

## ESF-4 Firefighting

<b>ESF Coordinator</b>	Snohomish County Fire Marshal’s Office
<b>Primary Agencies</b>	Snohomish County Fire Departments, Districts, & Agencies
<b>Supporting Agencies</b>	<p>Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management  Snohomish County Dispatch Centers (SNOPAC, SNOCOM)  Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office &amp; Local Law Enforcement Agencies  Municipal Public Works or Water Service Providers  Snohomish County Chapter, American Red Cross  Snohomish County Critical Stress Incident Management Team  Snohomish County Public Utility District #1  Snohomish County Local Emergency Planning Committee (DEM &amp; ESCA, as appropriate)  Washington State Department of Natural Resources  Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)  Washington State Patrol (WSP)</p>

*List Federal or State responsibilities and restate in responsibilities section if doing so lends clarity to the ESF*

Federal and State primary and supporting agency responsibilities for this ESF are outlined in the National Planning Frameworks (Federal) and Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

### I. INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of this ESF, fire service is defined as fire suppression and control, basic emergency medical care, and immediate life safety services as delivered by fire service agencies.

Various agencies in Snohomish County provide fire service, including fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, privately owned fire and EMS resources, and state and federal agencies.

#### Purpose

To coordinate public fire and life safety services in cooperation with the fire departments, districts, and agencies of Snohomish County during a disaster.

To support detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with an emergency or disaster.

## Scope

This ESF does not address the mobilization of fire resources at regional or state levels. The Washington Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan (published separately) provides detailed information on mobilization procedures.

Planning for every firefighting contingency is far beyond the scope of this ESF. This plan outlines broad objectives that will provide for the greatest protection of life and property that can be achieved with resources available.

## II. POLICIES

- Priority is given to firefighter and public safety.
- NIMS / ICS are used to manage emergency and disaster operations.
- Firefighting processes and procedures will align with the Northwest Coordinating Group.
- The Snohomish County Emergency Medical Services and the Emergency Medical Program Director Patient Care Protocols is the emergency medical services (EMS) standard of care in Snohomish County.
- The Snohomish County Critical Incident Stress Management Team will provide defusings and debriefings, and personal or interpersonal support for fire personnel and their families when requested by their respective agency.
- Fire service mutual aid will be exhausted or nearly exhausted prior to requesting regional or state fire mobilization resources or when requested by the fire department or incident commander.
- SNOPAC or SNOCOM is the designated public safety answering point (E 9-1-1 dispatch center) for the dispatch of fire mobilization resources.
- 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 local mutual aid agreement between those jurisdictions. It is essential that the issue of financial limitation be clarified through proper official channels for efficient delivery of fire services.
- Coordination with and support of state and local fire suppression organizations is accomplished as defined in the state fire mobilization plan.
- National support for local and state firefighting operations is coordinated through the National Interagency Coordinating Center (NICC) located at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, ID. This is coordinated among the State Fire Marshal or Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- Wildland fire operations will adhere to NWCG protocols and standards.

## III. SITUATION

### Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

A wide range of fire situations exists in Snohomish County. There is a potential for large commercial structure, high-rise, wildland and wildland interface, hazardous materials, and shipboard fires as referenced in the Snohomish County Hazard Analysis and Vulnerability Assessment (published separately). A conflagration could develop from natural or human caused situation(s) that will impact

the response of fire resources in the county. Large scale or multiple simultaneous events could also impact the availability of fire resources.

## Planning Assumptions

- Fires can be the primary event or a consequence of an emergency or disaster such as an earthquake or a civil disturbance.
- Fire service personnel are trained as first responder, EMT or paramedic and are primary first response for medical emergencies as well as fires.
- Larger scale or multiple simultaneous incidents will impact the number of available fire and rescue resources, which may become scarce or damaged.
- Some interface fires or fires resulting from civil disturbances will be of such a magnitude that all threatened structures cannot be saved. After evaluating the situation, incident command may decide to cease firefighting efforts on one building in order to save another when the benefit of saving one building is greater than that of another, when continued efforts would likely not affect the outcome, or firefighter safety concerns.
- Damage to transportation infrastructure and to fire facilities may impact the ability of fire services to respond to the emergency or disaster.
- Availability of fire service personnel may be limited due to injury, personal concerns / needs or limited access to work locations and assigned to initial first response for all emergencies.

## IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### General

- During emergencies or disasters, local fire services will mobilize all available apparatus and personnel available to manage the incident. Mutual aid agreements are activated when initial resources are inadequate. When mutual aid and local resources are exhausted or nearly exhausted the provisions for regional and state fire mobilization applies or when requested by the incident commander.
- The Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association (SCFCA) Emergency Management Committee is responsible for emergency resource and response planning within fire services and maintaining the Snohomish County Fire Resource Plan (SCFRP). The SCFRP will be utilized for assessing, requesting and directing fire resources.
- When activated, the Snohomish County Fire Resource Plan will designate a fire coordinator for overall coordination of fire service resources. The fire coordinator may operate from a field command post or the SC-EOC, as necessary. County and municipal fire departments will report available resources and request resources through the Snohomish County fire coordinator as directed.
- Fire departments within Snohomish County are encouraged to be signatory to a countywide mutual aid inter-local agreement.
- Upon occurrence of a disaster, such as an earthquake, fire departments within the county are to make initial assessments of their personnel, apparatus, equipment and facilities and report the information to the fire coordinator in the SC-EOC.
- Fire service personnel unable to reach normal work location will report to the nearest fire station for duty.
- Fire service personnel may conduct "windshield surveys" when possible and report the information to the SC-EOC.

- Fire services may participate in flood control operations to include but not be limited to human and animal rescue, sand and sandbag distribution, and water removal as resources and staffing allow.
- State agencies such as Washington State Patrol and Department of Transportation support fire operations when the fire impacts state highways.
- The federal government assumes full responsibility for firefighting on national forest system lands and joins unified command with the local jurisdictions on incidents that threaten national forest system lands.
- The emergency medical capabilities and responsibilities of county fire services are further covered in ESF-8. The hazardous materials capabilities and responsibilities of county fire services are covered in ESF-10.

## Organization

Snohomish County Fire Marshal manages fire and life safety to reduce the risk of fire loss to the lives and property and serves as a vital communication link between the fire districts, state and county government.

Named Fire Departments represent the Snohomish County Cities and organizations of:

- Arlington
- Boeing (Everett Plant at Paine Field)
- Everett
- Lynnwood
- Paine Field
- Mukilteo
- North County Regional Fire Authority (Unincorporated Northwest Snohomish County and City of Stanwood)

Numbered Fire Districts represent various Snohomish County cities and surrounding geographic areas. The numbered districts are:

- #1 – Unincorporated Southwest Snohomish County and the Cities of Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds
- #3 – Monroe
- #4 – Snohomish (City of Snohomish and vicinity)
- #5 – Sultan
- #7 – Clearview / Millcreek (City of Millcreek)
- #8 – Lake Stevens
- #10 – Bothell
- #12 – Marysville (City of Marysville)
- #15 – Tulalip
- #16 – Lake Roesiger
- #17 – Granite Falls
- #19 – Silvana
- #21 – Arlington Rural
- #22 – Getchell
- #23 – Robe Valley
- #24 – Darrington
- #25 – Oso

- #26 – Goldbar
- #27 – Hat Island
- #28 – Index

## Procedures

The command function may be conducted two ways. Single Command may be applied when there is no overlap of jurisdictional boundaries, or when a single Incident Commander is designated by agency with overall management responsibilities for the incident. When the incident is within one jurisdiction boundary, but more than one agency shares management responsibility, Unified Command should be implemented. If Unified Command is used, all agencies should contribute to command and build a consolidated action plan.

Comprehensive resource management may be accomplished using three methods, depending on the needs of the incident.

- Resources All personnel and equipment necessary to fight the fires or respond to other disasters and support the efforts of firefighters.
- TASK Force Any combination of single resources within the span of control, assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader.
- Strike Team Five of the same kind of resources with common communications and a leader.

## Mitigation Activities

- Assess current fire protection codes and determine if they are adequate and properly enforced.
- Assess and determine if fire protection methods and procedures are adequate and unilaterally understood.
- Assess fire safety programs in your jurisdiction and assure their adequacy for business, industry, and local schools.
- Identify standard operating procedures, policies, guides, and plans used by your agency during an activation of the EOC.
- Review current level of training of personnel and identify additional or refresher training requirements.
- Determine if mutual aid agreements and memorandums of understanding are adequate and unilaterally understood.
- Present community fire safety programs.
- Ensure that all new construction conforms to fire codes.
- Assess the communications capabilities and determine if additional communications and assets are needed.

## Preparedness Activities

- Develop and maintain Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines and other plans and procedures necessary for primary and support agencies to operate efficiently.
- Develop and maintain notification lists that include emergency contact information.

- Develop and maintain equipment lists.
- Maintain and update personnel and equipment certifications.
- Obtain detailed maps of county jurisdictions.
- Obtain mutual aid agreements and memorandums of understanding with support agencies, ancillary or contract support services, and resources.
- Provide guidance on state and federal regulations regarding fire issues.
- Provide assistance among all primary and support agencies to insure development of procedures and checklists.
- Develop and conduct awareness training and exercise programs for personnel.
- Ensure communications networks for personnel and to communicate with the EOC in an emergency or disaster.
- Train with other emergency response agencies on the Incident Command System.
- Participate in periodic exercises of the comprehensive emergency management plan.
- Establish a consistent method of receiving and sending situation reports to the EOC during an incident.
- Meet with representatives from each emergency support function to establish reliable method for obtaining an emergency first response to any incident.
- Discuss among all primary and support agencies how fire resources will be allocated in an emergency.

## Response Activities

- Provide for an emergency first response to incidents that threaten lives or property.
- Deploy equipment and personnel to sites in greatest need during an emergency.
- Provide fire protection in public shelters.
- Establish on-going radio communications between EOC and site of emergency.
- Assist in dissemination of warning to the public.
- Provide fire suppression services.
- Conduct fire investigation to determine cause/origin.
- Assess scope, magnitude, extent and potential duration of incident.
- Provide appropriate representation to the EOC.
- Coordinate with Communications function to provide emergency communications as needed.
- Record response activities taken, noting improvements or corrective actions required.
- Make notification required by standard operating procedures.
- Collect information concerning fire service field activities.
- Provide technical assistance as required.
- Provide hourly situation reports to EOC.
- Attend meeting for periodic situation updates.
- Document incoming and outgoing notifications.
- Coordinate with Law Enforcement and Evacuation functions to provide assistance in evacuations.
- Identifying all personnel and resource requirements to perform assigned missions which are in excess of the support agencies' capabilities.
- Maintain communications with support agencies to ensure resource procurement.
- Continually reassess and address the most critical fire service needs and the development of strategies to meet them.
- Request state and federal resources as needed through EOC

## Recovery Activities

- Assist other functions with clearing debris to open streets with major thoroughfares.
- Provide for the emotional needs of emergency responders, and their families by establishing critical incident stress debriefings.
- Collect and inventory all equipment used during incident.
- Provide guidance on local, state and federal fire code regulations.
- Coordinate with Resource Support Function on resource accountability.
- Prepare appropriate after action reports.
- Revise, update, change or create policies and standard operating procedures or guides as necessary.
- Conduct training on new or revised policies and procedures.
- Conduct exercises to validate and familiarize team members with new procedures.
- Support cleanup and recovery operations.
- Identify and contain potential fire hazards, such as damaged gas lines and downed power lines.
- Repair/Replace damaged and expended equipment.
- Compile record of events.
- Monitor demolition operations

## V. RESPONSIBILITIES

### General

All primary and supporting ESF agencies must have established disaster related policies, systems, and procedures for:

- Personnel accountability, safety, lines of authority and succession
- Providing logistical support to their personnel and equipment
- Facility / infrastructure damage assessment and reporting
- Continuity of operations to maintain essential services
- Facility / infrastructure repair and restoration

### Primary

#### County Fire Marshal

- Mitigate fire hazards through fire prevention programs.
- Provide facilities for storage and support for distribution of sand and sandbags during the flood season as resources allows.
- Conduct windshield surveys and provide information to appropriate PSAP or SC-EOC.
- Staff the SC-EOC with a fire coordinator when indicated or requested.
- Conduct fire investigations in support of, or independent of, county fire departments.
- Enforce the provisions of legally adopted fire codes.
- Assist fire departments in fire prevention planning.

## Municipal Fire Departments and Fire Districts

- Provide fire suppression and immediate life safety services.
- Conduct light and heavy rescue operations as appropriate to level of training and available equipment.
- Maintain readiness of firefighting personnel and equipment resources.
- Conduct fire investigation activities within respective jurisdictions or in conjunction with the Snohomish

## Supporting

### Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management

- Open SC-EOC in support of fire operations as indicated.
- Maintain 24-hour duty officer coverage in support of fire operations.
- Provide representation to the fire coordinator emergency management committee and other fire service related activities as appropriate.

### SNOPAC and SNOCOM Public Safety Answering Points

- Maintain adequate staffing and operational status in support of fire resource dispatch responsibilities.

### Snohomish County Sheriff's Department and Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies

- Support fire suppression operations with crowd control and criminal investigations, when indicated.

### Municipal Public Works or Water Service Providers

- Repair and / or maintain water mains and systems.

### American Red Cross Snohomish County Chapter

- Coordinate the provision of basic human needs and shelter for persons who are displaced due to residences being uninhabitable due to fire damage.

### Snohomish County Critical Incident Stress Management Team

- Respond to defusings and debriefings for firefighters and their families as resources allow and as requested by their agencies.

### Snohomish County Public Utility Districts #1 / Cascade Natural Gas

- Respond to incident sites and render safe (turn off) electrical power as appropriate/directed by the Incident Commander.

### Snohomish County Natural Gas Service Providers (Puget Sound Energy and Cascade Natural Gas)

- Respond to incident sites and render safe (turn off) natural gas service as appropriate/directed by the Incident Commander.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

- Provide overhead resources when the event is a wildland or wildland interface fire and requested.

Washington State Department of Transportation

- Support fire command and operations when a fire affects state highways.

Washington State Patrol

- Participate in fire command and operations when a fire affects state highways.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

## **VII. TABS**