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Emergency Function 4 Fire and Rescue Annex

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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EMERGENCY FUNCTION 4 – FIRE AND RESCUE

Introduction

Emergency Function (EF) 4 – Fire and Rescue stakeholders organized as FIREScope (**FI**refighting **RE**sources of **S**outhern **C**alifornia **O**rganized for **P**otential **E**mergencies) following the disastrous 1970 wildland fires in southern California. The goal of the FIREScope group was to create and implement new applications in fire service management, technology and coordination, with an emphasis on incident command and multi-agency coordination. This dynamic state-wide program continues to serve the needs of the California Fire Service today.

Many EF 4 stakeholders have already organized as FIREScope, and there is some overlap between the FIREScope system and the purpose of EF 4, especially in the area of preparedness planning. Included in the EF 4 annex is a description of the FIREScope structure and approach.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the EF 4 or FIREScope Annex to the State of California Emergency Plan (SEP) is to define the actions and roles necessary to provide a coordinated response within the FIREScope community and the emergency management activities of its stakeholders.

The mission of FIREScope is to provide recommendations and technical assistance to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), to maintain the FIREScope Decision Process, and to continue the operation, development, and maintenance of the FIREScope Incident Command System (ICS) and the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS). FIREScope strives to enhance:

- Methods for coordinating multi-agency resources during major incidents
- Methods for forecasting fire behavior and assessing fire, weather and terrain conditions on an incident
- Standard terminology for incident management
- Multi-agency incident communications
- Multi-agency training on FIREScope developed components and products/services
- Common mapping systems
- Incident information management
- Regional operational coordination centers for regional multi-agency coordination

The FIREScope organization represents all facets of local, rural, tribal and metropolitan fire departments, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE), and federal fire agencies (USDA-Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service). Its stakeholders are primarily responsible for fire protection and urban search and rescue programs throughout the state. The activities of its stakeholders are conducted in all locations and settings including metropolitan, rural, wildland/urban interface, remote areas, airports, military bases, and private enterprise. Many of the FIREScope stakeholders also conduct such activities as emergency medical services and hazardous material control and other emergency services that

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require close coordination between the FIRESCOPE organization and other Emergency Functions.

Lead, Primary, and Supporting Agencies/Departments

The **Lead Agency/Department** is responsible for the management or coordination function of EF 4 and is assigned to lead EF 4 based upon its authorities, resources, and capabilities in the SEP. The Fire and Rescue Division of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has ongoing responsibilities throughout the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery phases of emergency management in facilitating the maintenance and activities of FIRESCOPE. As the Lead Agency/Department for EF 4, the Fire Rescue Division of Cal OES provides the leadership, ongoing communication, coordination, and oversight for EF 4 throughout all phases of emergency management.

The State Fire and Rescue Coordinator of Cal OES is the Executive Coordinator for FIRESCOPE. In addition, the Coordinator oversees the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System that provides additional emergency response coordination through its six Regional Mutual Aid Coordinators and the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plans at the Local, Operational Area, Regional and State Government levels.

The FIRESCOPE organization represents California fire service stakeholders in all levels of government through the Fire and Rescue Service Advisory Committee FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. These stakeholders serve as the **Primary Agencies/Departments** for EF 4. These stakeholders have significant functions or possess subject matter expertise and have access to the resources and capabilities necessary for EF 4.

Organization and Coordination

As emergency incidents escalate across jurisdictional boundaries, many components of the Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS) are activated and integrated through the FIRESCOPE. FIRESCOPE coordinators are assigned to facilitate activities and actions among stakeholders and ensure they are coordinated according to established response system agreements, processes and procedures.

FIRESCOPE maintains close coordination with many emergency response coordinating entities within and without the state for the purpose of ensuring compatibility, standardization, and a unified effort in responding to emergencies involving FIRESCOPE stakeholders. These coordinating entities are listed in the FIRESCOPE organizational chart, which can be found in the EF 4 Annex.

FIRESCOPE stakeholders manage a comprehensive up-to-date emergency incident status, and situation database for access by its members, public information functions and MAC Groups for decision analysis and priority setting at the executive management level. Components of this activity include:

- Current statewide fire and rescue resource status information

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- California Red Flags and Warnings
- Current Cal Fire Incident Information
- Daily and Weekly Situation Reports
- National 7-day Significant Fire Potential Outlook
- Inci-Web Incident Information System and Status
- Northern and Southern California Daily Weather Outlook
- Northern and Southern California Coordination Centers Situation and Condition Reports
- Maps and satellite imagery
- Mapping tools
- Availability of incident command teams

Emergency Assistance exists in many forms that can be accessed by FIREScope stakeholders. FIREScope Coordinators will provide the subject matter expertise within an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure that resource requests are filled utilizing the appropriate alternatives listed below.

- California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA)
- Assistance by Hire
- Local Agreements
- Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement
- California Fire Assistance Agreement
- Direct Protection
- Tasking of State agencies
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact