

Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

2024

## **Promulgation Statement**

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency maintains the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan and present the plan to the Governor of Georgia for adoption once every four years, at a minimum.

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan was developed by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency in close coordination with other state agencies, non-governmental organizations, voluntary organizations active in disasters, and private sector partners. This base plan and supporting components are aligned with the National Incident Management System as well as the National Response Framework and the National Disaster Recovery Framework. In addition, the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency modified the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan, its Emergency Support Function Annexes, Appendices, Hazard Specific Incident Annexes, and supporting guides to incorporate lessons learned from exercises, events, incidents, and continuous training.

10/28/2024

James C. Stallings Date

Director

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

## **Approval and Implementation**

Transmitted herewith is the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP). This GEOP supersedes any previous plan of the same name or previous date and any/all previous emergency management/civil defense plans promulgated by the State of Georgia for this purpose. It provides a framework in which all responding entities and agencies of the State of Georgia can plan and perform their respective emergency functions during a disaster or national emergency. All recommended changes can be submitted in accordance with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy which might result in its improvement or increase its usefulness. The GEOP will be revised in accordance with paragraph 6.1.2 of the GEMA/HS Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy.

## **Executive Summary**

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan describes the necessary steps the State will take to prepare for and respond to an incident that requires the use of personnel, equipment, and funding controlled and/or coordinated by the State of Georgia.

This plan describes the actions taken by the State's agencies that have been assigned Emergency Support Function (ESF) roles and responsibilities within the GEOP.

This plan also identifies the historical hazards experienced in Georgia which includes all natural, human-caused, and technological hazards that can be reasonably presumed to occur within the geographical boundaries of the State of Georgia to effectively coordinate future, emergency response and recovery efforts throughout the state.

This plan is meant to be a guide; it allows the Governor of Georgia and the State of Georgia to adjust its hazard response / recovery based upon the size and scope of the incident. The GEOP is designed to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards, Emergency Management Accreditation Program standards, National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements, and is compliant with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

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## **Record of Change**

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted

## **Record of Distribution**

Plan #	Office/Department	Representative	Signature
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#### 1.0 Introduction

#### 1.1 Purpose

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan is based on the hazards as listed in the Georgia Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Plan (HIRA) which includes all natural, human-caused, and technological hazards which can be reasonably presumed to occur within the geographical boundaries of the State of Georgia.

The GEOP clarifies the actions taken for an effective response and describes the integration of the processes and procedures detailed in the National Response Framework, National Disaster Recovery Framework, as well as serving as a guide for all Local Emergency Operations Plans.

The GEOP supports the five major mission areas set forth in the National Preparedness Goal: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. It supports the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency's (GEMA/HS) mission of protection of life and property against man-made and natural disasters by directing the state's efforts in the areas of prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

#### 1.2 Scope

The GEOP addresses the main natural hazards and threats extracted from the HIRA.

This plan introduces the fundamentals of mitigation and long-term recovery but is not the primary document for these activities. Information regarding the State's Hazard Mitigation Program is located in the Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy - Standard and Enhanced Plan. Information regarding the State's Long Term Recovery initiatives is located in the Georgia Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan. Additional information is available by accessing the GEMA/HS website at <a href="https://gema.georgia.gov/">https://gema.georgia.gov/</a>.

The GEOP references activities occurring in all phases of the emergency management cycle. However, the primary focus of this document remains an operational plan which describes the basic strategies, assumptions, operational goals, and statewide objectives in coordinating and mobilizing resources to support local emergency management response and recovery activities.

## 1.3 Objectives

- 1. Maintain a two-hour response time for each of the following capabilities at all times.
  - a) Opening and staffing of the State Operation Center (SOC) (six hours for Alternate SOC);
  - b) Dispatch of State Emergency Management personnel to scene of emergency to assist with initial response and recovery efforts; and
  - c) As situationally necessary, dispatch of trained personnel in the disciplines of search and rescue, hazardous materials response, explosive ordinance, chemical, biological, and nuclear materials, and incident management teams.

- 2. Achieve 159 annually qualified county-based emergency management programs for 2023-2026.
- 3. The development, implementation, and sustainment of effective state, regional, and local-level homeland security and terrorism prevention capabilities.

## 2.0 Authority

The authority for the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan is based on Official Code of Georgia, Title 38, Section 3, Articles 1 through 3, known as the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, and is compliant with the National Incident Management System and supports the National Response Framework.

O.C.G.A. § 38-3-1, et.seq. establishes legal authority for development and maintenance of Georgia's Emergency Management Program and organization, and defines the emergency powers, authorities, and responsibilities of the Governor and the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. The State's emergency services and disaster laws require State and local governments to develop and maintain current Emergency Operations Plans in preparation for a variety of natural and human caused hazards. Executive Orders by the Governor supplement the laws and establish specific planning initiatives and requirements.

This plan consists of five components, which outlines the State Emergency Management Program.

These components include:

- 1. Base Plan
- 2. Emergency Support Function Annexes
- 3. Support Annexes
- 4. Incident Annexes
- 5. Companion Documents, Plan Appendices & Standard Operating Guides

Each of these components are made up of various, plans, guides and documents which collectively describe how the State plans for, responds to, and recovers from natural and human caused disasters. The five components are published separately but reviewed collectively to ensure seamless integration.

This document is in keeping with decades of planning and coordination between local, state, federal and non-governmental partners operating within and/or for the State of Georgia. It is written for state and local government executives, private sector and non-governmental organization leaders, local emergency managers and any other individuals or organizations expected to work in/or for Georgia performing emergency management functions. This plan is intended to capture and reflect the cooperative spirit of all senior elected and appointed leaders and their organizations to partner in a comprehensive emergency management program to protect the lives and property of all Georgia residents and visitors.

## 3.0 Situation and Assumptions

#### 3.1 Situation Overview

The State of Georgia is 59,425 square miles and comprised of 159 counties. Georgia's population exceeded 11 million people in 2023, with most residents living near the Atlanta metropolitan area. The population continues to increase annually in most areas of the State.

There are two seaports in Georgia, the Port of Savannah and the Port of Brunswick. The Port of Savannah is home to the largest single-terminal container facility of its kind in North America, is the third busiest seaport in the United States. The Port of Savannah exported more loaded containers than any other port in the country in 2020, achieving over a 12% percent market share and has two Class 1 railroad facilities onterminal. Savannah's total container trade expanded 19.9% in Calendar Year 2021 (CY21) from CY20 to reach 5.61 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units = cargo capacity). Fueled by growth in imports (up 42%) and exports (up 36%), the Port of Savannah grew 39% from CY17 through CY21.

The Port of Brunswick is one of the fastest growing auto and heavy machinery ports in North America and is also home to the South Atlantic's fastest growing bulk export / import operation.

The state also manages three interior ports linked to the Gulf of Mexico: Port Bainbridge, Port Columbus, and a facility at Cordele, Georgia linked by rail to the Port of Savannah.

Georgia is the 10th largest exporting state in the nation and outperformed U.S. exports as a whole. Across the state, exports sustain thousands of businesses with nearly 90% of Georgia exporters consisting of small and medium-sized firms. In 2020, companies in Georgia exported products to 215 unique markets. Georgia's exports have grown by 34% since 2010; total trade exceeded \$137 billion in 2019, spanning 221 unique markets. Aerospace products are Georgia's No. 1 export (\$9.19 billion in 2021) and the state's second largest manufacturing industry generating a \$57.5 billion economic impact. The state's top trading partners include China, Mexico, Germany, Korea, and Japan.

Georgia is home to Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), the world's busiest airport by passenger traffic. Over 100 million passengers transit through ATL on an annual basis on over 1,000 flights per day destined to more than 150 domestic and 70 international locations. ATL generates over \$34 billion in annual economic impact and provides more than 63,000 jobs, making it the state's largest single employer.

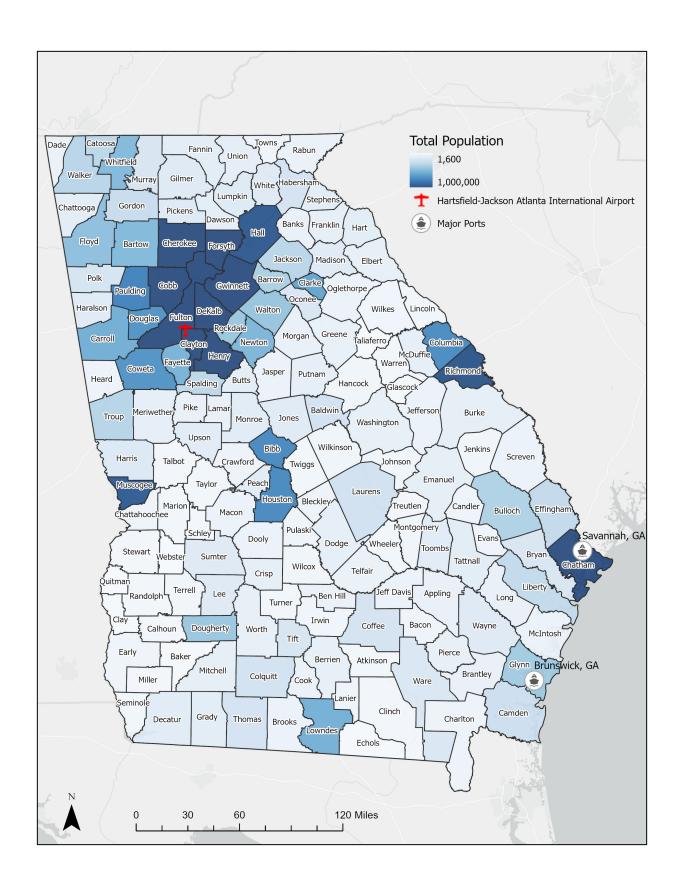
Georgia has 1,247 miles of interstate highways and 17,923 miles of state highways. With approximately 5,000 miles of rail, Georgia has the most extensive rail system and largest intermodal hub in the Southeastern U.S.

With over \$74 billion in economic impact every year, agribusiness is Georgia's leading industry. Food, fiber production, and related industry jobs account for over 399,000 jobs. There are approximately 10 million acres of operating farmland in Georgia, and we are ranked #1 nationally for broilers, hatching eggs, and peanut production.

The film and television industry as productions spent \$4.4 billion in Georgia during fiscal year 2022 and has created more than \$9 billion of additional investment – a new industry record. The Georgia Film Office reported that the State of Georgia hosted 412 productions between July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. With its temperate climate, great variety of locations, the world's busiest airport (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport), large crew base, and pro-business focus, Georgia is now a leading destination in the world for filming.

GEMA/HS' Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) section maintains operational and situational awareness of fixed nuclear facilities (FNFs) within the contiguous boundary of the state as well as FNFs with 10-mile emergency planning zones or 50-mile ingestion pathway zones in adjacent states that could affect Georgia. The REP section consists of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) program and the REP program. The WIPP program handles aspects of transporting trans-uranic waste from Department of Energy facilities. Within the REP program, plans are developed to provide reasonable assurance to the federal government that the State can protect the health and safety of populations around nuclear power plants. Two FNFs are located in Georgia: Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (Baxley, GA) and Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Waynesboro, GA). Four FNFs are located in adjacent states but have a 10-mile or 50-mile planning zone that impact the state of Georgia: Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (Columbia, AL), Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (Spring City, TN), Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant (Soddy-Daisy, TN), and Oconee Nuclear Station (Seneca, SC).

Individuals in need of additional assistance during response or recovery from a disaster may include, but are not limited to, people with access and functional needs, institutionalized residents, elderly, children, non-English speaking, or the transportation disadvantaged.



## 3.1.1 Hazard Profile

**Table 1: Hazard Identification and Hazard Grouping** 

Table 1. Hazaru lueli	tification and Hazar		
	Natural	Hazards	
Severe Weather  Thunderstorms  High/Strong Winds  Lightning  Hail  Tornadoes	Flooding     River Flooding     Flash Flooding     Urban Flooding     Coastal Flooding	Tropical Cyclone     Storm Surge     Tropical Cyclone Winds     Heavy Rainfall     Tornadoes	<ul> <li>Winter Weather</li> <li>Snow</li> <li>Extreme Cold</li> <li>Ice</li> <li>Blizzard</li> <li>Freezing Rain</li> <li>Sleet</li> </ul>
Drought/Wildfire  Extreme Heat  Wildfires  Smoke  Water Shortage	Geologic Hazards  • Sinkholes  • Earthquakes	Infectious Diseases Infectious Diseases. Food Borne Diseases. Agricultural Disease Outbreaks. Novel Disease Outbreaks.	
	Human Cau	used Hazards	
Cybersecurity Incident	Active Shooter	Radiological Release     Radiological Release Technical.     Radiological Release Hostile.	Hazardous Material Release  Transportation- Related. Storage-Related, Spills, And Leaks.
	Technolog	ical Hazards	
Dam Failure  Downstream Flooding  Frosion Property Damage Environmental Damage Transportation Disruption Infrastructure Disruption		Infrastructure Failure	

**Table 2: Hazard Identification Process** 

Table 2: Hazard Identification F	
Hazard of Concern	How and Why Hazard was Identified
Severe Weather  Thunderstorms High/Strong Winds Lightning Hail Tornadoes	<ul> <li>Review of historical disaster declarations and the National Weather Service (NWS) National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database.</li> <li>20 out of 45 declared disaster events in Georgia were Severe Weather events.</li> </ul>
Flooding  River Flooding  Flash Flooding  Urban Flooding  Coastal Flooding	<ul> <li>Review of historical disaster declarations and NWS NCEI Storm Events Database.</li> <li>Flooding impacts Georgia nearly every year and results in most of the damages associated with hazard events.</li> <li>11 out of 45 declared disaster events in Georgia were flood events.</li> </ul>
Tropical Cyclone     Storm Surge     Tropical Cyclone Winds     Heavy Rainfall     Tornadoes	<ul> <li>Review of historical disaster declarations and NWS NCEI Storm Events Database.</li> <li>NWS NCEI hurricane data.</li> <li>9 out of 45 declared disaster events in Georgia were hurricane, tropical storm, or coastal events.</li> </ul>
Winter Weather  Snow Extreme Cold Ice Blizzard Freezing Rain Sleet	<ul> <li>Review of historical disaster declarations and NWS NCEI.</li> <li>4 out of 45 declared disaster events in Georgia were winter weather-related events.</li> </ul>
<ul><li>Drought/Wildfire</li><li>Extreme Heat</li><li>Wildfire</li><li>Smoke</li><li>Water Shortage</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Review of historical disaster declarations, NWS NCEI Storm         Events Database, U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought         Impact Reporter.</li> <li>The entire State of Georgia is subject to the effects of         drought.</li> <li>11 out of 45 declared disaster events in Georgia were         extreme heat or wildfire events.</li> </ul>
Geologic Hazards  • Sinkholes  • Earthquakes	<ul> <li>Review of historical data, including United States Geological Survey.</li> <li>Earthquakes have impacted Georgia in the past. Between 2001 and 2020, there have been 197 earthquake events with epicenters in Georgia.</li> </ul>
Infectious Diseases     Infectious Diseases     Food Borne Diseases     Agricultural Disease Outbreaks     Novel Disease Outbreaks	<ul> <li>Numerous bodies of water located in the state that assist with the breeding of mosquitos and other waterborne pathogens.</li> <li>1 out of 45 declared disaster events in Georgia were an infectious disease event.</li> </ul>
Cybersecurity Incident     Hacking/Phishing     Infrastructure Disruptions     Ransomware / Malware     Network Intrusion / Disruption     Transportation	Most of Georgia's critical infrastructure is linked to some technology-based platform, which is a key vector of attack in a cybersecurity incident.

<ul> <li>Explosives / Improvised Explosive Devices</li> <li>Vehicle Ramming</li> <li>Sniper Attack</li> <li>Hostage Taking</li> <li>Radiological Release (Technical, Hostile)</li> <li>Individuals (Physical and Psychological Health)</li> <li>Property</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Zoological</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Loss of life</li> <li>Property damage</li> <li>Environmental damage</li> <li>Property Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Infrastructure Pisructure</li> <li>Oeorgia contains 6 counties within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone.</li> <li>Georgia contains 6 counties within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone.</li> <li>Ocunties within the 50-mile Ingestion Pathway Zone of nuclear power plants located within Georgia and adjacent states.</li> <li>Over 445 reports of petroleum and sewage hazmat releases reported in 2019-2020.</li> <li>19,934 Tier 2 Facilities in Georgia.</li> <li>Georgia has 4537 Dams, according to the 2019 Dam Inventory.</li> <li>In Georgia, all major rivers are dammed at least once.</li> <li>Numerous smaller dams exist, including agricultural dams.</li> <li>Georgia is home to numerous pieces of critical infrastructure across all identified sectors.</li> </ul>	A (! O! (	
Vehicle Ramming     Sniper Attack     Hostage Taking  Radiological Release (Technical, Hostile)     Individuals (Physical and Psychological Health)     Property     Environment     Infrastructure     Agriculture     Zoological     Economy     Hazardous Material Release     Injury     Loss of life     Property damage     Environmental damage     Dam Failure     Downstream Flooding     Erosion     Property Damage     Environmental Damage     Transportation Disruption     Infrastructure Pailure     Communications     Transportation	Active Shooter	Terrorist attacks can occur anywhere.
<ul> <li>Vehicle Ramming</li> <li>Sniper Attack</li> <li>Hostage Taking</li> <li>Radiological Release (Technical, Hostile)</li> <li>Individuals (Physical and Psychological Health)</li> <li>Property</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Zoological</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Hazardous Material Release</li> <li>Injury</li> <li>Loss of life</li> <li>Property damage</li> <li>Environmental damage</li> <li>Downstream Flooding</li> <li>Erosion</li> <li>Property Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Infrastructure Disruption</li> <li>Infrastructure Failure</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Transportation</li> </ul>		
Sniper Attack     Hostage Taking  Radiological Release (Technical, Hostile)     Individuals (Physical and Psychological Health)     Property     Environment     Infrastructure     Zoological     Economy  Hazardous Material Release     Injury     Loss of life     Property damage     Environmental damage     Dam Failure     Downstream Flooding     Erosion     Property Damage     Environmental Damage     Transportation     Infrastructure Disruption     Infrastructure Failure     Communications     Transportation      Georgia contains 6 counties within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone.     Over 445 reports of petroleum and sewage hazmat releases reported in 2019-2020.     Over 445 reports of petroleum and sewage hazmat releases reported in 2019-2020.     Seorgia has 4537 Dams, according to the 2019 Dam Inventory.     In Georgia, all major rivers are dammed at least once.     Numerous smaller dams exist, including agricultural dams.     Georgia is home to numerous pieces of critical infrastructure across all identified sectors.	2011333	seaports, and tourism.
<ul> <li>Hostage Taking</li> <li>Radiological Release (Technical, Hostile)</li> <li>Individuals (Physical and Psychological Health)</li> <li>Property</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Zoological</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Hazardous Material Release</li> <li>Injury</li> <li>Loss of life</li> <li>Property damage</li> <li>Environmental damage</li> <li>Dam Failure</li> <li>Downstream Flooding</li> <li>Erosion</li> <li>Property Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Transportation Disruption</li> <li>Infrastructure Disruption</li> <li>Infrastructure Failure</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Transportation</li> </ul>		
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<ul> <li>Individuals (Physical and Psychological Health)</li> <li>Property</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Zoological</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Hazardous Material Release</li> <li>Injury</li> <li>Loss of life</li> <li>Property damage</li> <li>Environmental damage</li> <li>Downstream Flooding</li> <li>Erosion</li> <li>Property Damage</li> <li>Environmental Damage</li> <li>Transportation Disruption</li> <li>Infrastructure Failure</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Oscording within the 50-mile Ingestion Pathway Zone of nuclear power plants located within Georgia and adjacent states.</li> <li>Over 445 reports of petroleum and sewage hazmat releases reported in 2019-2020.</li> <li>19,934 Tier 2 Facilities in Georgia.</li> <li>Georgia has 4537 Dams, according to the 2019 Dam Inventory.</li> <li>In Georgia, all major rivers are dammed at least once.</li> <li>Numerous smaller dams exist, including agricultural dams.</li> <li>Georgia is home to numerous pieces of critical infrastructure across all identified sectors.</li> </ul>		
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Water/Wastewater		

#### 3.1.2 Vulnerability Assessment

Vulnerability includes all populations and assets (environmental, economic, and critical facilities) which may be at risk from natural, human-caused, and technological hazards. Vulnerability analysis measures the level of assets, populations, or resources within a given region, city, or town. The vulnerability is a function of the built environment, local economy, demographics, and environmental uses of a given region.

The damage and/or destruction of Georgia's seven community lifeline sectors (Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy (Power and Fuel); Communications; Transportation; and Hazardous Materials) represents enormous economic, social, and general functional costs to a community, while also impeding emergency response and recovery activities.

Approximately 1.5 million people live within 75 miles of the Gulf of Mexico and in the 11 counties closest to the Atlantic Ocean in Georgia. These areas are the most vulnerable to hurricanes. A nonfunctional road can have major implications for a community: general loss of productivity; disruption of physical access preventing residents from

getting to work or other daily activities; prevention of emergency vehicles from reaching destinations; associated health and safety implications; and potential access difficulties causing the disruption of important lifeline supplies, such as food and other deliveries to the community.

Damaged or destroyed utility lines and facilities, including electricity, computer and satellite links, gas, sewer, and water services can cripple a region after a disaster. Power lines are often badly damaged or destroyed, resulting in the loss of power for days, weeks, or even months. This is particularly critical considering modern societies' dependence on electricity. In addition to basic modern household appliances being affected, public water supplies and water treatment and sewage facilities can also be impacted. Electric pumps cannot pump drinking water into an area without power, and even if they could, the water delivery system could be breached in several areas. The loss of level elevated water tanks also results in a lack of safe drinking water. Even disaster victims who do get water may have to boil it to eliminate waterborne pathogens introduced to the supply in breached areas or due to low service pressures.

Although not a complete representation of all the possible types of facilities, this dataset is a good representation of critical and state facilities in Georgia.

**Table 3: Types and Number of Facilities** 

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State Owned Holdings:	21,386
State route miles	17,923
Interstate miles	1,247
Law Enforcement	841
Fire Stations	1748
Hospitals	222
Dispatch Centers	183
First Responder's Communication Towers	517
Fixed Gateways	178
TV Digital Station Transmitters	53
AM Transmission Towers	193
FM Transmission Towers	512
Cellular Towers	688
City Halls	125
Housing Units	4,283,477
Mobile Homes	384,876 (±4700)
Airports	454
Dams	4537
Fishing and Boating Access/Marinas	896

It should be noted, State Owned Holdings includes leased property, Law Enforcement includes Correctional Institutions, and Fire Stations includes Emergency Medical Services.

Many privately-owned buildings and structures (such as hospitals, power plants, and certain industrial facilities) are critical to societal function, especially during emergencies and disasters. Thus, critical facilities data collection extended to a broader array of critical facilities than would be available by only using state-owned facilities.

#### 3.2 Assumptions

- 1. A disaster may occur within the State with little or no warning and may escalate faster than any single jurisdiction's ability to respond.
- 2. All disasters begin and end with local emergency response personnel, therefore it is accepted all disasters will be managed by local governments.
- 3. Localities have a plan as part of an emergency management program which reflects current doctrine and protocol, including provisions for the needs and requirements of the population, such as children, individuals with access and functional needs, service animals, and household pets.
- 4. When an emergency exceeds local resources and response capabilities, local government will request assistance from neighboring jurisdictions and from the next higher level of government.
- 5. Local government and state agencies will utilize resources obtained by prearranged agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, locally assigned state and federal entities and Private Sector Partners (PSPs) prior to seeking assistance from the next higher level of government.
- 6. During a State of Emergency, the Director of GEMA/HS, as the individual responsible for carrying out Georgia's emergency management and homeland security programs, has command and control authority over all operational areas necessary to help Georgia respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural and human caused emergencies.
- During a State of Emergency, when directed by the Governor of Georgia or the Director of GEMA/HS, State of Georgia-employed and certified peace officers may render aid and law enforcement support.
- 8. State agencies assigned responsibilities in the GEOP develop and maintain necessary plans, standard operating procedures, mutual aid agreements, and model contracts to successfully accomplish their assigned mission.
- 9. State agencies are prepared to fulfill assigned responsibilities from the GEOP, supporting plans, and joint operational or area plans.
- 10. Many state assets are assigned to local geographic areas and deploy without any special declarations or executive orders. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, Georgia Forestry Commission firefighting resources, Georgia Department of Public Safety and Georgia Department of Transportation District personnel.
- 11. When state property is threatened or impacted, the responsible state agency will utilize its own resources and establish communications with the SOC.
- 12. Development, maintenance, and testing of agency contingency plans enhance Georgia's ability to carry out response and recovery tasks.
- 13. Coordinating non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and PSPs maintain internal plans or procedures specific to assigned roles and responsibilities outlined in the GEOP.

- 14. Incidents, including large scale emergencies or events, require full coordination of operations and resources, and may:
  - a. Require information sharing across multiple jurisdictions and between the public and private sectors.
  - b. Involve single or multiple jurisdictions and/or geographic areas.
  - c. Have statewide and/or national impact and may require significant intergovernmental coordination.
  - d. Involve multiple, highly varied hazards or threats on a local, regional, statewide, or national scale.
  - e. Result in mass casualties, displaced persons, property loss, environmental damage, and disruption of the economy and normal life support systems, essential public services, and basic infrastructure.
  - f. Require resources to assist individuals with access and functional needs.
  - g. Impact critical infrastructures across multiple sectors.
  - h. Exceed the capabilities of state agencies, local governments, NGOs, and PSPs (to include private sector infrastructure owners and operators).
  - i. Attract a sizeable influx of public, private, and voluntary resources, including independent and spontaneous volunteers.
  - j. Require short-notice state asset coordination and response.
  - k. Require prolonged incident management operations and support activities for long-term community recovery and mitigation.
- 15. Factors influencing the need for federal involvement in response and recovery may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Severity and magnitude of the incident.
  - b. State or local needs exceeding available resources.
  - c. Incident type or location.
  - d. Protection of public health, welfare, or the environment.
  - e. Economic ability of the state and/or affected localities to recover from the incident.
- 16. The negative effects from natural disasters may rise due to increased urban development, industrial expansion, traffic congestion, and widespread use and transport of hazardous materials. These factors may increase the risk of human-caused emergencies such as hazardous materials accidents, power failures, resource shortages, and environmental contamination. In addition, federal facilities located throughout Georgia increase the potential for terrorism incidents.
- 17. As a result of climate change, significant and hazardous weather events have and will continue to become more intense and frequent. The impacts of climate change include, but are not limited to, more frequent and intense heat waves,

increases in ocean and freshwater temperatures, frost-free-days, heavy downpours, floods, sea level rise, droughts, and wildfires.

## 4.0 Functional Roles and Responsibilities

#### 4.1 Functional Roles

#### 4.1.1 Individual Citizens Responsibility in Emergency Management

GEMA/HS supports local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Directors and individual residents in personal preparedness, through the use of several programs listed below:

- Ready Georgia Campaign.
- Praise & Preparedness.
- Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults.

To get more information about the preparedness initiatives listed above concerning Ready Georgia, Praise & Preparedness, go to the GEMA/HS website at: <a href="https://gema.georgia.gov">https://gema.georgia.gov</a> or contact the agency at 1-800-TRY-GEMA.

For more information about how to better plan for the needs of individuals with access and functional needs, please visit the State's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinators Office website: <a href="https://ada.georgia.gov">https://ada.georgia.gov</a>.

#### 4.1.2 Local Responsibility in Emergency Management

The responsibility for responding to incidents begins at the local level with individuals and public officials in the county or city impacted by the incident. Local leaders, through their EMA Director, should establish a cohesive Command Policy Group to manage incidents locally. This Command Policy Group should always support local emergency management efforts and influence and encourage the involvement of all entities within the county to coordinate emergency response resources, to include all jurisdictions, departments and agencies, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and PSPs. The Command Policy Group should consist of the following:

- Chief Elected or Appointed Official.
- Local EMA Director.
- County, City Department and Agency Heads.
- Other City or County officials as required by the nature and magnitude of the event.

#### 4.1.3 Private Sector Partners Responsibility in Emergency Management

Many private sector organizations are responsible for operating and maintaining portions of the Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources. Critical infrastructures include those assets, systems, networks, and functions so vital to the United States its incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters. Key

resources are publicly or privately controlled resources essential to minimal operation of the economy and the government.

Participation of the private sector varies based on the nature of the organization and the nature of the incident. Private sector organizations play a key role before, during and after an incident. Emergency managers should coordinate with businesses providing water, power, fuel, communication networks, public information, transportation, medical care, security, and numerous other services upon which both response and recovery are particularly dependent.

# **4.1.4 Non-Governmental Organizations & Faith Based Organizations in Emergency Management**

NGOs and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) provide shelter, emergency food supplies, and debris removal for homeowners after a disaster as well as specialized services to help individuals with special needs, including those with disabilities. NGO and voluntary organization contributions include: training and managing volunteer resources, identifying shelter locations and needed supplies, and providing critical emergency services such as cleaning supplies, clothing, food, and basic human needs. NGOs and FBOs assist with post emergency cleanup and help local and state emergency managers identify those whose needs have not been met to coordinate needed assistance.

#### 4.1.5 State Responsibility in Emergency Management

The primary role of GEMA/HS is to support local emergency management activities through local EMA Directors. GEMA/HS provides routine assistance to local EMAs regarding grants, hazard mitigation projects, Emergency Management Performance Grant funding, planning, training, exercises, and technical guidance. Additionally, GEMA/HS assists local jurisdictions by coordinating with federal officials on behalf of local jurisdictional needs.

The State of Georgia has adopted the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System (ICS) as the standard incident management structure for the State.

The ICS is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

In keeping with the unity of command principles of the NIMS and ICS as well as the operational concepts of the NRF and National Disaster Recovery Framework, Georgia has identified 17 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and seven Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), each with a pre identified coordinating agency as well as primary and support State of Georgia agencies and organizations.

An ESF/RSF is a grouping of governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation, and services most likely needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following domestic incidents.

The coordinating agency is responsible for coordinating the actions of agencies, groups, organizations, NGOs, PSPs, and FBOs within their ESF/RSF and between other ESFs/RSFs. The coordinating agency is responsible to provide a person or persons with a good general knowledge of the subject area and knowledge of the stakeholders in their ESF/RSF to the SOC or Disaster Recovery Center(s).

The primary and support agencies/organizations form the ESF/RSF Working Groups. These groups plan, organize, and respond to events working cooperatively to maximize effectiveness. The ESF/RSF Coordinator is the unifying point of contact between the working group members.

The ESFs/RSFs incorporated into the GEOP, and the respective ESF functional responsibilities, are summarized below and explained in detail in the ESF Annexes to the GEOP and RSF Annexes to the Georgia Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan.

### 4.2 Assignment of Emergency Support Function Responsibilities

**ESF-1 Transportation Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Transportation

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Intercoastal waterways management and control.
- Rail management and control.
- Transportation Safety.
- Restoration and recovery of transportation infrastructure, to include roadways of Georgia's political subdivisions.
- Movement restrictions.
- Damage and impact assessment.
- Evacuation and re-entry coordination.
- Damage assessment of critical transportation systems in disasters.
- Debris management.

**ESF-2 Communications Coordinator:** Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Provide communication plans and systems for disaster response.
- Communications with telecommunication providers and operators.
- Coordination of restoration and repair of telecommunication systems.
- Protection, restoration and sustainment of cyber systems and resources.
- Damage assessment of critical communication systems in disasters.

**ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Water Sector Critical Infrastructure Protection and Technical Assistance.
- Water and Sewer System Assessments.
- Boiled water advisories.

- Infrastructure restoration and coordination.
- Engineering and permitting for water sector infrastructure.
- Damage assessment to critical infrastructure system in disasters.
- Water sample collection assistance and Laboratory Services.

### **ESF-4 Firefighting Coordinator:** Georgia Forestry Commission

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Command and coordination of state wild land firefighting operations.
- Coordination of state structural and aviation firefighting operations.
- Support to transportation strike teams during winter weather incidents.
- Coordination of state Chainsaw and debris removal strike teams in support of ESF-11.

# **ESF-5 Emergency Management, Information and Planning Coordinator:** Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Coordination of Emergency Management program and GEOP.
- Coordination of incident management and response efforts.
- Issuance of mission requests through SOC.
- Incident Action Planning.
- Financial management coordination in disasters.
- Collection, compilation, and dissemination of damage assessment reports.
- State executive information reporting.
- Emergency Operations Command Coordination.
- Support of Disaster Recovery Centers.
- State Staging Area Coordination.
- Coordination of information and resources.
- Situational Awareness.
- Weather subject matter expertise through State Meteorologist and National Weather Service (NWS) Incident Support Meteorologists.
- Coordination of SOC's Air Operations Branch.
- Detection and Monitoring.
- State Warning Point.
- Geographic Information Systems.

# ESF-6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing & Human Assistance Coordinator: Georgia Department of Human Services

### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Mass care.
- Sheltering Support.
- Emergency assistance.
- Disaster housing.
- Human services.
- Status reporting of mass care, shelter, human services activities in SOC.

**ESF-7 Logistics Coordinator:** Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Statewide logistics planning, management, and coordination (Mutual Aid).
- Coordination of incident facilities, equipment, and supplies in disasters.
- Coordination of contract services in disasters (food, water, and commodities).
- Status reporting of logistics and resource activities in SOC.

**ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Public Health

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Public health.
- Coordination of private and NGO health systems in disasters.
- Mental health services.
- Coordination of mass fatality management with ESF-13.
- Infection disease surveillance and response coordination.

**ESF-9 Search and Rescue Coordinator:** Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Coordination of search activities in disasters.
- Coordination of rescue activities in disasters.
- Coordination of search and rescue resources.

**ESF-10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Coordination of hazardous material response activities.
- Coordination of environmental protection and long term clean up.

**ESF-11 Agriculture and Natural Resources Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Agriculture

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Coordination with ESF-6 and Georgia Department of Education for nutrition assistance such as bulk food for mass feeding and administering the Disaster Food Stamp Program.
- Ensuring the safety and security of the State's commercial food supply.
- Controlling and eradicating an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal disease, highly infective exotic plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation, and support ESF-8 in a Bio-watch event.
- Coordinate with ESF-6 and ESF-8 for the safety and well-being of household pets during an emergency response or evacuation situation.
- Protecting natural, cultural, and historic resources.

#### **ESF-12 Energy Coordinator:** Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Energy infrastructure damage assessment, repair, and restoration.
- Energy industry utilities coordination.
- Fuel industry coordination.
- Energy forecast and assessment in disasters.

## **ESF-13 Public Safety and Security Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Public Safety

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Facility and resource security.
- Security planning and technical resource assistance.
- Public safety (law enforcement) and security support.
- Traffic and crowd control.
- Support of transportation strike teams.
- Coordination of mass fatality management with ESF-8.

# **ESF-14 Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Economic Development

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Interface with businesses, industries, and critical infrastructure sectors not aligned to other ESFs.
- Enables information sharing between the public and private sectors.
- Integrate potential industry solutions into response operations and align public sector support with private sector business continuity.

## **ESF-15 External Affairs Coordinator:** Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Public information and protective action guidance dissemination.
- Media and community relations.
- State and federal legislative and congressional affairs.
- Coordination of state joint information centers in disasters.
- VOAD and donation management.

State agencies, boards, authorities, PSPs, and NGOs and staff develop, plan, and train to internal policies and procedures to meet response and recovery needs safely. State agencies, boards, authorities, PSPs, and NGOs and staff should also participate in interagency training and exercises to develop and maintain the necessary capabilities. Additional organizations that are vital to the External Affairs mission are identified in the ESF-15 Annex.

#### **ESF-16 Defense Coordinator:** Georgia Department of Defense

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Provide ICS support positions within the SOC as required.
- Provide ESF support positions within the SOC as required.
- Provide fixed / rotary wing aviation to support emergency operations.
- Provide Defense Support to Civil Authorities in emergency response operations.
- Provide law enforcement support duties in a State Active Duty status as ordered by the Governor of Georgia.
- Provide liaison officer support to ESFs, EMAs, and operations as directed by the SOC.

#### **ESF-17 Cyber Security Coordinator:** Georgia Technology Authority

#### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Maintain list of applications/services and verify on an annual basis.
- Maintain list of GTA Liaisons/contact information; validate annually.
- Coordinate exercise of the cyber portion of the disaster response plan annually (minimum tabletop).

See the State Agency Assignment Chart Annex for a detailed listing of ESF Coordinators, Primary ESF Agencies, and Supporting ESF Agency assignments at the end of this plan to determine your Agency's support relationships detailed in this plan.

#### 4.3 Assignment of Recovery Support Function Coordinators

**RSF-1 Community Planning and Capacity Building**: Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

RSF-2 Economic Recovery: Georgia Department of Economic Development

RSF-3 Health and Social Services: Georgia Department of Human Services

**RSF-4 Housing**: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**RSF-5 Infrastructure Systems**: Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

RSF-6 Natural and Cultural Resources: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**RSF-7 Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters**: Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

## **5.0 Logistics Support and Resources Requirements**

## **5.1 Logistics Support**

Logistics support for the SOC and Alternate SOC during activations related to Emergency Management or Homeland Security issues/incidents:

- Food Service operations to provide four x meals per day for approximately 150-200 personnel. The four meals are due to 24-hour operations during full scale activations. Increased availability of bottled water and filtered water dispensers.
- Cleaning, Sanitation, and trash removal at least once per day.
- Cleaning service and bed linen issue and washing to support the bunk areas that are available in Building 2 North (SOC Only).

#### **5.2 Resources Requirements**

Resources requirements for the SOC and Alternate SOC during activations related to Emergency Management or Homeland Security issues/incidents:

- Expansion for temporary workstations to support additional state and/or federal partners (incident dependent).
- Facility Management Services to include additional electrical power availability, increased HVAC operations due to the increased number of personnel working in the area, cleared access from the parking lots to the building entrances.
- Security operations to confirm that all personnel entering the SOC are authorized.
- Coordinate additional parking related to the increased number of personnel reporting to the SOC for assignment.
- Increase in cellular coverage for the SOC during activations.
- Increase in Wi-Fi band width to support multiple devices from each staff member that responds and reports for duty at the SOC.
- Deployment and set up of Information Technology services for computers and audio visual systems for all GEMA/HS staff as well as State and Federal partners. (Alternate SOC Only).
- Contract and deploy Emergency Generator to support operations at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (as necessary).

## 6.0 Concept of the Operation

#### 6.1 General

When an emergency or disaster has occurred or is imminent, the Governor may issue a State of Emergency. This provides the Director of GEMA/HS the authority for the deployment and use of state personnel, supplies, equipment, materials and/or state owned, leased, or operated facilities to support response operations.

If a disaster or emergency occurs prior to the Governor issuing a State of Emergency, then the Director of GEMA/HS is authorized to activate this plan and implement any emergency response actions necessary for the immediate protection of life and property.

All State Agencies, Authorities, Departments, Institutions, Associations, and Boards shall cooperate fully with the Director of GEMA/HS and the Emergency Operations

Command, by providing any personnel, equipment, information, or any other assistance that may be requested by the Governor, the Director of GEMA/HS or the Emergency Operations Command in order to coordinate all response and recovery efforts.

#### **6.2 Plan Activation**

This GEOP is activated in response to an actual or potential disaster which has or is likely to occur within the state. The Governor of Georgia or the Director of GEMA/HS, as the Chairman, may activate the Emergency Operations Command, as needed or otherwise required. This command reports to the Governor, and consists of the following representatives:

- Director of GEMA/HS (Chairman, Emergency Operations Command).
- Director of Georgia Bureau of Investigation.
- Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.
- The Adjutant General.
- Other State Directors or Commissioners as required by the nature and magnitude of the event.

During emergencies, the Emergency Operations Command will conduct meetings as required/needed either in person or virtually by video/conference call as determined by the Director of GEMA/HS and will report to the Governor through the Director of GEMA/HS for all command decisions with the Governor having the final authority.

During a response to a federally declared emergency/disaster, the Governor or the Director of GEMA/HS will appoint a State Coordinating Officer through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/State Disaster Agreement.

The Director of GEMA/HS may activate certain portions of ESFs for disasters or emergencies that do not warrant a full-scale state response.

#### **6.3 SOC Activation**

The Director of GEMA/HS will coordinate emergency management activities of all agencies/organizations within the state and serve as a liaison with other states and the federal government.

When this plan is activated, direction, control, and coordination of the State's response to an emergency or disaster reside with the Director of GEMA/HS and the State Emergency Operations Command. The Director of GEMA/HS (or his/her designee) will coordinate with all state agencies, authorities, departments, institutions, associations, and boards mobilized pursuant to this plan, regardless of the nature of the emergency or disaster.

The SOC is the primary coordination point for state response. The ESF Coordinator and/or alternate authorized to act on behalf of the state agency/organization will perform SOC functional responsibilities (see section 4.2).

There are three levels of activation:

- Level 1 (RED) Full Activation.
- Level 2 (YELLOW) Partial Activation.
- Level 3 (GREEN) Normal Operations.

During normal activities, Level 3 (GREEN) - Normal Operations, GEMA/HS is operating under normal day-to-day operations. The GEMA/HS State Warning Point is actively monitoring all events and reporting them to the appropriate personnel who respond accordingly. This level of activation may be increased to Partial Activation or Full Activation at the discretion of the Governor, the Director of GEMA/HS, or designated staff. The level of activation is scalable based upon the scope of the event.

Under a Level 2 (YELLOW) - Partial Activation, all Primary and Alternate ESF Coordinators, GEMA/HS Staff, and local EMA Directors are notified of a Partial Activation of the SOC. The necessary ESF Coordinators and necessary GEMA/HS Staff are directed to report to and staff the SOC.

Under a Level 1 (RED) - Full Activation, all Primary and Alternate ESF Coordinators, GEMA/HS Staff, and local EMA Directors are notified of a Full Activation of the SOC. All ESFs and appropriate support State / Volunteer Agency Coordinators are directed to report to and staff the SOC. All GEMA/HS SOC positions are staffed. Additional subject matter experts from designated Agencies, Authorities, Departments, Institutions, Associations, and Boards may be required to report to the SOC to provide emergency support for the duration of the declared emergency.

The SOC remains operational throughout the response phase of an event. As recovery operations begin, the coordination shifts to a Joint Field Office (JFO) which will be established near the affected area and staffed by appropriate local, state, and federal personnel (if a federal disaster has been declared). Once the JFO is established, the SOC returns to a Normal Operations status and the JFO takes on the primary responsibility of communicating information specific to the recovery operations for the initial disaster.

At the discretion of the GEMA/HS Director and in concurrence with the Governor:

- A Mobile Command Post may be established at or near an emergency or disaster site.
- A designated Alternate SOC may become operational if the primary SOC becomes unusable for short or extended periods of time.

#### 6.4 Direction, Control and Coordination

When activated, appropriate representatives from ESFs, state agencies, FEMA, volunteer organizations, and the private sector assemble in the SOC to coordinate a unified response. GEMA/HS Field Coordinators are integrated into the local affected jurisdiction(s) and serve as conduits for communicating resource requirements and situational awareness.

The Director of GEMA/HS assumes responsibility for direction, control, and coordination of ESFs at the SOC. Each ESF will assign a primary coordinator from their state

agency or organization and identify other state agencies or organization as primary or supporting roles through Executive Order of the Governor. In addition, other assistance through NGOs and PSP organizations will be coordinated as a part of this process.

State ESFs are matched with the NRF to ensure efficient and effective response. State agencies and organizations with primary ESF responsibilities will develop and maintain Standard Operating Guides, in coordination with support agencies and organizations.

Each ESF must ensure they have properly trained personnel designated to work within the SOC. ESF representatives must be able to reach out to personnel operating within their ESF at the local level as well as outward to other state agencies and up to federal partners when necessary to obtain the most accurate incident status. Likewise, these personnel must be aware of the roles and responsibilities of their particular ESF.

One of the most important functions of the SOC is to collect, analyze, and properly disseminate situational information to general staff and ESF leaders in the SOC to make operational decisions for current and future operational periods. To obtain accurate and timely situational information, all agencies and ESFs operating within the SOC must enter updates, damage assessments, and resource status reports into WebEOC, the crisis information management system utilized in the SOC and statewide. GIS data collected before, during, and after the event may be used to:

- Map the location of events.
- Conduct damage assessments and response activities.
- Identify risks and resources.
- Prioritize objectives.

As the incident in stabilized, the focus will shift from saving lives, protecting property, protecting public health and safety to recovering from the disaster. The Director, GEMA/HS, upon recommendations from the SCO, the State Disaster Recovery Manager (SDRM) and the Center Director, will initiate operational transition from response to recovery. This transition includes the State Recovery Committee replacing the Emergency Operations Command, the SDRM taking lead responsibility from the SCO, and specific ESF agencies transitioning to Recovery Support Function (RSF) activities. This transition, agency assignments, and agency responsibilities are covered fully in the Georgia Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan, a supporting Annex to this Plan.

#### 6.4.1 Lifelines

#### **Purpose**

The National Response Framework (NRF), 4th Edition, introduces community lifelines (lifelines) in national-level doctrine. GEMA/HS has incorporated these lifelines into the reporting schema for disaster operations. The FEMA Incident Stabilization Guide (ISG) describes how FEMA implements lifelines and guides how FEMA applies these concepts to disaster operations.

The primary objective of lifelines is to ensure the delivery of critical services that alleviate immediate threats to life and property when communities are impacted by disasters. The construct organizes and aligns these critical services into one of eight

lifelines which help frame the way disaster impacts are identified, assessed, and addressed.

The lifelines provide an outcome-based, survivor-centric frame of reference that assists responders with the following:

- Rapidly determining the scale and complexity of a disaster;
- Identifying the severity, root causes, and interdependencies of impacts to critical lifesaving and life-sustaining services within impacted areas;
- Developing operational priorities and objectives that focus response efforts on the delivery of these services by the most effective means available;
- Communicating disaster-related information across all levels of public, private, and non-profit sectors using a commonly understood, plain language lexicon; and
- Guiding response operations to support and facilitate their integration across mission areas.

#### **Lifelines and Emergency Support Functions**

Stabilizing lifeline services is the highest priority when responding to disasters because their disruption may result in immediate threats to life and property. Lifelines provide a common lens which all responders can use to assess whether critical lifesaving and life-sustaining services are disrupted and, if so, which core capabilities are required to provide those services.

#### **Community Lifelines Overview**

Community lifelines enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are essential to human health and safety or economic security. These services are organized and aligned to one of eight lifelines:

- 1. Safety and Security;
- 2. Food, Hydration, Shelter;
- 3. Health and Medical;
- 4. Energy (Power & Fuel);
- 5. Communications;
- 6. Transportation;
- 7. Hazardous Materials; and
- 8. Water Systems.

#### **Community Lifelines**

During steady-state operations, lifeline services are provided by public, private, and non-profit entities that are organic within a community. They include a range of critical day-to-day services that communities rely on to protect life and property. While most disruptions to these services are directly resolved by the organic lifeline service providers (e.g., power and utility companies), the priority of response operations following an incident is to stabilize the lifeline services by the most effective means (e.g., contingency solutions and emergency repairs) available when they are destroyed or significantly disrupted by disasters.

**Community Lifeline Descriptions** 

	eline Descriptions	
Lifeline	Components	Description
Safety and Security	<ol> <li>Law Enforcement / Security</li> <li>Fire Service</li> <li>Search and Rescue</li> <li>Government Service</li> <li>Community Safety</li> </ol>	Law enforcement and government services, as well as the associated assets that maintain communal security, provide search and rescue and firefighting capabilities, and support public safety. Includes impending risks to impacted communities, public infrastructure, and national security concerns.
Food, Hydration, Shelter	<ol> <li>Food</li> <li>Water</li> <li>Shelter</li> <li>Agriculture</li> </ol>	Support systems that enable the sustainment of human life, such as food retail and distribution networks, water treatment, transmission and distribution systems, housing, and agriculture resources.
Health and Medical	<ol> <li>Medical Care</li> <li>Public Health</li> <li>Patient Movement</li> <li>Medical Supply Chain</li> <li>Fatality Management</li> </ol>	Infrastructure and service providers for medical care, public health, patient movement, fatality management, behavioral health, veterinary support, and the medical industry.
Energy (Power & Fuel)	<ol> <li>Power Grid</li> <li>Fuel</li> </ol>	Electricity service providers and generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, as well as gas and liquid fuel processing, and delivery systems.
((A)) Communications	<ol> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Responder         <ul> <li>Communications</li> </ul> </li> <li>Alerts, Warnings, and             Messages</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>911 and Dispatch</li> </ol>	Infrastructure owners and operators of broadband internet, cellular and landline telephone networks, cable services, satellite communications services, and broadcast networks (radio/television). These systems encompass diverse modes of delivery, often intertwined but largely operating independently. Services include alerts, warnings, and messages, 911 and dispatch, and access to financial services.
Transportation	<ol> <li>Highway / Roadway / Motor Vehicle</li> <li>Mass Transit</li> <li>Railway</li> <li>Aviation</li> <li>Maritime</li> </ol>	Multiple modes of transportation that often serve complementary functions and create redundancy, adding to the resilience in overall transportation networks. This includes roadway, mass transit, railway, aviation, maritime, and intermodal systems.

Hazardous Materials	Facilities     HAZMAT, Pollutants,     Contaminants	Systems that mitigate threats to public health or the environment. This includes facilities that generate or store hazardous substances, as well as all specialized conveyance assets and capabilities to identify, contain, and remove pollution, contaminants, oil, or other hazardous materials and substances.
Water Systems	Potable Water     Infrastructure     Wastewater     Management	Infrastructure and service providers for intake, collection, treatment, storage, distribution, and discharge of public and private water systems.

#### **Colors Indicate Lifeline or Component Condition**

Unknown: Grey

• Indicates the extent of disruption and impacts to lifeline services is unknown.

Significant Impact: Red

 Indicates there are severe challenges and obstacles hindering the essential services and resources associated with the lifeline. Immediate attention and resources are required to address the situation and restore functionality.

Moderate Impact: Yellow

- Indicates that there are disruptions or limitations to the delivery of normal, preincident services and resources. The situation requires attention and proactive measures to prevent further deterioration and ensure community needs are met.
  - Restoration of this lifeline is still in progress and the community has not returned to pre-incident levels of service. This includes instances in which lifeline restoration is being addressed through temporary means.

Minimal Impact: Green

 Indicates that the lifeline is functioning at pre-incident levels, with only minor disruptions or limitations.

Administrative: Blue

 Does not indicate an operational status or condition; used for administrative purposes such as presentations and briefings.

#### 7.0 Plan Maintenance

GEMA/HS is the responsible agency for publishing the Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy. The Deputy Director of Emergency Management will oversee the update and maintain this policy as required. Appropriate officials in State agencies should recommend changes at any time and provide information periodically as to

changes of personnel and available resources. All changes will be referred to the GEMA/HS Planning Manager.

The Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy will be revised on a regular basis in accordance with this policy.

#### 8.0 Annexes

- **ESF-1 Transportation Annex**
- **ESF-2 Communications Annex**
- ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering Annex
- **ESF-4** Firefighting Annex
- ESF-5 Emergency Management, Information and Planning Annex
- ESF-6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, & Human Assistance Annex
- ESF-7 Logistics Annex
- ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services Annex
- ESF-9 Search and Rescue Annex
- ESF-10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response Annex
- ESF-11 Agriculture and Natural Resources Annex
- ESF-12 Energy Annex
- ESF-13 Public Safety and Security Annex
- ESF-14 Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure Annex
- ESF-15 External Affairs Annex
- ESF-16 Defense Annex
- ESF-17 Cyber Security Annex
- State Agency Assignment Chart Annex

## **State Agency Assignment Chart Annex**

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Agency	ESF1				ESF5				ESF9	ESF10				ESF14		ESF16	ESF17
Georgia Department of Transportation (ESF-1)	С	S	P	S		S	S	S			S	S	S		S		
Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (ESF-2/5/7/9/15)	S	С		S	C	S	C	S	C	Р	S		S		С	S	S
Georgia Department of Natural Resources (ESF-3)			С								S	S	Р		S		
Georgia Forestry Commission (ESF-4)	S	s	S	С			S			S	S	S	S		S		
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Georgia Department of Public Health (ESF-8)			S			S	S	С			S				S		
Georgia Environmental Protection Division (division of DNR) (ESF-10)	S	S		S		S	S	S	S	C							
Georgia Department of Agriculture (ESF-11)			S	S		S	S	S		S	С	Р			S		
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