

ESF 4: Firefighting

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Fire Services
Walla Walla County Emergency Management

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Amateur Radio Emergency Services
American Red Cross serving Central and Southeastern Washington
HAZMAT Team/Walla Walla Fire Department
Law Enforcement
Public Works Departments
The Salvation Army
Walla Walla County Emergency Medical Services
Walla Walla County Emergency Public Information Officer
Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications Center

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

To establish policies for effective coordination between fire agencies and units in detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires; whether occurring independently, or in addition to other disasters. These policies also address the coordination of fire agencies and units for the performance of specialized rescue operations and emergency medical services, coordination between fire service and other agencies such as law enforcement, and any other events requiring fire response.

B. Scope

Fire service functions involve managing and coordinating a variety of activities, and providing personnel, equipment and supplies in support of the emergency response. This coordination may be for a local, Walla Walla County, or regional emergency or disaster. The specific actions required following an emergency or disaster would be determined by size and scope of the event.

II. POLICIES

- A. National support for forest fires shall be accomplished through the Northwest Coordination Center (NWC), in Portland, Oregon, (Federal multi-coordinating agency comprised of Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish & Wildlife, Indian Affairs, etc.) who will coordinate with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) located in Boise, Idaho.
- B. The Chief of the Washington State Patrol is the authority to authorize a state declared mobilization and the Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau of the State Fire Marshal coordinates statewide fire service resources, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.43.961.
- C. Per Chapter 76.04 RCW, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the responsibility for wildland fire suppression on 12.4 million acres of state and

privately owned forestland. The DNR, Resource Protection Division, has the authority to respond to wildland fire suppression efforts, as well as the responsibility to respond to requests from other agencies for assistance for non-fire emergencies or disasters.

- D. Local fire departments and districts also function under the applicable portions of Chapter 38.52 RCW, Chapter 52.02 RCW, Chapter 70.136 RCW, Chapter 212 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), other State and local ordinances, and their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Most of the fire departments within Walla Walla County have signed mutual aid agreements with the other departments in the county. It is understood that emergencies and disasters can overwhelm local resources, or in other ways prevent agencies and jurisdictions from fulfilling all their roles and responses to requests for assistance.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

1. Under the best of conditions, the management of a large firefighting operation is complex, often involving large numbers of personnel, departments, agencies and jurisdictions. Fires resulting from, or independent of, but coinciding with a man-made or natural disaster, will place extraordinary demands on available resources and support systems.
2. A significant natural or technological event may result in many urban, rural, and wildland fires. Ignition sources could cause hundreds of fires, both during, and after an earthquake or other disaster. The damage potential from fires in urban areas, both during and after a major earthquake, exceeds that of all other causes. Urban fire departments not incapacitated by an earthquake or other disaster may be totally committed to fires and other emergencies in their jurisdictions. Numerous fires are anticipated in rural and wildland settings as well. These fires have the potential to spread rapidly, cause extensive damage, and pose a serious threat to life, property and the environment. Firefighting resources that are normally available will be difficult to obtain and utilize during and after a disaster because of massive disruption of communication, transportation, utilities and water systems.

Walla Walla County has a wide variety of roads and highways, private, public and government buildings, schools, hospitals, city and county temporary holding facilities, jails, and the Washington State Department of Correction Penitentiary. The Walla Walla Regional Airport has a variety of planes using their facilities, from small private planes to varying sizes of commuter planes. There are several airplane and helicopter aerial spray applicators in the county as well. There are rivers and streams of various sizes and flow, and a wide variety of geographical features, from the desert areas, to the mountains. Walla Walla County is vulnerable to high winds, dust storms, winter storms, extreme heat, significant thunderstorms, and power outages. There are areas that are vulnerable to flooding, and there are fault lines that pass through the county. The Hazardous Materials Vulnerability Analysis has shown that there is a

significant risk of a transportation related or fixed site hazardous materials incident.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Urban, rural, and wildland fires may result from, or occur simultaneously with another significant emergency or disaster. Large, damaging fires could occur.
2. Landline communications will be interrupted. Radio communications will be relied on heavily, necessitating the early requesting of radio systems from local agencies, other sources such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services, and/or Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (WAEMD)/ State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
3. Wheeled-vehicle access may be hampered by bridge failures, landslides, and debris on the roadways, making conventional travel to the emergency location extremely difficult or impossible. Aerial attack by air tankers, and assistance from smoke jumpers and helicopters may be essential. Aircraft, especially helicopters, will be scarce, and airports may be damaged and/or very congested.
4. Agencies which commonly support large fire suppression operations, including the military and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service may receive urgent requests from non-fire-related agencies for personnel, equipment and supplies. Many of the resources commonly available for fighting large wildfires may be scarce or unavailable.
5. Wildland firefighting forces may be diverted to assist in rural and urban areas because of more urgent threats to life, property, and the environment due to shortages of urban firefighters. Urban firefighters may be performing EMS and Urban Search and Rescue in addition to fighting large and numerous fires.
6. Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local agencies and jurisdictions, state and federal agencies requires the use of the National Incident Management System, together with compatible equipment and communications.
7. Emergency Medical Services will be overwhelmed with many requests for assistance and/or large numbers of patients, and will face the same communication and transportation problems as fire services. Additional EMS personnel, equipment, and alternate methods of transporting patients may be needed. Communication with Medical Central Control may be hampered, and alternate communications with them may be needed.
8. The majority of firefighters and basic life support EMS providers within Walla Walla County are volunteers. Most of these people are both firefighters, and EMT's or First Responders. Resources being used for EMS are not available for firefighting, and resources being used for firefighting are not available for providing EMS, so shortages of either or both services could occur rapidly.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Established firefighting and support organizations, processes, and procedures as listed in the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan (WSFSRMP). State and Federal Mobilization Guides will be used in support of firefighting activities. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with local jurisdiction Incident Commanders in coordination with the State and Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) Emergency Operations Center (EOC), if activated. The State DNR will manage and coordinate state owned wildland firefighting activities. The Director of Fire Protection shall serve as the state fire resources coordinator when the WSFSRMP are invoked. This will be accomplished by mobilizing firefighting resources in support of state and local jurisdiction firefighting agencies.
2. Requests for firefighting assistance and resources will be transmitted from the DNR Emergency Operations Center to the appropriate regional-level fire coordination center, and then on to the NICC for national response and logistics support when regional resources are inadequate. The NICC will coordinate with the National Fire Suppression Liaison Officer in the event of national level shortages or unavailability of needed resources.
3. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels, between county and state EOCs, and directly between the national-level and regional-level Emergency Operations Centers.
4. In the case of a state-wide emergency, the DNR Emergency Operations Administrator or designee will represent the department at WAEMD/WAEOC. For further information refer to Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan.
5. Staff from the WSP will support the allocation of fire resources during mobilization for fires, emergencies or disasters. These activities will be coordinated by the WSP Emergency Mobilization Section Commander, or designee. Selected personnel will staff WAEMD/WAEOC during response and recovery activities.
6. Fire agencies have the right to have a representative at the WWEM EOC. As a matter of practice, a non-affected area or agency, will assign a fire coordinator to be available to represent the affected region at the EOC.

B. Organization

1. Fire protection within Walla Walla County is provided by Fire Districts 1 through 8, the cities of College Place and Walla Walla. Portions of Walla Walla County are also protected by DNR. The City of Walla Walla Fire Department is the only fully paid department. They also maintain a Technical Response Team, which includes the Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Mountain Rescue Team, the Swift Water Rescue Team, and Confined Space Rescue.

2. In Walla Walla County, the fire departments and districts provide the majority of EMS personnel and equipment. The Walla Walla Fire Department provides advanced life support and transportation; the Fire District 5 provides basic life support and transportation, Waitsburg and all other agencies and departments provide basic life support. College Place Fire Department provides non-emergency transport with wheelchair lift capability. Some of the basic life support providers have ambulances or transport vehicles, but most do not.

C. Procedures

Local agencies and jurisdictions will be managed under the Incident Command System while performing firefighting, rescue, and EMS activities as outlined in state and local regulations, SOPs and this plan. The Incident Commander, regardless of rank, has the authority to request support and assistance from the WWEM EOC or emergency management staff. The Incident Commander/Unified Command will coordinate with WWEM EOC or emergency management staff for requests for assistance and resources from outside of the county.

D. Mitigation Activities

1. Various state departments and agencies perform mitigation activities by inspection of vehicles and marine craft, enforcement of codes and regulations, and keeping grass and brush mowed by the edges of roads and highways.
2. Walla Walla County provides mitigation through inspections, enforcement of codes, and regional planning.
3. WWEM provides mitigation by providing public awareness and education, and working with Walla Walla County Community Development Department.
4. Walla Walla and College Place City fire departments perform mitigation activities by conducting informal and formal fire and safety inspections, making recommendations, and enforcing codes. Cities of Touchet, Waitsburg and Prescott and the fire districts do not have the authority to enforce codes. These entities rely upon the County Fire Marshall (Walla Walla County Community Development Building Official) who has the authority to enforce fire and life safety codes in the county. Providing information and education to the public is also a very large part of mitigation.
5. Local schools and businesses that conduct fire and evacuation drills are participating in mitigation.

E. Preparedness Activities

1. Various state departments and agencies are involved with preparedness by developing emergency plans and resource lists, training personnel, and offering training to other agencies and departments. They conduct emergency and disaster drills, and evaluate them. Extra supplies and equipment may be maintained for use in an emergency or disaster.

2. The Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (WAEMD) maintains a 24-hour alert and warning system, develops and maintains SOPs for managing response and recovery activities, and maintains the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in a fully operational status.
3. WWEM develops SOPs and resource lists for the EOC and emergency management staff for managing response and recovery activities. WWEM provides training opportunities to emergency responders and support groups and personnel, coordinates emergency/disaster exercises and drills, and evaluates the exercises and drills. WWEM participates in state and regional exercises and drills. WWEM develops and maintains this plan with input from emergency response and support agencies.
4. Local fire and EMS departments and agencies develop SOPs in accordance with state and local regulations and this plan. They acquire and maintain necessary supplies and equipment, and train personnel in their use. Training all personnel in the implementation and use of the Incident Command System is imperative. Contributing to the development and maintenance of this plan and participation in emergency/disaster exercises and drills are also a major part of preparedness.

F. Response Activities

1. General response to emergencies and disasters typically begins with a single agency or jurisdiction. As the incident expands or local resources are expended, the response effort expands. However, some incidents require an immediate, large-scale response. In either case, accountability and management of resources is a major concern. The Incident Command System, and the Unified Command structure are vital to the operation, and must be implemented immediately. A prompt and ongoing size-up is critical, so that necessary resources can be requested and dispatched quickly, and coordinated goals and objectives can be developed. Initial response actions must include coordination with law enforcement and other agencies that may be needed to assure emergency access to the scene, traffic control and preventing access to the general public. A staging area must be identified, and a staging officer designated. Other traffic and transportation safety issues should also be addressed.
2. The Incident Commander should make an early request for EOC or emergency management assistance or support, to allow for response time of staff and/or the incident escalating faster than anticipated. Mutual aid agencies and departments must work within the established Incident Command System, while maintaining authority/control of their equipment and personnel. At the point when the incident has become multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency, a unified command may be established at the EOC and the various Incident Commanders shall become Operation Commanders.
3. If volunteer groups or citizens are assisting fire service and/or EMS, the Incident Commander must assign a person or group to supervise and

monitor them. Accountability of volunteers is a significant safety issue, as is assuring that volunteers are given some basic information on how to do their assigned tasks and are aware of basic safety and emergency procedures.

4. EOC/Emergency Management staff

The decision to activate the WWEM EOC may be made by the chief elected official of the impacted jurisdiction upon recommendation by the Emergency Management Director, or designee, when a need or potential need for their assistance has been identified. The Incident commander, regardless of rank, may also request activation of the WWEM EOC or support from emergency management staff. The WWEM EOC will provide support and assistance as needed, and will maintain liaison with WAEMD/WAEOC as necessary.

G. Recovery Activities

1. Each department, agency and individual shall maintain accurate records of the incident. They will be responsible for maintaining disaster and recovery expense records for future possible reimbursement. Financial issues such as supplies used, equipment lost or damaged, wages for hours worked including overtime, and other costs require documentation before reimbursement is issued. If emergency vehicles, communications equipment, or stations are damaged, special contracts may be needed for their quick repair or replacement, and temporary or long-term arrangements may be needed. During the Recovery phase, it is imperative to maintain communication and coordination with the WWEM EOC. Fire departments and districts may provide public information regarding safety issues as people return to their homes and businesses. Departments, districts, and individuals involved in the emergency or disaster should participate in post event reviews and critiques, and contribute to written reports regarding observations and recommendations.
2. Support for the fire/EMS personnel is also part of recovery and returning to normal operations. This support may include counseling, or Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). CISM is available, at no charge, through the office of the Walla Walla County EMS Director.
3. Fire Departments will continue to communicate with the WWEM EOC and coordinate recovery activities, as priorities and resources allow. They will continue to assist with damage assessment reports and other requirements necessary for obtaining financial assistance for the county and involved cities or towns.

V. RESPONSE PLANS FOR SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

A. Aircraft Incidents

1. Walla Walla County Fire District 4 (WWFD#4) assumes Incident Command at the Walla Walla Regional Airport. Walla Walla Fire Department is used for mutual aid when requested. Personnel from these other agencies will be needed to assume key Incident Command System positions. A prompt and ongoing size-up will help assure that proper

resources have been requested, other agencies have been notified, and Medical Central Control has been advised of the situation.

2. The EMS Director should be notified as well. If the airport tower has not already done so, the WWFD#4 Incident Commander will notify the FAA. The Incident Commander/Unified Command staff will need to quickly establish a command post and identify a staging area, assign a staging officer, and designate a Medical Officer, Treatment, Triage, and Transportation Officers if a number of patients are involved. Law enforcement must be informed of the staging location, so they can help assure access by emergency vehicles and personnel while keeping the public out. Law enforcement will be providing scene security and traffic control.
3. All mutual aid agencies and jurisdictions must work within the established Incident Command System, while maintaining authority/control of their equipment and personnel. Fire personnel not involved with fire suppression activities or Incident Command positions may be asked to assist with extrication and/or carrying patients on backboards or litters under the direction of EMS personnel. EMS personnel should not be the only or primary litter bearers. Fire and EMS personnel should note locations of patients and where fire suppression and/or extrication activities may have altered possible evidence.
4. The FAA and other officials may interview responders, and/or request written statements about what was observed, actions taken, and what time they occurred. An aircraft cannot be moved, or the scene left unsecured without the direct permission from the FAA. The FAA is the legal authority, and law enforcement will work under their direction regarding the aircraft.
5. For aircraft incidents occurring off of the airport property, the jurisdiction in which it occurred is responsible for assuming command and assuring fire suppression, medical care, and scene security. The Incident Command System must be implemented promptly, and the Incident Commander/Unified Command staff must identify a Command Post. The IC/Unified Command staff must also identify a staging area and assign a staging officer. If a number of patients are involved, a Medical Officer, and Treatment, Triage, and Transportation Officers may also be assigned. Fire personnel not involved in fire suppression activities or Incident Command positions may be asked to assist with extrication and/or transporting patients on backboards or litters under the direction of EMS personnel. The airport tower may have already contacted the FAA, but if not, the IC needs to make sure it gets done. Again, the FAA has complete authority regarding securing and/or moving the aircraft. The FAA or other officials may interview or ask for any or all responders to provide a written statement regarding observations made, actions taken and times they occurred.

B. Bomb Threats/Bomb Found, Acts of Terrorism

Law enforcement is the primary Command Agency for these situations. Fire and EMS personnel are not usually trained and equipped for looking for, identifying and dealing with explosive devices, and should not be performing such activities. Fire and EMS should be staged in a safe location, and are there for fire suppression, medical care, and rescue related activities should a device detonate or a terrorist act occur. Again, fire/EMS response must be coordinated with law enforcement, and a Unified Command structure should be established if not already in place. Secondary explosive devices or booby traps may be present, and critical evidence may be destroyed unnecessarily if actions are not coordinated. The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has a bomb squad and will respond with specialized equipment and personnel if a suspected or confirmed explosive device is found WSP will support the Incident Commander and/or Unified Command. Outside agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and/or U.S. Department of Treasury Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (ATF) may be involved, and they will work with, or supersede local law enforcement and the Washington State Patrol.

C. Civil Unrest, Crowd Control

Law enforcement is the primary Command Agency for these situations. A Unified Command should be established. Fire and EMS personnel are not to engage in aggressive type activities toward the crowd. Fire/EMS is to be a support agency, providing fire suppression and medical care for emergency responders and citizens. Law enforcement should assure that fire and EMS equipment and personnel are staged in a safe location, and should provide security to fire/EMS if fire suppression or medical assistance is needed.

D. Fire - Requiring Large Scale Response

Large ground cover fires may require the activation of the regional fire response plan, which is a separate document. Other ground cover or structural fires may initially, or eventually require activation of mutual aid. The Incident Command System must be implemented quickly, so that incoming resources can be managed safely and effectively. The use of a Unified Command structure is typically used for multiple agency/jurisdiction responses. It is very important to coordinate with law enforcement regarding evacuation and safety zones, scene security, and traffic control.

E. Hazardous Materials

The Command Agency may be the fire department or the Washington State Patrol, depending on the jurisdiction and location of the incident. A quick size-up and identification of the material(s) involved should be done quickly. Identification may be provided by the responsible party, or by reading a placard(s), preferably with binoculars. Establishing a safety and evacuation zone is a high priority, the Incident Command System must be implemented immediately, and a Unified Command structure is advised. Coordination with law enforcement is crucial. Representatives from a variety of government and private industry groups may need to be included in the Unified Command structure. The Incident Commander can request a hazardous materials team response, and may gather important information from the team while awaiting their arrival. The

Incident Commander may also request assistance or support from the WWEM EOC or emergency management staff. (See ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials Response)

F. Incidents Involving Temporary Holding Facilities, Jails or Penitentiary

Special safety concerns are present in temporary holding facilities, jails or the penitentiary. Fire and EMS personnel must be accompanied by, or perform under the direction of corrections staff. Security bars and gates can present extreme danger to inmates and emergency responders in case of rapidly spreading smoke and fire. Medical personnel may be asked to leave some of their equipment outside of certain areas. All responders must assure that emergency vehicles and their keys are in an appropriate area. The Incident Command System must be used to assure the necessary coordination between various emergency response agencies and the correctional facility staff. This is especially important if prisoners must be transported to hospitals and/or other correctional facilities because of the emergency or disaster. The Incident Commander may request assistance or support from the WWEM EOC or emergency management staff.

G. Incidents Involving Prisoners Being Transported

Prisoner transport buses and vans present a variety of firefighting and extrication challenges. The Incident Commander must assure that law enforcement and the receiving facility (penitentiary, jail, etc.) have been notified. The prisoners are at greater risk as the cuffs, shackles, and security bars on the vehicles prevent rapid entry and egress, and there may not be enough room for some standard medical equipment to be used in the normal fashion. Throughout the incident, a Unified Command needs to be maintained to coordinate the efforts of fire/EMS, and law enforcement/correctional staff. Law enforcement and/or correctional staff will need to accompany prisoners as they are removed from the vehicle, and/or treated and transported to a medical facility.

H. Mountain Rescue and/or EMS

As per RCW 38.52.400, the chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision is responsible for search and rescue activities in their jurisdictions. The Sheriff's Office is the Command Agency for search and rescue in the county, but may not be the first unit on scene. Incident Command should still be established by first unit on scene and will be transferred when appropriate. They may request assistance from fire districts and departments, and utilize their knowledge of the area, use their personnel to help search and provide EMS, and utilize whatever equipment and radios they have that are needed and available. The IC may request that a staffed ambulance be staged nearby. The Sheriff's Office may call out the volunteer Search and Rescue group, request search aircraft, or call for a rescue helicopter if needed. The Sheriff's Office may also request assistance from the Walla Walla Fire Department's mountain rescue team. A Unified Command structure needs to be established to coordinate the various agencies and activities. Once the missing subject has been located, and it is determined that specialized rescue or medical attention is needed, fire/EMS or the mountain rescue team becomes the Command Agency for the EMS/rescue. Fire/EMS/mountain rescue must maintain a Unified Command to continue

coordination with law enforcement and other agencies, and assure they all continue working as a team. Fire/EMS/mountain rescue will facilitate safe and timely medical care, extrication, and transport to the appropriate medical facility as needed.

I. Mass Casualty Incidents

When there is a need for medical care for multiple patients at the same time, whether or not they are at the same location, several actions are needed. The Incident Command System must be implemented quickly, with identification of the Incident Commander, Staging area and officer, and Treatment, Triage, and Transportation officers. A prompt and ongoing size up of the incident(s) is vital. Medical Central Control is to be advised of the situation, as is the EMS Director. If the situation warrants, a Medical Branch may also be identified. The Incident Commander should request resources as soon as size-up information has been obtained. The Incident Commander may request assistance or support from the WWEM EOC or emergency management staff if the need or potential need exists. If there is more than one multiple patient location, each location should have an Operations Officer or Medical Branch. All mutual aid agencies and departments must work within the established Incident Command System, while maintaining authority/control of their equipment and personnel. Fire personnel not involved with fire suppression activities or Incident Command positions may be asked to assist with extrication and/or carrying patients on backboards or litters under the direction of EMS personnel. EMS personnel should not be the primary or only litter bearers. After the rescue and medical care is completed, command may transfer to law enforcement and other investigative officials.

J. Disruption to Transportation and/or Communication

1. Transportation, communication, and other vital services may be disrupted due to earthquake, flooding, high winds, a severe winter storm, or other natural or man-made disasters. The Incident Command System should be established and the Incident Commander should request that the WWEM EOC be activated, and that all involved agencies and departments are put on alert. Involved fire/EMS agencies should provide representation to the WWEM EOC, or authorize another jurisdiction to represent them. There will need to be a highly coordinated response from fire service, EMS, law enforcement, public works, and the WWEM EOC staff through the Unified Command System. Emergency lighting, and damage reports/status reports are a very high priority due to impact on safety, and the ability for emergency agencies to respond. Each unit and agency must provide status reports and size-up, as no one person or agency can completely cover a wide-spread area. All agencies and departments should initiate their plans to call in off-duty personnel as needed.
2. In the case of flooding, fire/EMS personnel should not be performing or directing sandbagging efforts for private homes, or businesses. The individuals and agencies could be held liable for any damages to those, or other homes and businesses. Fire/EMS personnel may perform or direct sandbagging operations for critical buildings and facilities such as

hospitals, fire and police stations, water treatment plants, and other critical areas. Communications backup may be provided by the local Amateur Radio Emergency Services group. Radio operators will respond with battery powered equipment and mobile antennas, and may supplement or replace missing communication between units and their base, between the Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications Center and departments/agencies, hospitals, emergency shelters, and between these areas and the WWEM EOC, depending on what is needed. Amateur Radio Emergency Services will be coordinated through liaison between their Emergency Coordinator and the WWEM EOC. If agencies, departments or units have communications needs, those requests must go directly to the EOC. If telephone services are disrupted, it may be necessary to establish communication points throughout the involved community/communities.

3. Citizens living near fire or police stations can go there and directly request emergency assistance. In other areas, it may be helpful to send trained radio operators and portable or mobile radios to churches, schools, or businesses that would allow their facilities to be communication points. These facilities would need to be identified in some way, and the public would need to be informed of their location.
4. After a number of hours or more, outside agencies and resources may begin to arrive. Individual Operation Chiefs must coordinate with the WWEM EOC while establishing a staging area(s) for incoming resources. Staging areas for power company, heavy equipment and public works type of resources will usually be separate from emergency services (fire, EMS, law enforcement) staging areas. Each staging area will need a staging officer and communications with the WWEM EOC. All mutual aid and incoming resources must work within the established WWEM EOC and Incident Command System structure. Mutual aid and outside agencies will maintain authority/control of their equipment and personnel while doing so.

K. Water Rescue and Recovery

Water rescue in and along the Snake River and Columbia River are typically handled by the Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Coast Guard, or Columbia Basin Dive Rescue. The Walla Walla Fire Department has a swift water rescue team that can be called for incidents in Mill Creek, the Walla Walla River, or other swift water situations. In all cases, the Incident Command System will help coordinate the actions of rescue specialists, and other fire, law enforcement and EMS personnel.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Fire/EMS may be the primary command agency involved in the emergency or disaster, or they may be the support agency. The designated primary command agency may change during the incident as the situation changes, and some incidents may have a shared designated command. The Incident Commanders are responsible for assuring a smooth transfer or sharing of the Incident Command authority.

- B. When fire/EMS is designated as the primary or command agency, the Incident Commander will typically be from the jurisdiction involved. The IC is responsible for coordinating all the fire/EMS agencies involved, as well as coordinating with all the support agencies.
- C. When fire/EMS is designated as a support agency, the fire/EMS commander(s) will coordinate with, and aid the designated command agency.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Whether working in a primary or a support role, fire/EMS departments and districts will provide their own internal support, such as vehicles, and equipment for their staff.
- B. Support agencies, departments and districts will provide workers, officers or other leaders, vehicles, and equipment as requested, if available

VII. REFERENCES

- A. ESF 2 – Communications, Walla Walla County CEMP
- B. ESF 3 – Public Works and Engineering, Walla Walla County CEMP
- C. ESF 5 – Emergency Management, Walla Walla County CEMP
- D. ESF 13 – Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Security, Walla Walla County CEMP

VIII. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

- A. See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 1 – Definitions
- B. See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 2 - Acronyms

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