Primary Agency:
Humboldt Fire Department

Support Agencies:
Humboldt County Emergency Management
Humboldt County Sheriff’s Department
Region V HAZMAT Team
Humboldt County Fireman’s Association

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annex is to provide a coordinated response for fire and EMS services during, or as a result of, a natural or man-made disaster.

II. SITUATION

A. Humboldt County is vulnerable to various severe weather phenomena and failure of manmade structures, which have the potential to destroy property and cause loss of life. The potential also exists for a multiple casualty incident resulting from explosion, bus accident, etc. which would stress emergency medical services.

B. There are major vehicular and rail transportation routes, which pass through the county. Both truck and train traffic transport hazardous materials. In addition, there are a number of sites within the county for hazardous material storage. Because of this, the potential exists for both accidents and incidents involving hazardous materials.

C. A risk analysis of fixed facilities and known transportation routes where potential release situations with possible consequences beyond the boundaries of the facility or adjacent to the transportation route was completed in conjunction with EPCRA Title III planning. See ESF #10 and Incident Annex Nuclear/Radiological.

D. Humboldt County is served by eleven fire departments, three EMS ambulance service providers, three first responder non-transports and one hospital.
III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

A. The primary responsibilities of the Fire Services are: prevention and suppression of fires; rescue services; and response to hazardous material incidents.

B. EMS responsibilities are patient care, triage, transport and will respond to all hazardous materials incidents.

C. Existing fire/EMS personnel and equipment will be able to handle most emergency situations through their own resources or mutual aid.

D. In the event of a radiological incident/accident involving the County, radiological response activities will be implemented by the Regional HAZMAT Team and the Iowa Department of Public Health. See Annex P.

IV. ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The fire/EMS department of each jurisdiction is responsible for coordination, planning, training, and the development of operational policy for that jurisdiction and for the coordination of fire/EMS services during an emergency/disaster occurring within the jurisdictional boundaries of that department.

B. During emergency operations, the fire/EMS department(s) of the affected jurisdiction(s), or their designated representative, may serve as a member of the EOC Staff.

C. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, which requires activation of the County EOC, the designated County Fire and EMS representatives shall report to the county EOC. This representative will:

1. Coordinate data regarding requirements (i.e., personnel, equipment, supplies, etc.) of the fire/EMS services.

2. Act as a liaison between fire/EMS and the local government and other agencies/organizations.


D. Specific responsibilities and tasks for the fire/EMS departments are contained in the individual department Standard Operating Procedures. Some general responsibilities are:
1. Fire/EMS Chief

   a. Develops standard operating procedures and policies of their department.

   b. Fire Chief coordinates inspections for homes or commercial buildings during or after a disaster to ascertain if the facility is safe for occupancy.

   c. Provides logistical support during emergency operations.

   d. The Fire/EMS Chief will assure that all personnel are trained to respond to a hazardous materials incident according to standards set by and in compliance with OSHA and EPA regulations.

   e. EMS Chief or senior EMS personnel is responsible for basic/advanced life support responsibilities of each fire district or EMS district in a jurisdiction.

2. Senior Fire/EMS Officer

   a. Directs the level of response, requests mutual aid or other assistance, and makes all decisions concerning the fire department's actions and policies during emergency operations.

   b. Senior Fire Officer directs search and rescue operations in accordance with V., paragraph D, pg. F-2.

   c. Requests the Medical Control Officer in the event of a Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI), (Annex G), if required.

   d. Authorizes fire/EMS department personnel and equipment to respond to mutual aid requests.

   e. The EMS chief or senior EMS personnel on the scene will coordinate field operations and transport of victims.

E. Lines of Succession

1. Each Fire/EMS Department's line of succession shall be per their own rules and regulations.

2. The County Fire/EMS EOC representatives shall select their alternates to the EOC staff in case they are not available.
V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Incident Command

1. Shall be required on all incidents in accordance with the National Incident Management System.

B. Mutual Aid

1. The Senior Fire/EMS Officer will request mutual aid when the emergency extends beyond the jurisdictional boundaries or beyond the capabilities of the local fire department and/or EMS department.

2. When an emergency extends beyond the capabilities of mutual aid resources, the Senior Fire/EMS Officer will:

   a. Notify County Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate additional support,

   b. Request assistance from state and/or other agencies/organizations required at the scene.

C. Hazardous Materials

1. The local fire department is responsible for initial response, and, if possible, containment of hazardous material incidents.

2. The Regional HAZMAT Team, located at the Fort Dodge Fire Department, may be contacted at anytime as a resource to the local fire department.

3. All reportable hazardous material incidents will be reported to the County Emergency Management Coordinator for coordinating additional support and for notifying/reporting to appropriate state agencies.

D. Searches

1. The fire department of the jurisdiction will coordinate all searches involving:

   a. Fires
b. Personal injury

c. Hazardous materials incidents

2. Law enforcement officials (Annex H) are responsible for searches involving:

a. Lost or missing persons

b. Fugitives

c. Bomb scares

3. Water search & recovery (see annex O)

4. When a search extends beyond the capabilities of the coordinating agency, the County Emergency Management Coordinator will be notified to coordinate additional requirements.

E. Emergency Medical

1. Each jurisdiction is responsible for providing emergency treatment, and transportation for the seriously ill or injured. This is accomplished through the local fire/EMS departments or mutual aid.

2. Mass Casualty Incident: (Refer to Annex G, Attachment 4, County MCI Plan)

a. The fire/EMS department of the affected jurisdiction is initially in charge of the scene.

b. The person acting as Medical Coordinator (Annex G) is in charge of the emergency triage and treatment of the victims at the scene once:

   (1) The fire/EMS department determines the scene to be safe for emergency medical personnel, or

   (2) The fire/EMS department's personnel have moved the victims to a triage area near the scene.

c. It is the responsibility of the first responding rescue unit to:

   (1) Remain at the scene to establish a triage point

   (2) Notify receiving hospital(s)
(3) Begin initial triage and emergency treatment,
(4) Summon additional support.

F. Resources

Resource support for incidents beyond the ordinary mutual aid agreements between departments can be obtained through the EOC.

G. Support to Other Agencies

The fire/EMS department has the authority to utilize the fire/EMS department personnel and equipment to support other agencies or organizations during an emergency/disaster (dependent on the current situation and resources available). Areas of possible support include:

1. Law Enforcement: traffic and crowd control,
2. Health and Medical: first aid stations, public health (i.e., collecting water samples, etc.), and transportation to assist a medical facility during evacuation,
3. Shelter Operations: fire safety inspections of housing and feeding facilities for victims of a disaster,
4. Mass Care: providing potable water for human consumption,
5. Radiological Protection: radiological monitoring and decontamination,
7. Warning: assist in dissemination of warning to the public.

H. Extended Operations

1. All fire/EMS personnel in the County will go on full time status with twelve (12) hour shifts. An exception will be individuals who are considered by the Executive Staff to be key personnel in other areas. (Each county should establish their own shifts and determine who will make the appropriate decisions.)
2. Mutual aid information may be coordinated through the EOC.
3. The fire/EMS districts within the County will maintain their normal jurisdictional responsibilities.

I. Emergency Support Services

It is suggested Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Systems are included in all Department Standard Operating Procedures.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Administration

Normal administrative records of utilization of personnel, equipment, and materials will be maintained by individual fire/EMS department. Accurate record keeping will identify specific needs in the event of a major disaster which can readily be provided to the EOC Logistics Section (Annex M), if necessary.

B. Reports

Each individual fire/EMS department chief will prepare and submit those reports required by the Statutes of the State of Iowa and as may be requested by other state agencies.

C. Training

1. In addition to the prescribed training required by fire/EMS departments for normal operations, fire/EMS personnel should be trained in:

   a. Radiological monitoring/decontamination - every two years

   b. Hazardous materials response according to the standards set and in compliance with OSHA and EPA regulations.

   c. Infectious disease and blood borne pathogens training according to the standards set by OSHA.

   d. Traffic and crowd control.

   e. Emergency first aid.

   f. Incident Command
Humboldt County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

2. Intra-agency action will be taken to inform other emergency support agencies of physical hazards associated with fire/EMS emergencies.

3. Training in the use of a triage system will be provided to each individual fire/EMS unit in Humboldt County. This system will be utilized in the event of a Mass Casualty Incident.

4. The Medical Coordinator should meet annually with fire and EMS to review this plan.

D. Exercising

1. Every effort will be made to incorporate local involvement into the hospital's annual exercise.

2. Emergency medical professionals and volunteers will be utilized in these exercises to the maximum extent possible.
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FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

PREPAREDNESS PHASE

FIRE CHIEFS/EMS DEPARTMENTS

____  Review mutual aid agreements
____  Review and update emergency staff assignments
____  Determine available resources
____  Alert personnel to be on standby status
____  Coordinate activities with County Emergency Management Coordinator
____  Coordinate communications requirements with Communications Officer
____  Check readiness of all equipment
____  Coordinate emergency ID for all fire/EMS personnel with law enforcement
____  Maintain reserve fuel supplies at maximum
____  Prepare for possible shortage of water, electricity, chemicals, etc.
____  Accomplish inspections of shelter/emergency lodging facilities for fire safety
____  Review procedures for decontamination/universal precautions
____  Develop plans for utilizing volunteers
____  Determine what normal activities and services can be deferred or curtailed to free personnel, equipment, and funds for emergency preparations
____  Coordinate with Human Services to determine locations of special needs groups (handicapped, elderly, transients) that may need special consideration during fire/EMS service operations
PREPAREDNESS PHASE (continued)

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENTS (continued)

___ Provide refresher training in traffic control procedures

___ Provide training for volunteers

___ Assist in the coordination of special transportation requirements for special needs groups (handicapped, infirm, etc.)

___ Coordinate procedures with Medical Control in the event of a mass casualty incident

___ Coordinate with Medical Coordinator and Shelter Coordinator in reviewing assignments of EMS personnel to shelters to ensure emergency medical capabilities

___ Provide for use of volunteer EMS personnel

RESPONSE PHASE

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENTS

___ Provide for decontamination centers, as needed

___ Request mutual aid support, as necessary

___ Notify Emergency Management Coordinator of additional requirements

___ Inspect affected buildings for safety as soon as possible

___ Coordinate with Public Works for utilities shut off, as required

___ Provide damage reports to EOC

___ Coordinate with Public Works for priority debris clearance areas

___ Coordinate with law enforcement for priority traffic and crowd control areas

___ Consult with Chemtrec/DNR (Hazmat Incident/Accident)
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

RESPONSE PHASE (continued)

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENTS (continued)

____ Assist law enforcement with traffic and crowd control, as possible
____ Provide potable water for drinking, if required
____ Assist handicapped or infirm persons in the event of evacuation to shelters
____ Establish medical control
____ Utilize trained volunteers, if necessary
____ Set up initial hazard area perimeter until further assessment provided

RECOVERY PHASE

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENTS

____ Review and critique fire/EMS operations and update plan with any changes in procedures
____ Accomplish equipment checks and maintenance on all equipment
____ Replenish depleted supplies
____ Complete administrative and fiscal reports, as required
____ Assist law enforcement with traffic control, where possible
____ Critique operation with all fire/EMS personnel
____ Recommend appropriate changes, based on critique, to fire/EMS departments for inclusion in plan