

Spokane Emergency Management
Emergency Support Function #4
Fire Services

Emergency Coordination Center	
<p>Primary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Services Agencies <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokane Emergency Management. • Law Enforcement Agencies. • Public Works. • Red Cross. • Utilities. 	<p>Likely Tasks:</p> <p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain inventories of resources and equipment. • Maintain mutual aid agreements. <p>Emergency Coordination Center (ECC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify incident sites requiring firefighting services. • Determine condition, status of County and municipal firefighting resources. • Determine present and future need for firefighting and other on-scene resources: Communications; Search and rescue; Emergency medical; Heavy rescue; Evacuation; Mass casualty transportation; Mobile shelter; Transport of emergency responders and resources; Other Logistics: food; water; emergency power; lighting; etc.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose:

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

Scope:

This ESF addresses all firefighting activities including the detection and suppression of wild land, rural, and urban fires occurring separately or coincidentally with a significant natural or technological disaster. The scope of this section will not attempt to address details regarding mutual aid and regional/state fire resource mobilization responsibilities and procedures that are contained in other document.

POLICIES

- A. During emergency situations, local fire agencies mobilize all available apparatus and personnel required to cope with them. Mutual aid agreements, established pursuant to

RCW 39.34.030, are activated when local resources are inadequate. When mutual aid resources are exhausted, the provisions for state fire mobilization apply.

- B. Priority shall be given to saving and protecting lives, property and the environment in that order.
- C. Cooperative agreement exist between the local fire agencies and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Federal land Management Agencies within the County.
- D. An “Interstate Mutual Aid Compact” has been established with Washington and the states of Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Requests for assistance from neighboring states will be made through local Emergency Management channels and coordinated by the Washington State Patrol.
- E. 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 should not incur costs in jurisdictions outside their area without reimbursement unless there is a mutual aid agreement between those jurisdictions or the response is made under state-authorized fire resource mobilization. It is essential that the issue of financial limitation be clarified through proper official channels for efficient execution of fire support. The introduction section of Reference E contains an excellent graphic description of fire mobilization stages and responsibilities.

SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards:

See Potential Disasters to Spokane County (Table #1 HIVA, Basic Plan)

B. Planning Assumptions:

- 1. Urban, rural, and wild land fires will occur within Spokane County. In the event of an earthquake or other significant event, large fires could be common.
- 2. In a disaster some firefighting resources will become scarce or damaged.
- 3. Wheeled-vehicle access will be hampered by bridge failures, landslides, etc., making conventional travel to fire locations extremely difficult or impossible. Air attack by air tankers, helicopters, and/or smoke jumpers may be essential in these situations. Helicopters will be scarce resources. Usable airports will be congested.
- 4. State and other resources will be called upon.
- 5. Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local, county, state, and federal fire fighting agencies requires the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) together with compatible firefighting equipment and communications. ICS will be utilized by all firefighting agencies.
- 6. Many first responders in Spokane County are volunteers. Although they are dedicated in a major disaster they are not obligated to leave a family crisis or their workplace to assist in emergency efforts. Volunteer first responders will stay with their families until they are assured they are safe. The early capability to fight fires will be compromised for this reason.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General:

- 1. Fire agencies, in addition to having 24-hour operational capability, have two-way radio communication links between their respective mobile units and the dispatch center (CCC).

2. Fire units, with the use of their sirens and public address systems, are a valuable resource for disseminating warning and emergency information.
3. All fire agencies within Spokane County operate response vehicles, which have the capability of Advanced Life Support (ALS) and/or Basic Life Support (BLS). In addition, all areas are supplemented by private ambulance service, which provides ALS transport.
4. The Incident Command System (ICS) shall be used by first responders and local jurisdictions in the State of Washington to manage an emergency incident. ICS is required by SARA Title III to manage any hazardous materials incident. 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. The local fire agencies have established a Major Incident Support team (IMT) to provide management support for major incidents within the county.
5. An Incident Action Plan will be developed and shared with the ECC, if activated, to assure that all personnel are working with a common plan.
6. A fire service representative will be provided to fulfill fire coordination responsibilities within the ECC during and emergency/disaster in accordance with the Spokane County Fire Resource Plan (Reference G) as adopted by the Inland Empire Chiefs Association.

Fire Suppression:

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 are in place. In the event the incident involves multiple local and/or state/federal jurisdictions they will utilize unified command or a joint delegation of authority to an IMT to manage the incident.
- b. As part of the Northeast Region Fire Defense area, Spokane County has developed a companion plan to the regional and state documents that address situations exceeding mutual aid agreements. (See References E, F, and G).
- 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. (Reference Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan).
- d. If a fire threatens or is likely to become a fire of major magnitude, assistance may be available from the federal government under an emergency declaration by the President. Requests for such declarations are handled through normal emergency management channels.

Wild land Fires

- a. Per the Washington State Fire Plan, the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) takes action in all wildfires outside incorporated cities and towns, regardless of land ownership, which jeopardize DNR-protected lands, and on adjacent US Forest Service or Department of the Interior lands.

- b. In those instances when a fire threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster, assistance may be available through federal fire suppression.
- c. A fire protection district will take immediate action on DNR (State) protected lands outside of its jurisdictional boundaries, when such response could prevent the spread of fire onto lands protected by the district, and shall be reimbursed for said action as defined by agreement between the agencies.
- d. A fire protection district takes immediate fire confinement/control action on wild lands within its jurisdictional area for which it shares protection responsibility with DNR. In most cases, DNR will also respond and incident command and operations will be unified.

Organization:

The Incident Command System will be utilized.

Procedures:

Fire Agency Authority

- a. If an emergency occurs within the Spokane County limits, the local fire protection authority in which the emergency occurs will exercise overall authority for fire service activities and responsibilities.
- b. Major or multiple fire incidents or disasters will be managed as prescribed by the Spokane County Fire Resource Plan (Reference G) and the Spokane County Field Operations Guide.

E. Mitigation Activities:

Fire agencies will work with local government, business/industry and citizens to ensure Spokane is a disaster resistant community.

F. Preparedness Activities:

- 1. Department of Emergency Management (DEM)
 - a. Minimize the effects of an emergency/disaster and facilitate recovery efforts.
 - b. Organize and coordinate the preparation of plans.
 - c. Develop and maintain the Emergency Operations Center, formulate the ECC Plan and provide for alternate ECC sites.
 - d. Identify equipment resources
 - e. Provide training opportunity for personnel.
- 2. Fire Agencies and Municipal Fire Departments
 - a. Coordinate, maintain, and review procedures for emergency/disaster operations. For Spokane County, this is the Spokane County Fire Resource Plan.
 - b. Assess equipment and training needs.
 - c. Establish procedures for coordinating all public information releases.
 - d. Establish procedures for procuring logistical support of fire resources.
 - e. Make provisions for alternate fire ICP/bases.
 - f. Establish communication links with law enforcement agencies for coordination of warning and evacuation confirmation functions (See ESF-3).
 - g. Establish mutual aid agreements to maximize utilization of resources.
 - h. Provide a fire representative to serve as fire coordinator in the Spokane County ECC as provided by the Spokane County Fire Resource Plan (See Reference G) and the Spokane County Field Operations Guide.

G. Response Activities:

1. Department of Emergency Management
 - a. Activate and manage the ECC or alternates.
 - b. Issues emergency warning(s).
 - c. Activates EAS, as necessary.
 - d. Coordinates with all appropriate agencies, including government, public service, private and volunteer organizations.
2. Fire Agencies
 - a. Respond to calls for fire, rescue/extrication, emergency medical assistance, hazardous material spill or release, and evacuation.
 - b. Notify key staff based on information received from Communications Center and/or the ECC.
 - c. Provide fire resources and incident management in accordance with Spokane County Fire Resources Plan (Reference G).
 - d. Provide temporary power and emergency lighting at emergency scenes when needed.
 - e. Request, coordinate with and assist, as necessary, law enforcement in warning the public, evacuation, routing, and/or traffic control.
 - f. Support emergency operations as defined in agency emergency operating procedures or as requested by the County and/or City ECC, such as damage assessment.
 - g. Perform situation safety assessments.

H. Recovery Activities:

1. Department of Emergency Management
 - a. Continues ECC operations until it is determined that ECC coordination is no longer necessary.
 - b. Updates plans and procedures based on critiques and lessons learned during the event.
2. Fire Agencies
 - a. Demobilize fire resources and related incident support.
 - b. Support recovery efforts as requested by the ECC/DEM.
 - c. Coordinate and complete incident documentation and cooperate in cost recovery procedure.
 - d. Evaluate operations and provide feedback to DEM for incorporation into updates of plans and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Fire Services:

1. Provide suppression and control of fire within their respective fire protection jurisdictions (including those DNR or government lands that are contracted with local districts), support other fire protection agencies responding under mutual aid agreements, and support the provisions of both the Spokane County and Northeast Region Fire Resource Plan.
2. Provide Incident Command.
3. Support warning and evacuation efforts.
4. May provide medical response, which includes Advanced and Basic Life Support.

Spokane Department of Emergency Management:

1. Provides for alert and warning of persons located in the affected area through the media and the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

2. Serves as liaison between local jurisdictions, response agencies and the state for requesting resources when the capabilities of local response agencies are exceeded.
3. Provides training to fire response personnel, as appropriate.
4. Provides capabilities for coordinating response, resources, and assets by activating and managing the ECC.
5. Request damage assessment by the Federal Agency Support Team (FAST).

Northeast Region:

Regional Fire Resources Coordinator coordinates mobilized resource assistance to regional jurisdictions per the State Mobilization Plan and the Regional Fire Defense Plan (See References E and F).

Washington State Emergency Management:

Coordinates assistance to local government for fire activities and mobilization resources per the provisions of the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Procedures.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

1. 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.
2. Provides training for fire suppression and hazardous materials control to local fire jurisdictions through the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

REFERENCES

- A. The Federal Response Plan, for Public Law 93-288, as amended, April 1992
- B. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- C. Revised code of Washington, 39.34.030, 38.54, 76.04, 43.63A, 38.52; and Title 52 and 35 RCW
- D. "Interstate Mutual Aid Compact"
- E. Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan
- F. Northeast Region Fire Defense Mobilization Plan
- G. Spokane County Fire Resource Plan
- H. Spokane City/County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

ATTACHMENTS

Warning/Evacuation Notification Instructions