

# Culberson County/Town of Van Horn EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN



## Emergency Support Function 4 Firefighting

**COORDINATING AGENCY:** Culberson County

**SUPPORTING AGENCIES:**

The Van Horn Volunteer Fire Department

### Approval and Implementation

Date	Signed by	Signature
10/25/2024	County Judge, Carlos G. Urias	
10/25/2024	EMC, Cody L. Davis	

NOTE: The signature(s) will be based upon local administrative practices. Typically, the individual having primary responsibility for this emergency support function signs in the first block and the second signature block is used by the Emergency Management Coordinator, Mayor, or County Judge. Alternatively, each department head assigned tasks within the support function may sign.

Filed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of  
October A.D. 2024  
at 2:20 o'clock P..M.  
Tina Urias  
County Clerk  
By J. Palacios Deputy

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## Record of Changes to ESF 4

This page is used to date and describe changes to this document, followed by the initials of the person who made the change.

Use this table to record the following information:

- Change number, in sequence, beginning with 1
- Date change was made to the document
- Description of change and rationale if applicable
- Initials of person who made the change

Number	Date	Description	Name/Initials
1	2024-Jun-17	Transition to ESF	

doc. revision 04/06/2023

# INTRODUCTION

- A. ESF #4 – Firefighting offers guidance to agencies and departments responsible for fire suppression in a multitude of settings that are the result of natural, technological, or man-made disaster.
- B. This document applies to Culberson County/Town of Van Horn and all jurisdictions signatory to the basic plan. Whenever this support function indicates a city/county official or office, the support function also refers to the corresponding municipal official or office.
- C. Respective primary and support agencies are responsible for the dissemination of information that may be of value to other ESF representatives. This information sharing contributes to the response and recovery during an emergency/disaster of any type.

## Purpose

### A. Function

This ESF outlines our operational concepts and organizational arrangements for firefighting and SAR activities during incidents and outlines related administrative requirements.

### B. Goal

Provide Culberson County/Town of Van Horn with a mechanism to manage public works/engineering operations during an incident.

### C. Objectives

- a. Provide operational guidance for entities that assist in local and regional firefighting operations.
- b. Provide information to decision makers about firefighting procedures, capabilities and resources.
- c. Describe roles, responsibilities and actions that ensure firefighting resource availability during incident response.

## Explanation of Terms

This section defines terms and acronyms' used in this document.

### Acronyms

RRP	Regional Response Plan
TX-TF1	Texas Task Force One
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VFD	Volunteer Fire Department

### Definitions

1. Consequence Management: Measures taken to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorism.
2. Crisis Management: Measures taken to define the threat and identify terrorist acts, resolve terrorist incidents, investigate such incidents, and apprehend those responsible. Law Enforcement agencies will normally take the

lead role in crisis management. The requirements of crisis management and consequence management are combined in the NRF.

3. **Expedient Evacuation:** Evacuations that must be conducted with little notice, frequently in response to a request from the IC at the scene.
4. **HazMat:** The NRF defines HazMat as a substance or material, including a hazardous substance, that has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, which has been so designated under the provisions 49 CFR 172.101. The term is also intended to mean hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants as defined by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.
5. **Secondary Hazard:** A situation that occurs as a result of an initial hazard.
6. **Terrorist Incident.** Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, terrorism is defined as an activity that involves an act dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States in which it occurs and is intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population or influence a government or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. See Section 2 (15), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).
7. **Texas Task Force 1:** This task force is the State's urban search and rescue team, headquartered in at TEEEX Emergency Response and Rescue Training Field in Bryan, TX. Its members are from city and county agencies throughout the state. They respond to mass casualty disasters anywhere in the state. Their assistance is not limited to heavy USAR. They also have a Flood Rescue Strike Team to assist during flooding situations.

## Situations and Assumptions

### A. Situation

1. Culberson County/Town of Van Horn relies upon Van Horn Vol. Fire Department for fire protection.
2. In times of emergency, fire protection needs are exacerbated due to multiple ongoing demands for resources.
3. Fires that remain uncontrolled can become their own catastrophic incidents that threaten life and property.
4. Natural disasters may necessitate the use of fire service resources.
5. Culberson County/Town of Van Horn's primary SAR agency is inadequate and will require sources by mutual aid agreements which will be requested by the County Judge/EMC/County Sheriff/or an authorized person by the County Judge.
6. Local buildings are subject to severe structural damage from disaster, which could result in people trapped within the structures, causing large numbers of people requiring rescue.
7. The mortality rate for trapped people rises dramatically after 72 hours, thus SAR must begin as soon as possible.
8. Ongoing inclement weather and disaster conditions can negatively impact SAR operations.

### B. Assumptions

1. During emergency situations Culberson County/Town of Van Horn will use internal resources and those sources by inter-local agreements, to include agreements with industry and other partners.
2. Should our resources prove insufficient in the face of an emergency incident, state and/or federal resources will be available to augment our capabilities.
3. During a major emergency, our resources may be damaged or depleted
4. A trained, equipped, and organized rescue service will allow Culberson County/Town of Van Horn to conduct methodical SAR operations, shore up and stabilize weakened structures, release trapped persons, and locate the missing/dead.

# Concept of Operations

## A. Our firefighting and SAR departments include:

The Van Horn Volunteer Fire Department

## B. Fire Suppression responsibilities in incidents are almost the same as in daily operations.

1. Search and Rescue responsibilities, and accompanying authority, are greatly expanded during an emergency, due to the scope involved.

## C. The Fire Services may be tasked with certain non-firefighting and non-SAR duties, to include assessing fire protection for shelters, route alerting, or similar.

## D. Should the fire service establish the Initial ICP it will be incumbent upon the IC to determine if authority must be transferred to an Area Command, Unified Command, Multi-Agency Coordination System, or to another agency as needed.

## E. Relationships between levels of government

### 1. Federal

- a. Coordination with Federal ESF #4 may occur through the State Operations Center, at the site of the incident, or in an established Field Office designated as such.

### 2. Tribal

- a. Coordination with Tribal ESF #4 may occur through Transportation Coordinator of a given tribe at the discretion of the tribe

### 3. State

- a. Coordination with the State ESF #4 may occur through the DDC, at the scene of the incident, or through a facility designated as a field office.

### 4. Local/Regional

- a. Local and Regional entities maintain primary responsibility for addressing local gaps and provisioning for incidents or eventualities that may impact operations.

## F. Activities by Phase of Emergency Management

### 1. Prevention

- a. Enforce Fire codes
- b. Educate the public regarding fire prevention
- c. Maintain current information on the types and quantities of hazardous materials present in local facilities/businesses.
- d. Maintain current information on known fire hazards present in facilities such as refineries, factories, power plants, and other commercial businesses.

### 2. Preparedness

- a. Maintain a list of all ESF #4 resources.
- b. Inspect and maintain all equipment.
- c. Stockpile specialized supplies.
- d. Ensure all fire service personnel are properly trained regarding fire, HazMat, rescue, and NIMS/ICS.
  1. Our personnel meet NIMS national qualification and certification standards
- e. Ensure inter-operable communications networks.
- f. Ensure agreements exist to secure building plans
- g. Conduct regular NIMS compliant exercises.
- h. Test and repair equipment regularly

- i. Revise and update plans regularly
  - j. Identify sources for canines for SAR
3. Response
- a. Initiate rescue missions as needed.
  - b. Initiate fire suppression as needed.
  - c. Mobilize support resources.
  - d. Alert and advise response personnel and command to the dangers associated with HazMat and fire during emergency operations.
  - e. Control hazmat incidents within departmental capabilities giving priority to public and firefighter safety and protecting property.
  - f. Conduct radiological monitoring and assessment within departmental capability.
    - 1. Maintain a Radiological Protection Program in accordance with standards.
4. Recovery
- a. Provide inspections of restored and reconstructed buildings.
  - b. Perform/Assist in decontamination and cleanup.
  - c. Assess damage to ESF #4 facilities.
  - d. Recommend condemnation of unsafe buildings.
  - e. Review fire codes in relation to an incident and recommend improvements.
  - f. Inventory and replace critical resources.

## Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

### A. General

1. Our normal emergency organization, described in the Basic Plan and depicted therein, shall carry out the function of providing transportation services during emergency incidents.
2. The Transportation Officer shall provide policy guidance with respect to emergency transportation operations.
3. The City EMC shall serve as Transportation Officer and coordinate emergency transportation operations.

### B. Task Assignments

1. The Van Horn Vol. Fire Department will:
  - a. Coordinate all ESF #4 activities using local resources or resources sourced by inter-local agreements.
  - b. Assist in warning of public, as needed.
  - c. Support ESF #6 as needed.
  - d. Provide for radiological protection, as needed.
  - e. Enforce fire codes.
  - f. Staff ICP and EOC as needed.
  - g. Assist during evacuations.
  - h. Prepare and execute agreements for ESF #4 support.
  - i. Provide support for other operations as needed.
2. The IC will:
  - a. Establish an ICP and direct resources.
  - b. Assess the incident and request additional resources as needed.
  - c. Inform the EOC.
  - d. Ensure protective measures for personnel at incident site.
  - e. Approve IAP.
  - f. Collaborate on a specific division of labor with the EOC, if needed

3. Law Enforcement will:
  - a. Control Access.
4. EMS will:
  - a. Administer Medical Support, if needed.
5. EMS will:
  - a. Coordinate recovery of cadavers, as needed
6. Public Works/Engineering will:
  - a. Provide heavy equipment support as needed.
  - b. Disable gas/power to affected structures as needed.
7. TFS will:
  - a. Detect and/or coordinate response to wildland fires.
  - b. Process requests for state firefighting assistance.
  - c. Coordinate ESF #4 actions to develop and implement mutual aid.
  - d. Coordinate issues involving FDs.
  - e. Assist local governments as able in fire suppression operations.
  - f. Conduct wildland fire training academies for state/local personnel.
8. Culberson County Attorneys Office:
  - a. Assist the Commissioners Court by drafting legal documents enforcing outdoor burning or use of fireworks

## **Direction and Control**

### **A. General**

1. The IC will generally establish an ICP and direct ESF #4 operations at the scene. The individual most qualified to deal with the specific type of emergency situation present should serve as the IC. The IC will be assisted by a staff, determined by the needs of the situation.
2. In some incidents the EOC may be activated without an ICP established.
3. External response agencies are expected to conform to the general guidance provided by our senior decision-makers and fulfill mission assignments given by the IC or EOC. They will remain under the control of their own supervisors, however.
4. In instances where there are significant external resources activated, transition to a Unified Area Command may assist with objective development.

### **B. Continuity of Government**

1. Each department or agency with transportation responsibilities shall establish a line of succession for transportation personnel.

## **Readiness Levels**

Refer to Basic Plan



## Administration and Support

### A. Facilities and Equipment

A complete listing of equipment is included in Appendix 1 of ESF Resource Support or is maintained internally by Culberson County/Town of Van Horn.

### B. Reporting

1. The IC will periodically update the EOC with pertinent information and may provide an initial emergency report and periodic situation reports to provide for a common operating picture.

### C. Records

1. The IC and EOC shall maintain accurate logs recording operational activities, commitment of resources, and other information relating to emergency response and recovery operations.
2. Expenses incurred during emergency operations may be recoverable. Thus, all ESF #4 elements will maintain records of personnel and equipment used during large scale operations.

### D. Training

1. The component agencies of ESF #4 will ensure, in conjunction with Emergency Management Coordinator, that all applicable personnel are trained in their emergency functions and operations.

## Development and Maintenance

Chief Lyndon McDonald will, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Director or designee, and related support personnel, maintain responsibility for the development and maintenance of this ESF.

Chief Lyndon McDonald, or designee, will maintain responsibility for the regular testing of equipment related to this ESF, where such falls outside the SOPs of the responsible agencies.

## References

- A. Texas Division of Emergency Executive Guide (TDEM, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG-101), National Preparedness Goal, State of Texas Emergency Plan Communications (ESF 2)
- B. Division Of Emergency Management *Local Emergency Management Planning Guide*. (DEM-10)

## APPENDICES

1. Authorities
2. Communications Diagram

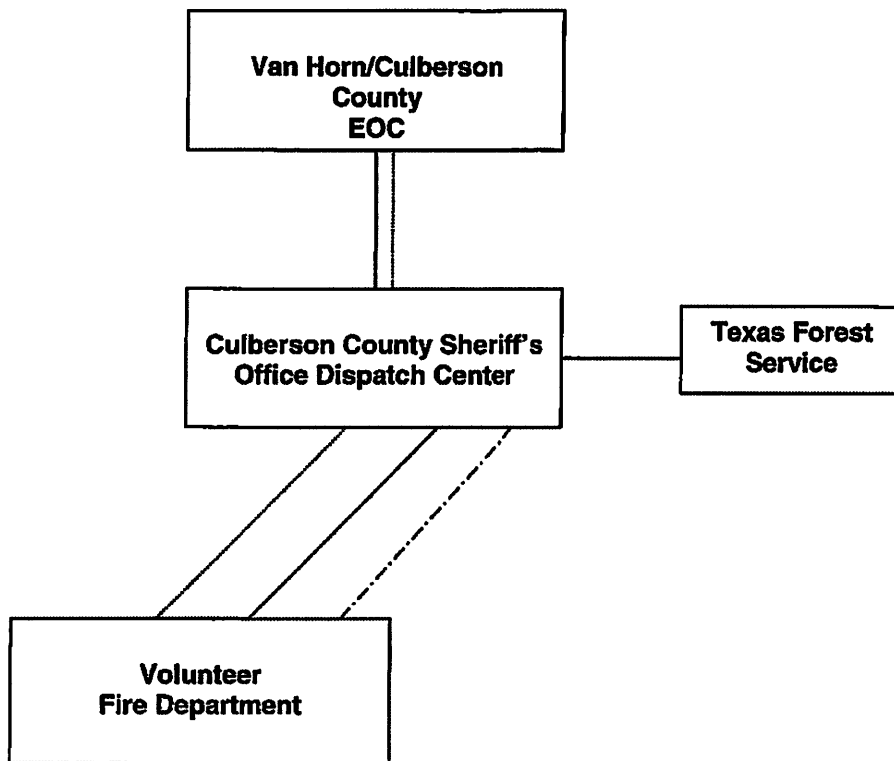
## Appendix 1 - Authorities

This information can be found in the Basic Plan

# Appendix 2 - Communications Diagram

(\*If attached appended at the end of Document)

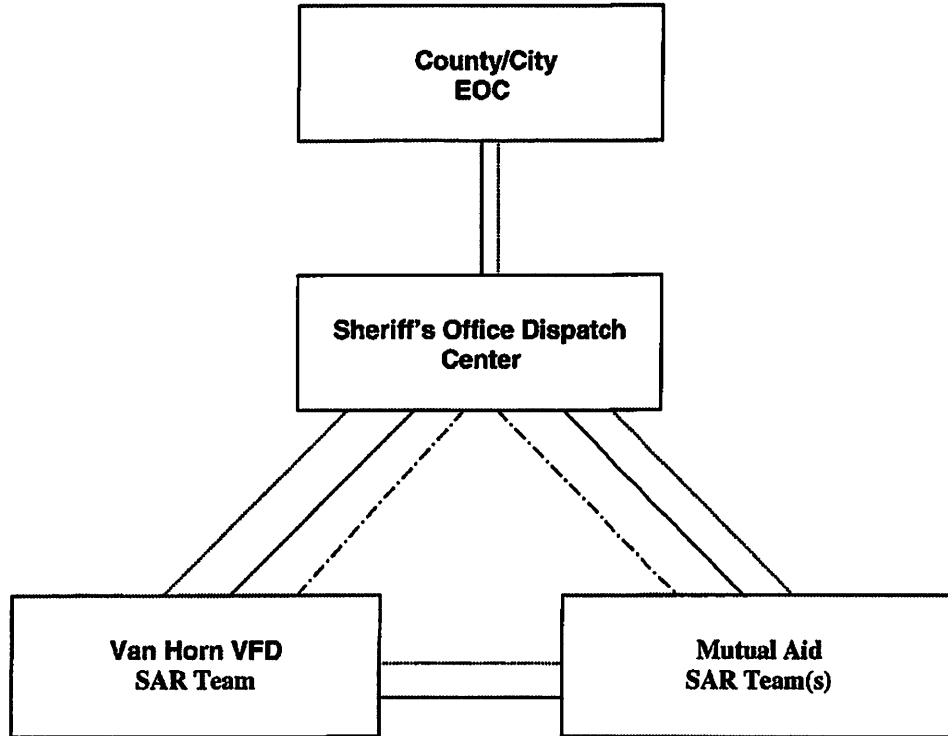
## FIRE SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



### LEGEND:

- Phone
- ..... VHF Radio
- . - . - . Cell Phone

# SAR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



## LEGEND:

- Phone
- VHF Radio
- - - - - Cell Phone