

ESF 4. Firefighting

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 Purpose

To provide an organized frame work that will effectively utilize all available fire fighting apparatus and personnel within Coos County, as well as a framework for the dispatching of such equipment and manpower to locations where needed, and provide effective operations at the scene during an emergency or disaster.

1.2 Scope

This annex assists in addressing firefighting activities to include the detection and suppression of wild-land, rural, and urban fires occurring separately or coincidentally with a significant natural or manmade disaster. This annex will be applied in coordination with the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan, Oregon Department of Forestry, Coos Forest Protective Association, and any existing mutual or automatic aid agreements.

2. Situation and Assumptions

2.1 Situation

- This Fire Annex is to assist in providing the framework for fire prevention as well as fire response in Coos County. Coos County is subject to urban, rural, and wild-land fires. Coos County's primary function during a fire is to provide notification, communications, logistical, and law enforcement support to the appropriate Fire Defense District. Coos County is also able to declare a disaster situation which is able to bring in more State and Federal assistance.
- The Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association has developed agreements and plans for mutual aid support for events that deplete the resources of an individual agency.
- The fire service in Coos County is an integrated force trained to respond to a myriad of emergencies. The fire service of Coos County coordinates its efforts through mutual aid agreements, Fire Defense Board, State Fire Marshals Office and the State Conflagration Act.
- In order to protect life and property against the danger of fire, the Governor may order the fire fighting forces and equipment of any fire fighting organization in the state to assist anywhere in the state. This action is taken under the State Conflagration Act.
- Requests for additional fire fighting resources will be made in accordance with the existing mutual aid plans and agreements. If supplemental fire fighting resources are required, local officials shall request resources from the Chief of the Coos County Fire Defense Board (Coos County Fire Chief). The

Coos County Fire Chief may request assistance from the State Fire Marshal under the State Fire Mobilization Plan.

- If fire resources are needed for emergencies not involving a major conflagration, they shall be requested through the Mutual Aid System. If necessary, pertinent to ORS 401 and the Coos County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Coos County Emergency Management shall coordinate such requests through Oregon Emergency Management.

2.2 Assumptions

- Each fire agency within Coos County train to handle most emergency situations within its jurisdiction through emergency call out and with the use of mutual aid agreements. Assistance from state and federal agencies will be requested if additional support is necessary.
- Urban, rural, and wild-land fires will occur within Coos County. In the event of an earthquake or other significant event, large and damaging fires could result.
- Wheeled-vehicle access may be hampered by bridge failures, washed out roads and landslides, making conventional travel to the fire location extremely difficult or impossible. Aircraft/ air support resources may be needed in these situations, providing airports are not impeded. Coos County will maintain a record of all airports, airstrips, and helicopter landing zones in the county.
- Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local, county, state, and federal fire agencies requires the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) together with compatible firefighting equipment and communications.
- Coos County will provide trained personnel resource for the Incident Command Structure if needed. As an event becomes larger, the county Emergency Operation Center (EOC) may become activated to provide support for the Incident Command Center.
- The county dispatch center may assist in dispatching mutual aid partners if requested.
- When able, Coos County will provide and coordinate law enforcement support such as the Sheriff's Office and local police departments to aid in crowd control, evacuation and shelter in place support.

3. Concept of Operations

3.1 General

- Emergency fire fighting operations will be initiated by local fire agencies to the full extent of their resource capabilities. Additional resources can be requested by using Mutual Aid Agreements.
- Command of fire operations will be in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS).
- The designated Incident Commander will coordinate with other on-scene emergency responders and emergency service providers to assure efficient and effective emergency response.

3.2 Urban/Rural Fires

- Local fire protection districts and municipal fire departments have the primary responsibility for the suppression and control of fires within their respective fire protection jurisdictions. For those incidents requiring additional support, mutual aid agreements may be executed.
- The State of Oregon has a Fire Service Mobilization Plan to deal with the growing problem of Urban/Wild-land interface fires. This action is also called the establishment of the State Fire Defense Board, made up of representatives from various fire defense districts throughout the state. Coos County is in the Coos Fire Defense District.
- If an urban fire threatens or is likely to become a fire of major magnitude, assistance may be available from the federal government under an emergency declaration by the President. Requests for such assistance are handled through normal emergency management channels. Refer to the Basic Plan for those procedures.

3.3 Forest Fires/Wildland Fires

- ORS Chapter 477 charges the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to protect forest lands. ORS 477.460 allows ODF to enter into contracts to provide fire protection for forest lands. In Coos County, CFPA provides the fire protection for ODF under ORS 477.460. Due to the intermingling of urban and forest areas, CFPA participates in mutual aid with many municipal and rural fire departments and may assist with available regular forces during a mobilization emergency.

Through the Oregon State Fire Mobilization Plan, the Department of Forestry is capable of mobilizing a substantial response that includes communication equipment, incident management personnel, and other support services.

- The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for protecting forestlands under federal management. Due to the intermingling of urban and forest areas, the U.S. Forest Service may participate in mutual aid agreements with municipal and rural fire departments and may assist with forces during a mobilization emergency to wild-land fire events only.
- The Bureau of Land Management has contracts with the Oregon Department of Forestry for fire protection of its land in Coos County.

4. Activities by Phases

4.1 Mitigation

- Coos County Emergency Management will provide NIMS information, as available, in order that all fire departments and rural fire departments are NIMS able to become NIMS compliant.
- Coos County Emergency Management will encourage the Fire Chiefs' Association and Mutual Aid Coordinators to ensure all fire agencies have signed and up-to-date mutual aid agreements.
- Coos County will work with the community fire departments to assist, where able, that they may have a community outreach program to educate people of fire safety.

4.2 Preparedness

- Fire departments will test and maintain fire fighting response equipment.
- Coos County will attempt to seek funding to provide training as able to first responder personnel in Incident Management.
- Coos County will maintain communications capability to support response efforts for receiving fire notifications and dispatching personnel and equipment.
- Coos County will continue to develop, revise, update, and exercise this fire annex to the Coos County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, as able, to address potential needed response situations changes.
- Continue efforts to have prepared evacuation plans developed to speed up the process of protecting public safety.

4.3 Response

- Staff and operate the emergency 911 notification system.

- On becoming aware that a fire emergency exists, the responding fire agencies Incident Commander will notify their dispatch center and advise them of the circumstances. When necessary, the Incident Commander will maintain close coordination with County Emergency Management.
- When a fire emergency exists in the County that is beyond the capability of the fire agency and Mutual Aid System, the Fire Defense Board Chief shall request that the State Fire Marshall provide support under the State Fire Mobilization Plan.
- The EOC will be activated in those circumstances which require the additional support.
- On-scene fire operations will be carried out using the NIMS ICS and supported by regional or federal coordination centers as depicted in FEMA plans.
- When necessary, the EOC will serve as a Support Center or a Multi-Agency Coordination Center following the ICS model. Assigned staff will assist in coordinating the acquisition and deployment of resources.
- Fire personnel at the scene shall coordinate with other emergency response personnel to assure that necessary operations are undertaken to protect life, infrastructure, the environment, and property.
- If the State Fire Marshal determines that a fire emergency exists, he/she can advise the Governor of the conditions and request that the State Conflagration Act be invoked.
- When authorized by the Governor, the State Fire Marshal's Office may order support from other fire service agencies to respond and assist.

4.4 Recovery

- Coos County fire agencies shall ensure through the use of ICS that the local agencies have accounted for all fire and law enforcement personnel.
- If local agencies request aid for victims of fires, Coos County shall contact organizations that have the capability to provide aid such as the American Red Cross.
- Coos County will conduct a post-incident review.
- Advise the public when the situation has been terminated. If an evacuation took place, provide appropriate instructions to returning evacuees.

- Ensure the public has been apprised of the situation and any ongoing hazards or investigations.
- When available, Coos County will provide the Sheriff's Office in unincorporated areas of the county for traffic control anticipating the return of the evacuees. (See Evacuation and/or Recovery Annexes.) The County will coordinate with police departments for traffic control.

5. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

5.1 General

- The Coos County EOP fire annex helps establish an organization for responding to fires in the unincorporated areas of Coos County and where mutual aid support may be necessary throughout the County.
- The Coos County Mutual Aid System and Defense Board Chief will be the designated coordination point between responding forces and the County.
- The local Fire Chief or designee remains as Incident Commander unless he/she transfers command to a higher authority, or he/she requests a Unified Command be established. The incident command system provides for the increase in scope and size of an event and therefore the need for making changes in the Incident Command position.
- When available, the Coos County Sheriff's Office will conduct traffic control with the possible support of Oregon State Police and shall follow evacuation procedures in unincorporated areas of the county and when requested by the cities.

5.2 Task Assignments

5.2.1 Local Fire Agency

- Command fire-fighting forces and direct all responding support forces operating within the incident. Establish the initial Incident Command System structure.
- When necessary, maintain communications with the EOC, if activated, providing a JIC (Joint Information Center) and uniform information for public dissemination.
- Maintain communications and close liaison with an adjacent Incident Commander when the fire involves land protected by a wild-land fire protection agency but is threatening a local fire jurisdiction.
- Will develop an Incident Action Plan.

5.2.2 Coos County Fire Defense Board Chief / Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association

- Assist in activation and operation of the Emergency Operations Center.
- Coordinate the planning and response strategies for all fire fighting capabilities within Coos County. Ensure the agency roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- Coordinate fire service response to address the needs at the emergency scene and assure protection for the rest of the County.
- Analyze fire service resource needs and request assistance from agencies not covered under mutual aid agreements.
- Recommend invocation of State Conflagration Act from the State Fire Chief, if required.
- Assign liaison to work with fire officials from other affected jurisdictions.
- Provide information and advice to Board of Commissioners through Emergency Management if it appears that a non-fire emergency declaration may be required.
- Coordinate with the County Public Information Officer for dissemination of fire related warning and emergency information.

5.2.3 Emergency Management

- Assist in activation and operation of Emergency Operations Center.
- Assist in the coordination of logistics to support fire control operations.
- Advise the Board of Commissioners regarding emergency conditions.
- Maintain contact with Oregon Emergency Management in non-conflagration incidents.
- Responsible for providing training announcements as they become available to County personnel in Incident Command System training and preparing the county's emergency plans.

5.2.4 Sheriff's Office

- Coordinate or assist in law enforcement response to provide traffic and crowd control at fire scene.
- Coordinate and utilize local police department support in any response to fires. Work with other law enforcement agencies to establish adequate mutual aid agreements and that they are in place to support fire responses.
- Assist in staffing an Incident Management team for Coos County when necessary.
- Assist in warning and evacuation of the public, as conditions require.
- Assist in the development and dissemination of emergency information, as requested.

5.2.5 Public Works Department/Road Department

- Assist in traffic and crowd control providing signs, barriers, equipment, and personnel.
- When requested, provide heavy equipment, as appropriate, to assist in fire control operations.

5.2.6 Public Health Department

- Coordinate with the State agencies to assess environmental impact and threat to public health.
- Assist in the development of emergency information related to human services.

5.2.7 County Clerk/Red Cross

- Coordinate efforts to provide for the needs of victims and emergency workers for shelter, feeding, and sanitation.

6. Administration and Support

- The Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association and Defense Board Chief, along with other County emergency response representatives shall administer the preparation and support to fire fighting throughout Coos County.
- Staff support and equipment shall be provided, as appropriate, by all agencies supporting the fire control function.

- Each agency involved will be responsible for documenting all activities, personnel, and equipment deployed, decisions made, and other information required for evaluation of the response and cost accounting. Copies of these records, along with the Incident Action Plans, will be submitted to Emergency Management to become part of the permanent Incident Record.

7. Development and Review

The Coos County Emergency Management Office will work in collaboration with the Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association and CFPA to ensure this annex is reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed.

8. Organizational Description

8.1 Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association

The Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association is an organization of Chief Fire Officers representing twenty-six fire agencies along the ancillary to 127 miles of Highway 101. Twenty-two are Rural Fire Protection Districts and four are city government. The primary responsibility of the association is for Fire Chiefs to work collectively to ensure long-term safety, collaboration and viability of the fire service in southern Oregon.

The Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association was instrumental in developing a Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid system between agencies, which promotes a safe and fast response, ensures coverage in the event additional resources are necessary, and promotes teamwork among firefighters and fire agencies.

8.2 Mission Statement

Fire Chiefs promoting a collective effort for the betterment of the fire service and Mutual Aid System in southern Oregon.

9. References

- A. National Fire Protection Codes
- B. Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan
- C. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 401
- D. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 477