

Annex 13 to Florence County EOP  
ESF-13  
Law Enforcement

- PRIMARY: Florence County Sheriff's Office
- SECONDARY: Florence County Coroner  
City of Florence Police Department  
City of Lake City Police Department  
Town of Pamplico Police Department  
Town of Johnsonville Police Department  
Town of Olanta Police Department  
Town of Scranton Police Department  
Town of Coward Police Department  
Town of Timmonsville Police Department  
Town of Quinby Police Department

I. Introduction

The responsibilities for this ESF fall into three major areas: Traditional law enforcement duties such as enforcement of laws, traffic and crowd control and the investigation of crimes; deceased identification and mortuary services; and search and rescue operations on rural terrain.

II. Concept of Operations

When the EOC is activated, personnel from the Sheriff's Office will man this ESF. From time to time the City of Florence Police Department may also provide a liaison to work in the EOC with the Sheriff's representative. All other law enforcement agencies will operate from their respective jurisdiction due to manpower shortages.

If the EOC is fully activated, the EM Director will ensure ESF-13 is staffed with officers provided by the Florence County Sheriff's Office. This officer will serve as a liaison between the various local police departments, state ESF-13 and the county EOC. This liaison will be provided with an 800 MHz radio, telephone and FAX with which to contact each police department on an hourly basis to exchange information. The liaison will communicate and document all disaster related information between departments and the EOC using WebEOC or message forms and logs.

The county Coroner or his representative will not operate from the EOC but rather will operate on the disaster scene and maintain communications with the EOC via phone or 800 MHz radio.

Each of the departments, listed as support agencies above, answer to their respective municipality and not the ESF-13 primary agency in all matters of internal policy, staffing, training and on scene operation.

The chief, or senior officer on scene, from the department having jurisdiction where the disaster occurs, serves as the Incident Commander (IC) or as law enforcement branch chief for the IC based on the nature of the disaster event.

If the EM Director does not choose to activate the EOC (see paragraph IV, Concept of Operations; sub-paragraphs A.2 and F. of the Basic Plan for more details) a representative from EMD will go to the IC's location to provide assistance and or coordination. If the event appears to be of long duration the Mobile Dispatch and Command vehicle will be deployed to the scene upon the request of the IC. Additionally, the EM Department or the shift leader at Central Dispatch will prepare and transmit public warning and information messages via REACHSC or through the media at the direction of the IC (see Annex 2, Appendix C of this EOP for specific details).

Each of the ESF departments will conduct ongoing operational training keyed to their respective needs. Each department will follow its own SOG in respect to operations during the disaster cycle. Each department will annually update the EMD, by FEMA typing standard, of departmental resources and, by NIMS required training level, of available personnel.

In the event of a major disaster, additional law enforcement resources such as SLED, DNR, SCHP or SC National Guard may be made available to Florence County. In such an event their liaisons will work with and at the ESF-13 worksite.

### III. Specific Responsibilities

#### A. Sheriff's Office

1. Act as the lead agency for ESF-13.
2. Develop and coordinate a comprehensive plan to marshal and deploy countywide law enforcement assets during an emergency.
3. Provide security operations at disaster sites, critical facilities, emergency shelters or other locations as needed or requested.
4. Provide security operations to protect prisoner population and courts.
5. Maintain plan for prisoner relocation if evacuation becomes necessary.
6. Train and maintain the capability to conduct and coordinate rural search and rescue operations including maintaining operational readiness of the county's blood hound team which meets the FEMA Typing standard for a Canine Search and Rescue Team, Wilderness Tracking/Trailing.
7. As opportunity presents, send law enforcement personnel to the US Coast Guard Search and Rescue School at Yorktown, VA.

## B. Florence County Coroner

1. Develop plans for location, identification, removal and disposition of human remains in the event of a mass fatality event.
2. Develop plans and protocols to coordinate use of the federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Readiness Teams (DMORT).
3. Coordinate with SLED to obtain technical assistance, equipment, laboratory and body location documentation services.

## C. Primary and All Secondary Agencies

1. Man/monitor hurricane evacuation traffic control points. IAW Attachment 3 (Traffic Control Points) to Appendix B (Hurricane) to Annex 25 (Hazard Specific) to this EOP.
2. Assist with/direct other evacuation efforts as needed.
3. Only allow evacuated citizens to re-enter disaster areas after cleared to do so by the IC or EOC.
4. During periods of limited re-entry, ensure that citizens entering live in the affect area by verifying address on their driver's license, tax record, power bill or some other legal document.
5. Provide security operations at disaster sites, critical facilities, emergency shelters or other locations as needed or requested.

## IV. State Interface

This annex is supported by ESF-13 (Law Enforcement), ESF-8 (Health and Medical) ESF-9 (Search and Rescue), and ESF-16 (Evacuation Traffic Management) at the state level. County ESF-13 members are authorized direct contact with these state agencies for the purpose of coordination and information exchange.

SLED is the primary agency for state ESF-13. There is no federal level ESF, which corresponds to this function.

DHEC is the primary state agency for ESF-8 (Health and Medical), deceased identification and mortuary services. The lead federal agency for ESF-8 is the Department of Health and Human Services.

SC LL&R is the primary state agency for coordination of ESF-9 (Search and Rescue). Unlike state ESF-9, county ESF-13 is only concerned with rural search and rescue operations. These types of operations are generally limited to recovery efforts of persons lost or hiding in wooded areas. Search and rescue operations dealing with the location of missing persons in urban areas, such as collapsed buildings, is the responsibility of ESF-4 (Fire Fighting) at the county level. The lead federal agency for ESF-9 is FEMA.

V. Update and Maintenance

This annex will be updated with paragraph XI (Plan Development and Maintenance) of the Basic Plan

Appendix A – (Mass Fatality Plan)  
to  
Annex 13 (Law Enforcement)  
to  
Florence County EOP

PRIMARY: Florence County Coroner

SECONDARY: Florence County Sheriff's Office  
Florence County EMS  
Florence County EMD  
Municipal Police Department(s) having Jurisdiction  
Fire Department(s) having Jurisdiction  
SC DHEC  
Pee Dee Chapter American Red Cross

### I. Introduction

Natural and technological disasters as well as terrorist acts and communicable diseases all have the ability to cause deaths in such numbers and in such short time periods that the infrastructure which normally handles fatalities within the county could become overwhelmed.

A mass fatalities event could be caused by not only the number of deaths (or potential deaths) but also by the level of expertise needed to manage the event; the geographic location of the event; the number of simultaneous events; the types of event causing the deaths; or the lack of available resources to handle the event. In short, mass fatality, as defined in this appendix, is simply the overwhelming of the in place infrastructure designed to deal with the normal rate of deaths within the county.

### II. Purpose

Under South Carolina law the Coroner's office has specific responsibilities in dealing with the death of the county's citizens. This appendix is not intended to explain those duties or to replace them. Rather, this appendix is intended to provide an overview of the procedures to be implemented by Florence County in dealing with a mass fatality event.

### III. Concept of Operations

#### A. Report of the Incident

In most mass fatalities events the public safety agency (Fire, Law, EMS) having

jurisdiction will arrive on scene first and will be the initial Incident Commander (IC). In addition to requesting the Coroner through Central Dispatch, the IC may request to have EMD notified of the event. As the event progresses, IC may be transferred to another agency or a Unified Command may be established.

In the event of a communicable disease, the Coroner may become aware of the mass fatality through information released by the hospital, DHEC or funeral homes. In the case of communicable diseases, the Coroner may decide, in coordination with DHEC that no morgue operations are necessary and the remains may be released directly to funeral homes for burial.

#### B. Activation of the Plan

Once the Coroner has determined that a mass fatality event exist he, with assistance of the EOC, will activate the mass fatalities plan.

Notifications will be made by the Coroner or the EOC. This may include but is not limited to:

1. Local agencies (ARC, county mutual aid agreements, county administrator, media, funeral homes, etc.)
2. State agencies (SCEMD, DHEC Region 4, etc.)
3. Other agencies which may have jurisdictional concerns (FAA and TSA for aircraft accidents, CSX/AMTRAC/TSA for rail accidents, etc.)

Resources needed at the scene are identified, prioritized and requested. In some cases this request may be handled as a mutual aid request directly from the ICP/EOC or Coroner directly to adjoining agencies, in other cases the request may go through WebEOC to SCEMD.

Based on the nature of the event, resource requests could include but are not limited to:

1. Regional mass fatalities trailer (closest one located in Darlington).
2. The Mobile Morgue (40-50 capacity) through the SC Coroner's Association.
3. Additional Coroners and other support from the SC Coroner's Association.
4. Activation of a Family Support Center through the ARC and DHEC.
5. Activation of a Joint Information Center (JIC) to operate out of the Family Support Center or some other location.

6. Behavioral and Spiritual Health Care Teams through DHEC for the Family Support Center.
7. Administrative assistance to handle records.
8. Refrigerated vans to serve as temporary morgues.
9. Activation of Federal Disaster Mortuary Assistance Teams (DMORT).
10. Additional body transportation resources (to autopsy location).

C. Actions at the Incident Site

Actions at the scene will vary depending on the nature of the event. If it is a crime scene (such as a terrorist event) evidence collection will be a primary concern and will be the responsibility of the lead law enforcement agency. If it is an aircraft accident, remains can not be moved until TSA's arrival on scene. If it is a hazardous materials event, protection of the first responders through use of proper PPE will be a major concern.

Regardless of the cause of the event, however, the following actions must be accomplished.

1. Confirmation of death.
2. Preliminary death investigation.
3. Documentation of the scene.
4. Recovery of the remains (with as much respect and dignity as possible).
5. Transportation of the remains.
6. Security of the scene.

D. Actions at the Morgue

Florence County does not have a morgue and remains are normally transported outside of the county by EMS for autopsy. In the event of a mass fatality event, it may become necessary to establish a temporary morgue within the county. To accomplish this, assistance such a DMORT would be necessary.

In the event a temporary morgue is established, the Coroner will be responsible for coordinating the following actions.

1. Administration
2. Receiving of remains
3. Documenting/safeguarding of personal effects
4. Identification/documentation (photography, finger/foot printing, dental records, X-ray, DNA collection, etc.)
5. Autopsy

6. Storage of remains
7. Release of remains to next of kin.

#### IV. Responsibilities

##### A. Coroner

1. The Coroner has responsibility of activation of the Mass Fatality Plan.
2. The Coroner, by law, is the lead agency for all decedent operations.
3. The Coroner has overall responsibility for the:
  - i. Death investigation
  - ii. Documentation and recover of human remains
  - iii. Transportation of remains
  - iv. Temporary morgue operations
  - v. Storage of remains
  - vi. Release/disposition of remains
  - vii. Notification of next of kin

##### B. Law Enforcement

1. Provide security and access control measures at incident site, morgue, Command Post, Family Assistance Center, JIC and other areas as requested.
2. Conduct investigations as appropriate.
3. Assist coroner with:
  - i. Evidence/personal effects collection and documentation.
  - ii. Deceased identification.
  - iii. Notification of next of kin.

##### C. Fire

1. Provide fire suppression, search & rescue and decon operations as directed by IC.
2. Provide medical and manpower assistance as requested.
3. Preserve any/all evidence at the incident scene.

##### D. EMS

1. Provide medical treatment, triage and transport for the injured.
2. Maintain procedures for safe and appropriate disposal of medical waste in a mass fatalities incident.
3. Provide EMS support to the Family Support Center if requested.

E. EMD

1. Activate the EOC or Mobile Communication Trailer.
2. Request, mobilize and deploy resources in coordination with the IC and Coroner.
3. Serve as the coordination point for all state and federal resources.

F. ARC

1. Establish the Family Support Center when requested.
2. Provide mass care operations to support the incident site, morgue and Family Support Center.

G. DHEC

1. Upon notification activate the SCDHEC Region 4 Mass Fatalities plan.
2. Respond to request from the IC/EOC/Coroner.