



FIREFIGHTING / RESCUE

ESF # 4 Firefighting Annex as defined in the National Response Framework

ESF Coordinator: U.S. Department of Agriculture / Forestry Service

Note: This section of the plan contains no specific tactical information and simply outlines the procedures that could potentially be followed during a disaster or critical incident. All actions outlined in this plan may not necessarily be followed in every situation.

VANCE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN Last Updated: January 11, 2009

I. PURPOSE

This section provides for the coordination of fire, rescue, and emergency medical activities to ensure the safety of life and property within Vance County during emergency situations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Vance County is served by eleven (11) fire departments; three (2) departments are located in the municipalities and nine serve the unincorporated areas.
2. Only three departments, City of Henderson Fire Stations 1 & 2 and Vance County Fire and Ambulance Service have paid firefighters; all other firefighters in Vance County are volunteers.
3. The Vance County Firefighters Association, composed of all volunteer fire departments, serves as an advocacy group for firefighters.
4. The N.C. Division of Forest Resources is the lead agency for forest fire control in Vance County. Vance County is in District 11 of the North Carolina Forest Service Division, headquarters located in Hillsborough. The closest fire plow to Vance County is located in Granville County. Clemmons State Forest Center houses a State Fire Cash with various resources available through state operations.
5. All fire departments rely on the Vance County 9-1-1 communications system for primary dispatching and communications.
6. There is no formal hazardous materials response team in Vance County; firefighters are the primary responders to any hazardous materials event, although capabilities are generally limited to defensive actions. Formal hazardous materials response will be requested through the State EOC, (RRT4).
7. Mutual aid agreements exist among fire departments within Vance County; some agreements exist with departments in neighboring counties.

8. Eight fire departments also operate First Responder Units.

B. Assumptions

1. Existing fire and rescue personnel and equipment will be able to cope with most emergency situations through the use of existing mutual aid agreements.
2. When additional or specialized support is required, assistance can be obtained from state and federal agencies.
3. Fire departments will be called upon to assist with rescue and extrication of trapped persons, as well as search, debris removal on primary roadways, evacuations, reconnaissance, traffic control and security.
4. People seeking basic necessities and information may congregate at fire stations following a catastrophic disaster.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Incident Command will be implanted on an appropriate scale at the scene of every fire/rescue event in Vance County. If fire or threat of fire is involved, the fire chief of the district or his designated representative is the incident commander.
- B. Under the North Carolina Hazardous Materials Right-to-Know Law and the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA), the Fire Chief will survey facilities within his jurisdiction to identify types and volume of hazardous materials located within the County. He should consider this information when developing response plans for hazardous materials accidents within his district. Coordination of facility emergency response plans with the Vance County Emergency Operations Plan will be included in fire service planning.
- C. Fire Stations will become a community focal point and source of public information when normal communications are disrupted by disaster.
- D. During the critical phases of an emergency/disaster, fire stations will be opened and continuously manned, as conditions permit. Firefighters will report to the station for duty. Communications will be established with the Communications Center/EOC.