Emergency Support Function #4 – Firefighting Annex

ESF Coordinator:
Appointed Fire Representative

Primary Agency:
Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District
Eagle County Airport Fire Department
Eagle County Sheriff's Office
Eagle River Fire Protection District
Greater Eagle Fire Protection District
Gypsum Fire Protection District
Rock Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Upper Colorado River Fire Management
Vail Fire & Emergency Services

Support Agencies:
Ambulance Districts
Law Enforcement Agencies
Eagle County Emergency Management
Public Works Agencies

Introduction

Purpose:

Emergency Support Function ("ESF") #4 – Is responsible for the coordination of firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on state and local lands and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of agencies involved in urban, rural and wildland firefighting operations.

Urban Search and Rescue ("USAR") is the process of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by any emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves. USAR includes technical rescue activities such as dive rescue and heavy lifting. Alpine/rural/wilderness search and rescue activities (emergency incidents involving locating missing individuals, mountain rescue, locating downed aircraft, etc.) are addressed in ESF #9.

Scope:

The management of a large firefighting operation is complex, often involving many different agencies and local jurisdictions. Fires resulting from or independent of, but coincident with, a catastrophic event will place extraordinary demands on available resources and logistics support systems. ESF #4 supports structural and wildfire operations through close coordination with other local, state, and federal agencies. ESF #4 coordinates firefighting support to disaster response and recovery operations that may not be directly fire related.

Policies:

- Priority is given to responder and public safety, stabilizing the incident and protecting property, in that order.

- Processes and procedures approved by the National Fire Protection Association and/or National Wildland Coordinating Group are the guiding principles for firefighting.

- Coordination with, and support of, state and local fire suppression organizations is accomplished through mutual aid agreement with adjacent organizations, and in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and Colorado Office of Emergency Management when resource beyond existing mutual aid are necessary.

- Efficient resource management requires that all resources are properly statused in both the federal Resource Ordering and Status System ("ROSS") and Colorado State Resource Mobilization ("WebEOC").

- Implement alert/activation for USAR resources through the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

- Suppression organizations operate under the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System.

- The coordinator in the Eagle County Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") for ESF #4 – Firefighting is a fire agency representative not directly involved in the firefighting incident or event.

Concept of Operations:

General
- Cities, towns, counties, fire protection districts, and other fire protection organizations are responsible for requesting activation of the EOC when an incident exceeds local capabilities.

- The EOC will be activated anytime outside county mutual aid is needed or multiple incidents are occurring requiring firefighting resources.

- The EOC facilitates coordination between local entities and other counties or the State in the event of multi-jurisdictional ESF #4 operations.

Organization:

Actions

Pre-Incident
- Participate in planning, exercising and evaluating the Eagle County Emergency Operations Plan.

- Maintain current data in the WebEOC and the federal ROSS database as appropriate and the Eagle County Public Safety Network (Roam Secure system).

Incident
- Upon notification, a fire service representative will be assigned and respond to the Eagle County EOC to serve as the ESF# 4 lead.

- The ESF# 4 lead is responsible for situation awareness (incident situation and damage assessment information for all incidents) and determination of resource needs from the local Incident Commander(s).

- The ESF# 4 lead coordinates incident resource needs and determines and resolves as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues.

- The ESF# 4 lead gathers and maintains current inventories of available fire service facilities, equipment, and key personnel throughout Eagle County during an incident(s).

- The ESF# 4 lead assumes responsibility for coordinating and tracking fire resources mobilized through the EOC.

- The ESF# 4 lead assists the Incident Commander(s) in planning for and acquiring relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.

- The ESF# 4 lead collects appropriate records of costs incurred during an event for all fire resources.

- The ESF# 4 lead requests supporting agencies document any lost or damaged equipment and personnel or equipment accidents.

Post-Incident
- Maintain adequate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction of resources.

- Upon request, ESF #4 will provide firefighting resources for recovery efforts.

- Conduct After Action Reviews of incident actions with teams involved to improve future operations.

- Coordination with ESF # 14 personnel for recovery and mitigation efforts.

- Inform agencies providing resources where to send records.

The specific recovery actions following an emergency will be determined by the event.

Additional Wildfire specific actions will be outline in the current version of the Annual Operating Plan for wildland fires (Appendix D).