



## Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

# Emergency Support Function # 2 Annex Communication



2015

## ESF Coordinator and Support Agencies

### **ESF Coordinator**

*Georgia Emergency Management  
Agency/Homeland Security*

### **Primary Agency**

*Georgia Emergency Management  
Agency/Homeland Security*

### **Support Agencies**

*American Radio Relay League, Inc.  
Board of Regents of the University System  
of Georgia  
Georgia Department of Administrative  
Services  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Georgia Department of Public Safety  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Georgia Forestry Commission  
Georgia Public Broadcasting*

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

ESF#2 – Communications is responsible for providing notification of certain impending or occurring natural or human-caused emergencies, communications support to response efforts during incidents requiring a state response, and support and coordination of state and/or federal resources to assist in recovery services to restore the communications infrastructure following an event. ESF#2 is responsible for coordinating telecommunication services when Disaster Recovery Centers are established and for coordinating with Federal ESF#2 partners during Presidentially Declared disasters.

### 1.2 Scope

Members of ESF#2 - Communications include the supporting state agencies listed above and numerous commercial telecommunication service providers. ESF#2 members have a wide array of responsibilities which include planning for tactical communications support during an emergency and conducting activity to aid in the restoration of landline and wireless telecommunications infrastructure damaged during an event. Numerous pre and post disaster activities must be undertaken to accomplish these responsibilities.

These activities include:

- Pre-event planning and coordination with supporting agencies and private industry
- Support of continuity of operations and continuity of government plans as they relate to re-establishing state command and control locations and/or multi-agency coordination centers (specifically, to provide and/or help restore communications capabilities at an alternate state government administration site and/or alternate State Operations Center (SOC) site)
- Support of State of Georgia agencies and state response teams (such as Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and Search and Rescue (SAR) teams) in response to a State of Emergency, to include incident command locations and functions (specifically, to provide and/or help restore communications capabilities at incident command posts, forward operating bases, forward tactical operating areas, and state staging areas.)
- Support State of Georgia agencies in the following: Repatriation operations where assistance is requested by a State of Georgia agency; National Disaster Medical Systems (NDMS) operations where assistance is requested by a state agency, to include Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) and National Medical Response Team (NMRT); and Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) operations where assistance is requested by a State of Georgia agency
- Support EMAC requests to and from surrounding states in FEMA Region IV
- Support training classes for Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS)-sponsored all hazards COM-L (Communications Leader) and

COM-T (Communications Technician) classes, GEMA/HS-sponsored interoperability and disaster response exercises

- Support the state in response to planned and unplanned major events that must be managed to prevent and/or reduce incidents of an emergency nature
- Coordination of and assistance in restoration of commercial communications infrastructure
- Publish situational updates, status reports and related information routinely during an event

## 2.0 Concept of Operations

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### 2.1 General

GEMA/HS activates ESF#2 when a significant impact to the communications infrastructure is expected or has occurred. When activated, ESF#2 performs tasks that can be categorized within three primary functions. These functions may include, but are not limited to, Tactical Communications, Infrastructure Restoration, and Communications Planning.

The Tactical Communications function includes the following activities:

- Identifying emergency communication requirements for incidents based on existing plans and information provided immediately prior to or during incidents
- Identifying available emergency communications frequencies, services and equipment based on existing plans and resource database(s)
- Distributing available emergency communication equipment to incident personnel pre-deployment in existence with existing plans; with potentially limited distribution outside existing plans and/or post-event

The Infrastructure Restoration function includes the following activities:

- Coordination with private industry partners to restore the commercial communications infrastructure
- Synchronizing efforts between private sector communication service providers and response and recovery operations
- Assist with coordinating access, security, and staging for essential communication service providers' crews and equipment
- Reporting status of outages and restoration efforts to the Communications Planning Branch as reported by communication service providers

The Communications Planning function includes the following activities:

- Pre-event communications planning
- Developing communications input to the Incident Action Plan during an event
- Gathering and consolidating data for situational reporting during an event

## 3.0 Assignment of Responsibilities

The assignment of responsibilities section establishes the organizations and agencies that will be relied upon to respond to a disaster or emergency situation. This section also includes tasks that these organizations and agencies are expected to perform.

### 3.1 ESF Coordinator

GEMA/HS is the primary coordinator for ESF#2 and coordinates planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities along with the ESF #2 support agencies.

#### **Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security**

- Plans and coordinates preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities pertaining to Communications.
- Conducts ongoing ESF#2 meetings and / or conference calls.
- Supports and participates in planning meetings and exercises relating to ESF#2.
- Maintains ongoing contact with ESF#2 primary and support agencies.
- Acts as a liaison between ESF#2 and external entities.
- Directs requests for assistance to the appropriate ESF#2 primary agencies.
- Directs unmet requests for assistance to ESF#5 – Emergency Management.
- Provides information on the status, threats, impacts, or restoration of the communications infrastructure or services in conjunction with ESF#3 - Public Works and Engineering, ESF#5 - Emergency Management, ESF#7 - Logistics Management and Resource Support, ESF#12 - Energy, ESF#13 - Public Safety and Security, and GEMA/HS critical infrastructure protection (CIP) program personnel.
- Provides updates on the status of ESF#2 mission assignments to ESF#5, the Planning Section Chief, and other entities external to ESF#2.
- Generates information to be used in briefings, situation reports, and incident action plans when the SOC is activated.

### 3.2 Primary and Support Agencies

#### **American Radio Relay League, Inc.**

- Personnel.
- Equipment.

#### **Board of Regents of the University System of GA**

- Provides use of property and utilities to temporarily host fixed/portable communications equipment.
- Provides use of portions of network for voice/data transport when hosting fixed/portable communications equipment.

### **Department of Administrative Services**

- Establishes pre-disaster contingency contracts for anticipated critical equipment, supplies and services needed to support state disaster response and recovery operations.
- Conducts emergency leasing, rental, purchasing and contracting for critical equipment, supplies and services to support state response and recovery operations.
- Provides state purchasing cards to state personnel to support state disaster response and recovery operations.

### **Department of Defense**

- Provides equipment and personnel and executes several core capabilities in support of state disaster operations including: command and control; transportation; communications; aviation; logistics; staging areas; power generation; and security.

### **Department of Natural Resources**

- Provides facilities to serve as temporary sites for fixed/portable communications equipment. Provides personnel, equipment and vehicles to support such sites.
- Provides access to Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system(s) for disaster response communications.

### **Department of Public Safety**

- Provides COM-L and COM-T subject matter expertise, access to the Georgia Interoperability Network (GIN) components, cache radios and other communications equipment.
- Provides security, traffic control and transport services for communications equipment and personnel responding to disaster incident locations.
- Provides access to LMR system(s) for disaster response communications.

### **Department of Transportation**

- Provides assistance with coordinating the emergency movement of communications assets and personnel.
- Provides information regarding the condition, accessibility, and suitability of roads and bridges, rail lines and airports necessary to support state disaster communications operations.

### **Georgia Bureau of Investigations**

- Personnel.
- Equipment.
- Provides access to LMR system(s) for disaster response communications.

### **Georgia Forestry Commission**

- Provides COM-L and COM-T subject matter expertise, access to cache radios and other communications equipment.

- Provides access to LMR system(s) for disaster response communications.

#### **Georgia Public Broadcasting**

- Provides access to television and radio networks for purposes of non-EAS public notices and information to the public via ESF#15 - External Affairs.
- Use of property and utilities to temporarily host fixed/portable communications equipment.

#### **Georgia Technology Authority**

- Provisioning of voice and data services in accordance with state contract in accordance with the Georgia Infrastructure Transformation (GAIT) parameters.
- Provides frequency coordination for disaster communications and petitions of waivers to the Federal Communications Commission on behalf of state agencies.

#### **Public Service Commission**

- Provides information about telecom companies within the state, liaisons with telecom companies regarding service disruptions, waivers and long-term restoration plans and progress.

### **3.3 Direction, Control, and Coordination**

This section describes the framework for all direction, control, and coordination within the State of Georgia and other states.

#### **3.3 A: ESF Coordination within State Operation Center**

ESF#2 will report all activities to the ESF#5 Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of incident action plans and situational reports. All public information reports regarding ESF#2 activities will be coordinated with ESF#15 – External Affairs.

When ESF#2 is activated, GEMA/HS with assistance from supporting departments and agencies, assesses and responds to requests for assistance and planning or technical assistance from impacted local, state or federal agencies or other ESFs.

In addition to the SOC, ESF#2 may provide personnel and/or equipment to field operations established in Georgia, including but not limited to: state Incident Command Posts (ICP) state Forward Operating Bases (FOB), Joint Field Offices (JFO), Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each particular incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

#### **3.3 B: Coordination of EMAC Request**

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a national mutual aid agreement between the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. It is based on 13 Articles which have been enacted into state law by each state. In Georgia, EMAC is addressed in the O.C.G.A., Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 5.

States may only request assistance via EMAC when their governor has declared a state of emergency. EMAC requires that the state requesting assistance reimburse the state that provides the assistance. The Director of GEMA/HS is the EMAC Authorized Representative (AR) for the State of Georgia. The AR is tasked with the authority to commit and accept resources through EMAC partnerships. The AR may delegate this authority to the Operations Director, Deputy Operations Director and Finance Director of GEMA/HS. The GEMA/HS Logistics Program Manager is the Designated Contact (DC) for EMAC. In the absence of the Logistics Program Manager, the agency has identified alternate designated contacts. The DC is commonly referred to as the EMAC Coordinator. The DC coordinates EMAC operations and prepares the official EMAC Request for Assistance (commonly referred to as the REQ-A). When completed, the REQ-A becomes a contract between the requesting and assisting states for the provision of assistance in accordance with EMAC. When the SOC is activated, the Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit coordinates and manages EMAC missions. This unit will be initially staffed with GEMA/HS personnel, but will likely be augmented by trained EMAC personnel from other states as soon as possible. This unit is also referred to as an EMAC "A" Team.

ESF#2 will coordinate all EMAC requests with the GEMA/HS EMAC DC or the SOC Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit, when the SOC is activated. No resource (personnel or equipment) may deploy to another state via EMAC until the REQ-A has been approved and signed by the ARs of the requesting and assisting states, and they have been provided a copy of the REQ-A, briefed and prepared for the mission. To facilitate obtaining any assistance Georgia may need via EMAC, state ESFs should identify their shortfalls in capability and where resources may be obtained to provide this capability. This may be accomplished via informal coordination with sister agencies in other states to determine if the needed resource is available for potential deployment to Georgia, its location and the point of contact for the resource. Such information is critical in expediting a request for assistance via EMAC. For more information on EMAC, contact the GEMA/HS EMAC Designated Contact at 404-635-7200.

### **3.3 C: ESF Activation, Exercise & Improvement Planning**

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles after action reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF#2 shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its Annexes or ESF Standard Operational Guidelines (SOG) when applicable.

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF#2 will participate in exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops and conferences.

### **3.3 D: Development of Standard Operating Guides**

The GEMA/HS Planning Section has provided standard operating guide development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the GEOP. All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready SOGs for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF#2 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

### **3.3 E: Development of Resources Capability List**

In conjunction with ESF#7 – Resource Support, ESF#2 will develop, review, refine and maintain lists of all resources currently available and under the control of the primary or support agencies listed in this plan. The development of these lists may be completed by several organizations and professional groups, which currently operate within this ESF. These resource lists should be compliant with the resource typing standards outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

## **4.0 ESF Annex Development and Maintenance**

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This Emergency Support Function Annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. In addition the document shall be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the agency exercise or event after action reports / improvement plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow the issuance of any Governor Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.