

## Fire Suppression Functional Annex

Updated: September 10, 2024

### I. PURPOSE

This section ensures the proper coordination of fire resources (personnel, equipment, & supplies) to provide the safety of life and property within the County during emergencies.

### II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### A. Situation

1. Fire prevention and control are daily problems faced by fire personnel. Several hazards become more significant during emergencies including nuclear incidents and hazardous materials accidents.
2. Alexander County has eight volunteer fire departments:
  - a. Central Alexander Fire Department, 173 Emergency St., Taylorsville, NC, 28681
  - b. Ellendale Community Volunteer Fire Department, 30 Ellendale Fire Dept. Rd., Taylorsville, NC, 28681
  - c. Bethlehem Community Fire and Rescue, 7373 NC Hwy 127 Taylorsville, NC 28681
  - d. Wittenburg Fire Department, 77 Wittenburg Rd., Taylorsville NC, 28681
  - e. East Alexander Fire Department, 501 Ruritan Park Rd. #1, Stony Point, NC, 28678
    - i. Station 2: 9621 Paul Payne Store Rd. Stony Point, NC 28678
  - f. Hiddenite Volunteer Fire Department, 4975 NC Hwy 90E #1, Hiddenite, NC, 28636
    - i. Station 2: 4472 Cheatham Ford Rd, Hiddenite, NC 28636
  - g. Sugar Loaf Fire Department, 4272 NC Hwy 16N, Taylorsville NC, 28681
  - h. Vashti Fire-Rescue, 21 Vashti Fire Department Rd., Taylorsville, NC 28681
3. The NC Forest Service is the lead agency for forest fire control in Alexander County. Forestry maintains equipment at the Alexander County Forest Ranger's Office located at 215 Adams Pond Lane, Taylorsville, NC 28681. Alexander County is in NCFS District 2 with headquarters at 1543 Wilkesboro Blvd. NE, Lenoir, NC 28645.
4. Urban interface has increased the hazard posed by forest fires.
5. County fire departments rely on the Alexander County communications system for primary dispatching and communications.
6. The fire departments are trained at the HAZMAT Operations Level for responding to hazardous materials spills.
7. Mutual aid agreements exist among all fire departments within the County.
8. Alexander County conducts fire inspections utilizing its fire inspection personnel, including inspections in the Town of Taylorsville. NC Fire Code provisions are enforced through the Alexander County Fire Marshal's office.

#### B. Assumptions

1. Existing fire personnel and equipment will be able to cope with most emergencies through the use of existing mutual aid agreements.
2. When additional support is required, assistance can be obtained from State and Federal agencies.
3. Planning and training before an incident will significantly reduce the risk to personnel.
4. Incidents may require a response by multiple local, state, and federal agencies.

5. Volunteer Fire Departments may be requested to perform tasks not associated with routine duties, such as search, traffic control, emergency debris removal, alert and notification, and evacuation.
6. Volunteer Fire Departments may be requested to staff their stations around the clock before or during periods of emergency or disaster.
7. Volunteer Fire Departments will maintain communications with the Alexander County Communications Center and the Alexander County EOC.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

1. During emergencies, the fire service must be prepared to support each other by utilizing available expertise, equipment, and manpower.
2. In an emergency that requires several emergency services (i.e., fire, rescue, law enforcement, etc.) to respond, all units, regardless of service, will be coordinated by an incident commander or unified command.
3. Regardless of the situation, the National Incident Management System will be followed. This would involve both emergency and non-emergency situations.
4. Resources required by Fire Departments beyond those available through mutual aid will be requested through Alexander County Emergency Management and routed to the NCEM Western Region Coordination Center.
5. Under the North Carolina Hazardous Materials Right to Know Law, the Fire Chief should survey facilities within his jurisdiction to identify types and volumes of hazardous materials located within the County. He should consider this information when developing response plans for hazardous materials accidents within the County. Coordination of facility emergency response plans with the Local Emergency Planning Committee will be included in fire service planning.

### **IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. Organization**

1. The fire departments in Alexander County are made up of organized and trained units utilizing paid and volunteer personnel, who serve a specific geographical area, providing service to local governments. The primary concern of these departments is structural fires within their jurisdictions.
2. The control and prevention of forest fires is the responsibility of the North Carolina Forestry Services. Through mutual aid agreements, local fire departments support the North Carolina Forestry Services in this responsibility.

#### **B. Assignment of Responsibilities**

1. Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal, or Fire Chief
  - a. Analyze fire potential and identify fire service requirements.
  - b. Maintain communication equipment and follow the Alexander County Communications Plan.
  - c. Prepare SOPs for coordination of firefighting during emergencies.
  - d. Develop mutual aid agreements.

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- e. Prepare and maintain inventories of all fire equipment and personnel resources and update Emergency Management annually or if there are any changes.
- f. Report to EOC or command post upon activation, and direct and control fire-fighting operations.
- g. Assist in warning and notifying the affected population of an existing or impending emergency.
- h. Deploy fire personnel and equipment during emergencies.
- i. Provide protective equipment, instruments, and gear to perform assigned tasks in a hazardous chemical or radiological environment.
- j. Direct and dispatch firefighting from other locations (if applicable) and other counties to the disaster site.
- k. Designate staging areas for mutual aid and volunteer forces responding from other areas.
- l. Alert all emergency support services to the dangers associated with technological hazards and fire during emergency operations.
- m. Advise decision makers on the hazards associated with the event including hazardous materials.
- n. Support search and rescue operations.
- o. Support Forestry in control of wildland fires and structural protection.
- p. Provide radiological and hazardous material decontamination and monitoring support.
- q. Provide fire protection for emergency shelters, mass care facilities, and critical facilities with their fire districts.
- r. Support emergency tree cutting and route clearing for emergency vehicle access
- s. Support 4-wheel drive operations during severe weather situations.
- t. Assist utility companies as requested by the EOC.
- u. Provide for maintaining exposure records and ensure that gas monitors are read and reported at appropriate frequencies.
- v. Coordinate support personnel to assist in traffic control and damage assessment operations.
- w. Report significant injuries, fatalities, or significant damages to fire personnel and equipment to the EOC if activated.
- x. Conduct fire inspections during recovery.
- y. Coordinated messaging with the County Joint Information Center if established to ensure unified messaging throughout the county's response.

### **V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. Direction and control of local fire departments is exercised by the Executive Branch of government with the Fire Marshal or his or her designee serving as their liaison.
- B. Coordination of fire services in an emergency is accomplished by the Fire Marshal, utilizing mutual aid agreements developed with local units; and statewide, through the State Emergency Response Team.
- C. When the EOC is activated, the Fire Marshal or their designee will normally be located in the EOC.

**VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

- A. The line of succession for firefighting operations is department-specific. The first arriving unit should establish command and then can relinquish command to a higher-ranking officer.

**VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

- A. A listing of personnel, equipment, and supplies for fire services located in the County will be maintained in the Resource Tracker of WebEOC.
- B. Reports and records of fire services activities during an emergency/disaster will be collected by the Fire Marshal and compiled for Emergency Management to maintain records of response.
- C. Fire services will maintain current maps, charts, and current notification/recall rosters.

**VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. Each fire organization will maintain procedures and guidelines that reflect their operational capabilities.
- B. These SOGs will be reviewed on an annual basis.

**IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES**

- A. Authorities
  - 1. NC General Statute 166-A
  - 2. Alexander County Emergency Management Ordinance