire companies' operations from the EOC during an emergency situation. Through the on-scene IC, the FSC will maintain coordination with all fire departments concerning manpower, firefighting, and rescue vehicles involved in the response.
- B. Primary responsibility for the control of fires rests with the fire department for each jurisdiction. When two (2) or more fire departments are involved in any fire fighting operation, the senior officer of the department in whose jurisdiction the fire is located is in charge of coordinating the on-scene operation.
- C. The rescue squad(s) participating in these operations will receive mission assignments from the fire department official in overall charge at the primary command post.

- D. The release of information concerning detailed local fire control operations at the site(s) will be the responsibility of the department official in charge at the primary command post. Public information releases will be issued by either the Command Staff or County Public Information Officer (PIO), depending on whether the local EOC is activated.
- E. If an emergency is declared in the county, all county fire departments will be placed on “Stand-by” through activation of the encoder/paging system. Once placed on “Stand-by”, each department having a responsibility for warning an area will check their equipment, review their plans, and notify the county EOC and the TCCC as to whether they are ready to proceed or cannot proceed.

V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Administration

- 1. Each fire/rescue organization is responsible for providing necessary support to their response personnel with regard to food, water, fuel, and emergency power. Requests for necessary items may be coordinated through the EOC.
- 2. Reports and records for fire service activities during an emergency/disaster involving activation of the EOC will be collected, maintained, and distributed on a need-to-know basis by the Fire Service Coordinator serving during that emergency.
- 3. Administration of the fire department’s affairs will continue under pre-disaster guidelines until determined otherwise by fire officials in conjunction with the EOC executive and operating group.

B. Logistics

- 1. Logistical concerns for each fire department are addressed in departmental Operating Guidelines (OGs).
- 2. The pre-disaster logistical channels will be utilized until a decision implementing emergency procedures is approved by fire official’s in conjunction with the EOC executive and operating group.
- 3. Resource requests will be made through the local EOC and be in accordance with the typing definitions used in the “Fire/HazMat Resources” and “Search and Rescue Resources” section of the NIMS Resource Definitions. See http://www.fema.gov/nims/mutual_aid.shtm or Annex H: Resource Management.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. Lines of Succession

1. The Fire Service Coordinator is an EOC Staff position filled as is necessary. Consequently, no pre-determined line of succession can be established.
2. Lines of succession in individual fire departments proceed from the Chief to the Assistant Chief.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. Each fire and rescue agency will be responsible for developing and maintaining OGs that reflect the operational capabilities of the respective department.
- B. All plans shall be reviewed annually and tested in periodic exercises. All resources will be inventoried annually, including personnel, equipment, supplies, and other items.
- C. The OEM Director, in coordination with county fire departments and the county fire association, will periodically review and update this annex.

VIII. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Tucker County Fire and Ambulance Departments

IX. AUTHENTICATION

Date

Tucker County Fire Association President