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ESF 4 – Firefighting

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ESF 4 Tasked Agencies	
Primary Agencies	Klamath County Fire Defense Board City and RFPD Fire Departments Klamath County Emergency Management Agency (KCEMA)
Supporting Agencies	Klamath County Public Works Department Klamath County Health Department Klamath County 911
Adjunct Agencies	City and RFPD Fire Departments in Klamath County Mutual aid fire departments in other counties City departments/organizations Oregon Department of Forestry Oregon Emergency Management Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Bureau of Land Management U.S. Forest Service National Park Service

1 Purpose and Scope

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 provides a mechanism for coordinating firefighting services to meet the demands of a disaster situation. In addition to firefighting, responsibilities in rescue, warning, and radiological protection operations are addressed.

2 Policies and Agreements

The Klamath County Fire Defense Board Chief and District Chiefs are responsible for organizing, integrating, and coordinating the operations of all fire fighting forces through mutual aid for response to major emergencies/disasters and serving as the fire services representative for the Emergency Management Organization. Individual mutual aid agreements for firefighting services are in place between Klamath County and local fire service agencies.

Klamath County is also party to a Mutual Aid Agreement (#2008-089) between the Counties of Deschutes, Crook, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Lane, Linn, and Wheeler. This agreement may be activated either orally (with written follow up within 30 days) or in writing, by either the presiding officer of the governing body or the chief executive officer (or designee), by sending the request to the presiding officer of the governing body of the responding party (or designee). Upon request, the parties to this agreement will provide personnel, equipment, supplies, and other forms of assistance to the other parties. The parties recognize and agree that such personnel, equipment, supplies, and other assistance may not be available at a given time or under various circumstances. Each party agrees to attempt, in good faith, to provide a requesting party with such personnel, equipment, supplies and other assistance that may be reasonably necessary to assist the requesting party in responding to an emergency.

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For fires threatening life and structures, the Conflagration Act (Oregon Revised Statutes 476.510) can be invoked by the governor through the Office of State Fire Marshal. The Act allows the State Fire Marshal to mobilize and fund fire resources throughout the state during emergency situations. The local Fire Chief and County Fire Defense Chief assess the status of the incident(s) and, after determining that all criteria have been met for invoking the Conflagration Act, notify the State Fire Marshal via Oregon Emergency Response System. The State Fire Marshal reviews the information and notifies the Governor, who authorizes the act.

This ESF will also be applied in coordination with the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan and the Klamath County Community Wildfire Protection Plans. (A cooperative effort among the County Emergency Management office, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the fire services in the county.) The plans were developed to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve forest health in the county.

3 Situation and Assumptions

3.1 Situation

Klamath County has the potential to experience both large wildland-urban interface and wildland fires. Large fires may arise as isolated incidents or be caused by other types of incidents such as earthquakes, vandalism and civil disorder. The vast majority of fires, which happen each year, are human caused.

All (or portions) of five National Forest jurisdictions exist in Klamath County, therefore, there is the potential for vast portions of the county to be subject to wild land fires. As the wildland-urban interface grows, so does the risk of greater loss.

Fire service agencies in Klamath County include:

- Bly Rural Fire Protection District
- Bonanza Rural Fire Protection District
- Central Cascades Fire & EMS
- Chemult Rural Fire Protection District
- Chiloquin-Agency Lake Rural Fire Protection District
- Crater Lake National Park Fire Department
- Crescent Rural Fire Protection District
- Keno Rural Fire Protection District
- Kingsley Field Fire Department

- Klamath County Fire District #1
- Klamath County Fire District #3
- Klamath County Fire District #4
- Klamath County Fire District #5
- Malin Rural Fire Protection District
- Merrill Rural Fire Protection District
- Oregon Outback Rural Fire Protection District
- Rocky Point Fire & EMS

Source: Office of State Fire Marshal, Oregon Fire Department List, August 2010

Any one district, or multiple districts, may be the responding fire agency(s) in Klamath County. A Fire District, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), or federal official (depending upon land ownership) will be the designated Incident Commander (IC) during response.

3.2 Assumptions

Response to large fires may be complicated by the presence of hazardous materials or extreme weather conditions.

Planning and preparedness for wildland-urban interface and wildland fire in all phases of emergency management is the responsibility of Klamath County Fire Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry, various federal agencies and Klamath County Emergency Management. County departments are responsible for planning to maintain their own operations and services during fire incidents and for supporting the Fire District, ODF or various federal agencies as requested.

Duties and responsibilities listed under Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are the responsibility of the Fire District, ODF, or various federal agencies unless the EOC is activated. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) may well implement the Incident Command System (ICS). Command and Control will be implemented under that system and the EOC will serve as a coordinating entity.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 General

The fire service in the county coordinates its efforts through its municipal and rural fire district firefighting services, many of which have mutual aid agreements between them, the County Fire Defense Board, the Office of State Fire Marshal, and forestry departments and associations.

4.2 General Task Assignments

■ Klamath Fire District(s)

- Command firefighting forces and direct all responding support forces operating within the incident. Establish the initial Incident Command Structure (ICS). Call on mutual aid resources as necessary.
- Maintain communications with the County ICS and EOC if activated, coordinating with a Joint Information Center (JIC) and providing uniform information for public dissemination.
- Maintain communications and liaison with an adjacent IC when the fire involves land protected by a wildland fire protection agency but is threatening a local fire jurisdiction.
- Develop an Incident Action Plan.
- Notify county ICS and/or EOC and/or County Fire Defense Board Chief if/when local firefighting efforts will be overwhelmed and additional state support will be needed.

■ Klamath County Fire Defense Board Chiefs

- Assist in activation and operation of the county Incident Command System and/or Emergency Operations Center.
- Coordinate the planning and response strategies for firefighting capabilities within Klamath County. Ensure that the agency roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- Coordinate fire service response to address the needs at the emergency scene and assure protection for the rest of the county.
- Analyze fire service resource needs and request assistance from agencies not covered under mutual aid agreements.
- Recommend invocation of State Conflagration Act from the Office of State Fire Marshal if required.
- Assign a liaison to work with fire officials from other affected jurisdictions.
- Provide information and advice to the County Board of Commissioners through Klamath County Emergency Management.

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- Coordinate with the county Public Information Officer for dissemination of fire-related warning and emergency information.

■ Klamath County Emergency Management

- Assist in activation and operation of the Incident Command System and County Emergency Operations Center.
- Assist in the coordination of logistics to support fire control operations.
- Advise the Board of Commissioners regarding emergency conditions.
- Maintain contact with Oregon Emergency Management in non-conflagration incidents.
- Provide training announcements as they become available to County personnel for ICS training.
- Prepare the County's emergency plans.

■ Klamath County Sheriff's Office

- Coordinate or assist in law enforcement response to provide traffic and crowd control at fire scene (see ESF 13, Public Safety and Security).
- Coordinate and use local Police Departments support in response to fires. Work with other law enforcement agencies to establish adequate mutual aid agreements for fire responses.
- Assist in staffing an incident management team for Klamath County when necessary.
- Assist in warning and evacuating the public as conditions require.
- Assist in the development and dissemination of emergency information as requested.

■ Klamath County Public Works Department

- Assist in traffic and crowd control by providing signs, barriers, equipment, and personnel.
- When requested, provide heavy equipment to assist in fire control operations.

■ Klamath County Health Department

- Coordinate with state agencies to assess environmental impact and threat to public health.
- Assist in the development of emergency information related to human services.

4.3 Task Assignments by Phase**4.3.1 Mitigation**

- Klamath County Emergency Management will continue to maintain the Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the coordination among the County, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and fire services for fuel reduction and fire prevention.
- Klamath County will assist the Fire Districts with community outreach programs to educate county residents and visitors on fire prevention and safety.

4.3.2 Preparedness

- Klamath County Emergency Management will assist fire services in the county with information on National Incident Management System (NIMS) and ICS compliance.
- County Emergency Management and city governments will facilitate the use of mutual aid agreements for fire services in the county.
- Fire departments will test and maintain firefighting response equipment and procedures.
- Klamath County will attempt to seek funding to facilitate training of firefighting personnel in incident management.
- Klamath County will maintain communications capability to support response efforts for receiving fire notifications and dispatching personnel and equipment.
- Klamath County and municipalities will continue efforts to have evacuation plans for their jurisdictions to enhance public protection.
- Klamath County will maintain a record of airports, airstrips, and helicopter landing zones in the county to facilitate air support for wildland and forest fires.

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4.3.3 Response

- The County 911 Manager will staff and operate the Emergency Communications/911 system.
- On becoming aware that a fire emergency exists, the responding fire agency's IC will notify their dispatch center and advise them of the circumstances. When necessary, the IC will maintain close coordination with county Emergency Management.
- Firefighting personnel at the scene will coordinate with other emergency response and mutual aid personnel to assure that necessary operations are undertaken to fight the fire and protect life, infrastructure, the environment, and property.
- The County EOC will be activated in circumstances that require the additional support and resource management.
- When a fire emergency exists in the county that is beyond the capability of the fire agency and mutual aid system, the Fire Defense Board Chief will request that the Office of State Fire Marshal provide support under the State Fire Service Mobilization Plan. If the Office of State Fire Marshal determines that a fire emergency exists, he/she can advise the Governor of the conditions and request that the State Conflagration Act be invoked. When authorized by the Governor, the Office of State Fire Marshal may order support from other fire service agencies to respond and assist.

4.3.4 Recovery

- The responding agencies, in coordination with the County ICS/EOC, will advise the public when the situation has been terminated. If an evacuation took place, they will provide appropriate instructions to returning evacuees.
- The Klamath County Sheriff's Office will assist with traffic control for returning evacuees in unincorporated areas of the county. The County will also coordinate with police departments for traffic control.
- Klamath County and the responding fire services will conduct a post-incident review.

5 Concept of Operations**5.1 General**

- Klamath County's primary function during a fire is to provide notification, communications, logistical, and law enforcement support to the appropriate Fire Defense District. Klamath County is also

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empowered to declare a state of emergency, which can bring in more state and federal assistance.

- The fire service in the county is an integrated force trained to respond to a myriad of emergencies. The fire service in the county coordinates its efforts through its municipal and rural fire district firefighting services, many of which have mutual aid agreements between them: the County Fire Defense, the Office of State Fire Marshal, and forestry departments and associations.
- Emergency firefighting operations will be initiated by local fire agencies to the full extent of their resource capabilities. Additional resources can be requested by using mutual aid agreements.
- To protect life and property against the danger of fire, the Governor may order the firefighting forces and equipment of any firefighting organization in the State to assist anywhere in the state, under the State Conflagration Act.
- Requests for additional firefighting resources will be made in accordance with the existing mutual aid plans and agreements. If supplemental firefighting resources are needed, local officials will request resources from the Klamath County Fire Defense Board Chief. The Klamath County Fire Defense Board Chief may request assistance from the Office of State Fire Marshal under the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan.

5.2 Urban/Rural Fires

- Rural fire districts and municipal fire departments have the primary responsibility for the suppression and control of fires within their respective fire protection jurisdictions. For those incidents requiring additional support, mutual aid agreements may be executed.
- The Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan is intended to deal with the growing problem of urban/wildland interface fires. This included the establishment of the State Fire Defense Board, made up of representatives from various fire defense districts throughout the State.
- If an urban fire threatens or is likely to become a fire of major magnitude, assistance may be available from the federal government under an emergency declaration by the President. Requests for such assistance are handled through normal emergency management channels.

5.3 Forest Fires/Wildland Fires

- Due to the intermingling of urban and forest areas, Klamath County fire agencies participate in mutual aid with municipal and rural fire

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departments and may assist with available regular forces during a mobilization emergency. Through the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan, ODF is capable of mobilizing a substantial response that includes communication equipment, incident management personnel, and other support services.

- The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for protecting forest lands under federal management. Due to the intermingling of urban and forest areas, the U.S. Forest Service may participate in mutual aid agreements with municipal and rural fire departments and may assist with forces during a mobilization emergency to wildland fire events.
- The BLM has contracts with the ODF for fire protection of its land in Klamath County.

6 Direction and Control

6.1 Lead Agency

- On non-federal land that is NOT within a Fire District, ODF is the lead agency for wildland-urban or wildland fire incidents within Klamath County and will provide an IC.
- On private land within a Fire District, that Fire District is the lead agency and will provide an IC.
- Fires on private land under joint ODF/Fire District protection will be managed by a Unified Command.
- On Federal land within Klamath County, the agency having jurisdiction over that land assumes the lead for wildland fire management and will designate an IC.

6.2 Command System

- Klamath County, Fire Districts, ODF and federal agencies use the NIIMS/ICS as their incident management organization.
- Under the ICS, the incident organization will develop in a modular progression depending on the nature and specific conditions prevailing at the scene.

6.3 Incident Commander

- The IC will be the designated official responsible for all operations directed toward the containment and mitigation of the incident.
- Upon arrival, the IC will secure and maintain control of the incident scene until relieved, the situation has been corrected, has been turned

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over to another public safety agency, or has been turned over to the owner.

- The Overhead Team and other members of the Incident Command Organization may operate at the on-scene Incident Command Post.

6.4 Overhead Team

- The Overhead Team and other members of the Incident Command Organization may operate at the on-scene Incident Command Post.

7 Supporting Plans and Procedures

- National Response Framework, ESF 4 – Firefighting
- State Emergency Operations Plan, ESF 4 - Firefighting
- Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan, 2008, Oregon Emergency Management.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Keno, Oregon.

8 Appendices

None at this time.