



# Georgia Emergency Operation Plan



2017

## Approval and Implementation

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The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency maintains the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan and presents the plan to the Governor 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 coordination with other state agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector partners and is aligned with the National Incident Management System as well as the National Response Framework and the National Disaster Recovery Framework. In addition, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency modified the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan, its appendices, Emergency Support Function Annexes and Support and Hazard Specific Annexes incorporate lessons learned from exercises, training, incidents and events.

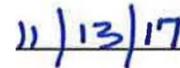
This plan supersedes the Georgia Emergency Operation Plan dated January 2013.



Homer Bryson

Director

Georgia Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security Agency



Date

## Executive Summary

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Georgia is vulnerable to a variety of hazards as identified in the State's Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan. Thus the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan is written for the entire State Disaster Response Team, to include, but not limited to: all executives, state emergency management personnel, Private-Sector Partners, Non-Governmental Organization partners, local emergency managers, faith-based organizations and any other individuals or organizations expected to support disaster response efforts through emergency management functions.

This Plan is intended to clarify expectations for an effective response by state and local officials in support of responders in the field which can save lives, protect property, and more quickly restore essential services.

This document represents decades of planning and coordination between local, state, federal and non-governmental partners operating within or supporting the State of Georgia and is intended to ensure seamless integration of federal and state resources when necessary.

This Plan is consistent with the National Response Framework and supports the local emergency operations plans for all 159 counties within the State.

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# Record of Distribution

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## 1.0 Introduction

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### 1.1 Purpose

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) is based on the hazards as listed in the Georgia Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Plan 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.

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 (NRF), 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 Goals; Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. It supports the agency's 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 13 hazards and threats extracted from the 2014 Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy and the 2018 Georgia Threat, Hazard, Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA).

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 can be located by contacting the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency's, (GEMA/HS) Hazard Mitigation section. Information regarding the State of Georgia Long Term Recovery Initiatives can be found by contacting GEMA/HS's Public Assistance section or by accessing the GEMA/HS website.

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.

(See the State of Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 Operational goals and statewide objectives)

### 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) Dispatch of trained personnel in the disciplines of search and rescue, hazardous materials, explosive ordinance, chemical, biological and nuclear materials, and incident management teams.
2. Achieve 159 annually qualified county-based emergency management programs for 2017-2020.
  3. The development, implementation and sustainment of effective state, regional and local level terrorism prevention and homeland security capabilities.

## 2.0 Authority

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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. Moreover, the State's emergency services and disaster Laws require State and local governments 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 that 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 10 million people in the 2016 census, with the majority of residents living near the Atlanta Metro area. The population continues to increase annually in most areas of the State.

There are two sea ports in Georgia, the port of Savannah and the Port of Brunswick. The Port of Savannah container terminal is the largest in North America, and the fastest-growing. The Port of Savannah moves more than 16 percent of the East Coast's overseas container cargo and has two Class 1 railroad facilities on-terminal.

The Port of Brunswick is the nation's busiest sea port for automobile imports and the third busiest port in the U.S. for total Roll on/Roll off cargo.

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

#### 3.1.1 Hazard Profile

Table 1: Hazard Identification and Hazard Grouping

Natural Hazards		
<b>Severe Weather</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thunderstorms</li> <li>• High Winds</li> <li>• Lightning</li> <li>• Hail</li> <li>• Tornado</li> </ul>	<b>Inland Flooding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Flooding</li> <li>• Flash Flooding</li> <li>• Urban Flooding</li> </ul>	<b>Tropical Cyclone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm surge</li> <li>• High Winds</li> <li>• Heavy Rainfall</li> <li>• Tornado</li> </ul>
<b>Severe Winter Weather</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow</li> <li>• Extreme Cold</li> <li>• Ice</li> <li>• Blizzard</li> <li>• Freezing Rain</li> <li>• Sleet</li> </ul>	<b>Drought Wildfire</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Wildfires</li> <li>• Smoke</li> <li>• Water Shortage</li> </ul>	<b>Geologic Hazards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sinkholes</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• Landslides</li> </ul>
<b>Infectious Diseases:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infectious Diseases</li> <li>• Food Borne Diseases</li> <li>• Agricultural Disease Outbreaks</li> <li>• Novel Disease Outbreaks</li> </ul>		
Human Caused Hazards		

<b>Cybersecurity Attack</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hacking/Phishing,</li> <li>• Infrastructure Disruptions</li> <li>• Ransomware/Malware Attacks</li> <li>• Network Intrusion/Disruption</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul>	<b>Active Shooter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explosives/Improvised Explosive Devices</li> <li>• Vehicle Ramming</li> <li>• Sniper Attack</li> <li>• Hostage Taking</li> </ul>	<b>Radiological Release</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radiological Release Technical</li> <li>• Radiological Release Hostile</li> </ul>
<b>Hazardous Material Release</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation-Related</li> <li>• Storage-Related, Spills, And Leaks</li> </ul>		
<b>Technological Hazards</b>		
<b>Dam Failure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downstream Flooding</li> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Property Damage</li> <li>• Environmental Damage</li> <li>• Transportation Disruption</li> <li>• Infrastructure Disruption</li> </ul>	<b>Infrastructure Failure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Public Works</li> </ul>	

Table 2: Hazard Identification Process

Hazard of Concern	How and Why hazard was Identified
<b>Severe Weather</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thunderstorms</li> <li>• High Winds</li> <li>• Lightning</li> <li>• Hail</li> <li>• Tornado</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of historical disaster declarations and NWS NCDC Storm Events Database</li> <li>• 29 out of 42 declared disaster events in Georgia were Severe Weather events</li> </ul>
<b>Inland Flooding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers</li> <li>• Flash</li> <li>• Urban</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of historical disaster declarations and NWS NCDC Storm Events Database</li> <li>• Flooding impacts Georgia nearly every year and results in the majority of the damages associated with hazard events</li> <li>• 17 out of 42 declared disaster events in Georgia were flood events</li> </ul>
<b>Tropical Cyclone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm surge</li> <li>• High Winds</li> <li>• Heavy Rain fall</li> <li>• Tornado</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of historical disaster declarations and NWS NCDC Storm Events Database</li> <li>• NWS hurricane data</li> <li>• 6 out of 42 declared disaster events in Georgia were hurricane, tropical storm, or coastal events</li> </ul>
<b>Severe Winter Weather</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow</li> <li>• Ice</li> <li>• Freezing Rain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of historical disaster declarations and National Weather Service (NWS) National Climatic Data Center's (NCDC) Storm Events Database</li> <li>• Four (4) out of 42 declared disaster events in Georgia were winter weather related events</li> </ul>
<b>Drought Wildfire</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Wildfires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of historical disaster declarations, NWS NCDC 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> </ul>
<b>Geologic Hazards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sinkholes</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of historical data, including United States Geological Survey</li> <li>• Earthquakes have impacted Georgia in the past. Between 1811 and 2013, there have been 11 earthquake events with epicenters near Georgia</li> </ul>

<p><b>Infectious Diseases:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infectious Diseases</li> <li>• Food Borne Diseases</li> <li>• Agricultural Disease Outbreaks</li> <li>• Novel Disease Outbreaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous bodies of water located in the state that assist with the breeding of mosquitos and other waterborne pathogens</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cybersecurity Attack</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hacking/Phishing</li> <li>• Infrastructure Disruptions</li> <li>• Ransomware/ Malware Attacks</li> <li>• Network Intrusion/ Disruption</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of Georgia’s critical infrastructure is linked to some technology-based platform, which is a key vector of attack in a cybersecurity incident</li> </ul>
<p><b>Active Shooter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explosives/Improvised Explosive Devices</li> <li>• Vehicle Ramming</li> <li>• Sniper Attack</li> <li>• Hostage Taking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terrorist attacks can occur anywhere</li> <li>• Georgia is an attractive target due to it’s to major urban areas, seaports and tourism.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Radiological Release (Technical, Hostile)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia contains 6 counties within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone</li> <li>• 76 counties within the 50-mile Ingestion Pathway Zone of nuclear power plants located within Georgia and adjacent states.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hazardous Material Release</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury</li> <li>• Loss of life</li> <li>• Property damage</li> <li>• Environmental damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 900 reports of oil and hazmat releases reported in 2017</li> <li>• 528 on the State’s hazardous site inventory</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dam Failure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downstream Flooding</li> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Property Damage</li> <li>• Environmental Damage</li> <li>• Transportation Disruption</li> <li>• Infrastructure Disruption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia has 4489 Dams</li> <li>• In Georgia all major rivers are dammed at least once</li> <li>• Numerous smaller dams, including agricultural exist</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infrastructure Failure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Water Wastewater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Georgia is home to numerous pieces of critical infrastructure across all identified sectors</b></li> </ul>

**3.1.2 Vulnerability Assessment**

Vulnerability includes all populations and assets (environmental, economic, and critical facilities) that 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 six (6) critical lifeline sectors (Communications, Emergency Services, Energy, Information Technology, Transportation Systems, and Water/Wastewater Systems) 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.

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 of Facilities*

<b>State Owned Holdings:</b>	13,464
<b>State route miles</b>	17,912
<b>Interstate miles</b>	1,247
<b>Law Enforcement:</b>	763
<b>Fire Stations:</b>	1899
<b>Hospitals:</b>	233
<b>Dispatch Centers</b>	199
<b>First Responder’s Communication Towers</b>	517
<b>Fixed Gateways</b>	178
<b>TV Digital Station Transmitters</b>	37
<b>AM Transmission Towers</b>	193
<b>FM Transmission Towers</b>	512
<b>Cellular Towers</b>	613
<b>City Halls:</b>	125
<b>Housing Units</b>	4,114,448

Mobile Homes	381,978
Airports:	454
Dams:	4489
Fishing and Boating Access/Marinas:	816
Dams:	4489

### 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 that 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 resource 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 manmade emergencies.
7. During a State of Emergency, when directed by the Governor 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 the 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 State Operations Center (SOC).

12. Development, maintenance, and testing of agency contingency plans enhance Georgia's ability to carry out response and recovery tasks.
13. Coordinating Nongovernmental 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 significant information sharing across multiple jurisdictions and between the public and private sectors;
  - b. Involve single or multiple jurisdictions and/or geographic areas;
  - c. Have significant statewide and/or national impact and may require significant inter-governmental 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; and
  - 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.

## **4.0 Functional Roles and Responsibilities**

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### **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;
- Citizen Corp Program;
- Praise & Preparedness; and
- Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults.

To get more information about the preparedness initiatives listed above Ready Georgia, Citizen Corp, Praise & Preparedness, go to the GEMA website [www.GEMA.georgia.gov](http://www.GEMA.georgia.gov) 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: <http://ada.georgia.gov>.

#### **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 emergency management director, should establish a cohesive command policy group to manage incidents locally. This command policy group should support local emergency management efforts at all times and influence and encourage the involvement of all entities within the county, to include NGOs, faith-based organizations and PSPs, to coordinate emergency response resources. The command policy group should consist of the following:

- Chief Elected or Appointed Official;
- Local EMA Director;
- County, City Department and Agency Heads; and
- 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 that 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, 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-government & 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 provide assistance with post emergency cleanup, and help local and state emergency managers identify those whose needs have not been met to coordinate 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, Citizen Corps Programs, Emergency Management Performance Grant funding, planning, training exercise 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 (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) as the standard incident management structure for the State.

ICS is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of ESF 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, Georgia has identified 15 ESFs including Georgia

Department of Defense, each with a pre identified coordinating agency as well as primary and support agencies and organizations.

The coordinating agency is responsible for coordinating the actions of agencies, groups, organizations, and NGOs or FBOs within their ESF and between other ESFs. 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 to the SOC.

The primary and support agencies/organizations form the ESF Working Group. This group plans, organizes, and responds to events working cooperatively to maximize effectiveness. The Coordinator is the unifying point of contact between the working group members.

The ESFs incorporated into the GEOP and their respective concepts of operations are summarized below and explained in detail in the ESF Annexes to the GEOP.

## **4.2 Assignment of Responsibilities**

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

### **Functional Responsibilities:**

- Intercostal 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:** GEMA/HS

### **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 ESF11

**ESF #5 Emergency Management Coordinator:** GEMA/HS

**Functional Responsibilities:**

- Coordination of emergency management program and GEOP
- Coordination of incident management and response efforts
- Issuance of mission requests through SOC
- Incident Action Plan
- 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 Staff Meteorologist and National Weather Service (NWS) Incident Support Meteorologists
- Coordination of Georgia Air Operations Branch
- State Warning Point

**ESF #6 Mass Care & Human Services 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 Management & Resource Support Coordinator:** GEMA/HS

**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:** GEMA/HS

**Functional Responsibilities:**

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

**ESF #10 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 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 Long Term Recovery & Mitigation Coordinator:** GEMA/HS

**Functional Responsibilities:**

- Damage, social and economic impact assessment in disasters
- Long-term community recovery assessment and coordination
- Analysis of mitigation program activities

**ESF #15 External Affairs Coordinator:** GEMA/HS

**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. These organizations are vital to the State's overall emergency management program, as they bring expertise spanning the ESFs and serve as core members of the SOC:

- Atlanta Gas Light
- American Radio Relay League
- American Red Cross
- American Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams
- Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- Board of Regents, University System of Georgia
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Electric Cities of Georgia
- Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
- Georgia Animal Control Association
- Georgia Archives
- Georgia Air National Guard
- Georgia Army National Guard
- Georgia Department of Banking and Finance
- Georgia Building Authority
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts
- Georgia Department of Driver Services
- Georgia Department of Revenue
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Department of Community Health
- Georgia Department of Human Services
- Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Department of Administrative Services
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Labor
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Department of Public Safety
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Department of Defense
- Georgia Department of Corrections
- Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
- Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency
- Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Historical Society
- Georgia Hospital Association
- Georgia Municipal Association
- Georgia Mutual Aid Group
- Georgia's Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village
- Georgia Oilmen's Association
- Georgia Petroleum Council
- Georgia Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety
- Georgia Office of Planning & Budget
- Georgia Propane Gas Association
- Georgia Ports Authority
- Georgia Power Company
- Georgia Public Broadcasting
- Georgia Public Service Commission
- Georgia Public Safety Training Center
- Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
- Georgia State Defense Force
- Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission
- Georgia State Department of Veterans Service
- Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission
- Georgia Transmission Corporation
- Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Heritage Emergency Response Agency
- Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia
- Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia

- National Animal Rescue Sheltering Coalition
- Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council
- Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia
- Savannah Heritage Emergency Response
- State Board of Pardons and Paroles
- State Properties Commission
- The Georgia Health Care Association
- The Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults
- Technical College System of Georgia
- The Salvation Army
- Zoo and Aquarium All Hazards Preparedness Response and Recovery

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

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### **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 4 x meals per day for approximately 125-150 personnel. The 4 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 being built into 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 work stations 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 Operations Center are authorized.
- Coordinate additional parking related to the increased number of personnel reporting to the SOC for assignment.
- Increase in Cell Phone coverage for the SOC during activations.
- Increase in Wi-Fi hotspot band width to support multiple devices from each staff member that responds and reports for duty at the SOC.

- Deployment and set up for work stations 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 alternate SOC at Ga. Public Safety Training Center. (Alternate SOC Only)

## **6.0 Concept of the Operation**

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### **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, the Director of GEMA/HS is authorized to activate this plan and implement any emergency response actions that may be necessary for the immediate protection of life and property.

All State Boards, Departments, Agencies, Associations, Institutions and Authorities shall cooperate fully with the Emergency Operation Command and the Director of GEMA/HS, 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 Operation Command in order to coordinate all response and recovery efforts.

### **6.2 Plan Activation**

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

- Director of GEMA/HS
- Director of Georgia Bureau of Investigation
- Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety
- Adjutant General
- Other State Directors or Commissioners as required by the nature and magnitude of the event.

During emergencies, the Emergency Operation Command meets by conference call daily as determined by the Director of GEMA/HS and reports 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 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) for disasters or emergencies that do not warrant a full scale state response.

An ESF is a grouping of governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation, and services that are 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.

### **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.

Direction, control and coordination of the State's response to an emergency or disaster, when this plan is activated, reside with the Director of GEMA/HS and the State Emergency Operation Command. The Director of GEMA/HS (or his/her designee) will coordinate with all state agencies, authorities, boards and departments 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 4.5)

There are three levels of activation:

- 1) Full Scale Activation,
- 2) Elevated Activation or
- 3) Active Monitoring.

During normal activities (Level 3: Active Monitoring), the SOC is staffed by a full-time cadre operating out of the State Warning Point and augmented with 24-hour duty officer coverage. This level of activation may be increased to elevated or full scale 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. 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 there is a federal disaster declared. Once the JFO is established, the SOC returns to an active monitoring 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 long or short 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 private sector 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. In order 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 the incident management software system utilized in the SOC. 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; and
- Prioritize objectives.

## 7.0 Plan Maintenance

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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 Section Manager.

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