

ESF # 4 – Firefighting

ESF #4 Coordinator:	Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office
Primary Agency:	Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office
Support Agencies:	The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas National Guard Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Environment Kansas Forest Service Kansas Department of Transportation Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Firefighting enables the detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring, coincidentally with a man-made or natural disaster.

Scope

ESF #4 coordinates firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires, and if required furnishes personnel, equipment, and supplies to local government by way of interstate compacts and agreements.

Policies

Priority is given to public and firefighter safety, then protection of property, in that order. Coordination with, and support of, state and local fire suppression organizations is accomplished through the appropriate fire officials and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) operating under the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS).

Concept of Operations

General

ESF #4 manages and coordinates State firefighting activities. This is accomplished by mobilizing firefighting resources in support of local wildland, rural, and urban firefighting agencies. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the local Incident

Commander. Requests for firefighting assistance and resources are transmitted from the County Emergency Operations Center ESF #4 representative to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) ESF #4 representative.

Organization

The Kansas Fire Marshal's Office (KSFMO) is the primary agency for providing ESF #4 technical assistance.

During an emergency or disaster, the primary and support agencies of ESF #4 will assign personnel to the SEOC. ESF #4 will respond directly to the Emergency Services Branch Chief who reports to the Operations Section Chief.

Notifications

- KDEM will notify the ESF #4 agencies when an area of Kansas is threatened or has been impacted by an emergency or disaster event;
- The designated agencies notified will report to the SEOC if so advised or requested by the KDEM; and
- The agencies designated to report to the SEOC will notify their agency personnel of the impending or actual event.

Actions

Once activated in the SEOC, ESF #4 team members on duty will accomplish one or more preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation actions. The following is a list of those actions:

- **Preparedness**
 - Draft and operate plans for fire-related emergency response;
 - Maintain a list of local fire departments, points of contact, and limited demographic information;
 - Coordinate with agencies to identify and service the needs of sectors of the population with special needs (elderly, disabled, young children, non-English speaking, etc.);
 - Conduct life safety inspections to reduce risks of fire;
 - Require compliance with regulations and enforce correction of violations for all structures, with the exception of one and two family dwellings;
 - Promote and support the institution of building codes; and
 - Encourage and promote the use of the ICS.
- **Response**
 - State and other local resources from outside the disaster area are committed through mutual aid or state directed action with coordination from other agencies that have firefighting resources;

- Transportation will be provided, if available, or it may be the responsibility of the resource agency. This may require coordination with ESF #1 - Transportation. In addition, resources may be pre-positioned, if necessary; and
- Agencies of ESF #4 may serve the Kansas Emergency Response Team (KERT) in Field Operations (i.e., Kansas Assessment Teams, Joint Field Office (JFO) operations, Recovery Center operations, intrastate and/or interstate mutual aid assistance, etc.).
- **Recovery**
 - Prioritize fire response operations and coordination of existing resources; and
 - Implement and coordinate mutual aid as needed and available.
- **Prevention**
 - Develop programs to promote public awareness in order to prevent or reduce the number of fire incidents throughout the state;
 - Issue fire bans as dictated by weather conditions;
 - Encourage and assist in drafting mutual aid agreements; and
 - Support efforts of local jurisdictions in Security Communities Grant Funds, use to improve available water for fire suppression, purchase or improvement of equipment or protective clothing.

Direction and Control

- All local fire suppression activities will be coordinated at the county level, with assistance from the County Emergency Management Coordinator;
- Local fire departments will retain control of their resources and jurisdiction;
- Activities will be coordinated through the SEOC that will serve as the source of all direction and control;
- The Adjutant General (TAG) or Administrator of KDEM provides direction and control for ESF #4 to include mission assignments, mutual aid, contracts for goods and services, radiological emergencies, and recovery and mitigation activities;
- ESF #4 falls within the Emergency Services Branch Chief's arena;
- Agencies of ESF #4 may serve the KERT in Field Operations (i.e., the Kansas Assessment Team, JFO operations, Disaster Recovery Center operations, intrastate and/or interstate mutual aid assistance, etc.);
- When a request for assistance is received by ESF #4 it is assigned to the agency or agencies that have the most appropriate resources and expertise to accomplish the task; and
- KDEM will assist in the coordination of federal response efforts under the provisions of a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Responsibilities

KSFMO is designated as the coordinator for ESF #4. As ESF coordinator, KSFMO and the KDEM coordinates meetings, plans, exercises, training, and other activities with, the private sector, and the ESF #4 support agencies.

Kansas Fire Marshal's Office

- Provide qualified representatives to serve as ESF #4 coordinator at the SEOC;
- Requests assistance from supporting agencies as necessary to accomplish ESF #4 mission assignments;
- Coordinate deployment of firefighting personnel and resources acquired through interstate compacts and or mutual aid agreements; and
- Maintain liaison with fire chiefs in disaster/emergency declared areas.

The Adjutant General's Department

Kansas Division of Emergency Management

- Coordinate the activation of the KERT; and
- Provide technical guidance in relationship to incident mitigation and protective equipment.

Kansas National Guard

- Provide personnel and equipment to assist in fire containment.

Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Division of Environment

- Provide air quality monitoring and technical guidance;
- Provide technical guidance in relationship to protective equipment and technical guidance;
- Provide radiation monitoring, surveying, technical guidance, support; and
- Provide technical guidance and support in hazardous waste, water and environmental remediation as needed.

Kansas Forest Service

- Provide for the prevention and suppression of forest, brush, and grassland fires, on non-federal areas of the state, except on lands within the interior boundaries of incorporated cities;
- Encourage and assist rural fire districts with organization, equipment acquisition and conversion, training, planning, and funds to prepare for, and augment fire prevention and suppression capabilities; and
- Provide surplus equipment to rural fire for fire suppression or for other related emergencies that threaten the loss of life and property.

Kansas Department of Transportation

- Provide water transport; and
- Provide earth moving equipment for fire-breaks.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

- Provide access to heavy equipment and limited firefighting equipment.

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