



R-ESF #4, #9 and #10: Fire, Technical Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Operations

Regional Coordinating Organizations

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Local and Regional Coordinating Jurisdictions and Organizations

Alexandria
Arlington County
District of Columbia
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Frederick County
Loudoun County
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Prince William County

State Fire, Technical Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Operations Coordinating Agencies

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Maryland Emergency Management Agency
Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office
Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office
Virginia Department of Fire Programs
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
District of Columbia Office of Emergency Health Services

Federal Government Fire, Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Operations Agencies and Organizations

Andrews Air Force Base Fire Department
Fort Belvoir Fire Department
Fort Myers Fire Department
National Institutes of Health Fire Department
National Institute of Standards and Technology Fire Department

Naval District Washington Fire Department
U.S. Fire Administration
Walter Reed Army Hospital Fire Department

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

Regional Emergency Support Functions (R-ESFs) #4, #9, and #10 — Fire Technical Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Operations – facilitates communication and coordination among regional jurisdictions concerning regional fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations issues and activities before, during, and after a major potential or actual regional emergency.

Note: R-ESF #4, #9 and #10 are structurally identical and are all contained in this R-ESF.

B. Scope

1. R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 are intended to focus on enhancing existing communications and coordination processes about potential or actual fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations events in the National Capital Region (NCR) necessitating inter-jurisdictional information coordination.
2. Major activities of R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 include the communication and coordination of information relating to firefighting activities including fire containment and suppression, coordination of evacuation in the hazard areas, delivery of emergency medical services, hazmat response and technical rescue.

II. Policies

- A. R-ESFs #4, # 9, and #10 will not usurp or override the policies of any local government or jurisdiction, state government, federal agency, or mutual aid agreements.
- B. The Incident Command System (ICS) will be the organizational structure used during a response, organized and recognized during any incident in the region as outlined in the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area Fire/Rescue Services Mutual Aid Operations Plan.
- C. COG will facilitate information coordination among member organizations to ensure that the missions and objectives of R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 and the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) are appropriately followed.

- D. Essential Elements of Information (EIs) may be reported, using protocols consistent with R-ESF #5, to the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS) consistent with RECP policy. (For more information see the RICCS protocols section of this plan.)
- E. R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 will provide a liaison to R-ESF #5 for conference calls as needed.

III. Situation

A. Regional Emergency Condition

1. A regional incident or regional emergency may adversely impact firefighting, technical rescue and hazardous materials capabilities or critical infrastructure throughout the region. Such an event could be the result of natural disasters, technological events, or human causes. Most local fire, technical rescue, and hazardous materials operations activities could be hampered by damaged facilities, equipment, infrastructure, and disrupted communications. At the same time, the regional incident or regional emergency could create significant surge demands for regional fire, technical rescue, and hazardous materials operations resources.
2. Available fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations resources may be difficult to obtain and utilize due to massive disruption of communications, transportation, and utility and water systems.
3. Fires have the potential to spread rapidly, cause extensive damage, and pose a serious threat to life and property.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations disruptions can occur as a result of direct impacts upon the fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations infrastructure (e.g., disasters) or from surges in requirements placed upon the systems by emergencies in other functional areas.
2. Infrastructure damage and communication disruptions may inhibit efficient coordination of fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations support during the immediate response and post-emergency period.
3. The Fire Chiefs Committee of the COG Public Safety Working Group is the primary point of contact for R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10.

IV. Concept of Coordination

A. General

1. Upon a regional incident or regional emergency requiring inter-jurisdictional information-sharing, R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 will be sent notification by the RICCS as directed by the affected jurisdictions' Fire Chief or his designee.
2. Fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations organizations and each jurisdiction will implement their routine incident management/ICS processes, as necessary.
3. The R-ESFs #4, # 9, and #10 function will establish a capability to collect, and disseminate information concerning regional fire, technical rescue, and hazardous materials related issues with RICCS consistent with R-ESF #5—Information and Planning.
4. Communications regarding specific public regional incidents or emergencies will follow normal jurisdiction practices.
5. Coordination with Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) of surrounding jurisdictions will follow normal jurisdiction operations.
6. Participating agencies in R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 may utilize RICCS to share EEIs.

B. Organization

The Fire Chiefs' Committee is the primary point-of-contact for R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10.

C. Notification

(Note: Units should not respond without a proper request for assistance per normal jurisdiction practices.)

1. RICCS notification is for informational purposes only. Operational decisions are the responsibility of the jurisdiction's chief officer.
2. The EOC/ECC of the primary jurisdiction and the District or state EOCs will not be notified of every incident. The Incident Commander or the lead jurisdiction will determine if the local EOC/ECC and R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 planning group need to be notified.

3. Upon the request of any participating R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 organization, agency, jurisdiction, or any jurisdiction's ECC/EOC, RICCS may be used to notify the senior operations officers, jurisdictional fire chiefs, and/or jurisdictional CAOs of a potential or actual regional emergency requiring fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations support, depending on the notification level. Communications will be made in accordance with R-ESF #2—Communications Infrastructure. The three notification levels are:
 - Level 1 to the senior operations officers and/or his designee;
 - Level 2 to the jurisdictional fire chiefs; and
 - Level 3 to the jurisdictional CAOs.
4. If any participating R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 organization, agency, or jurisdiction is made aware of a potential or actual regional incident or regional emergency, communication will be made in accordance with R-ESF #2—Communications Infrastructure.

D. Coordination

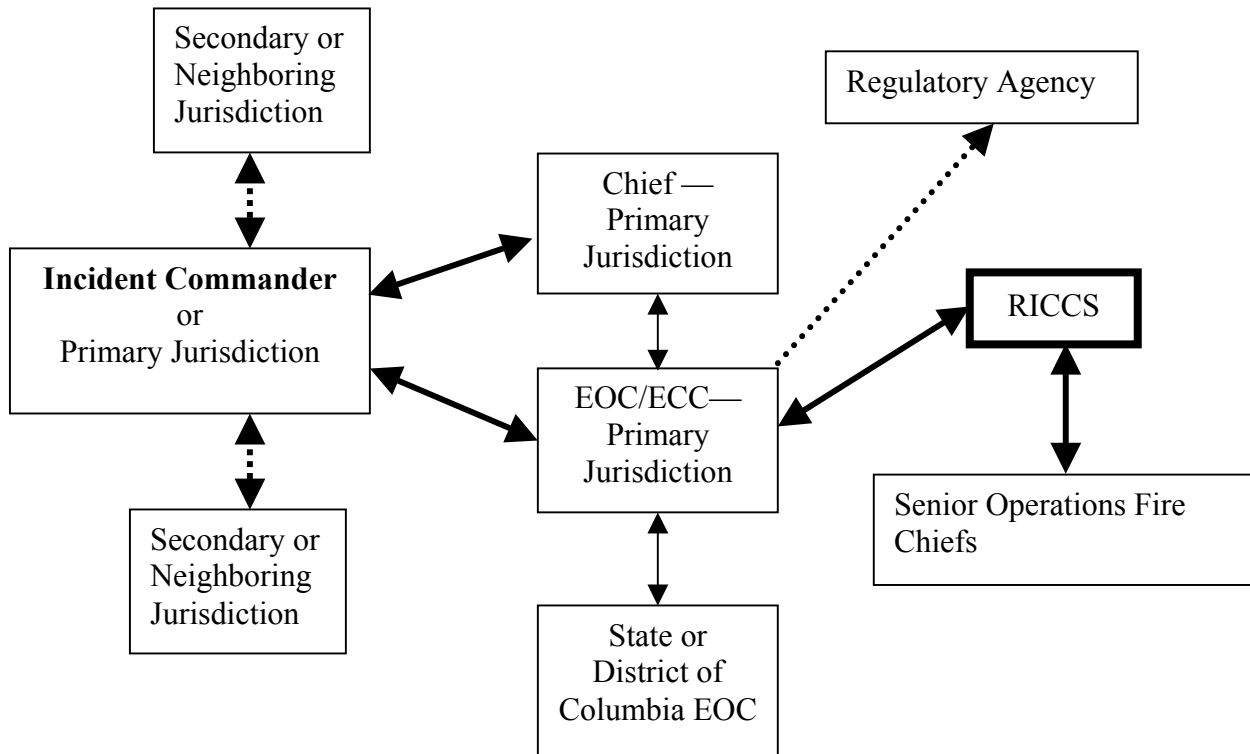
1. Initial Actions

The responding jurisdiction may initiate an initial informational notification through the RICCS to the R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10 Regional Level 1 members via the Level 1 Notification process (see Figure 4-1: Level 1 Notification and Coordination), informing them of the regional incident or regional emergency. Level 1 Notification is for information only, and does not require implementation of the RICCS conference mechanism. Receivers of the notifications will obtain additional information by directing inquiries to the responding jurisdiction's EOC or ECC.

The following flow chart represents Level 1 notification.

The unbroken lines represent the required notification as required by existing requirements. Dotted lines represent possible notification depending on the event.

Figure 4-1: Level 1 Notification and Coordination

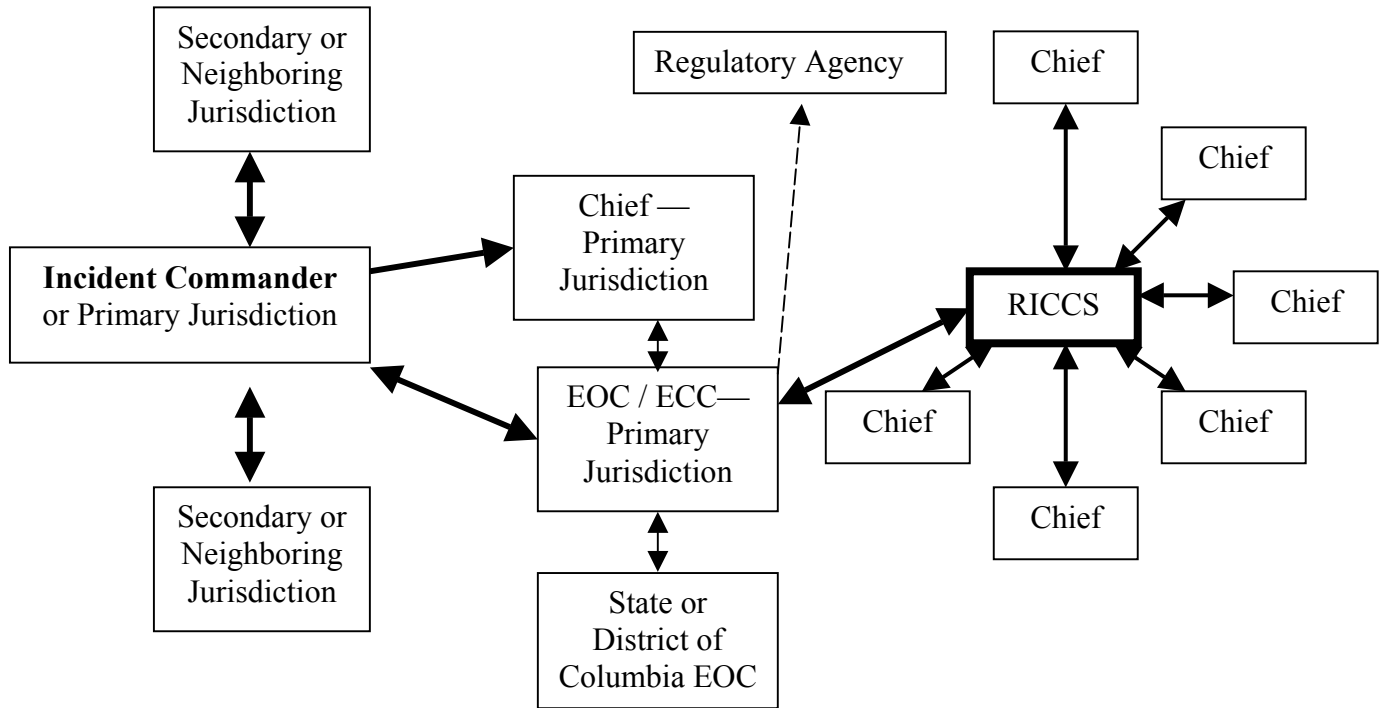


Jurisdictional fire chiefs will be notified of incidents that affect other jurisdictions beyond the bounds of the primary responding agency, or which involve cross-boundary mutual aid activities, or which may impact other R-ESF activities, such as Transportation via Level 2 Notification (see Figure 4-2: Level 2 Notification and Coordination).

The following flow chart represents Level 2 notification.

The unbroken lines represent the required notification as required by existing requirements. Dotted lines represent possible notification depending on the event.

Figure 4-2: Level 2 Notification and Coordination



For those incidents where full implementation of the RICCS at the CAO or elected official level is needed, Level 3 Notification will be initiated (See Figure 4-3: Level 3 Notification and Coordination). These incidents are those that require interagency operations beyond the scope of existing mutual aid agreements or that involve significant operations on the part of other R-ESFs.

The jurisdiction in charge under Incident Command/Unified Command will provide periodic updates to RICCS.

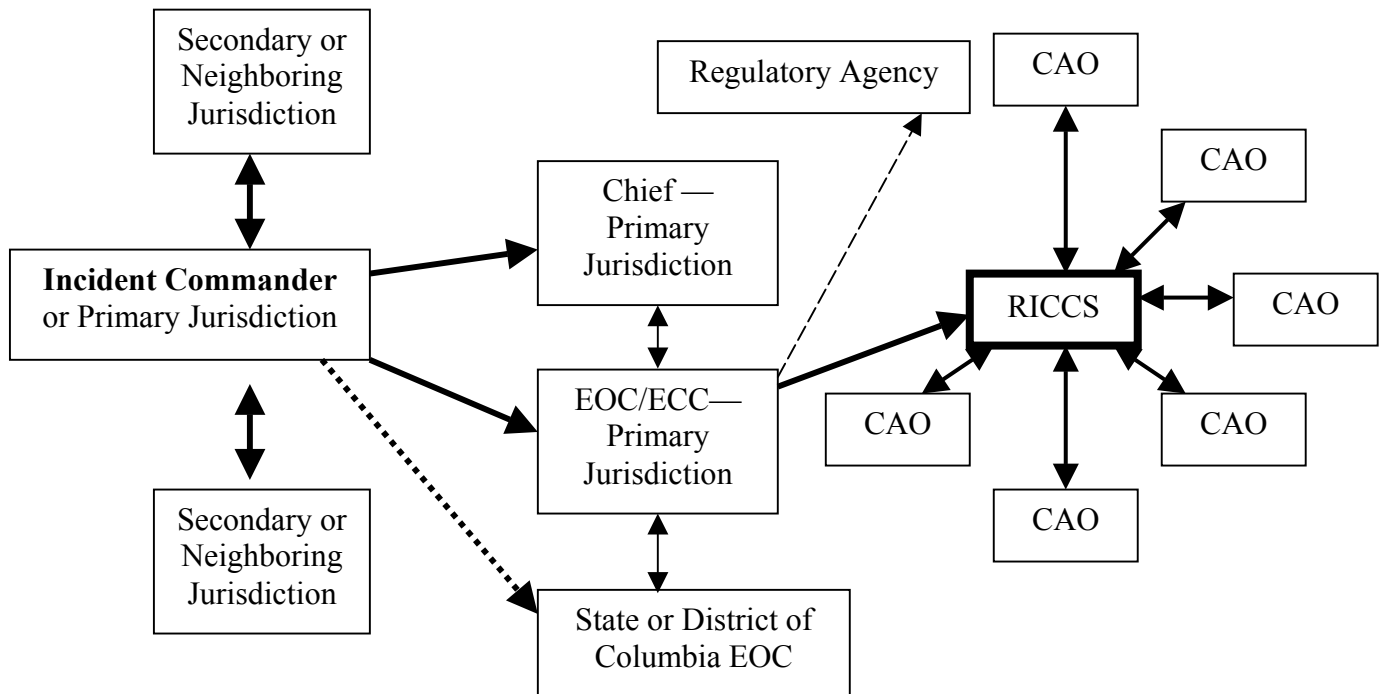
2. Continuing Actions

For major regional incidents or regional emergencies, RICCS will be the primary communication network for ongoing inter-jurisdictional communication at the CAO and elected official level.

The following flow chart represents Level 3 notification.

The unbroken lines represent the required notification as required by existing requirements. Dotted lines represent possible notification depending on the event.

Figure 4-3: Level 3 Notification and Coordination



3. Stand Down

At the point where the regional incident or regional emergency is no longer affecting more than one jurisdiction, nor requires inter-jurisdictional communication and coordination, a notification will be made through RICCS and a stand down debriefing conference call may take place, at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

4. After-action Critique

An after-action summary may be generated after the regional public emergency. This information may be discussed at the next regularly scheduled COG Public Safety Working Group meeting.

V. Responsibilities

A. R-ESF #4, #9, and #10 Participating and Supporting Agencies

Organizations participating in a regional response will be able to exchange EEIs through R-ESF #5 and the RICCS consistent with overall RECP recommendations as defined by R-ESF #5—Information and Planning.

B. Essential Elements of Information

1. The primary purpose of the RECP is to facilitate the exchange of information among the signatory agencies during potential or actual emergency situations in the NCR. R-ESF #5—Information and Planning is responsible for the exchange, analysis, reporting, and dissemination of regional information. R-ESF #5 contains detailed information about the process of information exchange and describes regional EEIs that have been determined as the minimum essential information categories to satisfy coordination needs among the R-ESFs and with the RICCS.
2. In the event of a regional incident or regional emergency, R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10—Fire, Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Operations, as well as local, state, regional, and federal agencies will be able to exchange information. Examples of information that may be exchanged include:

- Resources or assistance wanted by a jurisdiction;
- Resources a jurisdiction requested and are no longer available for subsequent incidents;
- How long resources are likely to be unavailable;
- Location of the regional emergency incident;
- Type of incident (e.g. Hazmat, derailment, building fire);
- Jurisdictions involved;
- Overall priorities for response;
- Status of communication systems;
- Restrictions to access points and security procedures;
- Logistical problems;
- Injuries and medical emergencies;
- Hospital status;
- Other R-ESFs potentially impacted; and
- Status of specialized teams (HAZMAT, technical rescue, and emergency medical services).

VI. Preparedness Cycle

The preparedness cycle is a means of assuring a high level of readiness for the RECP through continuous improvement of plans and procedures. The cycle begins with sound planning practices, followed by training of personnel who will be engaged in executing those plans. Plans and procedures are then tested through exercises or simulations designed to check planning assumptions against a range of scenarios. Successes and areas for improvement are identified, and the cycle repeats. The Fire Chiefs Committee and COG are responsible for maintaining the preparedness cycle for R-ESFs #4, # 9, and #10.

A. Planning

The Fire Chiefs Committee and COG are responsible for coordinating planning under R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10, including review and recommending revisions of R-ESFs #4, #9, and #10. Planning will include a comprehensive assessment of current capabilities in the fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations sectors.

B. Training

Ongoing and scheduled training related to the RECP and R-ESFs #4, # 9, and #10 will take place at least once in a calendar year.

C. Exercises

In order for the RECP to be effective, a series of fire, technical rescue and hazardous materials operations simulations/exercises will be conducted on a regularly scheduled basis. The exercise series will be composed of tabletop exercises, functional communications and coordination drills, and field exercises coordinated by COG or other organizations.

D. Evaluation

To ensure continuous improvement in this R-ESF and in the RECP, the plans, policies, and procedures are evaluated through real-world experience and exercises.

E. Corrective Action

Lessons learned from exercises and real world experiences will be captured in a corrective action system and the issues tracked to ensure that they are resolved and incorporated into plan revisions as appropriate.

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