

# RICHLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4

## FIREFIGHTING

**LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY:** Local Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
(Wildland Forest)

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** MABAS Division 150  
Richland County Emergency Management  
Richland County Sheriff's Office  
Richland County Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Assoc.  
American Red Cross  
Salvation Army

**STATE SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:** Wisconsin Emergency Management  
Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association  
MABAS Executive Board of Directors

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to:

1. Establish an organizational framework for all firefighting activities in Richland County during emergency declarations or an EOC activation.
2. Establish effective coordination of local and county resources to respond to structural (urban, suburban or rural) or forest fires resulting from man-made, technological events, natural disasters, or other events requiring fire response utilizing principals identified in the National Incident Management System.

ESF 4 coordinates directly with the following Emergency Support Functions (ESFs):

ESF 1: Evacuation and Transportation Resources  
ESF 6: Mass Care, Housing and Human Services  
ESF 9: Urban Search and Rescue  
ESF 10: Oil and Hazardous Materials Response  
ESF 13: Public Safety and Security

## B. Scope

### STATE PLAN INCLUDES BOTH MUNICIPAL & WILDLAND/FOREST

Firefighting involves the management and coordination of activities/actions and resources to prevent, detect, and suppress all hostile, uncontained Municipal and/or Wildland/Forest fires by the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) except for forest fires as defined by § 26.01(2) Wisconsin Statutes occurring outside the limits of villages and cities which are the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Richland County is defined in NR 30.02(1)(j) as an *Extensive Forest Fire Control Area*. DNR support is determined accordingly.

The specific actions required by a local “on-scene commander” at the scene of an emergency or disaster will be determined by the size and magnitude of the event.

## II. POLICIES

- A. The policies, procedures and protocols established by local, state and federal AHJ guidelines shall be followed when responding to emergencies or disasters requiring fire department resources. The Incident Commander shall, at his/her discretion:
1. Request use of automatic aid and mutual aid and/or the activation of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).
  2. Use of state or federal assets in coordination/consultation with the County Emergency Management Director and Chief Elected Official of the impacted community may occur in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes. Coordination of said assets will be the responsibility of the Wisconsin Emergency Management, Fire Services Coordinator or his/her designee.
- B. Forest fire suppression activities shall be accomplished through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in cooperation with local fire departments (AHJ) (per contractual agreement or Memorandum of Understanding), and other appropriate state and federal or agencies as necessary. Dependent upon the size, scope and magnitude of the incident, private sector assets/resources may also be utilized per “Memorandum of Understanding(s)”.
- C. Per Wisconsin State Statute 26.11, "Forest fires; department jurisdiction; procedure", the DNR Forestry Protection Division has the authority and responsibility to respond to forest fires and assume “Command” (responsibility) for suppression efforts on state and privately-owned forest land outside the limits of any city or village. Additionally, if a state of an emergency is declared, the DNR has the responsibility to respond to requests from other agencies for assistance for non-fire emergencies or disasters. Within a city or village, the

local AHJ has command and control of the situation and may request “mutual aid” from the DNR). See **Appendix 1 of State ESF 4** for the plan for **Forest/Wildland Firefighting**.

- D. The local AHJ Incident Commander at his/her discretion may utilize “mutual aid” resources from existing “Mutual Aid” agreements or Memorandums of Understanding or by activation of a MABAS alarm, where applicable, as needed dependent upon size, scope or magnitude of the incident.

The local AHJ Incident Commander has the authority to mobilize mutual aid resources under 2003 Wisconsin Act 186 or to request assistance from the Wisconsin Emergency Management, Fire Services Coordinator in the activation of a MABAS “regional or statewide” level alarm in accordance with the guidance provided in Wisconsin Administrative Rule WEM-8.

- E. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Industry Services (DIS) helps develop and enforce safety and health standards for public sector fire department employees, based on SPS 330, Fire Department Safety and Health code, and SPS 332, Public Employee Safety and Health code. (An adjunct to SPS 332, SPS 330 contains minimum requirements for an occupational safety and health program for public sector fire department employees involved in fire department operations.) Consultation and inspections are provided by Division of Industry Services (DIS) staff on requirements for fire department occupational safety and health programs. OSHA provides safety oversight for private fire companies and departments organized under Chapter 213, or corporate “fire brigades”.

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services is responsible for the development and implementation of building and safety codes as well as providing support to local AHJ on issues of local concern related to fire code development and enforcement. Division of Industry Services (DIS) also assists the local AHJ with the development and implementation of fire prevention and public fire education programs.

- F. The Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation, Arson Bureau/State Fire Marshal's Office, at the request of the local AHJ, may assist with fire cause and origin determination/investigation.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

#### A. General

1. For all fires, it shall be the responsibility of the local AHJ to determine what resources may be needed to manage the incident based on the following considerations:
  - a. Life safety considerations (public and response personnel)

- b. Property conservations
  - c. Environmental considerations
2. The DNR will coordinate and manage forest firefighting as described in **Appendix 1 of State ESF 4 (Firefighting)**.
  3. The local IC will utilize their respective resources first then activate existing “mutual aid” agreements and/or MABAS. Requests for “regional, statewide resources” will require notification, by the County Emergency Management Director, of the WEM Duty Officer and the WEM-Fire Services Coordinator.

**B. Organization**

1. Emergency scene management shall be in accordance with the Incident Command System as described in the Richland County Basic Plan and in accordance with NIMS.

**IV. GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

<b>Mitigation</b>	Lead Agency:	Fire Department having Jurisdictional Authority
	Supporting Agencies:	Emergency Management Sheriff's Department American Red Cross

1. Identify potential vulnerabilities and determine actions to reduce that vulnerability
2. Identify mitigation support resources, such as program funding
3. Identify areas where mutual aid agreements are needed to support activities
4. Identify areas where public information activities may be necessary
5. Identify sources of ESF 4 needs, resources and equipment
6. Identify ESF 4 training requirements or potential needs

<b>Preparedness</b>	Lead Agency:	Fire Department having Jurisdictional Authority
	Supporting Agencies:	MABAS 150 Sheriff's Department Emergency Management WIS DNR Richland County Fire Chief's Mutual Aid Assc.

1. Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements and/or enter into MABAS agreements needed to support activities
2. Develop public education programs as necessary

3. Develop and maintain information on and sources for ESF 4 needs, resources and equipment in a NIMS compliant database
4. Develop and conduct ESF 4 training for senior command staff
5. Develop and maintain a 24 hour alert and warning system (excluding DNR)
6. Identify, develop and incorporate, as necessary
  - a. Private sector capabilities and resources
  - b. Backup response and recovery processes

<b>Response</b>	Lead Agency:	Fire Department having Jurisdictional Authority
	Supporting Agencies:	MABAS 150 Sheriff's Department WIS DNR Richland County Fire Chief's Mutual Aid Assc.

1. Respond to and suppress hostile fires
2. Determine what assets are available and nearest to the affected area(s) and the time frame for deploying those assets
3. Prioritize and coordinate the acquisition and deployment of ESF 4 resources for the suppression of rural and urban fires
4. Coordinate the utilization of a common communications system for ESF 4 response utilizing ESF 2
5. Assess the need for and obtain other support as required
6. Maintain a 24 hour alert/notification system or other reporting system on continuous basis as the point-of-contact for ESF 4 emergency reporting (excluding DNR)
7. Generate in a timely manner, information to be included in County and State EOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans
8. Compile damage information for County Emergency Management Director and other city/county/State agencies and report that information through ESF 5, Emergency Management. The County Damage Assessment Team and/or the SW Incident Management Team may assist with damage assessments. The DNR is not responsible for compiling damage information
9. Coordinate with County Emergency Management Director to contact Vernon County Type III Hazmat Team and/or the La Crosse Type II Hazmat Team, in the event of a potential hazardous materials release

<b>Recovery</b>	Lead Agency:	Fire Department having Jurisdictional Authority
	Supporting Agencies:	Emergency Management Sheriff Department American Red Cross Local Salvation Army

1. Conduct fire cause and origin investigations. Refer for prosecution persons found to have maliciously caused a fire. Conduct cost recovery for expenses related for fire suppression.
2. Inventory equipment used during response activities and repair/replace as needed.
3. Prepare and process reports using established procedures, focusing specific attention on after-action reports.
4. Generate in a timely manner, information to be included in County and State EOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans.
5. Assign and schedule sufficient personnel to cover an activation of the County Emergency Operations Center for an extended period of time.
6. Maintain appropriate records of work schedules and costs incurred by ESF 4 agencies during an event.
7. Establish a method of tracking immediate and short term human services needs i.e. food, shelter and clothing ( See ESF 6)

## **V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Primary Agencies**

#### **1. Local Authority Having Jurisdiction**

- a. Manage and coordinate activities and resources to prevent, detect, and suppress all hostile fires.

#### **2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wildland/Forest)**

- a. The DNR has the authority and responsibility to respond to forest fires and assume "Command" (responsibility) for suppression efforts on state and privately-owned forest land outside the limits of any city or village.

### **B. Support Agencies**

#### **1. State of Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Emergency Management

- 1) Provide ESF 4 liaison activities through Fire Services Coordinator
- 2) Support ESF 4 activities as needed

#### **2. Voluntary Agencies**

American Red Cross  
Salvation Army

- 1) Provide ESF 4 support as needed
- 2) Provide ESF 6 support as needed

## **VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A.** Joint primary and support agencies will provide the required personnel, facilities, and equipment to support their activities utilizing the National Incident Management System Classification System.
- B.** Local jurisdiction, regional, and national fire suppression resources may be required. The specific resources available are listed in the appropriate mobilization guides. Support organizations exist at each level of government to provide these assets.

## **VII. REFERENCES**

### **APPENDIX 1: INCIDENT–SPECIFIC ANNEX TO STATE EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4 (FOREST/WILDLAND FOREST FIREFIGHTING)**

## **VIII. GLOSSARY / ACRONYMS**

For Acronyms, see Richland County Emergency Response Plan, Basic Plan.

**APPENDIX 1: INCIDENT–SPECIFIC ANNEX TO STATE EMERGENCY SUPPORT  
FUNCTION 4 (FOREST FIREFIGHTING)**

**INCIDENT–SPECIFIC ANNEX  
TO  
STATE LEVEL  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4**

**FOREST/WILDLAND FOREST FIREFIGHTING**

**LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Local Authority Having Jurisdiction (fire departments, sheriff offices,  
emergency management, etc.)  
Wisconsin Emergency Management  
Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Wisconsin Department of Commerce  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
National Association of State Foresters  
U.S. Forest Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U. S. Park Service  
National Weather Service  
Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact  
Menominee Tribal Enterprises

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:** American Red Cross  
Salvation Army  
Fire Department Auxiliaries

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. Purpose**

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to establish effective coordination of local and state resources to respond to forest fires or other events requiring a DNR incident management team (IMT) that utilize the principals identified in the National Incident Management System.

**B. Scope**

Forest firefighting involves management and coordination of firefighting activities/actions by the Department of Natural Resources in coordination and cooperation with the local fire department and cooperating agencies. This includes the prevention of, the detection of, and the suppression of forest fires on federal, state and private lands, by providing the necessary resources



including personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of local, state, tribal and federal jurisdictions threatened by fire.

The specific actions required or requested by a local “incident commander” at the scene of an emergency or disaster will be determined by the size and magnitude of the event.

## II. POLICIES

- A. Per Wisconsin state statute 26.11, the DNR has jurisdiction and responsibility for prevention, detection and suppression of forest fire on all lands within the state, except within incorporated cities and villages (where the local AHJ has command and control of the situation and may request “mutual aid” from the DNR).
- B. The DNR, Division of Forestry, has the authority and responsibility to respond to forest fires and assume “Command” (responsibility) for suppression efforts within the organized protection areas of the state as articulated in NR 30.01 and NR 30.02, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- C. The DNR has the authority and responsibility to respond to requests for assistance from other agencies for assistance for forest fire emergencies within incorporated cities and villages and in the cooperative protection area of the state.
- D. The policies, procedures and protocols established by the DNR shall be followed when responding to forest fire related emergencies or disasters involving a DNR IMT. Established forest firefighting and support organizations, policies, processes, and procedures, as listed in the Wisconsin DNR manual codes, handbooks, guidelines and in-state mobilization guide will be used in support of forest firefighting activities.
- E. Coordination with, and support of, state and local jurisdiction forest fire suppression activities shall be accomplished through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in cooperation with local fire departments (AHJ) and other appropriate state and federal agencies as necessary. Dependent upon the size, scope and magnitude of the incident, private sector assets/resources may be utilized.
- F. The DNR will provide assistance and input for the development of MABAS forest fire call boxes.
- G. The DNR Incident Commander (at the scene of a forest fire), at their discretion, may utilize “mutual aid” resources from existing “mutual aid” agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Cooperating Agreements, contracts for service, MABAS alarm, etc. as needed, dependent upon size, scope or magnitude of the incident.

- H. The Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Arson Bureau/State Fire Marshal's Office, at the request of the DNR or local AHJ, has the responsibility to assist the DNR or local AHJ with forest fire cause and origin determination/investigation. Additionally, the DCI Arson Bureau responds to all fatal fire scenes or fires with dollar loss in excess of \$1,000,000.00. Fires determined to be arson then become criminal investigations conducted by the local AHJ law enforcement unit in cooperation with the DCI Arson Bureau. The DCI Arson Bureau can also serve as the liaison with federal and other state law enforcement agencies.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS: Wildland/Forest Firefighting

#### A. General

1. The DNR will coordinate and manage a **large forest fire** event near the scene of the incident through a designated Incident Command Post, with a DNR IMT and incident commander.
2. The DNR will also coordinate and manage its statewide fire suppression assets during a major forest fire or in the event of extreme weather conditions. The management of resources will be coordinated through the DNR regional forestry leaders with programmatic direction and oversight from the DNR Command Center or fire management program leadership.
3. Responsibility for situational assessment and determination of resource needs during a large forest fire event lies primarily with the local Incident Commander, in coordination with the regional leaders and DNR Command Center.
4. During a forest fire emergency, the DNR Command Center will be operational for the duration of the incident, providing broad policy, coordination and logistical support to affected agencies and personnel.
5. During **large scale wildland forest fires** the incident's objectives and priorities shall be established and communicated by the incident commander and will be based on the following criteria:
  - a. Life and safety considerations of the general public and response personnel
  - b. Property protection and conservation
  - c. Natural resources protection and conservation
6. Requests for wildland forest firefighting personnel and equipment resources will be transmitted from the local Incident Commander through the Regional Forestry Leader to the DNR Command Center. The DNR Command Center will attempt to fill the request for wildland forest firefighting personnel and equipment using the closest resources concept.

7. In situations where multiple wildland forest fires of a significant nature are occurring the DNR Command Center will prioritize resource allocation to the multiple wildland forest fires based on the following criteria:
  - a. Life and safety considerations of the general public and response personnel
  - b. Property protection and conservation
  - c. Natural resources protection and conservation
8. The DNR Command Center will coordinate filling of wildland forest fire personnel and resources needs unable to be fulfilled in Wisconsin, through the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact or nationally through the Eastern Area Coordination Center.

## **B. Organization**

1. The DNR is organized into four (4) forestry administrative districts. Each administrative district has one incident management team (IMT). Within this district system, the Forestry Program has eight areas identified within the organized fire protection areas of Wisconsin <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestFire/documents/cwppMap.pdf> where the DNR has initial attack responsibilities for wildland fires. Within each of these eight (8) areas, the DNR Forestry Program has the following wildland firefighting resources:
  - a. An Area Forestry Leader (Incident Commander Type 3 minimum qualification)
  - b. Dispatch center
  - c. Wildland fire suppression equipment (e.g. engines, tractor-plows, low ground units, etc.)
  - d. Wildland firefighting equipment cache, including personal protective equipment (PPE), suppression equipment, and support equipment for one 20-person hand crew.
  - e. Forest Rangers for operational IMT roles, fire investigation, and law enforcement activities pertaining to wildland fire situations
2. All areas, outside the organized fire protection areas, are considered the cooperative area. Within the cooperative area, the local affected municipality can request the DNR to assume command of a wildland fire after the expenditure of \$3000 in suppression activities.
  - a. Should it become necessary, due to the size, scope, or magnitude of the incident, to transfer command to a DNR IMT, a written "Delegation of Authority" must be provided specifying the authority being granted to the DNR IMT by the local municipality.

### **C. Mitigation Activities (General)**

1. Identify potential vulnerabilities and determine actions to reduce that vulnerability.
2. Identify mitigation support resources, such as program funding.
3. Identify areas where mutual aid agreements are needed to support activities.
4. Identify areas where public information activities may be necessary.
5. Identify sources of ESF 4 needs, resources and equipment.
6. Identify ESF 4 training requirements or potential needs.

### **D. Preparedness Activities (General)**

1. Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements needed to support activities
2. Develop public fire prevention and education programs as necessary
3. Develop and maintain information on and sources for ESF 4 needs, resources and equipment
4. Develop and conduct ESF 4 training.

### **E. Response Activities (General)**

1. Determine what assets are available and nearest to the affected area(s) and the time frame for deploying those assets.
2. Prioritize and coordinate the acquisition and deployment of ESF 4 resources for the suppression of wildfires, and rural and urban fires.
3. Coordinate the utilization of a common communications system for ESF 4 response utilizing ESF 2 and the DNR large fire communication plan.
4. Assess the need for and obtain logistical and other support as required.
5. Provide staff to the state EOC to coordinate ESF 4 activities, as needed.
6. Generate in a timely manner, information to be included in State EOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans.
7. Compile damage information obtained from local/county emergency management director and other city/county/State agencies for wildland forest fires and report that information through ESF 5, Emergency Management.

### **F. Recovery Activities (General)**

- Inventory equipment used during response activities and repair/replace as needed
- Prepare and process reports using established procedures, focusing specific attention on after-action reports.
- Generate in a timely manner, information to be included in State EOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans.
- Maintain appropriate records of work schedules and financial cost records incurred by ESF 4 agencies during an event.

## IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Primary Agencies

#### 1. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- Development and maintenance of Area Specific Fire Action Plans
- Development of Daily Fire Operations Plans during fire season
- Staff Forestry Command Center during significant forest fire events or incidents
- Prevention, detection and suppression of wildland forest fires
- Provision of critical weather related information
- Billing responsible parties for wildland forest fire suppression efforts
- Development and training of incident management teams
- Wildland Forest fire training to fire departments
- Reporting of wildland forest fire incidents
- Wildland Forest fire cause investigations and enforcement
- Maintenance of wildland forest fire equipment
- Wildland Forest fire equipment research and development
- Contracting for aerial suppression resources (SEAT's and CL-215's)
- Incident Qualifications System (IQS) record maintenance
- Training personnel to meet the Wisconsin Training Qualifications for forest fires
- Wildland/Forest fire prevention and education programs
- Wildland/Forest Urban Interface (WUI) programs (FireWise Communities)
- Designation of "Communities at Risk" from wildland forest fire in Wisconsin
- Development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
- Hazard Mitigation Program development and implementation
- Radio communication interoperability for wildland forest fire
- Operation of Wildland Forest fire dispatch centers (9)
- Maintenance of automated weather stations for real time fire weather information
- Forest Fire Protection (FFP) Grant administration
- Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant administration
- State Fire Assistance (SFA) Grant administration

#### 2. Local Authority Having Jurisdiction

- Provide trained wildland forest firefighters
- Provide wildland forest suppression equipment (engines)
- Provide for structural protection during wildland forest fires
- Provide law enforcement for road closures and evacuations during wildland forest fire emergencies
- Provide law enforcement personnel to secure the origin of a wildland forest fire.

## **B. Support Agencies**

### **1. Wisconsin Department of Corrections**

- a. Provide trained hand crews for wildland forest fire suppression

### **2. Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs**

- a. Cooperate in providing specialized equipment in support of wildland forest fire suppression efforts (helicopters, heavy dozers)

### **3. Wisconsin Emergency Management**

- a. Provide ESF 4 liaison activities through Fire Services Coordinator
- b. Support ESF 4 activities as needed
- c. Operation of statewide Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

### **4. Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin State Patrol**

- a. Provide law enforcement for road closures and evacuations during wildland forest fire emergencies
- b. Provide law enforcement personnel to secure the origin of a wildland forest fire

### **5. Wisconsin Department of Safety & Professional Services**

- a. Provide assistance in wildland forest fire arson investigations

### **6. Wisconsin Department of Justice**

- a. Provide legal services in adjudication of wildland forest fire cases

## **V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

**A.** Joint primary and support agencies will provide the required personnel, facilities, and equipment to support their activities utilizing the National Incident Management System Classification System.

**D.** Local jurisdiction, regional, and national wildland forest fire suppression resources may be required. The specific resources available are listed in the appropriate mobilization guides. Support organizations exist at each level of government to provide these assets for wildland forest fire.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

## **VII. ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY**

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1) For Acronyms, see *Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan, Basic Plan*.

2) For Glossary, see *Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan, Basic Plan*.

## **APPENDIX 2: WISCONSIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (WERP) ESF 4: "IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS WILDLAND FOREST FIREFIGHTING"**

### **IV. Concept of Operations – Wildland Forest Firefighting**

#### **IV.A. General**

IV.A.1. Management of DNR fire suppression resources is coordinated through the DNR district forestry leadership with direction and oversight from the DNR Command Center.

IV.A.2. During a wildland fire emergency where the DNR has command authority:

- a) The DNR Command Center is operated for the duration of the incident and provides broad policy, coordination, and logistical support to affected agencies and personnel.
- b) Responsibility for fire assessment and resource requirements lies with the DNR Incident Commander in coordination with the district forestry leadership and the DNR Command Center.
  - (1) The District Forestry Leader submits equipment and personnel resource requests to the DNR Command Center.
  - (2) In cases where multiple significant wildland fires are occurring simultaneously, the DNR Command Center prioritizes resource allocations based on:
    - (a) Life safety considerations to responders and the general public.
    - (b) Property protection and conservation.
    - (c) Natural resources protection and conservation.
  - (3) The DNR Command Center coordinates filling equipment and personnel resource requests from within Wisconsin. When required resources are not available in-state, the DNR Command Center requests resources through the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact or through the Eastern Area Coordination Center, as needed.

#### **IV.B. Organization**

IV.B.1. The DNR is organized into four forestry administrative districts. Each administrative district has one incident management team (IMT). Within this district system, the Forestry Program has eight areas identified within the organized fire protection areas of Wisconsin where the DNR has initial attack responsibilities for wildland fires. Within each of these eight areas, the DNR Forestry Program has the following wildland firefighting resources:

- a) An Area Forestry Leader (Incident Commander Type 3 minimum qualification)
- b) Dispatch center
- c) Wildland fire suppression equipment (e.g. engines, tractor-plows, low ground units, etc.)
- d) Wildland firefighting equipment cache, including personal protective equipment (PPE), suppression equipment, and support equipment for one 20-person hand crew.
- e) Forest Rangers for operational IMT roles, fire investigation, and law enforcement activities pertaining to wildland fire situations

IV.B.2. All areas outside the organized fire protection areas are considered the cooperative area. Within the cooperative area, the local affected municipality can request the DNR to assume command of a wildland fire after the expenditure of \$3000 in suppression activities.

- a) Should it become necessary, due to the size, scope, or magnitude of the incident, to transfer command to a DNR IMT, a written “Delegation of Authority” must be provided specifying the authority being granted to the DNR IMT by the local municipality.

## **IV.C. ESF Activities**

The WERP Basic Plan defines standardized tasks that constitute the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery responsibilities of any agency that serves a role in emergency management. This section defines those activities that are unique to ESF 4, and it is intended to be used in conjunction with the common tasks outlined in the WERP Basic Plan.

### **Response Activities**

#### **Incident Commander**

- Identify persons at risk from fire, smoke, and heat, both immediately and in the future.
- Issue evacuation advisories.
  - Coordinate with ESF 15 for public communications.
- Coordinate with ESF 6 to establish reception centers and shelters.
- Deny entry to areas immediately threatened by fire.
  - Coordinate with ESF 13 to establish roadblocks, checkpoints, and other means to control entry to endangered areas.
  - Coordinate with ESF 15 for public communications.
- Determine the necessary response resources and availability.
- Prioritize and coordinate the acquisition and deployment of ESF 4 resources for fire suppression.
- Coordinate with ESF 2 and the DNR Large Fire Communications Plan for the utilization of common communications equipment, radio frequencies, and infrastructure.
- Assess the need for and obtain logistical and other support, as required.
- Maintain a 24-hour alert and notification system or other reporting system on a continuous basis as the point of contact for ESF 4 wildland fire emergency communications.
- As needed, provide staff to the SEOC to coordinate ESF 4 activities.
- Generate information to be included in SEOC briefings, situation reports, and incident action plans.
- Compile damage information obtained from local and county emergency management directors and other municipal and state agencies for wildland fires and report that information through ESF 5.

### **Prevention, Protection, and Mitigation Activities**

#### **DNR**

- Provide assistance and input for the development of MABAS wildland firefighting box cards and utilize MABAS WI for wildland fire responses in the counties where MABAS is adopted.
- Identify potential vulnerabilities and determine actions to reduce those vulnerabilities.
- Identify mitigation support resources such as program funding.
- Identify areas where mutual aid agreements are needed to support firefighting activities.
- Identify areas where public information activities may be necessary.
- Identify sources for resources to meet ESF 4 requirements.
- Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements necessary to support firefighting activities.
- Develop public fire prevention and education programs as necessary.
- Develop and maintain information on sources for ESF 4 equipment and personnel requirements.
- Develop and conduct training in ESF 4 functions.
- Develop and maintain a 24-hour alert and warning system for wildland fires.



#### **DSPS**

- Conduct building plans review to ensure compliance with the state fire prevention code.
- Conduct building site visits and inspections to ensure buildings comply with approved plans.

### **Recovery Activities**

#### **WI DOJ/DCI**

- Conduct fire origin and cause investigations for all fatal fires or fires with \$1,000,000 in losses.
- Upon request, assist with fire origin and cause investigations for fires not meeting the above thresholds.

#### **DNR**

- Inventory, repair, or replace equipment used during firefighting activities.
- Prepare and process reports using established procedures for after-action reporting.
- Generate information to be included in SEOC briefings, situation reports, and incident action plans.
- Maintain appropriate records of work schedules and financial cost records incurred by ESF 4 agencies.

## **V. Agency Responsibilities –Wildland Forest Firefighting**

### **V.A. Lead Coordinating Agency – Department of Natural Resources**

#### **Department of Natural Resources**

##### **Agency as a whole**

- Identify mitigation support resources, such as program funding.
- Identify areas where mutual aid agreements are needed to support firefighting activities.
- Identify areas where public information activities may be necessary.
- Identify sources for resources to meet ESF 4 requirements.
- Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements necessary to support firefighting activities.
- Develop public fire prevention and education programs, as necessary.
- Develop and maintain information on sources for ESF 4 equipment and personnel requirements.
- Develop and conduct training in ESF 4 functions.
- Identify persons at risk from fire, smoke, and heat both immediately and in the future.
- Issue evacuation advisories.
  - Coordinate with ESF 15 for public communications.
  - Coordinate with ESF 6 to establish reception centers and shelters.
- Deny entry to areas immediately threatened by fire.
  - Coordinate with ESF 13 to establish roadblocks, checkpoints, and other means to control entry to endangered areas.
  - Coordinate with ESF 15 for public communications.
- Determine the necessary resources, their location, and availability.
- Prioritize and coordinate the acquisition and deployment of ESF 4 resources for fire suppression.
- Coordinate with ESF 2 and the DNR Large Fire Communications Plan for the utilization of common communications equipment, radio frequencies, and infrastructure.
- Assess the need for and obtain logistical and other support, as required.
- Maintain a 24-hour alert and notification system or other reporting system on a continuous basis as the point-of-contact for ESF 4 wildland fire emergency communications.
- As needed, provide staff to the SEOC to coordinate ESF 4 activities.
- Generate information to be included in SEOC briefings, situation reports, and incident action plans.
- Compile damage information obtained from local and county emergency management directors and other municipal and state agencies for wildland fires and report that information through ESF 5.
- Inventory, repair, or replace equipment used during firefighting activities.
- Prepare and process reports using established procedures for after-action reporting.
- Maintain appropriate records of work schedules and financial cost records incurred by ESF 4 agencies.

## **V.B. Wisconsin Governmental Support Agency**

### **Department of Justice**

#### **Division of Criminal Investigation**

- Conduct fire origin and cause investigations for all fatal fires or fires with \$1,000,000 in losses.
- Upon request, assist with fire origin and cause investigations for fires not meeting the above thresholds.

**Attachment 1 – County Agency Approval Signature Sheet**

The undersigned have hereby reviewed and approved the Emergency Support Function 4 of the County Emergency Response Plan.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**County Administrator**

22 June 2022  
**Date**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Emergency Management Director**

6/23/2022  
**Date**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Fire Chiefs' Mutual Aid Association**

23 JUNE 2022  
**Date**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MABAS Division 150 President**

JUNE 23. 2022  
**Date**

