

Thank you for your interest in the GEMA Plan Library. This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is one of several documents that have been prepared to assist you to find the plan that you are interested in. This FAQ document includes answers to frequently asked questions followed by a list of acronyms that you may encounter. Other documents include:

- The *Plan Library Overview* sheet lists our plans by categories.
- The *Plan Library Index* is a spreadsheet that allows you to sort the plans by topic or name and gives a brief description of each plan.

GEMA-HS develops, maintains and continually revises numerous major planning documents which are used for managing and guiding wide ranging agency objectives critical to effective and efficient operations. These plans vary widely in scope and function and cross over very disparate disciplines. Some of the key agency plans are mainly procedural; others are more tactical, and still others provide high-level over-arching operational guidance for emergency response and recovery activities.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q1: What are Emergency Support Functions or ESFs?**

A1: Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) are a method for organizing the kinds of resources and expertise that are most frequently needed to support an emergency response. Examples are ESF-1 - Transportation, ESF-4 - Firefighting, and ESF-9 - Search and Rescue. The State Agencies with functional capabilities, equipment and supplies in that area are assigned to that ESF, with one agency identified as the Primary Agency. During response and recovery operations, the Primary Agency forms and activates a team that is responsible for working with the local officials and the State Operations Center (SOC) to identify unmet resource needs. The team also coordinates the flow of resources and assistance provided by the federal government to meet these needs.

Additionally the Georgia Department of Defense is identified as a Support Agency to all ESFs but ESF14. The Georgia Department of Defense/Georgia National Guard's unique capabilities necessitate a separate annex to describe its role.

### **Q2: What is the difference between a Support Annex and a Hazard/Threat/Incident Annex?**

A2: The Support Annexes describe how Georgia state agencies coordinate and execute common strategies and processes that apply to almost every type of incident. Examples include Crisis Communication to the public, Volunteer and Donations Management, and Debris Removal.

The hazard-, threat-, or incident-specific annexes describe the unique policies, situation, concept of operations, and responsibilities for a specific type of incident or event. Examples include the Hurricane Plan and the Flood Incident Annex.

**Q2: Who can I contact for more information?**

A2: Please contact GEMA Planning Section at 1-800-ASK-GEMA.

**Acronyms**

- COG – Continuity of Government
- DOD – Department of Defense
- DRC – Disaster Recover Center
- EAS – Emergency Alert System
- ESF – Emergency Support Function
- FNSS – Functional Needs Support Services
- GaDOD – Georgia Department of Defense
- GDHTF – Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force
- GEMA – Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- GEMA/HS or GEMA-HS – Georgia Emergency Management Agency – Homeland Security
- GEOP – Georgia Emergency Operations Plan
- GSAR – Georgia Search and Rescue
- HES – Hurricane Evacuation Study
- IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert and Warning System
- NIMS – National Incident Management System
- OPCON – Operational Conditions
- SCIP – Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan
- SNS – Strategic National Stockpile
- SOC – State Operations Center
- SOG – Standard Operating Guidance
- SOP – Standard Operating Procedures
- THIRA – Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- VOAD – Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster