



Annex F – Firefighting

Record of Changes

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted

Purpose

This annex aims to outline operational concepts and organizational arrangements for firefighting during emergency situations. The fire department is also responsible for rescue operations.

Situation and Assumptions

- **Situation**

- The university depends upon city or volunteer fire departments for fire protection.
- Fire prevention and control challenges are exacerbated when other emergencies co-occur or have already impacted the local area.
- Uncontrolled fires may reach such proportions that they create a major emergency. Even small fires can threaten lives and cause significant property damage if not promptly controlled.
- Natural hazards and emergencies like flash flooding may require fire service resources.
- Fire scenes may require law enforcement, utilities, health authorities, or others to respond.
- Large-scale emergencies, disasters, and acts of terrorism may adversely impact firefighting personnel, equipment, facilities, and communications systems.

- **Assumptions**

- During emergencies, PVAMU will make appropriate use of available firefighting resources.
- PVAMU and local firefighting resources may prove insufficient during a major incident or disaster. State or federal resources may be available to augment PVAMU and local resources.
- During significant emergencies, PVAMU firefighting resources may be damaged, and supplies may be depleted.
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- **Concept of Operations**

- General
 - The fire department primarily protects the university community from fire hazards and hazardous materials spills.
 - Fire department responsibilities include fire control and hazmat spill response. The fire department is also responsible for certain rescue operations. Fire teams may also be assigned to perform additional emergency tasks during emergencies. These tasks may include providing fire protection for temporary shelters, assisting law enforcement personnel with guiding traffic flow or alerting citizens of hazards.

- **Implementation of NIMS/ICS**

- Protective Action Recommendations

Generally, the following outlines the most knowledgeable personnel related to the outlined posted threat:

 - Fire – Fire Department Personnel
 - Hazardous Materials – Risk Management & Safety Personnel will generally assess threat hazards and recommend appropriate protective actions for emergency responders, including requirements for personal

protective equipment. The outlined personnel are also responsible for recommending appropriate protective actions to ensure public safety near a fire or hazardous materials incident.

- **Evacuation Operations**

- The IC may direct an evacuation at the incident site, isolation area, or protective action area associated with a fire or hazmat spill. Fire service or other emergency responders will typically initiate the evacuation pending the arrival of additional personnel.
- Major fires, hazardous material spills, or terrorist incidents may require a large-scale evacuation. Related evacuation information is outlined in Annex E – Evacuation. During such evacuations, fire service teams may assist with alerting people of the need to evacuate and helping individuals requiring assistance.

- **Terrorist Incident Response**

- Crisis Management. Law enforcement agencies generally have the lead responsibility in terrorist crisis management activities. The fire service may assist as requested.
- Consequence Management. Operations coordination is critical during terrorist incident consequence management activities due to multiagency involvement and potentially overlapping roles and responsibilities. The ranking official from the agency with primary responsibility for the incident will generally assume the position of IC. The fire service will typically have the lead role in
- consequence management for terrorist incidents involving conventional explosives, radiological materials, or chemical agents. During consequence management, the IC will coordinate response and recovery operations with law enforcement authorities conducting crisis management operations.

- **Requesting External Assistance**

- If local fire service resources are inadequate for dealing with a given emergency, the IC or other authorized official may request additional fire resources in keeping with mutual aid agreements.
- If university and local fire service resources are insufficient to deal with an emergency, aid can be requested from the state by the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan, Firefighting Annex, ESF-4
https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5fcfde680bd548c23d797aef/6792719c79b642eed0d99842_ESF%20%20Firefighting%20Jan%202025.pdf

Actions by Phases of Emergency Management

- **Prevention**

- Enforce fire codes.
- Conduct fire safety education programs.
- Recommend fire prevention activities.
- Maintain current information on the types and quantities of hazardous materials at various locations.

- **Preparedness**

- Maintain a list of all firefighting resources.

- Inspect and coordinate maintenance of equipment.
- Stockpile appropriate specialized supplies.
- Ensure appropriate personnel are properly trained in fire control, hazmat response, rescue, and NIMS/ICS.
- Develop procedures to ensure adequate communication between fire, law enforcement, and other emergency responders.
- Plan and execute NIMS-compliant training exercises for appropriate personnel as needed.
- Test and coordinate the maintenance and repair of fire and hazmat response equipment as scheduled.
- Revise and update response plans as scheduled.
- **Response**
 - Contain, control, and extinguish fires.
 - Initiate rescues as necessary.
 - Alert and advise emergency response personnel and decision-makers about the hazards of hazards and fire during emergency operations.
 - Control hazmat incidents within departmental capabilities, prioritizing public and responder safety and, secondarily, protecting property.
 - Initiate evacuations if necessary.
 - Provide fire inspections for temporary shelter areas.
- **Recovery**
 - Perform fire inspections of restored or reconstructed buildings.
 - Perform or assist in decontamination and cleanup.
 - Assess damage to equipment and facilities as needed.

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

- **General**
 - Risk Management & Safety will coordinate firefighting or hazmat response efforts with the fire department. Fire department personnel can handle most fires, perhaps with limited support from other emergency services. The EOC will usually be activated during major emergencies and disasters involving significant fires or fires occurring at approximately the same time as other hazards.
 - The fire department or Campus Fire Marshal/Senior Risk Management & Safety representative shall generally coordinate emergency firefighting operations. The ranking firefighter or Campus Fire Marshal/Senior Risk Management & Safety representative shall typically serve as IC for responses to fires, hazmat incidents, or oil spills.

Task Assignments

- Waller County Emergency Service District fire departments will:
 - Provide fire control and protection.
 - Assist in warning members of the public.
 - assist with evacuations.
 - Respond to hazmat incidents per request from the campus.
 - Support enforcement of fire codes.
 - Conduct search and rescue operations.
- The IC will:
 - Establish an ICP and direct emergency response resources.

- Assess the incident, request any additional resources needed, and provide updates to the EOC if activated.
- Determine the need for and implement protective actions for emergency responders and the public near the incident.
- Approve the Incident Action Plan and request the procurement and release of incident resources.
- Law Enforcement will:
 - At the request of the ICP, initiate evacuation actions and provide perimeter access control around incident sites.

Direction and Control

- General
 - In most emergencies, an IC will establish an ICP to direct and control fire service operations at the scene. The individual most qualified to deal with the specific situation should serve as the IC. This will typically be the senior fire service or Risk Management and Safety professional present. Personnel will carry out tasks assigned by the IC.
 - In some situations, the EOC may be activated without an ICP. This arrangement is most likely when:
 - A hazard threat has not yet impacted the area (e.g., an approaching hurricane).
 - A generalized threat exists, but no identifiable incident site (e.g., a terrorist threat).
 - External response agencies are expected to conform to the general guidance provided by senior PVAMU officials and to carry out assignments as directed by the IC or EOC. However, organized units will typically operate under the immediate control of their supervisors.

Administration and Support

- Reporting
- In addition to reports their parent organization may require, fire service departments participating in emergency operations should provide appropriate reports to the IC and EOC. The IC will forward reports to the EOC as needed.
- Records
- Activity Logs: The IC and, if activated, the EOC shall maintain accurate logs recording significant operational activities, commitment of resources, and other information about emergency response and recovery operations.
- Documentation of Costs: Expenses incurred in emergency response operations may be recoverable in certain situations. Moreover, accountability demands that expenses be documented.
- Preservation of Records
- Vital records should be protected from the effects of a disaster to an extent feasible.
- If vital records are damaged, professional assistance should be obtained promptly to restore them.
- Post-Incident Review
- After-action reviews will be conducted on significant incidents.
- An After-Action Report will be prepared and serve as the basis for an improvement