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Winter Weather Incident Annex

2025

# Approval and Implementation

Transmitted herewith is the updated Winter Weather Incident Annex (WWIA) to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP). This incident annex supersedes the annex of the same name dated 2016 and any/all previous emergency management/civil defense winter weather annexes promulgated by the State of Georgia for this purpose. It provides a framework in which the agencies of the State of Georgia can plan and perform their respective emergency functions during a disaster or emergency.

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Director

Georgia Emergency Management

and Homeland Security Agency

# Executive Summary

The Winter Weather Incident Annex describes the necessary steps the State will take to prepare for and respond to a significant winter weather event that requires the use of personnel, equipment, and funding controlled and/or coordinated by the State of Georgia. This annex describes the actions taken by the State’s agencies that have been assigned Emergency Support Function (ESF) roles and responsibilities within the GEOP during winter weather events. The WWIA 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 winter weather event. This annex is designed to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards, National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements, and is compliant with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

Sections 1 through 4 of this Annex mirror sections of the GEOP with certain additions specifically for winter weather (Sections 2.4 and 2.6). Section 5 provides a brief overview of winter weather procedures taken by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS). Although significant winter weather events often impact several ESFs, Transportation and Public Safety play a critical role in the treatment and pretreatment of roadways and the safety of the traveling public. Much of GEMA/HS’ winter weather operations are in support of local Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs), GDOT, and DPS. Therefore, much of the content of this Annex is geared toward support of these agencies.

GDOT and DPS have 6 types of teams for use on roadways before, during, and after a winter weather event:

* **GDOT Brine Teams** and **DPS Brine Escort Teams** are utilized to *pretreat* Interstates, State Routes, and/or Metro Atlanta secondary routes *up to 24 hours prior* to onset of wintry precipitation.
* **GDOT Plow Teams** and **DPS Plow Escort Teams** are utilized to *treat* Interstates, State Routes, and/or Metro Atlanta secondary routes *after* onset of wintry precipitation.
* **GDOT Special Response Teams** respond to non-emergency situations like accidents, stalls, blocked intersections, and stranded motorists.
* **Multi-Agency Traffic Strike Teams** include any combination of Georgia State Patrol, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, Department of Natural Resources, GDOT HERO (Highway Emergency Response Operator), Department of Revenue, and Georgia Department of Defense personnel for any emergency or non-emergency related issues on interstates during winter weather.

The biggest changes from the previous Winter Weather Incident Annex are the elimination of the Operating Condition (OPCON) concept and reformatting the State Synchronization Matrix into individual ESF one-pager checklists (Appendix D). The Synchronization Checklist may be the most important contribution of this Annex as it outlines actions to be considered by each ESF at timeframes before and during a winter weather event.

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Winter Weather Incident Annex is to supplement the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan with actions and decision points made by the State of Georgia specifically during significant winter weather events. The WWIA 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 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 Winter Weather Incident Annex supports the GEOP and applies to Georgia state agencies and partners assigned ESF responsibilities by the Governor’s Executive Order 10.04.24.01 and the GEOP. This incident annex outlines details associated with winter weather planning, preparedness, and response. It includes the actions the State will take to support local jurisdictions and the structure in which State resources will operate within.

The WWIA is not the primary document for mitigation and long-term recovery. 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 <https://gema.georgia.gov/>.

## 1.3 Consequence Analysis

The Winter Weather Consequence Analysis is part of the Georgia Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA). The following is a brief summary of this analysis.

When winter weather occurs, the impacts can be devastating and may affect isolated locations or multiple jurisdictions simultaneously. When the impacts exceed the capabilities of local jurisdictions, the State must respond in a timely, organized, and efficient manner to save lives, mitigate property damage, and restore a sense of normalcy to the community. This response is coordinated through the State Operations Center (SOC) in concert with local, state, federal, volunteer, and private sector partners.

A significant winter weather event typically affects multiple counties and can span multiple states. Due to the varying scope of possible impacts, this annex may be utilized when either of the following criteria are met:

* Snow and/or ice accumulations are anticipated to impact multiple counties, such that emergency response cannot be effectively performed within each county, or emergency response cannot be successfully met by county mutual aid resources. Either of these scenarios would require assistance from the State.
* One or more of the products outlined in Section 2.6 and Appendix A are issued by NWS for any area in Georgia. These NWS products differ by forecast intensity, probability, and expected arrival time of impacts.

Although winter weather does not create a significant problem in Georgia every year, the State has experienced impacts from winter weather events in the past which created hazardous conditions, overwhelmed emergency response capabilities, caused suffering for Georgia’s citizens, and caused significant damage to public and private infrastructure.

The Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy provides an analysis of current winter weather hazards and the history of significant winter weather events in Georgia, including ice storms, extremely cold temperatures, and even blizzards. Most of Georgia’s hazardous winter weather typically occurs between the months of December and March, with the highest probability of occurrence in January and February.

# 2.0 Concept of the Operation

## 2.1 General

When an emergency or disaster has occurred or is imminent, the Governor may issue a State of Emergency (SOE). 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 Agencies, Authorities, Departments, Institutions, Associations, and Boards 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. For more information, see section 7.2 of this document or the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981.

During activation of the Winter Weather Incident Annex, GEMA/HS will facilitate resource requests to the appropriate ESFs.

## 2.2 Plan Activation

This annex 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 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 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.

## 2.3 Emergency Support Functions

The following is a list of ESF partners that support the SOC and the primary agencies responsible for those ESFs:

ESF-1: Transportation – Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

ESF-2: Communications – GEMA/HS

ESF-3: Public Works and Engineering – Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Watershed Protection Branch

ESF-4: Firefighting – Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC)

ESF-5: Emergency Management, Information and Planning – GEMA/HS

ESF-6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, & Human Assistance – Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)

ESF-7: Logistics – GEMA/HS and Georgia Department of Administrative Services (DOAS)

ESF-8: Public Health and Medical Services – Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH)

ESF-9: Search and Rescue (SAR) – GEMA/HS

ESF-10: Oil and Hazardous Materials Response – Georgia DNR and GEMA/HS

ESF-11: Agriculture and Natural Resources – Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) and Georgia DNR

ESF-12: Energy – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)

ESF-13: Public Safety and Security – Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS), Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), and the Governor’s Office of Consumer Affairs

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

ESF-15: External Affairs – GEMA/HS and the Office of the Governor

ESF-16: Defense – Georgia Department of Defense (DOD)

ESF-17: Cyber Security – Georgia Technology Authority

## 2.4 Planning Assumptions

General guidelines for plan activation are based on the following assumptions:

* Winter storms in the Southeast are inherently difficult to predict. Forecasts can change rapidly and fluctuate in coverage and intensity. These storm systems may become hazardous with little warning, catching the public off-guard. They may also never materialize, causing an unnecessary loss of productivity to schools and businesses that close.
* A winter storm typically affects multiple counties and can span numerous regions throughout Georgia. The severity of impacts may vary locally due to excessive snow or ice accumulation, the presence of vulnerable populations, the location of critical facilities impacted, and/or the isolation of certain communities.
* State agencies and local jurisdictions will implement their plans in a timely manner.
* Critical facilities, such as hospitals and nursing homes, will develop and maintain functional contingency plans to protect their residents and ensure critical workforce continuity of operations.
* School Superintendents will maintain situational awareness of changing weather forecasts and make appropriate decisions regarding school closures.
* GEMA/HS will participate in the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) administered by the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Communications. GETS provides priority access to landline phone systems, and WPS provides priority access to most cellular phone systems during periods of congestion due to increased call volume or damage to communication infrastructure. GEMA/HS will also have alternative communication devices readily available as needed.
* Coordinators for ESF-12 (Energy) will facilitate ongoing planning efforts with public and private sector utility partners to improve coordination and collaboration during a winter weather incident.
* Pre-planning of sheltering needs is difficult due to the uncertainty of predicting the exact location, amount, timing, and impact of winter weather.
* Local governments will often open Warming Centers to shelter anyone in need.
* Houses of worship will often open Comfort Centers in their facilities as they see the need arise.
* When a large number of motorists are stranded in an unexpected storm, private businesses, fire stations, and police stations may open as refuges of last resort. It is not expected that these facilities will have food, water, blankets, or cots; people should be moved to Warming or Comfort Centers as soon as possible.
* When Warming Centers and/or Comfort Centers are opened, the entity that opens the facility will be responsible for staffing and managing those amenities.
* At times, the transportation of response personnel, shelter resources, equipment, and supplies will be difficult. As such, they will need to be prioritized based on life safety needs.
* Commuter traffic congestion will fluctuate according to the size of the workforce that remains home prior to an imminent snow or ice storm. Worker decisions to remain home often depend on forecast confidence, school closures, state office and business closures, and employers’ work-from-home and absentee policies.
* Most citizens will be made aware of the threat of a winter storm through a variety of mediums, including (but not limited to): GEMA/HS public messaging, NWS messaging, local and national television news broadcasts, local newspapers, social media, Emergency Alert System broadcasts, and Wireless Emergency Alerts.

## 2.5 SOC Activation Levels

The SOC is the primary coordination point for state response. GEMA/HS operates the SOC according to tenets established by the NRF and NIMS to achieve objectives provided by the Governor and the Director of GEMA/HS. The Director of GEMA/HS establishes the SOC activation level as determined by the scope of the incident and initiates an operational rhythm which includes scheduled meetings, coordination conference calls, and pre-identified deliverables to support the SOC response.

State ESFs are aligned with the NRF to ensure efficient and effective coordination and response. ESF representatives staff the SOC as requested by the SOC Command and General Staff. While conference calls among ESF representatives may be adequate for early tactical planning prior to an event, face-to-face meetings are critical for successful operational planning. All ESFs are expected to have properly trained personnel designated to work within the SOC. ESF representatives must be able to contact personnel operating within their ESF at the local level, other State Agencies, and federal partners when necessary to obtain the most accurate incident status. Likewise, these personnel must be aware of the roles and responsibilities of their ESF and be prepared to make decisions regarding response operations. The ESF Coordinator and/or alternate authorized to act on behalf of the state agency/organization will perform SOC functional responsibilities (see sections 3.1 through 3.3).

There are three levels of activation:

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

During Level 3 (GREEN) - Normal Operations, GEMA/HS operates 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 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 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 and/or Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) 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.

## 2.6 NWS Winter Weather Products

The following winter weather products from the National Weather Service (NWS) are used to determine the SOC activation level and expected impacts from a winter weather event. For more information, see the chart in Appendix A, which includes the Cold Weather Advisory, Extreme Cold Watch, and Extreme Cold Warning products – which do not typically necessitate an SOC activation but could if needed.

* A Hazardous Weather Outlook may be issued 3 to 7 days before an event for a 30% or greater chance of a hazardous winter weather event that may require a watch or warning in a later forecast.
* A Winter Storm Watch is typically issued 12 to 48 hours in advance of an event for a 50% or greater chance of conditions favorable for a significant winter storm (including heavy sleet, heavy snow, or ice storm).
  + The definition of “Winter Storm” conditions in Georgia includes 2 or more inches of snow, ½ inch or more of sleet, or ¼ inch or more of freezing rain.
  + A Winter Storm Watch may be issued at forecaster and emergency management discretion when significant impacts are expected but the snow, sleet, or freezing rain criteria are not necessarily met.
* A Winter Weather Advisory can be issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a winter precipitation event (snow, freezing rain/drizzle, sleet or blowing snow) which causes *inconveniences* but does not meet warning criteria.
  + A Winter Weather Advisory is an UPGRADE from a Winter Storm Watch.
* A Winter Storm Warning can be issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a winter weather event that meets at least one of these criteria: 2 or more inches of snow, ½ inch or more of sleet, or ¼ inch or more of freezing rain.
  + A Winter Storm Warning is an UPGRADE from a Winter Storm Watch and/or a Winter Weather Advisory.
  + A Winter Storm Warning may be issued at forecaster and emergency management discretion when significant impacts are expected but the snow, sleet, or freezing rain criteria are not necessarily met.
* An Ice Storm Warning may be issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a ¼ inch or more of freezing rain.
  + An Ice Storm Warning is an UPGRADE from a Winter Storm Watch and/or a Winter Weather Advisory. It is issued instead of a Winter Storm Warning when the ice criteria or impacts are expected to be met but not necessarily the snow criteria or impacts.
  + An Ice Storm Warning may be issued at forecaster and emergency management discretion when significant impacts are expected but the freezing rain or ice criteria are not necessarily met.
* In rare cases, a Blizzard Warning may also be issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of sustained or frequent wind gusts to 35 mph or greater and considerable falling and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than ¼ mile for 3 hours or more.

## 2.7 WebEOC

WebEOC is the incident management system implemented by GEMA/HS to enable State and local responders to gain situational awareness and communicate requests for assistance. WebEOC accounts are provided to all ESF partners, and WebEOC training is routinely provided. Georgia DPH, GDOT, and multiple local jurisdictions have their own instances of WebEOC, which can be fused with GEMA/HS’ WebEOC to enhance situational awareness and information exchange.

# 3.0 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

## 3.1 ESF Coordination

All ESFs will utilize their pre-established annexes from the GEOP in response to a significant winter weather event. For assignment of functional responsibilities for each ESF, refer to section 4.2 of the GEOP. For specific tasks related to winter weather, refer to the Winter Weather Synchronization Checklist located in Appendix D of this annex. Further information can be found in the ESF annexes at <https://gema.georgia.gov/what-we-do/planning>.

## 3.2 Primary Agency Assignment of Responsibilities

GEMA/HS will utilize pre-established plans from the GEOP in response to a significant winter weather event. For specific tasks related to winter weather, refer to the Winter Weather Synchronization Checklist located in Appendix D of this annex. For more information on functions performed by GEMA/HS during emergencies, refer to the GEOP.

## 3.3 Support Agency Assignment of Responsibilities

All Support Agencies will utilize their pre-established plans from the GEOP in response to a significant winter weather event. Support Agencies will be activated as needed, depending on the type and scope of the incident.

# 4.0 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 Governor’s Executive Order. In addition, other assistance through non-governmental agencies (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 ESF.

## 4.1 Information Collection and Dissemination

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 the incident management software system utilized in the SOC. Geospatial Information System 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.

Relevant information will be gathered in the SOC by the Planning Section / Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of Incident Action Plans and Situational Reports. All public information requests/reports regarding incident activity will be coordinated through and released by ESF-15 / External Affairs.

In addition to the SOC, personnel may be provided to field operations established throughout Georgia, including but not limited to: Joint Field Offices, Joint Information Centers, Disaster Recovery Centers, and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each particular incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

## 4.2 Communications and Documentation

The GEMA/HS Planning Section has provided Standard Operating Guide (SOG) development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the GEOP. All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready SOGs to support this Annex. ESF-2 Communications will facilitate communications requests and resources as dictated by incident requirements. Agencies and partners will meet as necessary to develop, review, and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

## 4.3 Administration, Finance, and Logistics

Logistics support will be facilitated by ESF-7 / Logistics and Resource Support in conjunction with the necessary ESFs.

Resource requirements will be primarily determined by affected County EMA Directors, working with assigned GEMA/HS Field Coordinators. Resource Requests flow from the County EMA Director (or the GEMA/HS Field Coordinator acting on his/her behalf) or other state agency to the SOC. Existing state resources, intrastate mutual aid, donations, Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and NGOs provide the initial sources of personnel, vehicles, equipment, supplies, and services to fulfill resource requests. Resource Requests that exceed the capability of these sources may be fulfilled through state purchasing and contracting, interstate mutual aid, or federal government agency assistance.

The GEOP ESF-7 / Logistics and Resource Support Annex contains information on the provision of assets and resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, private-sector, or NGO procurement procedures, and requests for assistance to FEMA.

# 5.0 Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS) Operations

This section provides a brief overview of the incident response frameworks for GDOT and DPS during winter weather events. GDOT and DPS work hand-in-hand before, during, and after significant winter weather events; therefore, this section includes both agencies’ winter weather plans. For more information, see GDOT’s Winter Weather Response Guidelines and the Georgia DPS Winter Weather Plan. This framework is aligned with policies and procedures set forth by GEMA/HS and the GEOP.

During a crisis, GEMA/HS, GDOT, and DPS have the same mission – to provide a comprehensive and aggressive all-hazards approach to mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for the citizens of Georgia to save lives, protect property, and reduce the effects of disasters. The safety of the traveling public is paramount to the mission of GDOT and DPS. In addition to coordinating the safe and efficient movement of traffic within the State of Georgia, DPS communicates with and controls commercial vehicle travel and assists members of the general public with emergency needs.

Harsh weather creates hazardous driving conditions. GDOT has an internal mandate to keep roads passable and plays a vital role in response to winter weather conditions, whether it is clearing travel lanes, treating roadways, disseminating information to the public, or aiding in rescue efforts. Statewide, GDOT has over 50,000 tons of salt, over 50,000 tons of gravel, and is able to produce 50,000 gallons of brine every hour to treat and pretreat roadways.

GDOT’s top priority during a winter weather event is maintaining two passable lanes on interstates – not necessarily every lane. The second priority is the highest volume state routes. This focuses on the most traveled routes first, keeping them open for emergency travel. Two-lane state routes may be closed to traffic until they are safe to use, or cities and counties may choose to work on those roadways.

The GDOT EOC is operated by GDOT Maintenance at the Transportation Management Center (TMC) in Atlanta during major incidents, weather emergencies, and special events throughout the State. The GDOT EOC may be activated with or without activation of the GEMA/HS SOC. As the ESF-1 Lead, the Director of Emergency Operations and/or the State Maintenance Engineer are responsible for GDOT staffing at the SOC during a winter weather event.

The DPS Liaison Officer to GEMA/HS serves as the designated DPS contact for GEMA/HS. Upon activation of the SOC, resource requests for public safety and security assistance will be coordinated by the DPS Liaison Officer to GEMA/HS as the ESF-13 Lead.

## 5.1 511/Navigator and Road Weather Information System (RWIS)

When a traveler in Georgia calls 511 to report a serious accident, road closure, or other incident to GDOT’s TMC, GDOT dispatches a responder to the scene. GDOT’s Navigator website features a GIS map of the state with icons for traffic cameras and message signs over interstate highways and major roads. Hundreds of cameras are strategically placed throughout Georgia with the densest concentration in Metro Atlanta. Message signs display information to drivers about travel times, road closures, congestion, accidents, travel delays, and other traffic related issues. Users can click on the icon for a specific message sign to read the message currently displayed. The website also gives users easy access to weather information.

Weather stations are part of GDOT’s Intelligent Transportation System, monitoring current weather conditions and notifying key personnel around the state. NWS and GEMA/HS use this information as well. GDOT’s Road Weather Information System provides critically important information about the temperature of road surfaces that guides decisions about deploying resources like plows and brine trucks.

## 5.2 GDOT Brine Teams

Brine is a mixture of salt and water used as a preventative treatment and is intended to limit the bonding of ice to pavement. Brine is also used for road de-icing on interstates, state routes, and overpasses. Ten brine distribution tankers will dispense brine along all Metro Atlanta interstates *up to 24 hours before the onset of a winter weather event*. Brine tankers will be escorted by ESF-13 / Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD).

The standard Staging Area for all brine teams in Metro Atlanta is the Maintenance Activities Unit (MAU) in Forest Park. District 1 (Gainesville) and District 6 (Cartersville) perform their own de-icing. The Staging Area for District 1 is the old I-85 southbound Rest Area. The Staging Area for District 6 is the Cartersville District Office. Staging areas for all other staff are at designated hotels.

Each shift begins at the assigned Staging Area and is escorted by ESF-13 to their various brining routes in the Metro plan. After escorting each team to the appropriate route, ESF-13 also acts as an escort while the team brines the interstate. Districts will utilize construction and other district personnel for brine escorts. Additional treatment locations include route clearance for GEMA/HS, GSP Troop C, and FEMA Region 4.

Brine Teams dispense brine along pre-designated routes (in priority, established by GDOT) between 24–12 hours prior to the onset of a winter weather event. Routes include I-285, all interstate routes inside I-285, and a certain portion of each interstate extending outside of I-285. Up to 10 Brine Distribution Trucks will be escorted by one ESF-13 unit. 2 brine makers capable of producing 10,000 gallons of brine per hour are located at the GDOT brine farm facility in Forest Park, as well as a stockpile of 220,000 gallons of pre-made brine. GDOT assets from outside of Metro Atlanta will mobilize and deploy to Atlanta as needed. See Appendix C for a map of GDOT Brine Team routes.

## 5.3 DPS Brine Escort Teams

DPS Brine Escort Teams are used to provide safety and visibility for GDOT Brine Teams as they apply product to the roadways, and to prevent traffic from hindering GDOT’s operations. One MCCD Officer or one GSP Trooper in a patrol car will follow the GDOT Brine Truck. Local MCCD Officers and Troopers will initially be used for this escort team. When Initial Response Teams (IRTs) from other Regions/Troops arrive, they will replace local officers/troopers to be reassigned. DPS Brine Escort Teams follow the GDOT Brine Team timelines for activation and demobilization. The Officer/Trooper will remain with the same GDOT Brine Team throughout each shift, traveling the assigned route, as designated by GDOT, and escorting the truck to GDOT facilities for product refills. If any traffic hazard is recognized, the Officer/Trooper will contact the Traffic Strike Team covering that route to respond, or the designated communications center to dispatch assistance while the Officer/Trooper remains with the GDOT Brine Truck. Exceptions will be for emergency situations like a serious crash, a fire, a serious medical issue, or an irate or special needs citizen, when the Officer/Trooper will immediately assist.

## 5.4 GDOT Plow Teams

GDOT Plow Teams consist of plow trucks with salt hoppers, plows, and possibly tow plows along with escort vehicles from GDOT and ESF-13. Teams will be used to plow snow and apply a mixture of salt and rock along brine operation routes *once wintry precipitation has begun*.

Plow Teams with non-Metro GDOT District personnel apply salt treatment on the *Metro Atlanta interstates*, mobilizing around 36 hours prior to impact before moving to designated staging locations. The decision to spread salt will be made up to 12 hours before impact. Plow team staging locations are each team’s hotel, where ESF-13 personnel will meet them to begin escorting. Escort Teams of ESF-13 personnel will follow along routes to prevent vehicles from engaging the convoy due to the slower speeds required to place material and plow snow. Up to 20 Plow Teams with optimally 3–5 Tandem Dump Trucks (Plows and Spreaders) per Team will deploy on each of 20 pre-designated interstate routes and begin applying salt. Teams will not leave the routes except to resupply or change shift. A GDOT Supervisor will travel in a separate vehicle with each team. See Appendix C for a map of GDOT Plow Team routes.

Plow Teams with GDOT District 7 (Metro Atlanta) personnel apply salt treatment on *secondary Metro Atlanta and State Routes*, mobilizing around 36 hours prior to impact, before moving to designated staging locations. The decision to spread salt will be made up to 12 hours before impact. Metro Atlanta is divided into 3 zones for the treatment of secondary State Routes. Teams operating within each zone will consist of a maximum of 8 trucks. Plow Teams also serve as Special Response Teams that augment Interstate Teams when a trouble spot occurs. These Plow Teams are not escorted by ESF-13 along secondary Metro Atlanta and State Routes.

## 5.5 DPS Plow Escort Teams

DPS Plow Escort Teams are used to provide safety and visibility for GDOT Plow Teams as they scrape and apply product to the roadways, and to prevent traffic from hindering GDOT’s operations. One MCCD Officer or one GSP Trooper in a patrol car will follow the GDOT Plow Trucks. Local MCCD Officers and Troopers will initially be used for this escort team. When IRTs from other Regions/Troops arrive, they will replace local officers/troopers to be reassigned. DPS Plow Escort Teams follow the GDOT Plow Team timelines for activation and demobilization. Escort Team members will remain together and with the same GDOT Plow Trucks throughout the shift, traveling the assigned route, as designated by GDOT, and escorting the trucks to GDOT facilities for product refills. If any traffic hazard is recognized, team members will contact the Traffic Strike Team covering that route to respond, or the designated command center or communications center to dispatch assistance while the Officer/Trooper remains with the GDOT Plow Trucks. Exceptions will be for emergency situations like a serious crash, a fire, a serious medical issue, or an irate or special needs citizen, when the Officer/Trooper will immediately assist.

## 5.6 GDOT Special Response Teams

Special Response Teams (SRTs) are teams that respond to situations which may or may not be emergency related, like accidents, stalls, blocked intersections, and stranded motorists. SRTs consist of 10-15 GDOT employees and are dispatched on a case-by-case basis with equipment based on the event type. SRTs are staged at GDOT headquarter locations and respond as dispatched by GDOT/TMC or ESF-13.

During significant winter weather events, SRTs assist in the application of salt treatment to primary and secondary Metro Atlanta and State Routes as needed. Up to 40 SRTs augment existing Brine, Plow, and Escort Teams with additional snowplows as needed. SRTs will respond to problem areas independent of existing Brine Team and Plow Team assignments. SRTs are not escorted by ESF-13.

## 5.7 Multi-Agency Strike Teams

During emergencies, Multi-Agency Traffic Strike Teams keep traffic moving on interstates when vehicles are stalled, stranded, or abandoned in travel lanes. They also help stranded motorists get to a safe location during inclement weather. Traffic Strike Teams consist of at least one of the following as needed per specified route:

* 1 Local GSP Trooper (in a GSP patrol vehicle – AWD or 4WD preferred)
* 1 Local MCCD Officer (in an MCCD patrol vehicle – AWD or 4WD preferred)
* 1 DNR Ranger (in a DNR truck – some ATVs staged at DPS HQ/Troop C/SOC)
* 1 GDOT HERO Unit (in a HERO truck)
* 1 DOR Agent (in a regular agency vehicle)
* 1 DOD Unit (if activated – in a Humvee)

Additionally, GFC Units will be assigned to the Metro Atlanta area and will be available for logistical issues and for clearing downed trees in the roadway. Each team reports to a pre-designated Traffic Strike Team Leader. The size of the team may be adjusted to fit the need or event size at any time.

When possible, teams are activated prior to an incident or as needed by the GDOT Director of Emergency Operations and in collaboration with ESF-13 based on weather, status of the interstate, traffic volume, or travel lane blockages. The interstate system is divided into 15 routes (see Appendix C) consisting of 5–10-mile segments of I-285, I-75, and I-85 inside the Perimeter, I-20 (extending to Thornton Road), GA 400 (inside the Perimeter), and a portion of GA Highway 166 (Lakewood Freeway). Teams will be assigned to patrol these routes and address traffic problems as they occur.

When a Traffic Strike Team is activated, team members will report to their assigned routes and notify their respective EOC or Communications Center when they arrive. There will not be a specific staging location, nor a rally point on the specific route, for all team members to report to when they arrive at their route. Upon arrival, each member will begin patrolling the route and follow the operating procedures for Traffic Strike Teams. Traffic Strike Team members will not stay together as a group while patrolling their assigned routes. The routes are better covered when team members separate and continue patrolling while other team members are assisting motorists. Strike Team members will request other team members to assist with road clearance, as needed. Routes include designated sections of interstates/roadways between exits. Team members will make continuous loops on the designated routes to ensure no area along the route goes unpatrolled for an extended period. Strike Team members will coordinate with one another regarding breaks to ensure no more than one team member is away from the route at any time. Strike Team members will contact the GDOT Communications Center when leaving the assigned route and again upon return to the assigned route. Strike Teams provide traffic updates and road blockages to the EOC/SOC. These guidelines ensure proper command and control of all strike team members. Traffic Strike Team Members will fall under a unified command structure and will report to their normal chain of command.

Strike Teams equipped with tow straps, gas cans, blankets, MRE’s, and water will move disabled vehicles from the travel lanes, transport motorists to a safe location off the interstate, contact the EOC/SOC to arrange for towing for disabled vehicles, deliver emergency supplies, provide visibility (emergency lights) and safety for other team members while in the roadway, provide fuel to get motorists to a gas station, and block travel lanes with traffic cones as needed. This is not an exhaustive list and HERO Units may be called on to perform other tasks as well. As winter weather moves away from the area, these teams can be deactivated, and team members are reassigned to perform other tasks and eventually released to perform normal job duties.

* GSP, MCCD, and GDOT HERO Unit may be used to move disabled vehicles from the travel lanes using a tow strap, chain, or push bumper if feasible (DNR may also use tow straps)
* All units (GSP, MCCD, DNR, GDOT HERO, DOR, and DOD) can be used to transport motorists to a safe location off the interstate.
* All units (GSP, MCCD, DNR, GDOT HERO, DOR, and DOD) may contact the communications center to arrange towing for disabled vehicles
* All units (GSP, MCCD, DNR, GDOT HERO, DOR, and DOD) may be used to deliver emergency supplies including water, blankets, Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), snack bars, etc.
* GSP, MCCD, DNR, GDOT HERO, and DOR may be used to provide visibility (blue/emergency lights) and safety for other team members while in the roadway
* GSP, MCCD, and GDOT HERO may be used to provide enough fuel to get a motorist to a gas station
* GDOT HERO may be used to block travel lanes with traffic cones.

Triggers for activation are prior to the onset of winter precipitation or as needed earlier based on snow/ice on interstates, traffic volume, or travel lane blockages. Levels of Activation are:

* Level 1: GSP, MCCD and GDOT HERO patrol limited Traffic Strike Team Routes
* Level 2: GSP, MCCD and GDOT HERO patrol all 15 Traffic Strike Team Routes
* Level 3: All 6 agencies involved patrol all 15 Traffic Strike Team Routes

These graduated levels of activation will allow flexibility, based on the weather scenario, to avoid a full (Level 3) activation every time. The three agencies involved in a Level 1 and Level 2 activation already have personnel patrolling the Metro Atlanta Interstates and can quickly transition their personnel to Traffic Strike Team routes when needed.

# 6.0 Plan Evaluation, Maintenance, and Revision

## 6.1 Evaluation

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESFs will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops, and conferences.

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles After Action Reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. Necessary ESFs shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls, and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into subsequent updates to the GEOP, it’s Annexes, or ESF SOGs, when applicable.

## 6.2 Maintenance and Revision

All recommended changes can be submitted in accordance with Annex B of the GEMA/HS Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy. The Winter Weather Incident Annex will be revised in accordance with paragraph 6.1.2 of the GEMA/HS Plans Standardization and Maintenance Policy. In addition, the document shall be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the Agency Exercise or Event After Action Reports / Improvement Plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow the issuance of any Governor’s Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.

# 7.0 Authorities and References

## 7.1 Authorities

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 Director of GEMA/HS. Moreover, the State’s Emergency Services and Disaster Laws require that state and local governments develop and maintain current Emergency Operations Plans to be prepared for a variety of natural and human caused hazards. Executive Orders by the Governor supplement the laws and establish specific planning initiatives and requirements.

## 7.2 References

**Georgia Emergency Operations Plan**, GEMA/HS, *October 2024*. <https://gema.georgia.gov/what-we-do/planning>

**State of Georgia Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**, GEMA/HS, *April 2018*. <https://gema.georgia.gov/what-we-do/planning>

**Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy**, GEMA/HS, *March 2019*. <https://gema.georgia.gov/what-we-do/planning>

**Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981**; Official Code of Georgia, Title 38, Section 3, Articles 1 through 3 (O.C.G.A. § 38-3-1 et. seq.)

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-38/chapter-3/>

**Georgia Governor’s Executive Order 10.04.24.01**, Updating the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan.

<https://gov.georgia.gov/document/2024-executive-order/10042401/download>

**Winter Weather Incident Response Emergency Operations Guidelines**, GDOT, *October 2019.*

**Winter Weather Plan**, Georgia Department of Public Safety, *2014.*

**National Weather Service Winter Weather Warnings Index**, NWS. <https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter>.

**National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center Winter Weather Forecasts**, NWS. <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml>.

# 8.0 Appendices

## Appendix A – NWS Winter Weather Products and Terms Explained

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## Appendix B – NWS Coverage and GEMA/HS Area Map

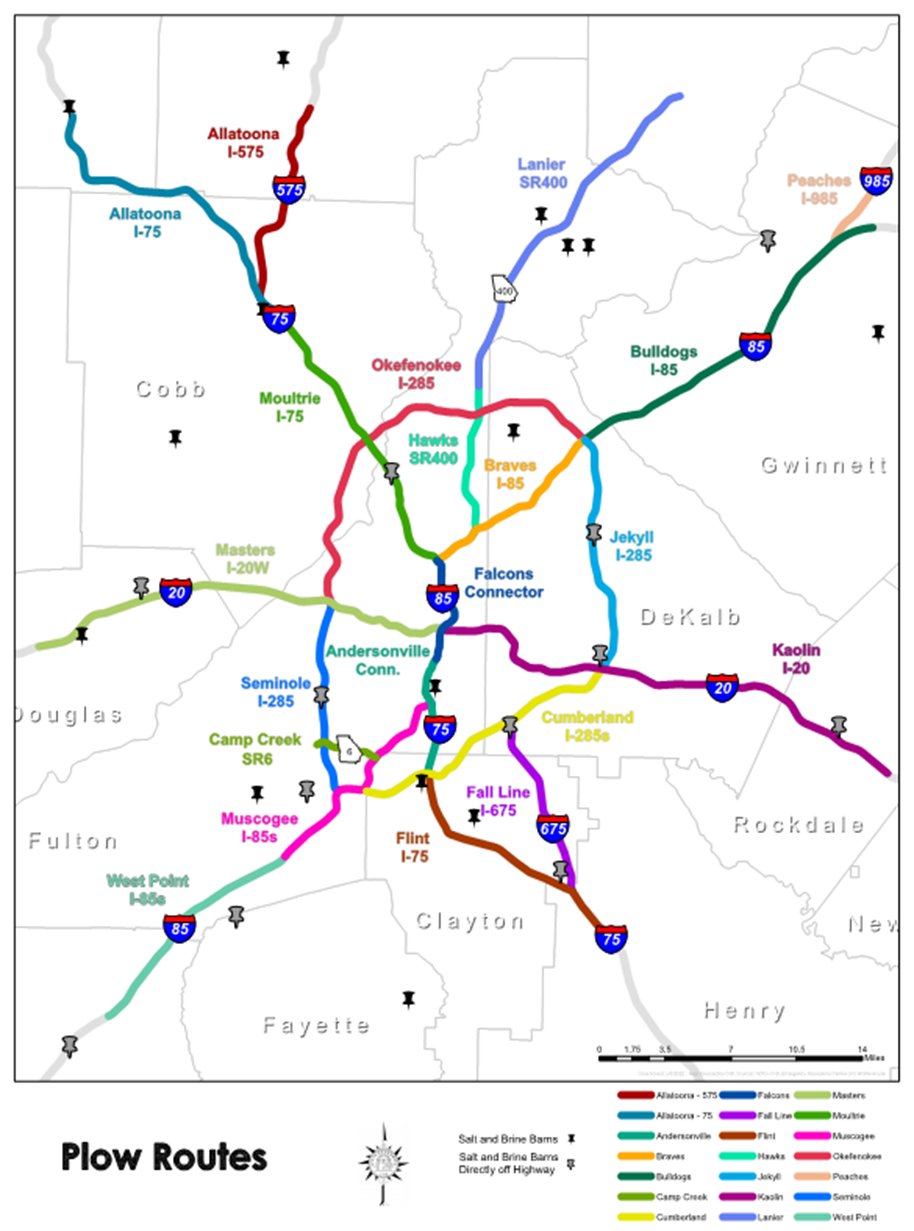
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## Appendix C – GDOT Resources

Chart

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Map

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Timeline

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## Appendix D – Winter Weather State Synchronization Checklist

### GEMA/HS Leadership: Issues, Considerations, and Decision Points

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* Should the SOC Activation level be raised? Level 2 or Level 1?
* Are there any special events scheduled in potentially affected areas? Should cancellations or postponements be recommended?
* To what extent will transportation hubs or major Metro areas be impacted? How will the timing of impacts affect travel?
* Will the Georgia DOD need to be alerted, placed on standby, or activated?

#### Within 48 Hours of Onset

* Should the Governor consider declaring a State of Emergency?
* Should SOC Activation level or staffing plans be adjusted?
* Should internal GEMA/HS, County Coordination, and/or Emergency Operations Command conference calls be initiated? Should they be held daily?
* Do any counties have any unmet needs, particularly for salt operations? Are counties planning to salt/brine priority local routes near critical infrastructure?
* To what extent will local school systems be impacted? Should the Georgia Department of Education or local Superintendents be notified?
* Have any special events not been cancelled that may want to reconsider?
* Should Warming Centers be activated?
* Should Wireless Emergency Alerts be initiated?
* Should a Joint Information Center (JIC) be established?
* Should a liaison from the National Weather Service be requested to augment the State Meteorologist on the overnight shift?

### ESF-1: Transportation

#### 72+ Hours from Onset

* Conduct maintenance checks and services on equipment
* Develop staffing roster for ESF activation
* Consult with GEMA/HS Meteorologist and National Weather Service on forecast

#### 48 to 72 Hours from Onset

* Notify ESF-1 staff (including TMC) for possible activation
* Monitor need for contractor staff or notify them of potential need
* Place crews on travel alert:
  + North GA impacts: I-75, I-85, GA 400, I-575, I-24, I-59
  + South GA crews utilized for I-20 impact in eastern GA or elsewhere
* Prepare for Brine and Salt Teams to be placed on alert
* Coordinate with ESF-13 (DPS) for escort vehicles for brining/plowing operations

#### 24 to 48 Hours from Onset

* Begin brining operations with staff
* South Georgia crews move to staging sites (only for metro Atlanta major impact)
* Staff ESF-1 desk in SOC
* Stage plow and salt trucks
* Notify needed contractors of specific assignments

#### Impacts within 24 hours

* Salt and plow trucks deploy from staging areas (21 strike force teams)
* Begin 2nd round of brining operations
* Monitor pavement sensors to verify pavement vs. air temperature
* Coordinate with contractors for loaders and light plants to assist in salt barns
* Utilize 10-foot plows on roadways in mountainous areas of North Georgia
* Ensure trucks assigned to routes never leave those assigned routes
* Systematically salt problem areas to stay ahead of icing
* Smaller plows with salt hoppers work secondary roads with strike force teams
* Dispatcher located at GSP Troop C dispatches smaller plow/salt trucks in Metro
* Work with contractors to utilize motor graders and other equipment to plow roads
* Coordinate with ESF-11 (Georgia Department of Agriculture) to utilize fertilizer trucks to assist in spreading salt on back roads, if available.
* Identify potential route impacts for critical infrastructure facilities and coordinate potential treatment options

#### Onset, Demobilization, and Recovery

* Identify road closures and coordinate with ESF partners on available routes
* Coordinate with multi-agency teams to assist in clearing route
* Contact private vendors to treat secondary routes
* Collect damage reports

### ESF-2: Communications

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* Identify resources to support potential Resource Requests and response operations
* Ensure all available disaster response communications equipment is prepared for deployment
* Monitor communications infrastructure and provide updates to the SOC
* Maintain communication with all industry partners and state and federal agency team members regarding the SOC activation level
* Increase frequency of ESF-2 cross talk and input/monitoring of WebEOC
* Finalize the recall of any communications equipment that may have been in maintenance or on loan
* Coordinate Amateur Radio personnel for backup communications

#### Within 48 Hours of Onset

* Deploy resources to support local and/or state-level operational response
* Actively collect communications input from responder state agencies’ Incident Operations Teams (IOT)
* Finalize and distribute ICS Form 205 to all responding agencies
* Continue email updates to the ESF-2 team to maintain situational awareness
* Frequent dialog with telecom and wireless providers IOT
* Identify all known communications issues
* Continue email/conference call updates to ESF-2 IOT; provide situation updates
* Consider activating the Wireless Emergency Alerts IOT; direct the general population to the appropriate messaging available on governmental and media platforms in the affected geographic areas
* Ensure backup batteries are charged for planned operational period changeover

#### After Onset (Response)

* Place Sprinter Van behind SOC for backup communication
* Track fuel levels of Sprinter Van, Ops Truck, and RapidComm trailers
* Coordinate any future fuel requests with ESF-7
* Monitor all communication equipment for any issues
* Continue dialog with telecom and wireless providers for any issues
* Monitor WEA functionality with SWP
* Provide ESF-2 status updates in WebEOC

### ESF-3: Public Works & Engineering

#### Prior to Onset

* Send out weather alerts and notifications received from the SOC regarding potential for winter weather to Branch & District Leadership, Volunteers, and Responders
* Notify ESF staff for SOC activation
* Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation
* Reach out to partner agencies such as GRWA, GAWP, and GAWARN to be on standby for possible assistance in damage assessments and/or Resource Requests
* Pre-identify available generator resources and verify 24-hour contact numbers for water and wastewater system operators
* Prepare templates for Public Notification Advisories
* Identify all drinking water, wastewater, and dams in the potentially impacted area
* Coordinate with water systems to inventory resources; verify ability to provide backup power
* Encourage water systems to utilize mutual aid agreements to maintain power needs
* Remind ESF-3 primary and support agencies to continue to monitor the weather and be prepared to respond to Resource Requests

#### After Onset (Response)

* Track and prioritize drinking water and waste water facilities resource requests based on population sizes & operational status
* Coordinate with partner agencies such as GRWA, GAWP, and GAWARN to respond to resource requests
* Coordinate with ESF-12 on power restoration to drinking water and wastewater facilities
* Track any necessary advisories for water
* Continue to monitor water quality throughout the affected area
* Offer Technical Assistance to water system operators
* Offer Laboratory Assistance for water sampling and analysis

### ESF-4: Firefighting

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* Continue planning activities and equipment maintenance
* Monitor for any increase in risk
* Direct assistance to counties when requested
* Send out weather alerts and notifications received from SOC
* Develop ESF staffing roster for possible SOC activation

#### Within 48 hours of Onset

* Notify ESF staff of SOC activation
* Send weather alerts and notifications received from SOC to ESF-4 primary and support agencies
* Put Chainsaw Strike Teams, Traffic Strike Teams, and Dozer Crews on standby (1-hour call back) for potential deployment
* Unused southern personnel will be used to back fill daily operations or assigned to Strike Teams
* Request Emergency Management Assistance Group (EMAG) to support ESF-4 staff at the SOC
* Staff ESF-4 desk at SOC, including EMAG, to support the SOC and ESF partners
* Communicate with Chainsaw Strike Team crews for mobilization

#### After Onset (Response)

* Coordinate road clearing with local EMAs and power companies
* Utilize Dozer Teams to assist with areas not accessible by 4x4 vehicles
* Coordinate the delivery of supplies and needs with ESF-7
* Coordinate Chainsaw Strike Teams for debris clearance where needed

### ESF-5: Emergency Management, Information, and Planning

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* Determine if and when the SOC Activation levels should change
* Develop GEMA/HS and ESF staffing rosters for SOC Activation
* Determine if and when County Coordination Calls should be initiated
* Provide a forecast update for Command & General Staff and Executive leadership; and for the Governor’s office as requested.
* Participate in NWS Webinars and briefings if deemed appropriate by State Meteorologist
* Publish awareness statements to all EMAs, ESF Leads, Critical Infrastructure Partners, and all GEMA/HS Staff with weather updates and SOC plans

#### Within 48 Hours of Onset

* Determine if and when the SOC Activation levels should change
* Hold County Coordination Calls daily with a focus on anticipated resource shortfalls, unmet needs, and any protective measures being taken
* Provide a forecast update for Command & General Staff and Executive leadership; and for the Governor’s office as requested.
* Participate in NWS Webinars and briefings if deemed appropriate by State Meteorologist
* Continue to publish awareness statements to all EMAs, ESF Leads, Critical Infrastructure Partners, and all GEMA/HS Staff
* Conduct tactical planning meetings with appropriate ESF partners
* Finalize deployment of resources in preparation for response
* Consider issuing Wireless Emergency Alerts
* Develop emergency power priorities list with ESF-3 & ESF-12

#### After Onset (Response)

* Consider asking the Governor to expand or extend the SOE
* Compile damage reports
* Consider adjusting or augmenting staffing levels based on event severity

### ESF-6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Assistance

#### More than 48 hours from Onset

* Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions
* Maintain communications with ESF-6 Primary Partners to develop Planning Assumptions or Actions
* Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC
* Direct assistance to counties when requested
* Shelter supplies pre-staged around the state
* Coordinate with American Red Cross, other state and NGO partners, and internal staff in anticipation of activation
* Notify ESF staffing roster for SOC Activation Level

#### Less than 48 Hours from Onset

* Establish and maintain communication with local EMAs, ESF partners, and NGOs in potentially impacted areas
* Pre-identify shelter locations via National Shelter System (NSS)
* Place shelter staff on call; shelters to be operational within 2 hours of notification
* Coordinate with ESF-13, DFCS, and NGOs personnel for shelter support as requested
* Identify if Warming Centers or shelters are needed

#### After Onset (Response)

* Collaborate with local EMAs for the opening of shelters
* Coordinate needed shelter supplies through ESF-7 and local partners
* Coordinate for mobile kitchens to move to necessary areas to assist in sheltering operations
* Identify if additional Warming Centers or shelters are needed

### ESF-7: Logistics

#### 72+ Hours from Onset

* Review Emergency Power Database and POD information in WebEOC
* Develop projected support requirements for critical facilities power, water, fuel
* Will there be an expenditure of funds for pre-event contracting (i.e., generators)?
* Provide situation awareness statements to logistical vendors and contractors
* Messaging—Keep auto fuel tanks & inground / above ground bulk fuel tanks fueled

#### 48 to 72 Hours from Onset

* Update winter weather vendor list
* Coordinate with other ESFs for logistics support
* Coordinate with vendors for backup power and water contracts

#### 24 to 48 Hours from Onset

* Provide counties with a forecast update
* Determine vendors to be called to the SOC
* Monitor shelter planning for possible support requirements
* Support brine operations as required
* Identify any direct federal assistance requirements for possible request
* Coordinate with ESF-3 about power for water and wastewater facilities
* Coordinate with ESF-6 for possible sheltering resource needs
* Coordinate with ESF-8 about transportation and sheltering needs
* Coordinate emergency fuel support ops with State fuel vendors and GaDoD
* Coordinate with ESF-12 on power outages and reconnection of power
* Coordinate EMAC resource requests if needed

#### Impacts within 24 hours

* Support shelter efforts if needed
* Monitor fuel supply around the state (Fuel Buddy, and ESF-12)

#### After Onset (Response)

* Process Resource Requests for counties impacted by the storm
* Assist with contracting of resources not supplied by mutual aid or state assets
* Monitor fuel status for facilities operating on emergency power
* Develop fuel plan to support first responders should fuel be in short supply
* Resource water for impacted areas that have lost water system
* Assist with establishing priorities for power restoration

### ESF-8: Public Health and Medical Services

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* Participate on NWS calls as warranted
* Notify partners of weather forecast and recommend situational awareness
* Begin daily briefings to Commissioner and Executive Leadership
* Conduct situational status calls and needs assessments with the healthcare coalitions, district and state staff
* Prepare Duty Officers to respond virtually to the DPH EOC in the event of a rapidly changing system
* Prepare staffing roster for activation of the virtual DPH EOC to include Command & General Staff and/or SOC liaison(s)
* Recommend Dialysis Organization to begin dialyzing patients early by disseminating this messaging through ESRD Network-6 & KCER
* Inform long term care providers to prepare for event by ordering extra supplies, testing generator capabilities, and acquiring staffing needs

#### Within 48 Hours of Onset

* Maintain Command/General Staff roster to support incident and SOC activation
* Primary and back-up on-call Duty Officer to report to the SOC upon activation and to prepare for a multi-day response
* Fuse with GEMA/HS incident created in WebEOC
* Participate in state agency and NWS conference calls
* Continue to conduct situational status calls and needs assessments with the healthcare coalitions, district and state staff
* Coordinate Resource Requests
* Coordinate with the ESRD Network-6 and KCER to retrieve dialysis facility status
* Coordinate with long term care provider associations, and HFRD to verify all healthcare facility’s operational statuses
* Continue timely production of Sit Reps and supporting the SOC IAP process
* Monitor and support any medical and hospital evacuations and any LTCF that choose to shelter-in-place, as necessary
* Maintain ESF staffing roster for SOC and DPH virtual EOC activation
* Continue to disseminate information and messaging to LTCF and Dialysis facilities through professional organizations, and provider networks

#### After Onset (Response)

* Continue activities outlined in above section
* Review and evaluate damage reports
* Coordinate non-emergency transportation with dialysis centers/transportation companies with assistance from Director of Transportation for DCH
* Coordinate any resource and/or transportation requests from healthcare facilities
* Coordinate 1-800 numbers with local EMAs and hospitals for dialysis POCs

### ESF-9: Search and Rescue

#### More than 24 Hours from Onset

* Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions
* Maintain email & telecommunication with the SOC
* Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation
* Establish communication with Search and Rescue Teams
* GSAR Task Forces located in Calhoun, Gainesville, Metro Atlanta, Columbus, Valdosta, Coastal Georgia, and Ware County (split between Macon and Warner Robins)

#### Less than 24 Hours from Onset

* Staff ESF-9 desk in SOC during activation
* Coordinate with GADoD, DNR and GSAR Taskforce Leads for potential SAR resources
* Coordinate with DNR for woods, water, and large area SAR capabilities to augment GSAR and local SAR
* Coordinate with GaDoD Engineer unit to augment GSAR

#### After Onset (Response)

* Maintain communication with SAR Teams
* Determine and coordinate appropriate response activities by various entities involved
* Communicate and coordinate resource needs with local, state, federal and private entities

### ESF-10: Oil and Hazardous Material Response

#### More than 24 Hours from Onset

* Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions
* Maintain email & telecommunication with the SOC
* Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation
* Identify potential HAZMAT threats in the potentially affected areas

#### Less than 24 Hours from Onset

* Staff ESF-10 desk in SOC during activation
* Identify potential HAZMAT threats in the potentially affected areas

#### After Onset (Response)

* Receive, assess, and triage reports of oil and hazmat releases
* Determine and coordinate appropriate response activities by various entities involved
* Communicate and coordinate resource needs with local, state, federal and private entities

### ESF-11: Agriculture & Natural Resources

#### More than 24 Hours from Onset

* Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.
* Coordinate with ESF-6 and ESF-8 for possible animal sheltering support.
* Work with industry partners regarding animal incidents due to winter weather.
* Put Statewide Animal Resource trailers on alert.

#### Less than 24 Hours from Onset

* Coordinate with ESF-6 and ESF-8 for sheltering support, as required.
* Place GA RRT reps on standby status.
* Work with food industry partners to provide messaging to the public regarding food safety during power outages and the impact to refrigerated/frozen items.

#### After Onset (Response)

* Coordinate with ESF-6 and ESF-8 for sheltering support, as required.
* Be prepared to coordinate damage assessments for agriculture and food industry resources and partners.
* Monitor power outages and issue food safety messages if needed.
* Coordinate with GA RRT reps to perform food safety inspections and disposal coordination and/or implementation efforts.

### ESF-12: Energy

#### Prior to Onset

* Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions
* Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation
* Establish point of contact with primary and support agencies and companies, and regional ESF 12 contacts.
* Notify ESF staffing roster of SOC activation, when to report, and logistics of door access code, meals provided, planning for possible overnight arrangements.
* Maintain communication with primary agencies, support agencies, & companies
* As applicable, send a copy of Governor’s State of Emergency to all primary and support agencies.
* Coordinate with critical infrastructure owners and operators to determine the baseline number of citizens without electrical service
* Coordinate with Georgia Power and local EMCs to determine staging timelines
* Staff GEFA EOC 24 hours (include after-hours contact number in Form 204)
* Coordinate with power companies’ EOCs for immediate power needs

#### After Onset (Response)

* Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions
* Maintain communication with other ESFs, primary and support agencies and companies
* Coordinate with critical infrastructure owners and operators to determine the number of citizens without electrical service. Track using outage maps, DOE website Eagle-I.
* Update Position Log with outage totals, communication updates from support agencies.
* Coordinate with power companies and EMCs on deployment of resources
* Coordinate for power restoration to critical infrastructure facilities

### ESF-13: Public Safety and Security

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* DPS Liaison to GEMA/HS will closely monitor weather forecasts provided by the GEMA/HS Meteorologist and update DPS personnel as needed
* DPS personnel will continue to assist the public on roadways/waterways and local public safety agencies as requested
* DPS sworn personnel will ensure that all appropriate winter weather gear, equipment, and vehicles are in functional, fueled, and ready for patrol and will prepare for possible deployment to another area of the state for several days
* Begin tagging abandoned vehicles along Metro Atlanta interstates for removal
* Weigh Stations hand out info pertaining to truck restrictions in Metro Atlanta along with tire chain advisories
* MCCD will start an email blast to affected trucking associations giving weather updates, tire chain advisories, and Metro Atlanta restrictions

#### Less Than 48 Hours from Onset

* Notify ESF-13 SOC staff of activation and DNR Debris Clearing Teams of possible activation; Corrections EOC (Forsyth) put on standby
* DPS Liaison to GEMA/HS will notify agencies providing members for Traffic Strike Teams of the potential activation of those teams
* Maintain communications between ESF-13 partner/support agencies, who will ensure all personnel, facilities, and equipment are properly prepared
* DPS Liaison to GEMA/HS will coordinate with GDOT and the affected Troop/Region Commanders regarding preparations for escort teams for Brine Trucks and Salt Trucks along with times for the activation of these escorts
* DPS Troopers and Officers within the affected area will tag all abandoned vehicles along the interstates and tow them after the allotted time period on the tag to ensure all emergency lanes are open prior to onset of wintry precipitation
* MCCD continues to email blast affected trucking associations, giving weather updates, tire chain advisories, and metro Atlanta restrictions
* MCCD will coordinate with the GDOT TMC for overhead message signs
* MCCD will coordinate with SOC, DPS PIO, and DPS Liaison to GEMA/HS
* DOC/GDOT coordinates with GEMA/HS about roadway closures around facilities

#### Within 24 Hours of Onset & After Onset (Response)

* DPS Liaison to GEMA/HS will coordinate with involved agencies to activate Multi-Agency Traffic Strike Teams, identifying a specific time to be on route
* MCCD Weight Inspectors will distribute handouts to ALL vehicles passing through stations, though Weigh Stations may be closed
* DPS Troopers and Officers will escort brine/salt trucks as requested by GDOT
* 15 (7-member) Multi-Agency Traffic Strike Teams activate in conjunction with GEMA/HS leadership at the onset of precipitation, to keep traffic moving along interstates (DNR, GFC, Dept. of Revenue ATD, GaDoD, GDOT HERO, MCCD, GSP) along 15 predesignated routes (major interstates, SR-400, and GA-166)

### ESF-15: External Affairs

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation and notify staff
* Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring social media pages of NWS offices, local Meteorologists, #gawx, and agency partners
* No changes to the website. Homepage reflects the most notable weather conditions for that time of year and links to national forecast
* Coordinate with GEMA/HS Meteorologist and Leadership on messaging
* Coordinate with Finance/DOAS for sign language interpreter for potential press conferences with the Governor
* Issue preparedness tips to Georgia citizens. Share information with partners on social media, including alerts for watches and warnings as needed

#### Within 48 Hours of Onset

* Continue items above as needed
* Upload GDOT warnings and notifications
* Coordinate with local media to push messaging out to public
* Upload safe driving tips etc. for winter weather.
* Create webpage, upload shelter opening info
* Issue Twitter blasts and information on winter storm watches and warnings
* Through coordination with GEMA/HS Meteorologist and Leadership, the homepage may reflect the current forecast with addition of appropriate map and links to NWS products
* Adjust ESF staffing roster for SOC activation as needed
* Coordinate with the Governor’s Office, Georgia DOAS, and GEMA/HS Finance to ensure that a certified American Sign Language Interpreter will be on hand if the Governor holds a news conference

#### After Onset (Response)

* Adjust ESF staffing roster for SOC activation as needed
* Coordinate with GEMA/HS Meteorologist and Leadership on messaging
* Continue coordination with local media to push messaging out to public
* Maintain situational awareness by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local Meteorologists, #gawx, and agency partners
* The homepage may reflect the response actions with addition of appropriate map and links to NWS products

### ESF-16: Georgia Department of Defense

#### More than 48 Hours from Onset

* JOC to level 3
* Convene TAG Executive Board
* Issue WARNO for other units to BPT support
* Coordinate with GEMA/HS for potential EMAC request (if needed)
* LNO SOC GaDoD desk
* Validate critical personnel contact rosters
* Increased BPT support SOC & JOC Ops
* Identify potential resources to support potential incidents
* Issue WARNO #2 to units
* Decision required by Governor to activate GaDoD

#### Within 48 Hours of Onset

* JOC to level 2
* Conduct TAG Executive Board
* OPORD distributed to units in task org to support
* Coordinate with GEMA/HS for additional State Active-Duty requirements
* LNO to GSP and C Troop HQs for Traffic Strike Team Support
* Armories could be utilized as emergency warming stations

#### Within 24 Hours of Onset

* JOC to level 1
* FRAGO for other units to support
* Primary missions: Traffic Strike Teams, Warming Stations, Debris Clearance, Personnel Transport, and Search and Rescue

#### After Onset (Response)

* Humvees and Operators being utilized for debris removal
* Coordinate with GEMA/HS in de-escalating non-utilized units
* Coordinate with ESFs on resource and personnel needs