

# MESA COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

The Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of domestic incidents. It provides the structure and mechanisms for the coordination of local support as well as coordination with state and federal agencies. The Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan is important in the mission of reducing the vulnerability to all natural and manmade hazards; minimizing the damage, and assisting in the recovery from any type of incident that occurs.

The Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan consists of the components depicted in Figure 1 on the following page.

**Base Plan:** Describes the structure and processes comprising a countywide approach to incident management designed to integrate the efforts and resources of local government, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations. The Base Plan includes planning assumptions, roles and responsibilities, policies, initial actions, and plan maintenance instructions.

**Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes:** Details the missions, policies, structures, and responsibilities of local agencies for coordinating resource and programmatic support to local agencies or other jurisdictions and entities during incidents.

Purpose.....	3
Key Concepts .....	4
Planning Assumptions and Considerations.....	5
Colorado Disaster Act of 1992 Provisions (C.R.S. 24-32-2107).....	6
C.R.S. 24-32-2109. Local Disaster Emergencies. ....	7
Roles and Responsibilities .....	8
Plan Maintenance.....	8
Emergency Support Functions and Scope .....	10
Responsibilities .....	12
Citizen Involvement.....	12
Concept of Operations .....	13
Mesa County EOC .....	14
NIMS Framework .....	16
ESF Coordinator .....	17
Emergency Support Function Matrix.....	20
Emergency Support Function #1—Transportation Annex .....	21
Emergency Support Function #2—Communications Annex .....	24
Emergency Support Function #3—Public Works and Engineering Annex.....	27
Emergency Support Function #4—Firefighting Annex.....	30
Emergency Support Function #5—Emergency Management Annex.....	32
Emergency Support Function #6—Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services.....	35
Emergency Support Function #7—Resource Support Annex .....	37
Emergency Support Function #8—Public Health and Medical Annex .....	39
Emergency Support Function #8(a)—Mental Health.....	43
Emergency Support Function #9—Search and Rescue Annex.....	44
Emergency Support Function #10—Oil and Hazardous Materials Response .....	45
Emergency Support Function #11—Agriculture Annex .....	47
Emergency Support Function #12—Energy and Public Utilities Annex .....	48
Emergency Support Function #13—Public Safety and Security Annex .....	49
Emergency Support Function #14—Community Recovery and Mitigation Annex....	51
Emergency Support Function #15—External Affairs Annex .....	54

## ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is to establish a comprehensive, countywide, all hazards approach to incident management across a spectrum of activities including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The Mesa County EOP incorporates best practices and procedures from various incident management disciplines—homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, hazardous materials response, public works, public health, emergency medical services, and responder and recovery worker health and safety—and integrates them into a unified coordinating structure.

The Mesa County EOP provides the framework for interaction with local, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. It describes capabilities and resources and establishes responsibilities, operations processes, and protocols to help protect against terrorist attacks and other natural and manmade hazards.

## **Scope**

The Mesa County EOP recognizes and incorporates the various jurisdictional and functional authorities of local agencies, private-sector organizations and non governmental organizations. This plan is applicable to all agencies and organizations that may be requested to provide assistance or conduct operations in the context of actual or potential incidents within the county.

This plan addresses the full spectrum of activities related to incident management. The Mesa County EOP focuses on those activities that are directly related to an evolving incident or potential incident.

## **Authorities**

### Federal

1. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Amendments (P.L. 93-288, as amended by P.L. 100-707).
2. Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5: Management of Domestic Incidents, National Incident Management System (NIMS)
3. The National Response Plan, December 2004
4. Homeland Security Presidential Directive #8: National Preparedness

### State

1. Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992 (Part 21 of Article 32, Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1996 as amended).

### Local

1. Mesa County, Colorado Resolution NO. MCM 89-29 (1) and (2), 1989.

The Mesa County EOP uses the foundation provided by the Homeland Security Act, HSPD #5, HSPD #8, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), and the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992 to provide a comprehensive, all hazards approach to incident management. Nothing in this plan alters the existing authorities of individual departments and agencies.

This plan establishes the coordinating structures and processes required to integrate the specific statutory and policy authorities of various departments and agencies in a collective framework.

### ***Key Concepts***

This section summarizes key concepts that are reflected throughout the Mesa County EOP.

- Systematic and coordinated incident management, including processes for:
  - Incident reporting
  - Coordinated action
  - Alert and notification
  - Mobilization of resources
- Organizing interagency efforts to minimize damage, restore impacted areas to pre-incident conditions if feasible, and/or implement programs to mitigate vulnerability to future events.
- Organizing ESF's to facilitate the delivery of critical resources, assets, and assistance. Local departments and agencies are assigned to lead or support ESFs based on authorities, resources, and capabilities.
- Providing mechanisms for vertical and horizontal coordination, communications, and information sharing in response to threats or incidents. These mechanisms facilitate coordination among local entities as well as public and private sectors.

## ***Planning Assumptions and Considerations***

The Mesa County EOP is based on planning assumptions and considerations presented in this section.

- Incidents are typically managed at the lowest possible geographic, organizational, and jurisdictional level.
- Incident management activities will be initiated and conducted using the principles contained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- The combined expertise and capabilities of government at all levels, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations will be required to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents or disasters.
- Incidents or disasters may:
  - Occur at any time with little or no warning in the context of a general or specific threat or hazard.
  - Require significant information sharing across multiple jurisdictions and between public and private sectors.
  - Span the spectrum of incident management to include prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
  - Involved multiple, high varied hazards or threats on a local, regional, or national scale.
  - Result in numerous casualties; fatalities; displaced people, property loss, disruption of normal life support systems, essential public services, basic infrastructure; and significant damage to the environment.
  - Impact critical infrastructures across sectors.
  - Overwhelm capabilities of local governments and private sector infrastructure owners and operators.
  - Attract a sizeable influx of independent, spontaneous volunteers and supplies.
  - Require prolonged, sustained incident management operations and support activities.
- Top priorities for incident management are to:
  - Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public, responders, and recovery workers.
  - Ensure security of the homeland.
  - Prevent an imminent incident, including acts of terrorism from occurring.
  - Protect and restore critical infrastructure and key resources.

- Conduct law enforcement investigations to resolve the incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and collect and preserve evidence for prosecution.
  - Protect property and mitigate damages and impacts to individuals, communities, and the environment.
  - Facilitate recovery of individuals, families, businesses, governments, and the environment.
- Departments and agencies at all levels of government and certain NGO's such as the American Red Cross, may be required to deploy to incidents or disasters on short notice to provide timely and effective mutual aid and/or intergovernmental assistance.
  - For incidents or disasters that are Presidentially declared, state and federal support is delivered in accordance with relevant provisions of the Stafford Act.

***Colorado Disaster Act of 1992 Provisions (C.R.S. 24-32-2107)***

1. Each political subdivision shall be within the jurisdiction of and served by the division and by a local or inter-jurisdictional agency responsible for disaster preparedness and coordination of response.
2. Each county shall maintain a disaster agency or participate in a local or inter-jurisdictional disaster agency which, except as otherwise provided under this part 21, has jurisdiction over and serves the entire county.
3. The governor shall determine which municipal corporations need disaster agencies of their own and require that they be established and maintained. The governor shall make such determination on the basis of the municipality's disaster vulnerability and capability of response related to population size and concentration. The disaster agency of a county shall cooperate with the disaster agencies of municipalities situated within its borders but shall not have jurisdiction within a municipality having its own disaster agency. The office shall publish and keep current a list of municipalities required to have disaster agencies under this subsection (3).
4. The minimum composition of a disaster agency shall be a director or coordinator appointed and governed by the chief executive officer or governing body of the appointing jurisdiction. The director or coordinator shall be responsible for the planning and coordination of the local disaster services.
5. Any provision of this part 21 or other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the governor may require a political subdivision to establish and maintain a disaster agency jointly with one or more contiguous political subdivisions if

the governor finds that the establishment and maintenance of an agency or participation therein is made necessary by circumstances or conditions that make it unusually difficult to provide disaster prevention, preparedness, response, or recovery services under other provisions of this part 21.

6. Each political subdivision which does not have a disaster agency and has not made arrangements to secure or participate in the services of an agency shall have an elected official designated as a liaison officer to facilitate the cooperation and protection of that subdivision in the work of disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
7. The mayor, chairman of the board of county commissioners, or other principle executive officer of each political subdivision on the state shall notify the office of the manner in which the political subdivision is providing or securing disaster planning and emergency services, identify the person who heads the agency from which the services are obtained, and furnish additional information relating thereto as the division requires.
8. Each local and inter-jurisdictional disaster agency shall prepare and keep current a local or inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plan for its area.
9. The local or inter-jurisdictional disaster agency, as the case may be, shall prepare and distribute to all appropriate officials in written form a clear and complete statement of the emergency responsibilities of all local agencies and officials and of the disaster chain of command.

***C.R.S. 24-32-2109. Local Disaster Emergencies.***

1. A local disaster may be declared only by the principle executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the county clerk and recorder, city clerk, or other authorized record-keeping agency and with the division.
2. The effect of a declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.
3. No inter-jurisdictional disaster agency or official thereof may declare a local disaster emergency unless expressly authorized by the agreement pursuant to which the agency functions. An inter-jurisdictional disaster agency shall provide aid and services in accordance with the agreement pursuant to which it functions.

## ***Roles and Responsibilities***

Police, fire, public health and medical, emergency management, public works, hazardous materials response, and other personnel are often the first to arrive and the last to leave an incident site. When local resources and capabilities are overwhelmed, local Chief Executive Officer may request assistance from additional municipalities, counties, the State of Colorado and the Federal Government.

### Local Chief Executive Officer

A Mayor or Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, as a jurisdiction's Chief Executive, is responsible for the public safety and welfare of the people of that jurisdiction. Responsibilities of the Local Chief Executive Officer include:

- Responsibility for coordinating local resources to address the full spectrum of actions to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recovery from incidents involving all hazards including natural disasters, accidents, terrorism, and other contingencies.
- Dependent upon State and Local law, the CEO has extraordinary powers to suspend local laws and ordinances, such as to establish a curfew, direct evacuations, and, in accordance with the local health authority, to order quarantine.
- Provides leadership and plays key role in communicating to the public, and in helping people, businesses, and organizations cope with the consequences of any type of domestic incident within the jurisdiction.
- Negotiates and enters into mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions to facilitate resource sharing.
- Requests State and, if necessary, Federal assistance through the Governor of the State of Colorado when the jurisdiction's capabilities have been exceeded or exhausted.

## ***Plan Maintenance***

MCEOP revision and subsequent revisions, supersedes all previous editions and is effective immediately for planning, training and exercising, and preparedness and response operations.

This Plan, its annexes and appendixes, shall be maintained and kept current by all parties on the following schedule:

1. Review and update the Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan,

annexes, and appendixes every three (3) years

All changes, revisions, and/or updates to the Plan its annexes and appendixes shall be forwarded to Mesa County Emergency Management for review, publication and distribution to all holders of the Plan following the efforts of the lead agency to coordinate with its supporting agencies. If no changes, revisions, and/or up-dates are required, MCEM shall be notified in writing by the agency lead that respective plans, annexes, appendices, etc., have been reviewed and are considered valid and current.

### Emergency Support Functions

The Mesa County EOP applies a functional approach that groups the capabilities of local departments and agencies into ESF's (Emergency Support Functions) to provide the planning, support, resources, program implementation, and emergency services that are most likely to be needed during incidents or disasters. The response to actual or potential incidents is typically provided through a full or partial activation of the ESF structure as necessary.

Each ESF is composed of primary and support agencies. The Mesa County EOP identifies primary agencies on the basis of authorities, resources, and capabilities. Support agencies are assigned based on resources and capabilities in a given functional area. The resources provided by the ESF's reflect the resource kind and type categories identified in NIMS. The scope of each ESF is summarized in each ESF section. ESF's are expected to support one another in carrying out their respective roles and responsibilities.

### Nongovernmental and Volunteer Organizations

Nongovernmental organizations (NGO) collaborate with first responders, governments at all levels, and other agencies and organizations providing relief services to sustain life, reduce physical and emotional distress, and promote recovery of disaster victims when assistance is not available from other sources. Community-based organizations (CBO) receive government funding to provide essential public health services.

The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) is a consortium of more than 30 recognized national organizations of volunteers active in disaster relief. Such entities provide significant capabilities to incident management and response efforts at all levels. Local agencies will play a significant role in the coordination of volunteers for disaster relief.

## ***Emergency Support Functions and Scope***

ESF #1—Transportation	Civil transportation support Restoration/recovery of transportation infrastructure Movement restrictions Damage and impact assessment
ESF #2—Communications	Coordination with telecommunications industry Restoration/repair of telecommunications infrastructure Protection and restoration of information resources Warnings—Notifications
ESF #3—Public Works & Engineering	Infrastructure protection and emergency repair Infrastructure restoration Engineering services, construction management Critical infrastructure liaison
ESF #4—Firefighting	Firefighting Activities Resource Support
ESF #5—Emergency Management	Coordination of incident management efforts Management of Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
ESF #6—Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services	Mass Care Disaster Housing Human Services Sheltering
ESF #7—Resource Support	Resource support (facility space, office equipment, supplies, contracting services, etc.) Financial Management
ESF #8—Public Health & Medical	Public Health Medical (EMS & Hospital) Mental Health Mass Fatality and Mortuary Services
ESF #9—Search and Rescue	Life-saving Assistance
ESF #10—Oil & Hazardous Materials Response	Hazardous Materials Response (CBRNE) Environmental safety and short and long term cleanup
ESF #11—Agriculture	Nutrition Assistance Animal and plant disease/pest response Food safety and security
ESF #12—Energy and Public Utilities	Energy infrastructure assessment, repair and restoration Energy Industry utilities coordination
ESF #13—Public Safety and Security	Facility and resource security Security planning, technical and resource assistance Public safety/security support Support to access, traffic, and crowd control

ESF #14—Long Term Community  
Recovery and Mitigation

Social and economic community impact assessment  
Long term community recovery assistance to local  
governments and the private sector  
Mitigation analysis and program implementation

ESF #15—External Affairs

Emergency public information and protective action  
guidance  
Media and community relations  
Support to on scene incident management  
Management of Joint Information Center (JIC)

### Private Sector

Mesa County and primary and support agencies coordinate with the private sector to effectively share information, form courses of action, and incorporate available resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents or disasters.

Roles: The roles, responsibilities, and participation of the private sector during incidents or disasters vary based on the nature of the organization and the type and impact of the incident. The roles of private sector organizations are summarized below.

### Impacted Organization or Infrastructure

Private sector organizations may be affected by direct or indirect consequences of the incident, including privately owned critical infrastructure, key resources, and those main private-sector organizations that are significant to local, regional, and national economic recovery from the incident. Examples of privately owned infrastructure include, transportation, telecommunications, private utilities, financial institutions, and hospitals.

### Response Resource

Private-sector organizations provide response resources (donated or compensated) during an incident-including specialized teams, equipment, and advanced technologies through local public-private emergency plans, mutual aid agreements, or incident specific requests from government and private sector volunteered initiatives.

### Regulated and/or Responsible Party

Owners/operators of certain regulated facilities or hazardous operations may bear responsibilities under the law for preparing for and preventing incidents from occurring, and responding to an incident once it occurs. For example, Federal regulations require owners/operators of Tier II reporting facilities to maintain

emergency (incident) preparedness plans, procedures, and to perform assessments, prompt notifications, and training for a response to an incident.

### Local Emergency Organization Member

Private sector organizations may serve as an active partner in local emergency preparedness and response organizations and activities.

### ***Responsibilities***

Private Sector organizations support the Mesa County EOP (voluntarily or to comply with applicable laws and regulations) by sharing information with the government, identifying risks, performing vulnerability assessments, developing emergency response and business continuity plans, enhancing their overall readiness, implementing appropriate prevention and protection programs, and donating or otherwise providing goods and services through contractual arrangement or government purchases to assist in response to and recovery from an incident.

Certain organizations are required by existing law and regulation to bear the cost of planning response to incidents, regardless of cause. In the case of the an incident or disaster, these private sector organizations are expected to mobilize and employ the resources necessary and available in accordance with their plans to address the consequences of incidents at their own facilities or incidents for which they are otherwise responsible.

Unless the response is inherently governmental (e.g., law enforcement, etc.), private sector organizations are encouraged to develop and maintain capabilities to respond to and manage a complete spectrum of incidents and emergencies. Local government should maintain ongoing interaction with the critical infrastructure and key resource industries to provide coordination for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. When practical, or when required under Federal law, private sector representatives should be included in planning and exercises. The government may, in some cases direct private sector response resources when they have contractual relationships, using government funds.

The primary agency(ies) for each ESF maintains working relations with its associated private sector counterparts through partnership committees or other means. (e.g. , ESF #10, Hazardous Materials Response—Hazardous Materials Industries).

### ***Citizen Involvement***

Strong partnerships with citizens groups and organizations provide support for incident management prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The U.S. Citizen Corps brings these groups together and focuses

efforts of individuals through education, training, and volunteer service to help make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to address the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

Local Citizen Corps Councils implement Citizen Corps programs, which include Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS), Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the affiliate programs. These programs provide opportunities for special skills and interests; develop targeted outreach for special needs groups, and organize special projects and community events.

Citizen Corps Affiliate programs expand the resources and materials available to local communities through partnerships with programs and organizations that offer resources for public education, outreach, and training; represent volunteers interested in helping to make their communities safer or offer volunteer service opportunities to support first responders, disaster relief activities, and community safety efforts.

### ***Concept of Operations***

This section describes the local coordinating structures, processes, and protocols employed to manage incidents or disasters in Mesa County. These coordinating structures and processes are designed to enable execution of the responsibilities of each responsible jurisdiction and to integrate local, NGO, and private-sector efforts into a comprehensive approach to domestic incident management.

A basic premise of the Mesa County EOP is that incidents are generally handled at the lowest jurisdictional level possible. Police, fire, public health and medical, and other personnel are responsible for incident management and coordination at the local level. In the vast majority of incidents, local resources and regional mutual aid resources provide the first line of emergency response and incident management support.

When an incident or potential incident is of such severity, magnitude, and/or complexity that it is considered a disaster, the Chief Elected Official of the impacted jurisdiction may request a disaster declaration to initiate the support at the State. In the context of the Stafford Act disasters or emergencies, the Department of Homeland Security coordinates supplemental Federal assistance when the consequences of the incident exceed local and State capabilities.

During actual or potential incidents or disasters, the overall coordination of local incident management activities is executed by the agency(ies) with jurisdictional authority under NIMS. As the incident expands or additional resources are needed, the County Emergency Management Director may activate the Mesa County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and utilize a multi-agency

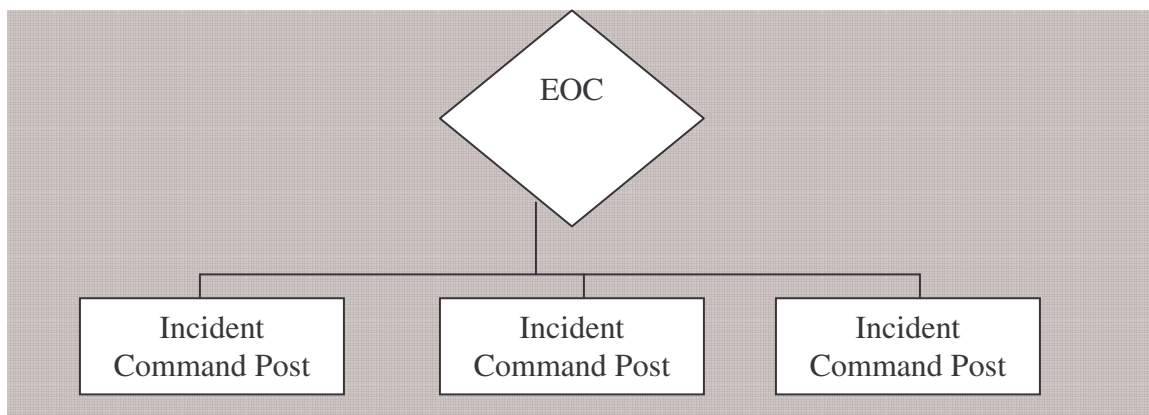
coordination structure to coordinate efforts and provide appropriate support to the incident command structure.

Strategic level interagency incident management coordination and course of action development are facilitated by the Mesa County Multi-agency Coordination Group and the ESF's located at the EOC. Public information will be managed by ESF #15 and the Mesa County PIO Group operating in a Joint Information Center.

The framework created by these coordinating structures is designed to accommodate the various roles local government plays during an incident, whether it is support to local agencies, or direct implementation of the Mesa County incident management authorities and responsibilities under State and Federal law.

### Organizational Structure

The structure for incident management establishes a clear progression of coordination and communication from the local level to the State level.



As illustrated above, the local incident command structures (namely the ICP(s) and Area Command) are responsible for directing on-scene incident management and maintaining command and control of on-scene incident operations.

### ***Mesa County EOC***

The support and coordination components consist of an emergency operations center (EOC) and multi-agency coordination entities. The EOC provides a central location for operational information sharing and resource coordination in support of on-scene efforts.

### Mesa County Multi-Agency Coordination Group (Mesa County MACG)

The Mesa County MACG aids in establishing priorities among the incidents and associated resource allocations, resolving agency policy conflicts, and providing

strategic guidance to support incident management activities. This group is made of department/agency heads with authority to make decisions and commit resources.

#### Mesa County Joint Information Center (JIC)

The Mesa County JIC serves as a focal point for the coordination and dissemination of information to the public and media concerning incident prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The JIC staff develops, coordinates, and disseminates unified news releases. News releases are cleared through the MACG to ensure consistent messages, avoid release of conflicting information, and prevent negative impact on operations. This formal approval process ensures protection of law enforcement sensitive information. Agencies may issue their own news releases related to their policies, procedures, and capabilities, however, these should be coordinated with the JIC.

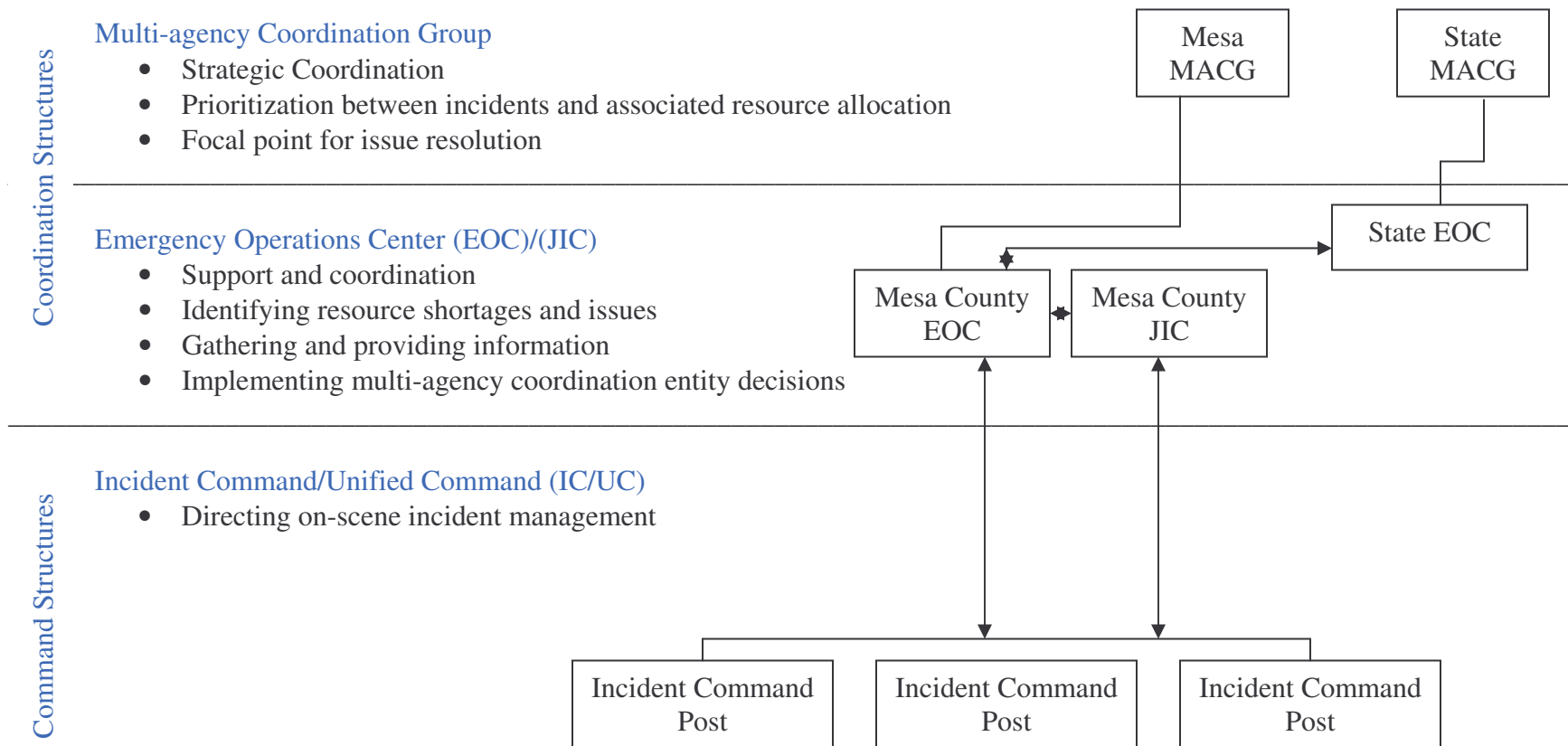
In accordance with NIMS processes, resource and policy issues are addressed at the lowest organizational level practicable. If the issues cannot be resolved at that level, they are forwarded up to the next level for resolution.

The organizational structure above addresses both site specific incident management activities and the broader issues related to the incident, such as impacts to the rest of the County, immediate County or regional actions required to avert or prepare for potential subsequent events, and the management of multiple threats or incidents (specifically those that are non-site specific, geographically dispersed, or evolve over a long period of time).

## NIMS Framework

The structure for Mesa County EOP coordination is based on the NIMS construct:

ICS/Unified Command on-scene supported by an Area Command (if needed), Emergency Operations Center and Multi-agency Coordination Groups.



## Other Incident Facilities

### Incident Command Post

The tactical level, on-scene incident command and management organization is located at the Incident Command Post (ICP). It is typically comprised of designated incident management officials and responders from local agencies, as well as private sector and non-governmental organizations. When multiple command authorities are involved, the ICP may be led by a Unified Command, comprised of officials who have jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility for the incident under an appropriate law, ordinance, or agreement. The Unified Command provides direct, on-scene control of tactical operations and utilizes the NIMS ICS organizational structure, typically including Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration sections.

The ICP is usually located at or in the immediate vicinity of the incident site. The location is selected by the agency having primary jurisdictional authority for managing the incident at this level. Generally, there is one ICP established for each incident. Depending on the number and location of incidents, there may be multiple ICP's managed by an Area Command.

### ***ESF Coordinator***

The ESF Coordinator is the primary agency representative who has ongoing responsibilities throughout the prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation phases of incident management. The role of the ESF Coordinator is carried out through a "multi-agency coordination approach as agreed upon collectively by the designated primary agencies. Responsibilities of the ESF Coordinator include:

- Pre-Incident planning and coordination
- Maintaining ongoing contact with ESF primary and support agencies
- Conducting periodic ESF meetings and conference calls
- Coordinating efforts with corresponding private sector organizations
- Coordinating ESF activities relating to catastrophic incident planning and critical infrastructure preparedness as appropriate

## Primary Agency

A local department or agency designated as an ESF primary agency serves as a local executive representative to accomplish the ESF mission. When an ESF is activated, the primary agency is responsible for:

- Orchestrating local support within their functional area for an affected jurisdiction
- Provide staff for the operations functions at fixed and field facilities
- Notify and request assistance from support agencies.
- Manage mission assignments and coordinate with support agencies
- Work with appropriate private-sector organizations to maximize use of all available resources
- Support and inform other ESFs of operational priorities and activities
- Execute contracts and procure goods and services as needed
- Ensure financial and property accountability for ESF activities
- Plan for short term and long term incident management and recovery operations
- Maintain trained personnel to support interagency emergency response and support teams

## Support Agencies

When an ESF is activated in response to an incident, support agencies are responsible for:

- Conducting operations, when requested by the primary ESF agency, using their own authorities, subject matter experts, capabilities, or resources
- Participating in planning for short term and long term incident management and recovery operations and the development of supporting operational plans, SOPs, checklists, or other job aids, in concert with existing first responder standards.

- Assist in the completion of situation assessments
- Furnish available personnel, equipment, or other resource support as requested by the primary ESF agency
- Participate in training and exercises aimed at continuous improvement of prevention, response, and recovery capabilities
- Identify new equipment or capabilities required to prevent or respond to new or emerging threats and hazards, or to improve the ability to address existing threats.
- Provide information or intelligence regarding the agency's area of expertise

## Emergency Support Function Matrix

Emergency Support Functions (ESF)															
Dept./Agency	#1 Transportation	#2 Communications	#3 Public Works & Engineering	#4 Firefighting	#5 Emergency Management	#6 Mass Care, Housing, Human	#7 Resource Support	#8 Public Health and Medical	#9 Search and Rescue	#10 Oil Hazardous	#11 Agriculture	#12 Energy and Public Utilities	#13 Public Safety &	#14 Community Recovery &	#15 External Affairs
BOCC	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S
County Administration	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Assessor	S				S									S	
County Attorney					S	S		S						S	
Emergency Management	S	S	S	S	P	S	P	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Sheriff	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S	S	S	P	S	S
D.E.R.A.	S		S	S	S		S	S	S	P	S		S	S	
Fire Districts/Depts.	S	S	S	P	S		S	S	S	S			S	S	S
Public Health					S	S	S	P	S	S	S		S	S	S
Coroner					S	S	S	S	S				S	S	
Public Relations	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P
Information Technology	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Finance Dept.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Human Services Dept.					S	P	S	S						S	
Facilities Dept.	S		S		S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S	
Fleet Services	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S				S	S	
RTPO Dept.	S		S		S	S	S	S						S	
Public Works	P		P	S	S		S	S	S	S		P	S	S	
School Districts	S					S	S							S	S
Tri-River Extension											P			S	
Fairgrounds					S	S	S							S	
Private Business Sector	S				S	S	S				S	S	S	S	
Public Utilities							S					S		S	
State and Federal Agencies			S	S			S		S			S	S	S	
Hospitals						S		S							
GJ Regional Communications Ctr	S	P	S	S	S				S	S			S		
Mesa County Landfill	S		S								S				
Animal Services						S					S				
PIO Group		S		S									S		P
ARES/RACES		S		S									S		

P=Primary ESF Department/Agency

S=ESF Support Department/Agency

Note: Refer to the ESF Annexes for details on responsibilities of these departments and agencies.

## **Emergency Support Function #1—Transportation Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Public Works

Supporting Agencies: Mesa County Fleet Services  
RTPO  
School District 51  
First Student Transportation  
Law Enforcement Agencies

### **Purpose**

ESF #1 supports the departments/agencies requiring transportation needs for an actual or potential incident or disaster.

### **Scope**

ESF #1 is designed to provide for coordination, control, and allocation of transportation assets in Mesa County in support of the movement of emergency resources including the evacuation of people, and the redistribution of food and fuel supplies.

ESF #1 is responsible for damage and impact assessment, transportation restrictions, and restoration and recovery of the transportation infrastructure.

### **Policies**

Local transportation planning employs the most effective means of transporting resources, including commercial transportation capacity, and capacity owned or operated by local agencies.

Local transportation planning recognizes policies and plans used to control the movement of relief personnel, equipment, and supplies, as well as determining precedence of movement.

Movements of local personnel, equipment, and supplies are managed through prioritizing shipments. To facilitate the prompt deployment of resources, priorities for various incidents are developed and maintained through an interagency process led by the Mesa County Public Works Department prior to an incident to facilitate the prompt deployment of resources. Each ESF is responsible for compiling, submitting, and updating information for inclusion in the ESF #1 prioritized shipments.

Local departments and agencies are encouraged to use ESF #1 services. To ensure the orderly flow of resources, departments and agencies should advise ESF #1 or the EOC of all transportation movements arranged independently from ESF #1 activity.

ESF#1 is responsible for providing a structure for managing and coordinating the complex operations of the transportation system. This includes the deployment of resources into and out of the incident area and the coordination of transportation recovery, restoration, and safety/security. ESF #1 also provides a means of facilitating or restricting the movement of personnel and goods as necessary.

The Mesa County Public Works Director or designee provides direction for the ESF #1 mission locally.

Communications shall be established and maintained with ESF #5—Emergency Management to report and receive assessments and status information, and with ESF #7—Resource Support.

All approved requests for local assistance and mission assignments for transportation support are to be submitted to ESF #1 in the Emergency Operations Center for prioritization.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment (incident situation and damage assessment information) and determination of resource needs of the local incident commander(s).

Coordinates incident resource needs and determines and resolves as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues.

Maintains current inventories of transportation service facilities, equipment, and key personnel throughout Mesa County.

Coordinates with appropriate local agencies to facilitate the movement of people and goods to, from, and within the incident area, and participates in decisions regarding issues such as movement restrictions, critical facilities closures, and evacuations.

Coordinates the provision of transportation services in support of local agencies. Coordinates the recovery, restoration, and safety/security of the transportation infrastructure.

Manages the financial aspect of the ESF#1 response.

Works with other local transportation departments and industry partners to assess the damage to the transportation infrastructure and analyze the impact of the incident on transportation operations, reporting promptly as changes occur.

## **Emergency Support Function #2—Communications Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Grand Junction Regional Communications Center

Supporting Agencies: ARES/RACES  
IT/IS Departments  
Mesa County SARC  
National Weather Service

### **Purpose**

ESF #2 is responsible for public notification of an incident or disaster and to provide communications support to local response efforts during an emergency.

### **Scope**

ESF #2 is the central point for warnings and notifications of an incident and/or evacuation orders to the general public and local emergency responders of an incident or disaster.

ESF #2 coordinates actions to provide the required telecommunications (e.g., radio, telephone, and paging systems) and the restoration of the telecommunications infrastructure. ESF #2 supports all local agencies in the procurement and coordination of telecommunications services from the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industry during an incident response.

Communications is information transfer and involves the technology associated with the display, transfer, interpretation, and processing of data among persons, places and machines.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

GJRCC will identify communications requirements, monitor the developing situation/response, document incident information, and provide incident status information to the Mesa County EOC.

ESF #2 monitors the status of situations that have the potential for developing into an incident requiring additional communications resources.

ESF #2 coordinates with communications service providers to facilitate the prioritizing of requirements as necessary when providers are unable to satisfy all communications services requirements, when there are conflicts between

multiple incidents, or when the allocation of available resources cannot be fully accomplished at the incident level.

ESF #2 coordinates with appropriate government and industry representatives in support of MACG requests to meet user requirements for communication assets.

When ESF #2 is activated, the GJRCC may request assistance from other communication centers in the Northwest All Hazard Emergency Management (NWAHEM) Region. Assistance may be deployed to the scene of an incident, to assist in the GJRCC or at the EOC.

ESF #2 will advise the Mesa County EOC when communications problems are expected in the incident area to enable activation of other communications resources.

ESF #2 identifies communications assets available for use within the affected area.

ESF #2 facilitates the implementation of a pre-established incident communications plan (ICS 205) or the development of an incident specific communications plan.

ESF #2 obtains information from ESF #1—Transportation relative to road, rail, and other transportation conditions in the area and whether they can be used to get mobile telecommunications systems into the area.

ESF #2 assesses the availability of back-up communications systems. Any unresolved communications requests should be forwarded to the Mesa County EOC and to the State EOC.

ESF #2 coordinates communications support from State and other local governments, and voluntary relief organizations, (ARES/RACES, SARC, etc.) as necessary.

ESF #2 conducts measurements necessary to identify damaged critical communications infrastructure assets, repair, reconstitute, and secure communications, and coordinate actions to protect these assets from further damage.

### Support Agencies

Support agencies provide personnel to the EOC as requested, to assist ESF operations and provide reports to ESF #2. All departments and agencies, as appropriate, identify staff liaisons or points of contact to provide technical and subject matter expertise, data, advice, and staff support for operations that fall

within the responsibility of each department/agency. Support capabilities of other organizations may be used as required and available.

ARES/RACES provides communications to the State EOC regarding the emergency or disaster area.

ESF #2 develops in cooperation with other agencies, plans and capabilities for the Emergency Preparedness Network (EPN), Emergency Alert System (EAS), and other notification systems.

ESF #2 will maintain a record of all equipment and services provided.

## **Emergency Support Function #3—Public Works and Engineering Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Public Works

Supporting Agencies: Fruita Public Works  
Grand Junction Public Works  
Palisade Public Works  
Collbran Public Works  
DeBeque Public Works

### **Purpose**

ESF #3 is structured to provide public works and engineering-related support for the changing requirements of domestic incident management to include preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation actions.

### **Scope**

Evaluate, maintain and restore public roads, bridges, and drainages. Support private sector access in support of the restoration of critical infrastructure (i.e., electrical, gas, communications, water lines).

ESF #3 actions include conducting pre and post incident assessments of public works and infrastructure.

ESF #3 executing emergency contract support for life-saving and life-sustaining services.

Provide technical assistance to include engineering expertise, construction management, contracting, and real estate services.

Provide emergency repair of damaged infrastructure and critical facilities and other recovery programs.

### **Policies**

Local governments are responsible for their own public works and infrastructures and have the primary responsibility for incident prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

ESF #3 facilitates and coordinates private sector entities to ensure integration into the planning and decision making processes.

ESF #3 facilitates and coordinates agencies providing public works and infrastructure support.

## **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an agency representative will respond to and staff the Mesa County EOC.

Coordinate and support infrastructure risk and vulnerability assessments.

Participate in pre-incident activities, such as pre-positioning assessment teams and contractors.

Participate in post incident assessments of public works and infrastructure to help determine critical needs and potential workloads.

Execution of emergency contracting support for life saving and life sustaining services, to include providing potable water, ice, emergency power, and other emergency commodities and services.

Provide assistance in the monitoring and stabilization of damaged structures and the demolition of structures designated as immediate hazards to public health and safety. Also, providing structural specialist expertise to support inspection of mass care facilities and urban search and rescue operations.

Provide emergency repair of damaged infrastructure and critical public facilities (temporary power, emergency water, sanitation systems, etc.). Support the restoration of critical flood control and other water infrastructure systems. Where appropriate, activities to restore infrastructure.

Responsible for providing technical assistance, engineering, and construction management resources, contracting, inspection of private/commercial structures, and real estate services during response and recovery activities.

Responsible for recovery resources and support assistance for debris removal and disposal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged public facilities and the facilities of certain qualified private non-profit organizations.

Manage, monitor, and or provide technical advice in the clearance, removal, and disposal of contaminated and uncontaminated debris from public property and the re-establishment of ground and water routes into impacted areas. The scope of actions related to contaminated debris may include waste sampling, classification, packaging, transportation, treatment, demolition, and disposal of contaminated debris and soil. The management of contaminated debris is coordinated with ESF #10—Hazardous Materials Response.

Priorities are determined jointly with other local agencies.

Support agency representatives collocate with ESF #3 field personnel to coordinate support with their agencies as necessary.

## **Emergency Support Function #4—Firefighting Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Local Fire Department

Supporting Agencies: Lower Valley FPD  
City of Grand Junction FD  
Glade Park VFD  
Lands End FPD  
Gateway-UnawEEP FPD  
Central Orchard Mesa FPD  
East Orchard Mesa FPD  
Clifton FPD  
Palisade FPD  
Plateau Valley FPD  
DeBeque FPD  
Mesa County Sheriff Wildland Fire Team

### **Purpose**

Manage and coordinate firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on state and local lands and provide personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of agencies involved in urban and wildland firefighting operations.

### **Scope**

The management of a large firefighting operation is complex, often involving many different agencies and local jurisdictions. Fires resulting from or independent of, but coincident with, a catastrophic event will place extraordinary demands on available resources and logistics support systems.

ESF #4 supports structural and wildfire operations through close coordination with other local, state, and federal agencies. ESF #4 coordinates firefighting support to disaster response and recovery operations that may not be directly fire related.

### **Policies**

The Colorado Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan specifies procedures for the mobilization and coordination of fire and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency requiring additional resources. ESF #4 will use the Mobilization Plan to obtain additional resources as needed. Cities, Towns, Counties, Fire Protection Districts, and other fire protection organizations are responsible for requesting state support through the appropriate county emergency management agency when an incident exceeds local capabilities.

Ordering and tracking of resources is accomplished through activation of the State Emergency Operations Center's Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) dispatch function.

Coordination with local and State fire suppression organizations is accomplished under the ICS system.

### **Initial Actions**

Establish firefighting and support organizations, processes, and procedures outlined in the incident command system.

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment (incident situation and damage assessment information) and determination of resource needs of the local incident commander(s).

Coordinates incident resource needs and determines and resolves as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues.

Maintains current inventories of fire service facilities, equipment, and key personnel throughout Mesa County.

Implements the Colorado Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan.

Assumes responsibility for coordinating and tracking fire resources committed to an incident.

Plans for and establishes relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.

Obtains and submits situation and damage assessment reports and provides information to the Mesa County EOC.

Maintains appropriate records of costs incurred during an event for all fire resources

Requests supporting agencies document any lost or damaged equipment and personnel or equipment accidents.

## **Emergency Support Function #5—Emergency Management Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Emergency Management Director

Supporting Agencies: County Departments  
Municipalities  
Local Agencies

### **Purpose**

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #5 – Emergency Management is responsible for supporting overall activities of local government for incident management. ESF #5 provides the core management and administrative functions of the County Emergency Operations Center.

### **Scope**

ESF #5 provides the overall coordination function for all incidents regardless of hazard, degree of complexity, or duration, and therefore, is activated at some level for all potential and actual incidents of national significance.

ESF #5 includes those functions critical to support and facilitate multi-agency planning and coordination for operations involving potential and actual emergencies/disasters in the county. This includes alert and notification, deployment and staffing of special teams, Incident Action Planning, situation reporting, coordination of operations, logistics, and material, direction and control, information management, facilitation of requests for state assistance, resource acquisition and management (to include allocation and tracking), personnel management, facilities management, financial management, and other support as required.

### **Policies**

The Mesa County Director of Emergency Management is responsible for establishing the local support infrastructure in the affected municipality or county in anticipation of requirements for prevention, response, and recovery assistance.

Requests for County disaster declarations to enable funding through State and Federal assistance programs are coordinated through the Mesa County Emergency Management Department.

Provides the information link between the County EOC and the State EOC. Serves as the centralized conduit for local situation reports to the State EOC from the various incidents and ESFs.

Coordinates departments and agencies to participate in the incident action planning process.

Establishes required field facilities, supplies, and equipment to support activities related to the management of incidents. These facilities include, but are not limited to the EOC, JIC, Mobilization Centers, Staging Areas, and Disaster Recovery Centers.

Supports the implementation of mutual aid agreements to ensure a seamless resource response to affected jurisdictions.

Responsible for notifying the State EOC of potential threats to enable the elevation of operational response postures or the pre-positioning of assets.

Coordinates with the State EOC on emergency/disaster declaration and requests for State and Federal assistance under the Stafford Act.

### **Initial Actions**

When an incident occurs or has the potential to occur, ESF #5 activates and staffs the Mesa County EOC. Actions include alert, notification, and situation reporting.

Makes initial contact with the affected jurisdictions and reviews capabilities and shortfalls as a means of determining initial response requirements for regional or state support.

Collects emergency/disaster information and monitors potential or developing incidents and support efforts of local and regional field operations.

Provides situation reports and other information as required to the State EOC and local municipalities.

Maintains constant communications with the State EOC and provides periodic updates to coordinate operations.

Activates the ESF's required to handle the threat or incident at hand, issues initial activation mission assignments and establishes reporting and communications protocols with the activated agencies and departments.

Requests from the State EOC and the deployment of special teams including the Colorado National Guard, the National Emergency Response Team, Mobile Emergency Response Support, National Disaster Medical System, Civil Support Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Teams.

Develops schedule for staffing and operating the EOC from activation to deactivation of the EOC.

Provides immediate, short-term, and long-term planning functions in coordination with the other ESF's engaged in the operation and with those who are operating under agency statutory authorities. Coordinates with the State for recovery operations until the operation is suspended and no longer necessary.

## **Emergency Support Function #6—Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Department of Human Services

Supporting Agencies: American Red Cross  
Salvation Army  
Volunteer Organizations

### **Purpose**

ESF #6 promotes the delivery of services and the implementation of programs to assist individuals, households and families impacted by potential or actual disasters. This includes non-medical mass care, housing, and human services needs of individuals and or families impacted by the incident.

ESF #6 provides the coordination of sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution of supplies, and emergency first aid following an emergency or disaster requiring the assistance of local government.

### **Scope**

ESF #6 includes three primary functions: Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services.

Mass care involves the coordination of non-medical mass care services to include sheltering of victims, organizing feeding operations, providing emergency first aid at designated sites, collecting and providing information on victims to family members, and coordinating bulk distribution of emergency relief efforts.

Housing involves the provision of assistance for short-and long-term housing needs of victims.

Human Services include providing victim related recovery efforts such as mental health counseling, identifying support for persons with special needs, and expediting processing of new benefits claims.

Ensures coordination with ESF #11 for animal related services and emergencies.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

Coordinates the overall efforts of volunteer organizations and other spontaneous volunteers.

Responsible for the provision of resources for stress counseling/crisis counseling for disaster victims and disaster relief workers and coordination of the Mesa County Mental Health Coalition.

Responsible for the administration of Individual and Family Grant Programs in Presidential declared disasters in Mesa County.

**Supporting Agencies**

Agency	Functions
Mesa County Mental Health Coalition American Red Cross Salvation Army Volunteer Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination of mental health services</li><li>• Provide emergency shelters, temporary housing and other assistance to displaced citizens.</li><li>• Maintenance of current listings and contracts of available shelters.</li><li>• Provision of food, beverages and other assistance to emergency response personnel and emergency relief workers.</li><li>• Management of donated goods, including cash, food, cleaning supplies, blankets, building materials, tools, toiletries and personal items.</li><li>• Provision of damage assessment information upon request.</li></ul>

## **Emergency Support Function #7—Resource Support Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Emergency Management

Supporting Agencies:

### **Purpose**

ESF #7 Resource Support is to support logistical and resource support to local entities involved in emergency response and recovery efforts for an emergency or disaster that impacts local jurisdictions. This consists of emergency relief supplies, facility space, office equipment

### **Scope**

ESF #7 is responsible for providing direct and active support to emergency response and recovery efforts during the initial response phase following a disaster. This support includes locating, procuring, and issuing resources, such as supplies, office space, office equipment, fuel, contracting services, personnel, heavy equipment, generators, and transportation.

Each department/agency is responsible for tracking the use of its own resources.

Inter-department/agency coordination of resource and financial information is needed in order to determine cumulative disaster expenditures and costs.

The Northwest All Hazard Emergency Management Regional Resource Mobilization Guide will only be utilized in response to an emergency or disaster situation that has exceeded the capabilities of available local resources, including those available through existing agreements (e.g., mutual aid)

The Northwest All Hazard Emergency Management Regional Resource Mobilization Guide provides for mobilization when the magnitude of the incident exceeds the capabilities of routinely available mutual aid and requires full mobilizations of county resources.

Mobilization is not a replacement for mutual aid. The provisions within this Guide provide for mobilization when mutual aid resources are inadequate or over-extended.

Mutual aid agreements provide for rapid assistance from neighboring jurisdictions to meet the immediate needs of an emergency situation demanding resources beyond those available from the local jurisdiction.

Resource mobilization may be requested when a non-stabilized incident or simultaneous incidents presenting a clear and present danger to life and

property, and requiring, in addition to local resources and mutual aid, the deployment of additional resources.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon determining that all available local and mutual aid resources have been used, available resources are inadequate to achieve incident stabilization/control and additional resources are required, the local Incident Commander will determine:

- Specific number, type and kind of resources required
- Assignment intended for mobilized resources
- Assembly point and contact for mobilized resources
- Radio frequency assignment for incoming mobilized resources

The local Incident Commander will request approval for mobilization of regional resources from the local authority(ies) having jurisdiction. Convey all of the above information, together with a resource and situation status report, to the local authority.

The Incident Commander is responsible for contacting the Emergency Management Director and providing the following information:

- Agency(ies) mobilized
- Estimated time of arrival
- Current Situation Status
- Current Resource Status

For all incidents obtaining regionally deployed resources, at the close of each operational period, the Incident Commander will provide the Emergency Management Director with a situation report.

The Emergency Management Director when notified of a request for mobilization of regional resources by a local authority, will notify the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center of the request for mobilization.

## **Emergency Support Function #8—Public Health and Medical Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Public Health

Supporting Agencies: Mesa County Fire Districts/Depts.  
St. Mary's Hospital  
Community Hospital  
U.S. Veterans Medical Center  
Family Health West

### **Purpose**

ESF #8 provides the mechanism for coordinated assistance in response to public health and medical care needs (to include veterinary and/or animal health issues when appropriate) for potential and/or actual incidents and/or during a developing potential health and medical situation.

### **Scope**

ESF #8 provides supplemental assistance to the local community in identifying and meeting the public health and medical needs of victims of an emergency or disaster. This support is categorized in the following core functional areas:

- Assessment of public health/medical needs (including behavior health)
- Public health surveillance
- Medical care personnel
- Medical equipment and supplies

### **Policies**

ESF #8 coordinates all response actions consistent with the Mesa County Health Department Emergency Operations Plan.

To ensure patient confidentiality, the release of medical information by ESF #8 is in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

In the event of a zoonotic disease outbreak, or in coordination with ESF #11—Agriculture and Natural Resources during an animal disease outbreak, public information may be released after consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

Emergency medical services, hospitals, public health agencies and mortuary services will provide layered levels of response activities to handle day to day occurrences that require their expertise. Once an agency knows that the circumstances are beyond their capability of what their agency can provide, or that additional regional resources or expertise are required, the agency will contact the Mesa County Public Health Department Director.

Upon notification of a potential or actual incident, ESF #8 will consult with the appropriate organizations to determine the need for assistance according to the functional areas listed below:

1. **Assessment of Public Health/Medical needs:** This function includes the assessment of public health care system/facility infrastructure.
2. **Health Surveillance:** In coordination with local and state health agencies, ESF #8 will enhance existing surveillance systems to monitor the health of general population and special high risk populations, carry out field studies and investigations, monitor injury and disease patterns and potential disease outbreaks, and provide technical assistance and consultation on disease and injury prevention and precautions.
3. **Medical Care Personnel:** In coordination with local agencies, ESF #8 will conduct an assessment of medical care personnel availability and needs. ESF #8 may request local support from the Medical Reserve Corp and may seek individual clinical health and medical care specialists from local agencies.
4. **Health/Medical Equipment and Supplies:** In addition to deploying assets, ESF #8 will be responsible for requesting the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), medical equipment and supplies, including medical diagnostic, radiation-emitting devices, pharmaceuticals, and biological products in support of immediate medical response operations and.
5. **Patient Evacuation:** ESF #8 should ensure coordination with ESF #1—Transportation, to provide support for the evacuation of seriously ill or injured patients to locations where hospital care or outpatient services are available.
6. **Patient Care:** ESF #8 may task its components and the Medical Reserve Corp to provide available personnel to support inpatient hospital care and outpatient services to victims who become seriously ill or injured regardless of the location (which may include mass shelters).

7. **Food Safety and Security:** ESF #8 in cooperation with ESF #11, may task its components to ensure the safety and security of federally regulated food.
8. **Agriculture Safety and Security:** ESF #8 and ESF #11 may task its components to ensure the safety and security of food producing animals, animal feed, and therapeutics.
9. **Worker Health and Safety:** ESF #8 may request support from the Department of Labor (DOL) and other cooperating agencies, as needed, to assist in monitoring the health and well being of emergency workers; performing field investigations and studies addressing worker health and safety issues; and providing technical assistance and consultation on worker health and safety measures and precautions.
10. **All Hazard Public Health and Medical Consultation, Technical Assistance, and Support:** ESF #8 may task its components to assist in assessing public health and medical effects resulting from all hazards. Such tasks may include assessing exposures on the general population and on high risk population groups; conducting field investigations, including collection and analysis of relevant samples; providing advice on protective actions related to direct human and animal exposures, and on direct exposure through contaminated food, drugs, water supply, and other media; and providing technical assistance and consultation on medical treatment, screening, and decontamination of injured or contaminated individuals.
11. **Public Health and Medical Information:** ESF #8 may task its components to provide public health, disease, and injury prevention information that can be transmitted to members of the general public who are located in or near areas affected. If a JIC is activated ESF #8 should ensure coordination with the JIC on release of information.
12. **Vector Control:** ESF #8 may request assistance from other ESF #8 organizations, as appropriate, to assist in assessing the threat of vector-borne diseases; conducting field investigations, including the collection and laboratory analysis of relevant samples; providing technical assistance and consultation on protective actions regarding vector-borne diseases; and providing technical assistance and consultation on medical treatment of victims of vector-borne diseases.
13. **Potable Water/Wastewater and Solid Waste Disposal:** ESF #8 in coordination with ESF #3—Public Works and Engineering and ESF #10—Oil and Hazardous Materials Response as appropriate, may request assistance from other organizations as appropriate, to assist in assessing potable water, wastewater, solid waste disposal issues, and other

environmental health issues; conducting field investigations, including collection and laboratory analysis of relevant samples; providing water purification and wastewater/solid waste disposal equipment and supplies; and providing technical assistance and consultation on potable water and wastewater/solid waste disposal issues.

**14. Victim Identification and Mortuary Services:** ESF #8 may be requested to assist the Mesa County Coroner in providing victim identification and mortuary services and establishing temporary morgue facilities.

**15. Protection of Animal Health:** ESF #8 in coordination with ESF #11, protects the health of livestock and companion animals by ensuring the safety of the manufacture and distribution of foods and drugs given to animals used for human food production, as well as companion animals.

## **Supporting Agencies**

### American Red Cross

- Provides emergency first aid, consisting of basic first aid and referral to appropriate medical personnel and facilities, supportive counseling, and health care for minor illnesses and injuries to incident victims in mass care shelters.
- Assists community health personnel subject to staff availability.
- Provides supportive counseling for the family members of the dead, injured, and others affected by the incident in coordination with the Mesa County Mental Health Coalition.
- Provides available personnel to assist in temporary infirmaries, immunization clinics, morgues, hospitals, and nursing homes. Assistance consists of administrative support, logistical support, or health services support within clearly defined boundaries.
- Inform families of available health resources and services, and make appropriate referrals.
- Provides coordination for uploading appropriate casualty/patient information from ESF #8 into the Disaster Welfare Information System.
- In coordination with Mesa County Animal Services, refer all concerns regarding animal health care, safety, or welfare to American Veterinary Medical Association contact(s) in the disaster area, as appropriate. These contact people are veterinarians affiliated with national, state, or local veterinary associations.

### Mesa County Medical Reserve Corp

## **Emergency Support Function #8(a)—Mental Health**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Human Services Department

Supporting Agencies: American Red Cross  
Colorado West Regional Mental Health  
Mesa County Health Department  
Mesa County School District 51  
Private Practitioners in Mesa County  
Salvation Army

### **Purpose**

ESF #8(a) provides for an efficient, coordinated, effective response to the mental health needs of those affected by a disaster in Mesa County. This includes addressing needs of victims, families, rescue personnel, and others in the community to assist them in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

### **Scope**

ESF #8(a) provides supplemental assistance to the local community in identifying and meeting the mental health needs of victims of an emergency or disaster.

ESF #8(a) acknowledges that an emergency, disaster or terrorist event would raise the stress level in victims and responders, affecting their mental and emotional well being and decreasing their ability to cope with daily life on an ongoing basis.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

ESF #8(a) will coordinate and track all mental health resources.

ESF #8(a) will provide general information regarding mental health to the JIC in coordination with ESF #15—External Affairs.

ESF #8(a) will maintain the Mental Health Coalition response plan and provide ongoing training on a regular basis as well as maintain a database of responders.

## **Emergency Support Function #9—Search and Rescue Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Supporting Agencies: Mesa County S.A.R.C.  
Civil Air Patrol

### **Purpose**

ESF #9 integrates the Search and Rescue system around a core of task forces prepared to deploy immediately and initiate operations in support of ESF #9. These task forces are staffed primarily by local volunteers who are highly trained and experienced in search and rescue operations and possess specialized expertise and equipment.

### **Scope**

ESF #9 responsibility is granted by statute to the Sheriff of each county in Colorado. Search and Rescue activities may include:

- Searches and rescues in the wilderness or urban areas for lost, missing, or endangered persons.
- Surface or underwater searches of lakes, ponds, or rivers.
- Searching for downed or missing aircraft.

The State of Colorado has signed an agreement with the Air Force SAR Coordinator for the Inland Region in support of the National Search and Rescue Plan. This agreement provides County Sheriffs with the ability to contact Air Force air assets directly or via the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) or the Colorado Search and Rescue Board (CSRB).

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

ESF #9 is responsible for coordination of search and rescue missions within their county. All SAR operations will be managed under the Incident Command System.

The Civil Air Patrol is responsible for conducting and coordinating all lost, missing and overdue aircraft searches in cooperation with the County Sheriff in whose jurisdiction such searches may take place.

## **Emergency Support Function #10—Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**

ESF Coordinator: Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA)  
(Grand Junction Fire Department)

Supporting Agencies: Local Fire Departments  
Local Law Enforcement Agencies  
Colorado State Patrol  
Public Works Departments  
Mesa County Public Health Department  
Mesa County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
(LEPC)/Private Industry

### **Purpose**

ESF #10 provides for a coordinated response to actual or potential oil and hazardous materials incidents. ESF #10 includes the appropriate response and recovery actions to prepare for, prevent, minimize, or mitigate a threat to public health, welfare, or the environment caused by actual or potential oil and hazardous materials incidents.

### **Scope**

Hazardous materials addressed under the Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan include chemical, biological, and radiological substances, whether accidentally or intentionally released. These include certain chemical, biological, and radiological substances considered weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

ESF #10 describes the lead coordination roles, the division and specification of responsibilities among various agencies, and the regional and onsite response organizations, personnel, and resources that may be used to support response actions.

### **Policies**

The Grand Junction Fire Department (GJFD), as a Designated Emergency Response Authority (D.E.R.A.), is the primary response authority for incidents on Federal, State, or County highways and local municipal streets. As the D.E.R.A., the GJFD is authorized by statute to provide support to other local governments at the request of another D.E.R.A., or under established mutual aid. (Mesa County Contract MCA 2008-018)

Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 1910.120

Hazardous materials inventory, containment, and emergency planning services under the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (S.A.R.A.) also known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986.

All participating agencies/departments will operate under the principles and features of the Incident Command System.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

Provide technical assistance when requested by local jurisdictions or the incident command authority.

Provide personnel to manage technical/safety requirements during hazardous material/terrorist incidents.

Deploy hazardous materials response teams to provide technician level response to mitigate an actual or potential release of hazardous materials at a transportation or fixed facility incident/accident.

Provide and/or participate in on-scene command and control utilizing unified command principles when necessary.

ESF #10 will ensure that the owner of a hazardous substance and the operator of any vehicle or other conveyance by which a hazardous substance is moved or transported, in the case where a hazardous substance incident occurs during movement or transport, shall be jointly and severally responsible for properly cleaning up, transporting, and disposing of the residue of the hazardous substance incident. "Proper cleanup, transport, and disposal" shall mean actions in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the particular hazardous substance or residue thereof, as the case may be. All such owners and operators shall cooperate with the Emergency Response Authority and shall provide all reasonably available means, personnel and equipment to affect the proper cleanup, transport and disposal of the residue of the hazardous substance incident.

## **Emergency Support Function 11—Agriculture Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Tri-River Cooperative Extension

Supporting Agencies: Mesa County Animal Services  
Local Private Vet Practitioners

### **Purpose**

Animal and plant disease and pest response includes; implementing an integrated local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation.

### **Scope**

ESF #11 ensures coordination with ESF #8—Public Health and Medical Services, that animal/Veterinary/Wildlife issues in natural disasters are supported.

ESF # 11 should ensure coordination with ESF #6 when necessary.

ESF #11 is responsible for the coordination of efforts to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from incidents affecting agriculture.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

## **Emergency Support Function #12—Energy and Public Utilities Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Public Works

Supporting Agencies: Public and Private Utility Companies

### **Purpose**

ESF #12 collects, evaluates, and shares information on energy system damage and estimation on the impact of energy system outages within affected areas.

Responsible for coordinating the restoration and protection of Mesa County’s critical energy systems following a major disaster, emergency, or other significant event requiring response and protection.

Responsible for providing information to the Mesa County EOC on system(s) damage and estimations on the impact of these system outages within affected areas.

### **Scope**

The term “energy” includes producing, refining, transporting, generating, transmitting, conserving, building, distributing, and maintaining energy systems and system components.

ESF #12 provides information concerning the energy restoration process such as projected schedules, percent completion of restoration, geographic information on the restoration, and other information as appropriate.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG. This representative will serve as a liaison with regulated and unregulated utility companies to facilitate critical infrastructure protection and restoration.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s). Information should include affected area, estimated outage time and estimated restoration time.

Responsible for coordinating requests for assistance from local energy officials, suppliers, and deliverers.

Responsible for coordinating and tracking assets and resources that may be used in response to any event involving energy or multi-hazard problems.

## **Emergency Support Function #13—Public Safety and Security Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Supporting Agencies: Grand Junction Police Department  
Palisade Police Department  
Fruita Police Department  
Collbran Marshal  
DeBeque Marshal  
Colorado State Patrol  
Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Colorado National Guard  
Colorado State Parks  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Parks and Forest Services

### **Purpose**

ESF #13 provides a mechanism for coordinating and providing support to local authorities to include non-investigative/non-criminal law enforcement, public safety, and security capabilities and resources during potential or actual incidents/disasters.

### **Initial Actions**

Upon notification, an Agency Representative will respond to the Mesa County EOC as a member of the Mesa County MACG.

Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s)

Responsible for the mobilization, prioritization, and coordination of law enforcement services statewide to respond to any type of emergency requiring additional resources.

ESF #13 will use the Colorado Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan to obtain additional resources outside of Mesa County.

Unless there is a delegation of authority by the Sheriff or Chief of Police, or a Governor's emergency declaration and the Governor chooses to take command of local resources, law enforcement activities remain under the control of the jurisdiction's chief law enforcement official, generally the Chief of Police or the County Sheriff.

ESF #13 will maintain current inventories of law enforcement facilities, equipment, and key personnel throughout the County.

ESF #13 will mobilize, prioritize, and deploy law enforcement teams and resources as needed. ESF #13 will monitor status of all law enforcement operations and provide updates to the Mesa County EOC, including the assessment of law enforcement services for areas affected by the emergency.

ESF #13 will coordinate with ESF #1—Transportation for use of Public Works assets to support law enforcement operations when indicated.

ESF #13 will utilize the Incident Command System and assume responsibility for coordinating and tracking all law enforcement resources committed to an incident. This may include placing personnel at a command post and establishing staging areas with the requesting agency.

Develop lines of succession for personnel with law enforcement responsibilities in accordance with existing department policies.

## **Emergency Support Function #14—Community Recovery and Mitigation Annex**

ESF Coordinator: Mesa County Administration

Supporting Agencies: Mesa County Departments  
Local Municipalities  
Community Organizations

### **Purpose**

ESF #14 is responsible for providing coordinated measures and policies designed to facilitate recovery from the affects of natural and technological disasters, civil disturbances, or acts of terrorism.

ESF #14 is responsible for providing effective utilization of resources to support local efforts to aid long-term community recovery, stabilize local economies, and reduce or eliminate risks from future incidents.

ESF #14 is responsible for providing a government conduit and administrative means for appropriate federal, military, state, voluntary and private sector organizations to assist local governments during the recovery and mitigation process.

### **Scope**

Based on an assessment of incident impacts, ESF #14 may vary depending on the magnitude and type of incident and the potential for long-term and severe consequences.

ESF #14 will most likely be activated for large-scale or catastrophic incidents that require State and Federal assistance to address significant long-term impacts in the affected areas (e.g., impacts on housing, businesses, employment, community infrastructure, and social services.)

Local officials have authority under their local ordinances, resolutions, and the Colorado Revised Statutes to take responsible and appropriate actions in the direction and control of disaster recovery activities. The primacy of affected local governments in defining and addressing risk reduction and long term recovery priorities is recognized. If an effective recovery is beyond a local jurisdiction's capability, State assistance may be required. The Governor may then declare a "State of Emergency" and the provisions of the State Emergency Operations Plan will be implemented.

If the situation is beyond local and State capability, the Governor may ask for Federal assistance by requesting a Presidential Declaration of an "emergency" or

"major disaster". A Presidential Declaration authorizes federal assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288, as amended). The declaration triggers the implementation of Federal disaster assistance programs, which are coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Emergency Management (DEM). Response and recovery operations in both State and Federally declared disasters will be conducted in accordance with the standards set forth by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Plan (NRP).

Long term recovery and mitigation efforts will be based on a variety of factors and priorities, including public safety, economic development, environmental protection, and preservation of social cultural and historical resources.

### **Initial Actions**

Initial and short term recovery activities focus on the safety and welfare of the affected community and restoration of essential services to include:

- Coordinate and conduct initial damage assessment efforts to help guide local decision making and priority setting and to determine the need for supplemental state and federal assistance.
- Coordinate the restoration of essential public services and facilities (e.g., removal of debris from emergency routes, emergency repairs to hospitals, and public safety facilities).
- Complete steps for formally requesting State and Federal disaster assistance when damage assessment results indicate that impacts exceed local capabilities.
- Coordinate the delivery of State and Federal disaster assistance programs (e.g., Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation) in Presidential declared disasters.
- Coordinate relief efforts with voluntary organizations.
- Coordinate the provision of temporary housing for victims of a disaster event.
- Manage unsolicited, undesignated donations of goods and services.
- Coordinate spontaneous volunteers.
- Coordinate disaster related information and instructions to the general public.

- Identify post disaster hazard mitigation activities to reduce future risks.

Long term recovery efforts focus on redeveloping communities and restoring the economic viability of disaster areas, including;

- Coordinate and integrate the resources and assistance programs of voluntary agencies and other community based organizations.
- Restore and make permanent repairs to public infrastructure damaged in the disaster.
- Re-establish an adequate supply of housing, including affordable housing, to replace housing stock destroyed by the disaster.
- Restore the economic base of disaster impacted communities, including lost jobs and employment opportunities.
- Identify hazard mitigation opportunities and implementing long term hazard mitigation plans, projects and measures.

## **Emergency Support Function #15—External Affairs Annex**

ESF Coordinator:           Lead Information Officer(s)

Supporting Agencies:      Mesa County Communications Officers Association  
(MCCOA)

### **Purpose**

The purpose of public information is to establish uniform policies for the effective development, coordination, and dissemination of information to the public in the event of a disaster. These policies and procedures are located in the Mesa County Joint Information Center/Joint Information System (JIC/JIS) Plan.

ESF #15 coordinates local actions to provide the required external affairs support to local incident management elements.

ESF #15 details the establishment of support positions to coordinate communications to various audiences. The Mesa County (JIC) is a physical location where public affairs professionals from organizations involved in incident management activities can work together to provide critical emergency information, crisis communications, and public affairs support.

The Mesa County JIC serves as a focal point for the coordination and dissemination of information to the public and media concerning incident prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The Mesa County JIC structure is designed to work equally well for large or small situations and can expand or contract to meet the needs of the incident. The Mesa County Communications Officer's Association will be responsible for staffing and managing the JIC.

### **Scope**

ESF #15 applies to all local departments and agencies that may require public affairs support or whose public affairs assets may be employed during a disaster.

ESF #15 is required during any response or other event where significant interagency coordination is required and when the Mesa County EOC has been activated.

ESF #15 provides the resources and structure for the implementation of the Mesa County Emergency Operations Plan. Incident communications actions contained in the EOP are consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Under the Incident Command System (ICS)/Unified Command System (UCS), the JIC is lead by the Information Officer (IO) whose jurisdiction has authority for the incident. The IO has three primary responsibilities:

1. To gather incident data. This involves understanding how an ICS/UCS operates and developing an effective method for obtaining up to date information from appropriate ICS/UCS sections.
2. To analyze public perceptions for each incident of the response. This involves employing techniques for obtaining community feedback to provide response agencies with insight into community information needs, their expectations for the role to be played by the response agencies, and the lessons to be learned from specific response efforts.
3. To inform the public. That is, to serve as the source of accurate and comprehensive information about the incident and the response to a specific set of audiences.

When multiple public or private agencies and organizations come together to respond to an emergency or manage an event, efficient information flow is critical to effectively carrying out these IO responsibilities and meeting the expectations of various publics. The Mesa County JIC is a centralized “communication hub” that serves to achieve that information flow.

Information Officers (PIO’s) will represent their own agency and speak about their agency’s involvement in response and recovery operations in an event. The Colorado Division of Emergency Management PIO will be a central point of contact for the State and should be kept informed about all participating agency news and information releases throughout the response and recovery operations.

### **Initial Actions**

The Mesa County Emergency Management Director or designee will make the initial decision to activate the JIC during a large scale emergency or disaster affecting Mesa County. The JIC will be located in close proximity to the EOC.

Once a JIC has been established, the information officers will follow the Mesa County JIC/JIS Plan.

If activated to support incident information management, a request may come from the Incident Commander, or the Information Officer assigned to the incident. The request is made to the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center (GJRCC) to notify the MCCOA using the group call down list located in the dispatch center.

Upon notification, GJRCC will instruct the Information Officers on where to respond and to whom they should report to upon arrival. Information Officers are required to notify GJRCC of their availability to respond to the request and give their expected time of arrival on scene.

The Lead Information Officer will be the Information Officer whose agency has statutory authority for the incident.

If there are multiple agencies with jurisdictional authority, a unified approach should be utilized when possible.

Mesa County Communications Officers Association (MCCOA) may be activated to support ongoing information requirements of a specific jurisdiction during any incident as needed or may be activated to staff the JIC during any large scale incident.