Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Flood Incident Annex

Annex C to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

GEMHSA Planning Section

9/7/2016

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

Transmitted herewith is the updated Flood Incident Annex to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. This incident annex supersedes the incident annex of the same name dated January 2015 and any/all previous emergency management/civil defense flood 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 national emergency.

This incident annex attempts to be all inclusive in combining the four phases of Emergency Management, which are (1) Mitigation: those activities which eliminate or reduce the probability of disaster; (2) Preparedness: those activities which government, organizations, and individuals develop to save lives and minimize damage; (3) Response: to prevent loss of lives and property and provide emergency assistance; and (4) Recovery: short-term and long-term activities which return the community to normal or with improved standards.

It will be revised and updated as required in the future. All recipients are requested to advise the Director of Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA) of any changes which might result in its improvement or increase its usefulness.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The state of Georgia Flood Incident Annex accompanies the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) and provides guidance on how the state will coordinate support to jurisdictions impacted by flood incidents. It provides a framework for the state to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a significant flood event. This planning document is consistent with applicable local, state, and federal standards and is an update to the June 2007 Flood Incident Annex.

The incident annex addresses Georgia's vulnerability to flooding through a hazards analysis and addresses policies, protocols, and coordination efforts for a comprehensive response by federal, state, local, volunteer, and private sector entities.

This incident annex incorporates lessons learned, the concept of State Operating Conditions (OPCON) and the utilization of National Weather Service products and information. The OPCONs establish a pre-event protective action timeline intended to provide guidance on the major incident objectives and actions that will be taken by the state for an impending and on-going flood event. The National Weather Service products work in conjunction with the OPCONs to streamline preparation, response, and recovery from flood incidents.

Please contact the GEMHSA Operations Division – Planning Unit at 404-635-7200 if you have questions.

RECORD OF CHANGES

Change #	Date	Section Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

Plan #	Office/Department	Representative	Signature

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

1.1.1 Inland flooding poses a significant threat to Georgia every year and has the potential to create a catastrophic disaster. It is the purpose of this incident annex to outline the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency's (GEMHSA) strategy for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a significant flood in the state of Georgia. The incident annex also provides for coordination among federal, state, local, volunteer, and private sector entities responding in Georgia. The incident annex does not replace county or local emergency operations plans or procedures.

1.2 SCOPE

1.2.1 The Flood Incident Annex applies to inland flooding incidents and flooding caused by dam breaks. Storm Surge flooding is covered in the Tropical Cyclone Incident Annex.

1.2.2 The Flood Incident Annex applies to Georgia state agencies and partners assigned ESF responsibilities by the Governors Executive Order 01-14-13-01 and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan.

1.2.3 All areas within the state of Georgia are vulnerable to flooding. Flooding has the potential to cause a major disaster over expansive portions of the state. Due to the potential for widespread or catastrophic impacts, this annex may be activated in part or in full when the National Weather Service forecasts a major flood incident to impact Georgia counties or when intelligence is received that major flooding is occurring such that emergency response cannot be effectively performed within each county, or cannot be successfully met by county mutual aid resources, requiring assistance from the state.

1.3 GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 The general objectives of this Flood Incident Annex are to:

1.3.1.1 Support local communities in protecting life, property, and the environment in a major flood event;

1.3.1.2 Provide rapid assistance to counties, cities, and tribal communities that are overwhelmed by a major flood event through a proactive stance;

1.3.1.3 Conduct an effective response through good situational awareness and the coordination of state response partners;

1.3.1.4 To efficiently obtain intra-state and federal assistance.

2.0 SITUATION OVERVIEW

Although flooding does not create a significant problem for Georgia every year, the state has experienced impacts from flooding that overwhelmed local emergency response capabilities, cost lives, caused suffering for Georgia citizens, and caused significant and costly damage to public and private property.

2.1   HAZARD ANALYSIS

The National Weather Service (NWS) defines a flood as "The inundation of a normally dry area caused by an increased water level in an established watercourse, such as a river, stream, or drainage ditch, or ponding of water at or near the point where the rain fell." There are many forms of flooding that vary both in spatial and temporal (length of time) extent.

2.1.1   Different types of flooding that affect the state of Georgia:

2.1.1.1   **Riverine flooding** occurs when water overtops the banks of a river or its tributaries. Tributaries include streams and brooks. Riverine flooding can last for several days or weeks.

2.1.1.2   **Coastal flooding** commonly happens on larger rivers due to storms that are severe or tropical in nature. Contributing factors include tides, waves, and storm surge, which is the water combined with normal tides pushed toward the shore by strong winds during a storm.

2.1.1.3   **Shallow flooding** occurs in flat areas where a lack of channels means water cannot drain away easily. Shallow flooding problems fall into three categories: sheet flow, ponding, and urban drainage.

2.1.1.4   **A flash flood** is a flood occurring in a watershed where the travel-time for the peak flow from one end of the watershed to the other is less than six hours. A large amount of rainfall over a short time span can result in flash flood conditions, as can dam and levee failures or sudden spills.

2.1.1.5   **Dam or levee failures/overtopping** can result in major flooding. When a dam or a levee fails or overtops, a large amount of water is suddenly released which can cause human casualties, destruction of property, flash flooding and environmental damage. Such failures can be the result of poor maintenance, inadequate design, or structural damage caused by a major flood.

2.2   VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Loss of life, suffering and significant damage to infrastructure and public and private property often result from major flooding. A detailed analysis of the potential major flooding impacts to the state of Georgia can be found in the State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014). The most significant potential impacts of major flooding events include:

2.2.1   Potential injuries or loss of life due to drowning;
2.2.2   Health risks due to contaminated drinking water and untreated sewage;
2.2.3   Damage to transportation networks;
2.2.4   Damages to utility infrastructure; and
2.2.5   State, public, commercial and personal property damages or loss.

3.0 INCIDENT SITUATIONS

3.1 INCIDENT CONDITION

3.1.1 A flood – especially a major flood – has the potential to create widespread catastrophic damage. The vulnerability to flood-related hazards exists throughout all of Georgia. It is assumed that state and local response capabilities will require expedited mutual aid, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), and federal augmentation in certain critical areas:

3.1.1.1 Urban Search and Rescue (ESF 9): Swift Water Rescue and house by house searches - search and rescue resources will need to be augmented by additional state and federal teams while flood waters remain in impacted areas;

3.1.1.2 Transportation (ESF 1) and Firefighting (ESF 4): Road Detours and Evacuation

3.1.1.3 Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services (ESF6): Coordinate the delivery of mass care, emergency assistance, housing, and human services when local, response and recovery capabilities are overwhelmed.

3.1.1.4 Law Enforcement (ESF 13): Road blocks and enforcement of safety rules.

3.1.1.5 Logistics (ESF 7): Resources such as barricades and road block signs and potable water.

3.1.1.6 Decontamination (ESF 8 and 10): Standing water in flooding impacted areas may be highly contaminated. When the floodwaters recede, decontamination efforts will require additional specialized teams and equipment. When requested, ESF8 coordinates the deployment of Public Health Environmental Health (EH) Strike Teams from unaffected areas to assist the local Public Health EH office and assisting agencies. These teams ensure safe potable water supplies, including private wells, safe food service, and sanitary wastewater disposal and EH hazard investigations and mitigation.

3.1.1.7 Debris Removal (ESF 3): Enormous quantities of debris may be generated from flood impacts. Debris in streams may increase the potential for future flooding. Debris removal efforts will require additional resources.

3.1.1.8 Transportation (ESF 1) and Public Works and Engineering (ESF3): Numerous dams may rupture and extensive road networks may sustain damages. Additional teams and equipment will be required to restore the hydrologic and transportation infrastructure.

3.2 PLANNING FACTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

3.2.1 The entire state of Georgia is vulnerable to flooding.

3.2.2 Should catastrophic flooding occur in Georgia, the Director of GEMHSA, in conjunction with the Governor of Georgia, directs implementation of the GEOP and the Flood Incident Annex.

3.2.3 The occurrence of catastrophic flooding in Georgia may cause the Governor of Georgia to declare a State of Emergency for the affected counties.

3.2.4 The occurrence of catastrophic flooding may trigger a Presidential Emergency or Major Disaster Declaration for the affected counties.

3.2.5 Catastrophic flooding will likely overwhelm both local and state capabilities requiring additional out-of-state resources via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and federal-level resource and commodity augmentation.

3.2.6 Response efforts ongoing for other disasters may significantly hinder the availability of state and federal resources.

3.2.7 Catastrophic flooding has the potential to affect upwards of one-third of the state producing economic losses exceeding one billion dollars and loss of life ranging from tens to over a hundred.

3.2.8 Widespread significant flooding may result in the evacuation of populations living in flood-prone areas resulting in a massive sheltering effort.

3.2.9 Citizens impacted by flooding will require life-sustaining commodities during response and the initial recovery phases.

3.2.10 Flooding may last from a few hours to months depending on the type and intensity of flooding experienced.

3.2.11 Property losses from catastrophic flooding may include: Personal property, commercial property, private sector infrastructure, and governmental facilities; damage to crops and the agricultural industry; dam failures; and transportation, communications, and utilities infrastructure damage.

4.0 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (CONOPS)

The concept of operations summarizes the operational response activities and includes the typical operating conditions for flood events, an overview of the command and control branch, an overview of the local, State and federal coordinating entities and the ESF Roles and Responsibilities. This Flood Incident Annex Concept of Operations establishes a pre-event protective action timeline intended to provide guidance on the major incident objectives and actions that will be taken by the State to prepare for, respond to and recover from a major flood event

4.1 STATE OPERATION CONDITIONS

4.1.1 One or more of the following products are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for any area in Georgia with a primary emphasis on the criteria used by the Peachtree City National Weather Service Forecast Office since the majority of the state is covered by the Peachtree City office:

4.1.1.1 **Flood Watch:** Be Prepared - A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

4.1.1.2 **Flood Advisory:** Be Aware - A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

4.1.1.3 **Flood Warning:** Take Action! - A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

4.1.1.4 **Flash Flood Warning:** Take Action! - A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

4.1.2 Flood forecasts will change rapidly along with the operational response plans related to flooding events. These plans must be flexible and adaptable to a rapidly evolving flooding incident. To enhance operational response efforts, GEMHSA Operations has divided the flood response planning into 5 OPCON levels. Detailed Guidance for each OPCON level can be found in the Flood Incident Annex Response Matrix.

4.1.3 These OPCONs are based on National Weather Service Severe Weather products and reporting from local jurisdictions. During large scale flooding, and if deemed necessary, guidance will be provided by the GEMHSA Meteorologist in consultation with NWS Meteorologists and the Weather Advisory Group (WAG). The NWS products are associated with: a) different intensities of impacts, and b) the probability that the impacts will occur. The state OPCON levels are consistent with other state weather response incident annexes and provide a flexible, but time-delineated, action-oriented preparedness, response and short-term recovery framework. The OPCON response actions and activities are not intended to be exhaustive; the actions listed represent an overview of the most important and mission-critical actions to be undertaken to support the response effort.

4.2   COORDINATION

4.2.1 **County Coordination**

4.2.1.1   GEMHSA uses EMnet to alert local EMA Directors to emergency situations. EMnet Nodes have been fielded in most of the County and Regional 911 Centers throughout Georgia. In addition to serving as a method for sending secure messages between EMnet Nodes, the EMnet system is Georgia's access gateway into FEMA's Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System (IPAWS). Each Node can be configured to receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service. GEMHSA also uses the SMS text notification system to alert primary and alternate emergency contacts. More information can be found in the Georgia Emergency Alert System Plan.

4.2.1.2   As approved by GEMHSA, and as contracted via a Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA, each approved local EMA can use their EMnet Node to send local Wireless Emergency Alerts to their jurisdiction through the IPAWS system. Theseprocess and authorized types of alerts are detailed in the Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System in Georgia Standard Operating Guidelines.

4.2.1.3   Each County EMA Director has access to GEMHSA's WebEOC system for internal use in their county as well as for communicating Requests for

Assistance (RFAs), situational awareness to the SOC, and resource requests. Counties can also call in RFAs and situational updates through the State Warning Point or the GEMHSA Field Coordinators. (See Attachment 7 for a map of GEMHSA Field Coordinator Areas.)

4.2.1.4   Daily conference calls are held between affected counties and the SOC. This call is to provide direct support to local EMAs and provide them with an opportunity to raise major issues that the state may be able to resolve. All SOC Command, General Staff and a representative from each ESF will be present at this call to provide direct feedback upon request.

4.2.2 State Coordination

GEMHSA operates the State Operation Center (SOC) according to tenets established by the National Response Framework and the National Incident Command System. Here, GEMHSA works to achieve objectives provided by the Governor, the Director, and the Emergency Operations Command (EOC). The Director of GEMHSA activates the EOC as needed and initiates a regular schedule of coordination calls.

4.2.2.1   SOC activation levels are set by the Governor as required by the response. ESF representatives staff the SOC as requested by GEMHSA Operations. Face-to-face meetings are critical for successful operational planning; therefore all ESFs are expected to have trained and authorized representatives in the SOC.

4.2.2.2   WebEOC is the incident management system implemented by GEMHSA to enable state and local responders to communicate requests for assistance and situational awareness. WebEOC accounts are provided to all ESF partners and training is routinely provided. The Georgia Public Health Department, the Georgia Hospital Association, and multiple local jurisdictions have their own WebEOC systems. These have been integrated with GEMHSA's system to enhance situational awareness and exchange of information.

4.2.2.3   The Office of the Governor is briefed by the Director of GEMHSA and kept abreast of developing situations.

4.2.2.4   **Department of Defense Entities** - the Georgia Department of Defense (GaDOD) consists of four distinct branches; the Joint Forces Headquarters-Georgia (JFHQ-GA), the Georgia Army National Guard (GaARNG), Georgia Air National Guard (GANG), and the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF). GA DOD responds to support requests for assistance or mission assignments through three different methods based upon the type and level of emergency.

4.2.2.4.1   **Immediate Response Authority:** Under imminently serious conditions when time does not permit approval from higher authority, the Ga DOD responds in an effort to save lives, prevent human suffering or mitigate great property damage.   Support shall end when the necessity is no longer required and must be reassessed within 72 hours after the request was received.

4.2.2.4.2   **State Active Duty:** The Governor requests for National Guard forces to support State requirements to include a declaration of a State of Emergency. The State Defense Force, as defined in Title 38 of the Georgia Code, when activated, also performs in a State Active Duty Status.

4.2.2.4.3   **Title 32:** The President or Secretary of Defense request support in a declared Federal State of Emergency to support contingency responses which can be within the State of Georgia or within the United States.

4.2.3   Federal and National Entities

4.2.3.1   FEMA Region IV facilitates the request process for pre-event Presidential Emergency Declaration, which makes certain federal resources are available in the preparation and early response stages. GEMHSA assists the Governor of Georgia in applying for this declaration.

4.2.3.2   Presidential Disaster Declaration may be requested through FEMA to provide assistance in recovering from a storm that causes significant damage. ESF14 coordinates with local jurisdictions and FEMA Region IV to collect the necessary damage reports and assists the Governor of Georgia in submitting the request.

4.2.3.3   National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Offices play a vital role in supplying information about the location, timing, and intensity of severe weather. There are six NWS forecasting locations that cover the state of Georgia. A map detailing the covered areas is shown in Attachment 2. Many forecast offices hold weekly briefings and webinars for their area, and additional briefings and conference calls are announced as severe weather approaches the state. NWS also sponsors NWS Chat, a web-based forum for emergency managers and media staff to discuss weather issues. State EMAs may also request an incident meteorologist to be embedded in their emergency operations center to provide subject matter expertise and a direct connection with NWS resources. The GEMHSA Staff Meteorologist will work closely with the local forecast offices to receive the most up-to-date forecast available.

4.2.4   Volunteer Organizations

4.2.4.1   Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), which includes non-profit and faith-based volunteer organizations, can contact the GEMHSA Volunteer Coordinator, who works with local EMA Directors to pinpoint community needs that the volunteers can help with. The GEMHSA Volunteer Coordinator may also alert volunteer organizations of anticipated needs prior to the event to allow for preparation time

4.2.5   Private-Sector Entities

4.2.5.1   Private sector coordination generally occurs through the ESFs. For example, ESF8 is the liaison with hospitals and nursing homes concerning problems caused by flooding; and ESF12 coordinates with power, natural gas, and gasoline companies concerning outage reporting and restoration estimates.

4.3   COMMAND AND CONTROL

4.3.1   During a disaster in which local resources are overwhelmed or have the potential to be overwhelmed, requests for assistance from neighboring local governments or state agencies may be made by the affected jurisdictions through GEMHSA and the State Operations Center (SOC). The Governor may declare a State of Emergency to activate necessary state resources. State services and resources are supplements to local governments and are identified in the Emergency Support Function Annex (ESF) to this annex. State agencies and organizations serve as primary coordinators for each ESF.

4.3.2   If an emergency or disaster exceeds the capabilities of state resources to respond, GEMHSA may request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). More information on EMAC is available in the ESF 7 annexes to the GEOP. The Governor may also request assistance from the President. Upon a Presidential Declaration, any assistance provided to the state will be coordinated through federal ESFs.

4.3.3   Under the provisions of the Stafford Act, GEMHSA is responsible for preparing and processing requests for emergency assistance from the federal government on behalf of local governments impacted by natural or human-caused disasters in Georgia. GEMHSA will also assist in coordinating and integrating requested resources from other states or federal agencies to assist local jurisdictions when applicable.

4.3.4   Through the implementing instructions contained within the Executive Order executing this document, the GEMHSA Director will coordinate emergency management activities of all agencies/organizations within the state and serve as a liaison with other states and the federal government.

4.3.5   The GEMHSA Director assumes responsibility for direction and coordination of ESFs at the SOC. At the discretion of the GEMHSA Director and in concurrence with the Governor, a designated alternate SOC may become operational. Each ESF is assigned a primary coordinator, which is a state agency or organization as well as other state agencies identified as primary or supporting roles through the Executive Order of the Governor. All primary and support agencies responding to an emergency or disaster will be coordinated by GEMHSA. In addition, other assistance through NGOs and private sector organizations will be coordinated as a part of this process.

4.3.6   A Forward Emergency Operations Center (FEOC), Mobile Communications Vehicle (MCV) and/or a Mobile Command Post (MCP) may be established at or near an emergency or disaster site. In the event a local jurisdiction is unable to perform responsibilities, the GEMHSA Director may provide support to assist during an emergency or disaster.

4.3.7   State ESFs are matched with the National Response Framework (NRF) to ensure efficient and effective response. State agencies and organizations with primary ESF responsibilities will develop and maintain Standard Operating Guides (SOG) and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP).

4.3.8 GEMHSA Communications serves as the State Warning Point and disseminates disaster and emergency information from various sources to local and state emergency management and public safety officials when requested. Emergency information can include, but is not limited to, weather bulletins, watches and warnings issued by the various National Weather Service Forecast Offices that serve the state, warnings issued by the Storm Prediction Center, warnings issued by owners or operators of power generation facilities, and dams and hydroelectric facilities that could impact the state.

4.3.9 Upon escalation of an emergency or disaster, the GEMHSA Director may require elevated or full scale activation of the SOC with representation of primary and/or support agencies and organizations. The SOC is the primary coordination point for State response. The Emergency Coordinator and/or alternate authorized to act on behalf of the state agency/organization will perform SOC functional responsibilities. Briefings on the situation will be provided in the SOC. Situation reports will be provided to state and local officials. Briefings on the situation will be provided in the SOC.

4.4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.4.1 The GEOP establishes the general responsibilities for each ESF, and the actions of agencies, groups, organizations, and/or Non-Governmental Organizations within their ESF, and between other ESFs.

4.4.2 For the Flood Incident Annex, all ESFs have to be in constant communication with the SOC and other ESF partners to coordinate the preparedness activities and response effort if necessary. For general responsibilities see the GEOP or the ESF annexes and for the ESF specific roles during a flood event please reference the State Synchronization Matrix in Section 8.0 Appendix B.

4.5 LOGISTICS

4.5.1 GEMHSA does not warehouse/stockpile disaster response materials and thus does not have resources immediately at its disposal for distribution. GEMHSA in close coordination with the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) does maintain sources of supply through the state contracting process. These contracts normally have lead times and are best used when support necessary is in large volume and over an extended period of time.

4.5.2 The most responsive source of supply in most severe weather situations is often the local economy from the closest sources not impacted. An immediate assessment of the status of local sources of supply should be conducted. Every effort should be made to resource response needs from a local source.

4.5.3 Counties are authorized to use contracts that GEMHSA has in place and are provided the same term as would be given to GEMHSA and DOAS. Purchasing policies vary from county to county but purchasing locally using state contracts should be considered as an option for supply. ESF-7/DOAS personnel can assist counties in using this option.

4.5.4 When the devastation or need is such that local supply cannot provide the necessary resources ESF-7 will arrange to provide assistance. Commodities will normally be provided by truckload and distribution made through the Points of Distribution (POD) method. Procedures for this type of operation are found on the GEMHSA website by going to the "Logistics" tab under "Response".

4.5.5 ESF-7 is also prepared to handle other special requests on a case-by case basis.

4.6 CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS

4.6.1 During disasters it is crucial to ensure effective coordination of public information. ESF15 – External Affairs coordinates public information sharing and media relations during disaster operations. ESF15 facilitates the provision and synchronization of public information across a broad spectrum of response entities, the media, and the public.

4.6.2 ESF15 utilizes the Public Information Emergency Response (PIER) System, a web-based communication management tool that allows PIOs to centralize information sharing and dissemination to media. ESF15 also uses WebEOC to share finalized documents to ESF partners and local EMAs.

4.6.3 Additional information on crisis communications or media relations during emergencies and disasters may be obtained in the GEOP: Crisis Communications Policy (2012).

5.0 ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. In addition, the guides 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 Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the agency.

6.0 REFERENCES

6.1 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLOOD PRODUCTS

6.1.1 http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/index.shtml

6.1.2 http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/watch_warning.shtml

6.2 FEDERAL

6.2.1 Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101: Developing and Maintaining State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local Government Emergency Plans, March 2009.

6.2.2 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), February 2007.

6.2.3 National Incident Management System (NIMS), December 2008.

6.2.4 National Response Framework, Federal Emergency Management Agency, January 2008.

6.3 STATE

6.3.1 Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

6.3.2 State map with homeland security and emergency management regions

6.3.3 Flood Plain Management (Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources)

6.3.4 Tables and accessibility issues

7.0 APPENDIX A: ATTACHMENTS

7.1 ATTACHMENT 1 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COVERAGE WITH GEMHSA FIELD COORDINATORS
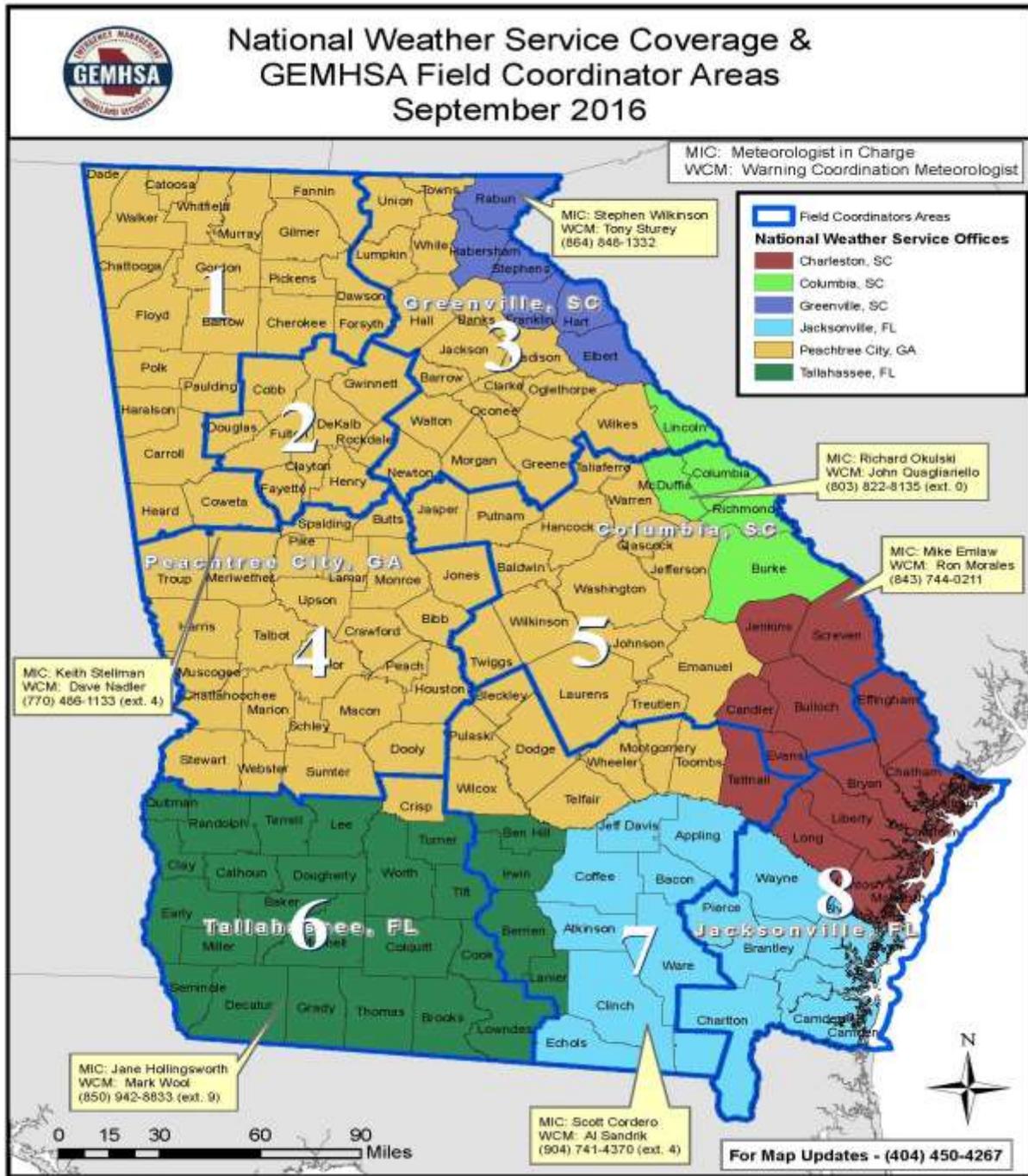
7.2   ATTACHMENT 2: FLOOD INCIDENT STATE SYNCHRONIZATION MATRIX

	OpCon 5 – FLOOD Preparedness Activities	OpCon 4 – FLOOD WATCH	OpCon 3 - FLOOD ADVISORY	OpCon 2 – FLOOD WARNING	OpCon 1 - FLASH FLOOD WARNING
Forecast Event	**No Flood Expected**	**Potential Flooding but no Imminent Threat**	**Flooding that is an Inconvenience but not an Imminent threat**	**Flooding is imminent or occurring**	**Flooding that occurs 6hrs after rain event**
Major Weather Events:	Flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> possible rain associated events and dam breaches.	A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur and when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.	A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.	A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.	A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.
ISSUES & CONSIDERATIONS	✓	✓ Are Special Events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Will GaDoD need to be activated? ✓ To what extent will local school systems be impacted by potential flooding?	✓ Are Special Events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Will GaDoD need to be activated? ✓ To what extent will local school systems be impacted by potential flooding?	✓ Are Special Events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Is flooding anticipated to affect major metropolitan areas during normal business hours? ✓ Is flooding anticipated to affect Transportation Hubs?	✓ Are Special Events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Is flooding anticipated to affect major metropolitan areas during normal business hours? ✓ Is flooding anticipated to affect Transportation Hubs?
Decision Points		✓ Decision to convene an internal GEMA Conference Call? ✓ Decision to convene County Coordination Call? ✓ Decision to convene ESF Conference Call? ✓ Decision to place GaDoD on alert? ✓	✓ Decision to Activate SOC? ✓ Decision to Activate Emergency Ops Command? ✓ Decision to convene County Coordination Call? ✓ Decision to initiate Wireless Emergency Alerts? ✓ Decision to place GaDoD on alert? ✓ Decision to recommend cancellation of Special Events? ✓ Decision to notify local school superintendents of potential weather impacts?	✓ Decision to Activate SOC? ✓ Decision to Activate Emergency Ops Command? ✓ Decision to establish a Joint Information Center? ✓ Decision to request a Governor's State of Emergency Declaration? ✓ Decision to initiate Wireless Emergency Alerts?	✓ Decision to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration? ✓ Decision to request direct federal assistance? ✓ Decision to initiate Wireless Emergency Alerts?

	OpCon 5 – FLOOD Preparedness Activities	OpCon 4 – FLOOD WATCH	OpCon 3 - FLOOD ADVISORY	OpCon 2 – FLOOD WARNING	OpCon 1 - FLASH FLOOD WARNING
GEMA Meteorologist	✓ Monitor weather models, NOAA products, local broadcast meteorologist' forecast, radar trends, etc. ✓ Monitor the Atlantic Basin (Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea) and disseminate information on any existing / threatening storms.	✓ Monitor the Atlantic Basin (Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea) and disseminate information on any existing / threatening storms. ✓ Consult the Director of Operations on whether any course of action needs to be taken.	✓ Consult with the Director of Operations on what course of action should be taken.	✓ Continue day-to-day activities. ✓ Consult with the Director of Operations on what course of action should be taken, including: o Meet with the GEMA Director and Deputy Directors; o Consult the Weather Advisory Group (WAG); o Notify local EMA Directors, area field coordinators, area school safety coordinators, and GEMA Weather Distribution List; o Meet with Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to construct proper messaging.	✓ Continue day-to-day activities. ✓ Consutl with the Director of Operations on what courses of action should be taken, including: o Communicate with GEMA Director, Deputy Directors, Division Directors, and certain ESF partners; o Consult the Weather Advisory Group; o Notify local EMA Directors, area field coordinators, area school safety coordinators, and GEMA Weather Distribution list; o Meet with GEMA Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to construct proper messaging.
GEMA State Warning Point	✓ Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain Situational Awareness of Weather in Georgia. ✓ Monitor Weather Bug Website. ✓ Monitor NWS Chat. ✓ Monitor Open Source Media. ✓ Disseminate Incident and Damage Reports resulting from Weather Events.	✓ Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain Situational Awareness of Weather in Georgia. ✓ Monitor Weather Bug Website. ✓ Monitor NWS Chat. ✓ Monitor Open Source Media. Disseminate Incident and Damage Reports resulting from Weather Events.	✓ Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain Situational Awareness of Weather in Georgia. ✓ Monitor Weather Bug Website. ✓ Monitor NWS Chat. ✓ Monitor Open Source Media. ✓ Disseminate Incident and Damage Reports resulting from Weather Events.	✓ Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain Situational Awareness of Weather in SE U.S. ✓ Track Weather Systems Approaching Georgia. ✓ Report Adjacent State Weather Impacts Resulting from Approaching Weather System. ✓ Report Impacts of Weather Systems within Georgia. ✓ Maintain Communications with FEMA Region IV Watch Office.	✓ Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain Situational Awareness of Weather in SE U.S. ✓ Track Weather Systems Approaching Georgia. ✓ Report Adjacent State Weather Impacts Resulting from Approaching Weather System. ✓ Report Impacts of Weather Systems within Georgia. ✓ Maintain Communications with FEMA Region IV Watch Office.
ESF 1 Transportation	✓ Actively monitor current weather conditions ✓	✓ Actively monitor current weather conditions ✓	✓ Actively monitor current weather conditions ✓ Alert District Managers of the potential issue ✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC activation. ✓ Notify Bridge Maintenance of the events ✓ Bridge inspectors on standby ✓ Cleaning and checking storm drains	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC activation. ✓ Monitor roadway condtions ✓ Response as needed ✓ Bridge inspectors on standby ✓ Cleaning and checking storm drains

	OpCon 5 – FLOOD Preparedness Activities	OpCon 4 – FLOOD WATCH	OpCon 3 - FLOOD ADVISORY	OpCon 2 – FLOOD WARNING	OpCon 1 - FLASH FLOOD WARNING
ESF 2 Communications	✓ Continue Planning Activities. ✓ Continue Equipment Maintenance.	✓ Identify communications resources to support potential Resource Requests and post-disaster operations. ✓ Preparatory actions to ensure all available disaster response communications equipment is prepared for deployment.	✓ Identify communications resources to support potential Resource Requests and post-disaster operations. Begin restoration efforts. ✓ Monitor communications infrastructure and provide information updates to 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. ✓ Prepare Communications equipment for deployment. ✓ Finalize the recall of any communications equipment that may have been in maintenance or on loan.	✓ Identify and possibly deploy communications resources to support requesting EMA and/or State-level operational response. ✓ Monitor communications infrastructure and provide information updates to SOC. ✓ Actively collecting communications input from responder State Agencies IOT. ✓ Finalize and distribute the ICS Form 205 (Incident Radio Communications Plan) to all responding agencies. ✓ Continue email updates to the ESF 2 Team to gain situational update. ✓ Finalize the recall of any communications equipment that may have been in maintenance or on loan.	✓ Identify and deploy communications resources to support requesting EMA and/or State-level operational response. ✓ Monitor communications infrastructure and provide information updates to SOC. ✓ Frequent dialog with telecom and wireless providers IOT identify all known communications issues. ✓ Continue email/conference call updates to ESF 2 Team IOT provide situational updates. ✓ Consider to activate the Wireless Emergency Alerts IOT direct the general population to the appropriate messaging available on governmental and media platforms in the affected geographic areas.

	OpCon 5 – FLOOD Preparedness Activities	OpCon 4 – FLOOD WATCH	OpCon 3 - FLOOD ADVISORY	OpCon 2 – FLOOD WARNING	OpCon 1 - FLASH FLOOD WARNING
ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering	✓ Continue to Monitor Water Quality. ✓ Continue Planning Activities.	✓ Continue to Monitor Water Quality. ✓ Continue Planning Activities.	✓ Continue to Monitor Water Quality ✓ Continue Planning Activities. ✓ Send out Weather Alerts and Notifications Received from the SOC regarding potential for Severe Weather.	✓ Continue to Monitor Water Quality. ✓ Continue Planning Activities. Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Send out Weather Alerts and Notifications Received from the SOC regarding potential for Severe Weather. ✓ Prepare templates for Public Notification Advisories. ✓ Identify all Drinking Water, Wastewater and Dams in the potentially impacted area. ✓ Coordinate with major Public utilities if aid is needed ✓ Coordinate with ground water system reps to monitor water quality	✓ Continue to Monitor Water Quality. ✓ Continue Planning Activities. ✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Send out Weather Alerts and Notifications Received from the SOC. ✓ Alert our ESF 3 primary and support agencies to continue to monitor the weather and be prepared to respond to resource requests. ✓ Coordinate with drinking water and wastewater facilities, and advise them to inventory their resources. ✓ Reach out to our partner agencies such as GRWA, GAWP and GAWARN to be on stand by for possible assistance in damage assessments and/or resource requests. ✓ Monitor Dams for potential flood issues
ESF 4 Firefighting	✓ Continue Planning Activities. ✓ Continue Equipment Maintenance.	✓ Monitor for any increase in risk. ✓ Direct Assistance to counties when requested	✓ Send out Weather Alerts and Notifications Received from the SOC. ✓ Direct Assistance to counties when requested.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Send out to ESF 4 primary and support agencies the Weather Alerts and Notifications Received from the SOC. ✓ Chain Saw Strike teams put on standby for potential deployment.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for potential SOC Activation. ✓ Send out to ESF 4 primary and support agencies the Weather Alerts and Notifications Received from the SOC. ✓ Communicate with Saw crews for mobalization. ✓ Provide support to the SOC and other ESF partners.

	OpCon 5 – FLOOD Preparedness Activities	OpCon 4 – FLOOD WATCH	OpCon 3 - FLOOD ADVISORY	OpCon 2 – FLOOD WARNING	OpCon 1 - FLASH FLOOD WARNING
ESF 5 Emergency Management	✓	✓ SOC Activation Level - 3 (GREEN) - ACTIVE MONITORING. ✓ Actively monitor current weather conditions. ✓ Review and evaluate Damage Reports. ✓ Coordinate Resource and Mutual Aid Requests.	✓ SOC Activation Level - 3 (GREEN) - ACTIVE MONITORING. ✓ Actively monitor current weather conditions. ✓ Review and evaluate Damage Reports. ✓ Coordinate Resource and Mutual Aid Requests.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ SOC Activation Level - 2 (YELLOW) - ELEVATED ACTIVATION. ✓ Publish Awareness Statement to all GEMA Employees, Primary and Alternate Emergency Coordinators and all EMAs. ✓ Notify ESFs to increase response planning. ✓ Develop Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Notify GEMA Staff and ESFs to report to the SOC. ✓ Create Incident in WebEOC. ✓ Convene County, State Agency, and NWS Conference Calls. ✓ Review and evaluate Damage Reports. ✓ Coordinate Resource and Mutual Aid Requests.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ SOC Activation Level – 1 (RED) - FULL SCALE ACTIVATION. ✓ Publish Awareness Statement to all GEMA Employees, Primary and Alternate Emergency Coordinators and all EMAs. ✓ Notify ESFs to increase response planning. ✓ Develop Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Notify GEMA Staff and ESFs to report to the SOC. ✓ Create Incident in WebEOC. ✓ Convene County, State Agency, and NWS Conference Calls. ✓ Review and evaluate Damage Reports. ✓ Coordinate Resource and Mutual Aid Requests.

ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.
		✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC.
		✓ Direct Assistance to counties when requested.
			✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation.
				✓ Initiate Conference Call with local EMAs.
				  o Establish communication with local EMAs in the potentially impacted area.
				  o Alert DFCS Shelter Service Associates and coordinate support as requested.
				✓ Pre-identify Shelter locations via National Shelter System (NSS).
				✓ Coordinate with ESF Partners, ARC, and TSA as required.
				✓ Maintain communications with local EMAs within potentially impacted areas.
				✓ Direct Assistance to counties when requested.
				✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions
					✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation.
					✓ Initiate Conference Call with local EMAs:
					  o Coordinate with DFCS personnel for shelter support as requested.
					  o Alert DFCS Shelter Service Associates of potential impacts.
					✓ Review NSS database and pre-identify approved Shelters.
					✓ Maintain communications with local EMAs within impacted areas.
					✓ Direct Mass Care Assistance to counties when requested.
					✓ Coordinate support with ESF Partners ARC, TSA, and other agencies/organizations as needed.
					✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions

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ESF 7 **Logistics Management** **and** **Resource Support**	✓	✓ Monitor for any increase in tornado risk.	✓ Monitor situation for tornado/wind damage and possible support requirements.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Monitor situation for tornado/wind damage and possible support requirements.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Activate the purchasing and contracting portion of ESF-7. ✓ Monitor situation for power outages, water system failures and homes/businesses damaged. ✓ Alert vendors and consider locating vendors (generators, water & tarps) in the State EOC for rapid response. ✓ Provide support to any State/ESF response.
ESF 8 **Public Health** **and** **Medical Services**	✓	✓	✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation.
ESF 9 **Search and Rescue**	✓ Identification/verification of swift water rescue assets ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC. ✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC. ✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC. ✓ Establish and maintain communication with Search and Rescue teams. ✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC. ✓ Alert swift water rescue responders ✓ Activate swift water rescue team ✓ Place reservists on Standby	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC. ✓ Maintain communication with Search and Rescue teams. ✓ Alert swift water rescue responders ✓ Activate swift water rescue team
ESF 10 **Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**	✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Identify potential Hazmat threats in the potentially affected areas.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Identify potential Hazmat threats in the potentially affected areas.

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ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources	✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Identify ✓ Coordinate with ESF 6 possible sheltering support. ✓ Be prepared to coordinate damages assessments if needed. ✓ Be prepared to provide technical assistance to public Natural, Cultural and Historic properties during damages assessment and request for assistance if needed. ✓ Coordinate animal sheltering support needs ✓ Coordinate animal evacuation (pets/livestock) response needs ✓ Coordinate with CI owners and operators to determine needs ✓ Coordinate with GDA staff regarding fuel quality testing/fuel availability/response needs ✓ Coordinate with GDA staff/Public Health EH staff/Georgia RRT members regarding food quality response efforts, implement stop movement of contaminated food, and oversee destruction of contaminated food to prevent contaminated food product from entering the marketplace.	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Coordinate with ESF 6 possible sheltering support. ✓ Be prepared to coordinate damages assessments if needed. ✓ Be prepared to provide technical assistance to public Natural, Cultural and Historic properties during damages assessment and request for assistance if needed. ✓ Coordinate animal sheltering support needs ✓ Coordinate animal evacuation (pets/livestock) response needs ✓ Coordinate with CI owners and operators to determine needs ✓ Coordinate with GDA staff regarding fuel quality testing/fuel availability/response needs ✓ Coordinate with GDA staff/Public Health EH staff/Georgia RRT members regarding food quality response efforts, implement stop movement of contaminated food, and oversee destruction of contaminated food to prevent contaminated food product from entering the marketplace.

	OpCon 5 – FLOOD Preparedness Activities	OpCon 4 – FLOOD WATCH	OpCon 3 - FLOOD ADVISORY	OpCon 2 – FLOOD WARNING	OpCon 1 - FLASH FLOOD WARNING
ESF 12 Energy	✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain communication with primary agencies and support agencies and companies. ✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain communication with primary agencies and support agencies and companies. ✓ Coordinates with critical infrastructure owners and operators to determine the number of citizens without electrical service.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Maintain communication with primary agencies and support agencies and companies. ✓ Coordinates with critical infrastructure owners and operators to determine the number of citizens without electrical service.
ESF 13 Public Safety and Security	✓	✓ Monitor weather conditions and report any severe weather or damage.	✓ Monitor weather conditions and report any severe weather or damage. ✓ Assist the public on the roadways and waterways. ✓ Assist local Public Safety Agencies as requested.	✓ Develop ESF 13 Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain communications between ESF 13 partner agencies. ✓ Monitor weather conditions and report any severe weather or damage. ✓ Assist the public on the roadways and waterways. Assist local Public Safety Agencies as requested. ✓ All ESF 13 support agencies will ensure all personnel; facilities and equipment are properly prepared for the weather risk. ✓	✓ Develop ESF 13 Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Maintain communications between ESF 13 partner agencies. ✓ Monitor weather conditions and report any severe weather or damage. ✓ Assist the public on the roadways and waterways. ✓ Assist local Public Safety Agencies as requested. ✓ ESF 13 primary and support agencies will ensure all personnel; facilities and equipment are properly prepared for the weather risk. ✓ Notify critical personnel to prepare for extended shifts and emergency responses. ✓
ESF 14 Long-Term Community Recovery	✓	✓	✓	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation.

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ESF 15 External Affairs	✓ Continue planning activities. ✓ Continue equipment maintenance. **Social Media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx. **Website** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. No changes to the website. Homepage reflects the most notable weather conditions for that time of the year.	**Social media**: Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx. **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. No changes to the website. Homepage reflects the most notable weather conditions for that time of year.	**Social media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx. **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. No changes to the website. Homepage reflects the most notable weather conditions for that time of year.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Coordinate with GEMA/HS meteorologist, Operations and Leadership on messaging. ✓ Provide talking points for Governor and other partners **Social media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx. **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. Through coordination with GEMA/HS meteorologist and Operations, the Homepage **may** reflect the enhanced risk with addition of appropriate map and links to NWS products.	✓ Develop ESF Staffing Roster for SOC Activation. ✓ Coordinate with GEMA/HS meteorologist, Operations and Leadership on messaging. ✓ Provide talking points for Governor and other partners ✓ **Social media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx, and agency partners **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. Through coordination with GEMA/HS meteorologist Operations and Leadership, the homepage **may** reflect the moderate risk with addition of appropriate map and links to NWS products. **News Conference:** Coordinate with the Governor's Office, Georgia Department of Administrative Services and GEMA/HS Finance to ensure that a certified American Sign Language Interpreter will be on hand if the Governor holds a news conference.
GA DoD	✓	✓ Man JOC to level 1 ✓ Man SOC Ga DOD desk ✓ Convene TAG Executive Board ✓ OPORD to units in GEMA RFAs ✓ WarnO for other units to BPT support ✓ Coord. w/ GEMA for potential EMAC request.	✓ Validate critical personnel contact rosters. ✓ BPT support SOC & JOC Ops ✓ Identify potential resources to support potential incidents	✓ Man JOC to level 2 ✓ Man SOC Ga DOD desk ✓ Convene TAG Executive Board ✓ WarnO distro'd to units in task org to BPT support ✓ Coord w/ GEMA & Governor for State Active Duty requirements based on situation	✓ Man JOC to level 1 ✓ Man SOC Ga DOD desk ✓ Convene TAG Executive Board ✓ OPORD to units in GEMA RFAs ✓ WarnO for other units to BPT support ✓ Coord w/ GEMA for potential EMAC requests