



Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Support Function # 5 Annex Emergency Management



2015

ESF Coordinator and Support Agencies

ESF Coordinator

Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security

Primary Agency

Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security

Support Agencies

Georgia Air Operations Branch
Georgia Building Authority
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Georgia Business Force
Georgia Department of Administrative
Services
Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Department of Audits and
Accounts
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Georgia Department of Community Health
Georgia Department of Corrections
Georgia Department of Defense
Georgia Department of Economic
Development
Georgia Department of Education
Georgia Department of Human Services
Georgia Department of Labor
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Georgia Department of Public Safety
Georgia Department of Transportation
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Georgia Forestry Commission
Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer
Affairs
Georgia Office of the Commissioner of
Insurance and Fire Safety
Georgia Office of Planning and Budget
Georgia Public Broadcasting
Georgia Public Service Commission

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #5 – Emergency Management is responsible for supporting overall activities of the State of Georgia for incident management regarding all natural and human-caused disasters. ESF#5 coordinates all preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities within Georgia. ESF#5 and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security provide the core management and administrative functions in support of the State Operations Center (SOC).

ESF#5 serves as the coordinator ESF for all State agencies, organizations and private industry partners committed to supporting the state through the SOC and which are listed in the GEOP. ESF#5 will identify resources for alert, activation, and subsequent deployment for quick and effective response when necessary to support local jurisdictions or other state agencies as appropriate. During all phases of a natural, technological or human-caused disaster, ESF#5 is responsible for the finance, administration and planning functions as prescribed by the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System for all incidents requiring state agency response. ESF#5, through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security shall serve as the primary element to oversee the alert and notification process, staffing and deployment of state resources through the SOC and will coordinate all other activities with other ESFs as appropriate. During activations of the GEOP and SOC, ESF#5 is expected to serve as the link between the Unified Command assembled to manage the State's response and the Executive Leadership of the State of Georgia and in doing so, shall determine incident objectives and goals and develop appropriate plans and procedures to achieve those goals.

When appropriate, ESF#5 in coordination with ESF#14 will establish Disaster Recovery Centers, Forward State Operations Centers, Logistical Staging Areas and any other incident management facilities as necessary to ensure an effective and efficient state response to all natural and human-caused disasters.

ESF#5 with GEMA/HS as the coordinating agency works with county governments primarily through the GEMA/HS Field Coordinator Program. The State of Georgia is divided into eight geographical areas, each with an assigned Field Coordinator who assists local emergency management programs with the development of local emergency operations plans, disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities and the coordination of multi-jurisdictional response, mutual aid agreements and partnerships that are focused on specific threats/risks within the region. Within this construct, each local emergency management program prepares its own plans for how it will execute its portion of the coordinated response mission. GEMA/HS Operations Division, Field Programs, and the Planning Section review these local plans to ensure interoperability and coordination of activities. GEMA/HS Field Coordinators work closely

with local emergency management programs to develop detailed, risk-based, incident response annexes which are listed within but published separately from the GEOP. The goal of this process is to identify, prior to an event, the specific resources and tasks for which each entity is responsible to ensure a smooth response effort. GEMA/HS Field Coordinators meet regularly with the local emergency management program leaders through regional area meetings which often incorporate other local and state ESF partners.

1.2 Scope

GEMA/HS has oversight responsibilities of all emergency management activities within the State during all phases of the emergency management cycle:

- Facilitating the planning process with federal, state, local, private sector and volunteer agencies and organizations.
- Conducting training and exercises with federal, state, local, private sector and volunteer agencies and organizations.
- Coordinating regular ESF meetings and / or conference calls.
- Maintaining on-going contact with ESF primary and support agencies.
- Ensuring that Primary and Support Emergency Coordinators maintain operational readiness by taking requisite GEMA/HS SOC training courses.
- Acting as a liaison between the state and external entities.
- Directing requests for assistance to the appropriate ESFs.
- Directing unmet requests for assistance to FEMA and/or the EMAC system.
- Providing weather related subject matter expertise through the GEMA Staff Meteorologist.
- Identifying the process and making the determination for elevating SOC Activation Levels.
- Facilitating daily briefings with the Emergency Operations Command (EOC) during elevated activations of the SOC.
- Providing situational awareness and a common operating picture.
- Developing the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for future operational periods.
- Providing mapping services as needed to coordinate response and short-term recovery efforts.
- Coordinating with the Long Term Recovery Planner toward the development of the Community Recovery Needs Assessment.
- Coordinating the Air Operations Branch.
- Coordinating and prioritizing all requests for assistance for fixed wing or rotary aircraft within the state during disasters.
- Establishing Aviation Support Operations Center as an extension of the State Operations Center when applicable, in coordination with local, state and federal partners and with the State Aviation Support Operations Center Plan.

2.0 Concept of Operations

During activations of the GEOP and the SOC, ESF#5 is expected to serve as the link between the Unified Command assembled to manage the State's response and the Executive Leadership of the State of Georgia and in doing so, shall:

- Provide an official link to facilitate requests for assistance and the flow of situational awareness information between local jurisdictions, state agencies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during the activation of the GEOP and the elevated activation of the SOC.
- When appropriate, ESF#5 in coordination with ESF#14 will establish Disaster Recovery Centers, Forward State Operations Centers, Logistical Staging Areas and any other incident management facilities as necessary to ensure an effective and efficient state response to all natural, technological and human-caused disasters.

2.1 Activation – ESF#5

ESF#5: Emergency Management is active throughout the emergency management cycle; it is engaged in all phases of emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

When the GEOP is activated and the SOC heightens to an elevated activation level, the GEMA/HS Operations Division issues operational orders (through the GEMA/HS Communications Center), to activate additional ESFs and cooperating partners as necessary to support state operations. GEMA/HS will provide a Primary and Alternate Emergency Coordinator to represent the organization and ESF#5 within the SOC. The ESF#5 Primary Emergency Coordinators will determine operational support requirements in the assemblage of an interagency coordination group.

3.0 Assignment of Responsibilities

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security serves as the Coordinator for ESF#5 and in partnership with several state agency partners conducts ESF#5 planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

Planning

GEMA/HS coordinates the development of strategic plans, guides and concepts intended to directly support the GEOP. GEMA/HS coordinates with local emergency management planning entities as well as state partners and FEMA planning counterparts. The GEMA/HS Planning Unit receives overall executive direction and coordination for emergency management processes through the GEMA/HS Command Staff. This direction is then applied to focused efforts to develop statewide emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation plans.

Training

The GEMA/HS Training Division, located within the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) serves as a liaison to provide DHS-FEMA training courses to state and local officials with emergency management responsibilities. Additionally, the GEMA/HS Training Division is responsible for coordinating and developing other nationally or in state produced and focused courses to meet unique circumstances for Georgia.

Exercises

The GEMA/HS Statewide Exercise Program develops, conducts and documents state level exercises in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). The Statewide Exercise Program Coordinator serves as Georgia's liaison to the FEMA Regional Exercise Program. The Exercise Program works closely with all ESFs, State Agencies, internal and external planning partners to develop effective exercises that ensure the readiness of applicable written plans and procedures which guide state emergency management activities.

Mitigation

The GEMA/HS Hazard Mitigation Division is one of six Divisions that support day-to-day emergency management functions for the State of Georgia. The Hazard Mitigation Division's focus is to provide a comprehensive threat reduction and loss avoidance program that protects people and property from their exposure to natural and technological and human-caused hazards. Through its Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability (HRV) assessments at the state and local level, the Division provides enhanced information for officials and decision-makers to reduce the impacts of both disasters and emergency needs, lessening financial impacts to state and local government while ultimately saving lives.

The GEMA/HS Hazard Mitigation Division coordinates the update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and provides technical assistance to state agencies and local governments in developing their local mitigation plans and projects.

The GEMA/HS Hazard Mitigation Division administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims, Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation programs. Through these programs, federal funding is provided to state and local governments for cost effective mitigation projects. The Hazard Mitigation Division also works closely with the National Resource Conservation Service on the implementation of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

3.1 Direction, Control, and Coordination

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

3.1 A: ESF Coordination within State Operation Center

ESF#5 is organized in accordance with the National Incident Management System and when applicable, staffs and supports the command and general staff functions through the SOC during disasters or emergencies that warrant activation of the GEOP.

When an incident occurs or has the potential to occur, GEMA/HS as ESF#5 activates adequate personnel, systems and facilities to support state operational demands within the SOC and other necessary incident facilities such as Logistics Staging Areas, Aviation Support Operation Centers, Base Camps, Recovery Centers and Joint Field Offices. Users of the GEOP are encouraged to view specific incident annexes, support annexes or standard operating guides for anticipated specific staffing structures, incident facilities and communication support plans.

ESF#5 serves as the primary coordinator for emergency management activities with Governor, State Executive Leaders, local EMA programs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To effectively coordinate response decisions with Executive Leadership, GEMA facilitates daily briefings with the Emergency Operations Command (EOC) which consists of senior leadership officials from the Georgia State Patrol, the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Georgia National Guard.

State Incident Action Plans

When the SOC is activated, the GEMA/HS Planning Section, based on command guidance develops operational period objectives, establishes planning time schedules, reporting requirements, and communication protocols with those ESFs and agencies operating under the direction of the SOC.

GEMA/HS Planning develops incident action plans in accordance with the principals of the National Incident Management System and in coordination with command and general staff positions and ESFs activated. GEMA/HS Planning disseminates approved incident action plans internally and as appropriate with other multiagency coordination centers.

3.1 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#5 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 at 1-800-TRY-GEMA.

3.1 C: ESF Activation, Exercise & Improvement Planning

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles After Action Reports/Improvement Plans (AAR/IP) for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF#5 shall participate in this process when applicable. AAR/IP’s will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its annexes or ESF SOGs when applicable.

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF#5 will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops and conferences.

3.1 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 shall strive to develop operationally ready SOGs for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF#5 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

3.1 E: Development of Resources Capability List

In conjunction with ESF#7 – Resource Support, ESF#5 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

This Emergency Support Function Annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. In addition, this 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.