

ESF 12. Energy

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 Purpose

To provide guidance for emergency coordination with providers of electric power, water resources, telecommunications, sanitation, natural gas, and petroleum resources to meet the essential needs of Coos County during a major emergency or disaster.

1.2 Scope

The scope of this ESF Annex includes:

- Addressing the coordination of energy systems and utilities assessments for damage, supply, demand, and requirements to restore such systems.
- Assisting Coos County Departments and agencies in obtaining fuel for transportation, communications, emergency operations, and other critical functions.
- Helping energy suppliers and utilities obtain equipment, specialized labor, and transportation to repair or restore energy systems.

2. Policies

It is the policy of Coos County that all utilities, whether publicly or privately owned, be prepared to respond to needs caused by an emergency or disaster. The Coos County Emergency Management Office may establish liaison with such utility providers to coordinate disaster and emergency needs and services.

3. Situation and Assumptions

3.1 Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Refer to the Coos County Hazard Analysis in the Basic Plan.

3.2 Assumptions

- A severe natural disaster or other significant event can sever energy and utility lifelines; hinder supplies in impacted areas or in areas with supply links to impacted areas; and also affect firefighting, transportation, communication, and other lifelines needed for public health and safety.
- There may be widespread and/or prolonged electric power failure. With no electric power, communications, transportation, health care, business, education, banking, and infrastructure will be greatly impeded.
- There may be extensive pipeline failure in water, wastewater, and gas utilities. It may take hours, days, weeks, or even months to make repairs.

- Natural gas lines may break and may erupt in fire.
- Water pressure may be low, hampering firefighting and impairing sewer system function.

4. Concept of Operations

- It is expected that public and private utilities, such as those which provide power, water, natural gas, petroleum, sanitation, or communications services, will develop internal organizational procedures which will guide operations after a major event. These procedures should facilitate the basic assessment of what happened, what can be done about it, and what is needed. If appropriate, this information should be provided to the Coos County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as soon as possible.
- Contact with utility providers may be established by the EOC to coordinate resources, establish priorities, assess and document damages, and provide information to the public. The EOC may initiate information programs to keep the public informed of utility status and any restrictions.
- Utility providers will be invited to send a liaison to the county EOC to facilitate coordination between agencies.
- Requests for assistance are primarily made by utility providers through existing mutual aid agreements with other providers. The EOC may assist with coordinating outside resources, upon request.
- The County Office of Emergency Management may advise public utilities operating in Coos County of any emergency restrictions or operating policies established by County government. The Office of Emergency Management may also coordinate with the State OEM.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Local

5.1.1 Emergency Management

- Maintain liaison with local utilities, including the ability to contact them on a 24-hour-a-day basis.
- Coordinate assistance to support local utility and energy providers, as requested.

5.1.2 Water and Waste Management, Municipal Utilities, and Private Purveyors (supply goods)

- Maintain and control water, sewer, and solid waste systems within their jurisdictions.
- Perform damage assessment on systems and identify problems or shortfalls in water supply. Report findings to the EOC.
- Regulate water and utility usage in times of shortages, as appropriate, assuring priority use set to meet immediate and essential emergency needs.
- Within available means, protect existing water supplies and restore damaged systems.
- Identify potential areas for mitigation strategy.
- Prepare appropriate disaster assistance forms for submission to appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.

5.1.3 Other Utility Providers

- Continue to operate in the tradition of self-help and inter-service mutual aid before calling for area, regional, or state assistance.
- Comply with the prevailing priority systems relating to curtailment of customer demands or loads, restoration of services, and provision of emergency services for other utilities and systems.
- In conjunction with the EOC Operations Section, determine priorities among users if adequate utility supply is not available to meet all essential needs.
- Provide information necessary for compiling damage and operational capability reports.

5.2 State

5.2.1 Oregon Emergency Management (OEM)

- Alert appropriate state agencies of the possible requirements to supplement local energy and utility needs.
- Coordinate with the Utilities and Transportation Commission to provide supplemental assistance to local government.

5.3 Federal Emergency Management Agency

Coordinate the activities of federal agencies having supplemental energy and utility resources capabilities during a presidential declared emergency or disaster.

6. References

The “Federal Response Plan”, ESF#12 – Energy

7. Annex Development and Maintenance

- The Emergency Program Manager and County Road Department are responsible for developing and maintaining this annex. Recommended changes to this annex shall be forwarded as needs become apparent.
- This annex will be revised and updated in accordance with the schedule outlined in Section 1 of the Basic Plan.
- Individuals, departments, agencies, and volunteer organizations assigned responsibilities in this annex are responsible for developing and maintaining appropriate standard operating procedures (SOPs) to carry out those responsibilities.

8. Supporting Plans and Procedures

Support Annex 3, Damage Assessment and Disaster Recovery.