GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY

Severe Weather Incident Annex

Annex B to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

GEMHSA Planning Section

9/7/2016

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

Transmitted herewith is the updated Severe Weather Incident Annex to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. This incident annex supersedes the annex of the same name dated 2007 and any/all previous emergency management/civil defense severe 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 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Severe Weather Incident Annex describes the necessary steps the state will take to prepare and respond to a severe weather incident. It describes the actions taken by the State's agencies that have been assigned emergency support function roles with the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. This incident annex is meant to be a guide, in that it allows the state of Georgia to adjust its response based upon the size and scope of the incident.

The Severe Weather Incident Annex is designed to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency standards, Emergency Management Accreditation Program standards, National Incident Management System requirements, and is compliant with the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. This Severe Weather Incident Annex also meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements to make it accessible under the ADA.

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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

The purpose of the Severe Weather Incident Annex is to provide a framework for the state of Georgia to be prepared, execute a well-coordinated, efficient response, and recover from severe weather related impacts within the state.

1.2 SCOPE

The Severe Weather Incident Annex supports the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) and applies to Georgia state agencies and partners assigned Emergency Support Function (ESF) responsibilities by the Governors Executive Order 01-14-13-01 and the GEOP. This incident annex outlines details associated with severe weather planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. It includes descriptions of the hazards and threats the State faces, the actions the state will take to support local jurisdictions and the structure in which state resources will operate within.

1.3 GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 The objectives of the Severe Weather Incident Annex are:

1.3.1.1 Facilitate a rapid, well-coordinated, and efficient state response to a major severe weather event.

1.3.1.2 Provide fast, effective, and cooperative organization to respond to a major severe weather event.

1.3.1.3 Establish a flexible and scalable foundation for responding to severe weather events that overwhelm local capabilities.

1.4 POLICIES

1.4.1 Documents utilized as guidance for this incident annex include, but are not limited to the National Response Framework (NRF), National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 – version 2.0.Through the utilization of these documents this incident annex is compliant with the NRF and the NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) protocols.

1.4.2 This incident annex will be implemented by the Director (or his/her representative) of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA), in conjunction with the GEOP, following the declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor of Georgia (or his/her representative) during the days preceding potential impacts from severe weather.

1.4.3 All state resources utilized during a response will remain under the control of their respective agency / department / organization. Federal resources will be requested by the state to augment response capabilities. Federal resources requested by the state may be subjected to cost sharing as dictated by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act).

1.4.4 Additional disaster response plans may be initiated during a disaster response caused by a severe weather impact to Georgia. Plans that may be utilized can be found in the incident and support annexes of the GEOP as well as in GEOP Standard Operating Guides.

2.0 SITUATION OVERVIEW

The state of Georgia is vulnerable to a variety of severe weather hazards. This incident annex addresses the hazards associated with severe thunderstorms. For tropical cyclones, floods, and winter weather, GEMHSA developed separate incident annexes to address these hazards: Tropical Cyclone Incident Annex, Flood Incident Annex, and Winter Weather Incident Annex. Additional incident annexes addressing Drought and Excessive Heat have also been developed.

2.1 HAZARD ANALYSIS

2.1.1 **Severe Thunderstorms**

2.1.1.1 The National Weather Service (NWS) defines a severe thunderstorm as any storm that produces one or more of the following: a tornado, damaging wind speeds of 58 mph (50 knots) or greater, and/or hail 1 inch in diameter or larger. While most severe weather events are limited in terms of their impact, duration, and spatial extent, these hazards remain some of the most common in the state of Georgia. According to Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database for the United States (SHELDUS) data, 296 severe weather events have occurred per year from 1960-2012. These events in total have caused 990 injuries, 168 fatalities and over $1.2 billion in damages. A detailed analysis of the potential severe weather impacts to the state can be found in the state of Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy (2014).

2.1.2 **Hail**

2.1.2.1 As stated in the severe thunderstorm definition above, hail is considered severe when it reaches 1 inch in diameter. Hail can reach sizes much larger than the severe threshold size. Hail causes close to $1 billion in damage to property and crops each year in the U.S. While property is typically at greatest risk for hail damage, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimate that 24 people are injured from hail each year.

2.1.3 **Tornadoes**

2.1.3.1 Within the state of Georgia, tornadoes can occur anywhere. However, the areas of impact for tornadoes are fairly isolated, typically ranging from a few hundred feet to one or two miles across. Tornadoes affect far less areas than larger meteorological events such as hurricanes and winter storms.

2.1.3.2 There is no exact season for tornadoes; however, most occur within the time period of early spring to middle summer (February – June). In Georgia, 1,438 tornado events have occurred from 1952 – 2012, according to SHELDUS data. This equates to approximately 24 events per year historically. These events have caused 2,940 injuries, 153 fatalities and over $1.7 billion in damages.

2.1.4 **Wind**

2.1.4.1 Severe thunderstorms in Georgia have the potential to cause extensive wind damage. Severe winds are defined as having an intensity of 50 knots (58 mph) or greater. Straight-line winds can reach speeds of up to 100 mph and produce damage similar to a tornado. According to the NWS, damaging winds occur about 19 days per year in Georgia and are more likely during spring and summer months with a peak in July. During these months, damaging winds are more likely to occur during mid-afternoon and early evening. The NWS's Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services estimates that during the 20-year period of 1995 – 2004, wind related deaths averaged 55 per year.

3.0 SITUATION OVERVIEW

3.1 INCIDENT CONDITION

3.1.1 The entire state of Georgia is vulnerable to the hazards associated with severe weather. When severe 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 in order 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.

3.2 PLANNING FACTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

3.2.1 Severe weather related hazards can occur at any time throughout the year;

3.2.2 Local jurisdictions adversely affected by severe weather may declare local State of Emergency upon being impacted;

3.2.3 Local jurisdictions adversely affected by severe weather may utilize mutual aid agreements as part of their response to the disaster;

3.2.4 Local jurisdictions affected by severe weather may request resources from the state as the situation evolves;

3.2.5 The Governor may declare a State of Emergency for severely affected areas to enable state resources to rapidly assist affected jurisdictions as needed;

3.2.6 The GEMHSA Director (or his/her designee) may activate the State Operations Center (SOC) and the GEOP to coordinate assistance to the affected jurisdiction(s);

3.2.7 The state of Georgia may request interstate mutual aid through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) if the Governor has declared a State of Emergency;

3.2.8 Federal assets will only be available to assist if a Presidential Disaster Declaration as defined by the Stafford Act is in effect.

4.0 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (CONOPS)

The Concept of Operations summarizes the operational response activities of the state and includes the typical operating conditions for a severe weather event. This Severe Weather Incident Annex Concept of Operations establishes pre-event protective actions that will be taken by the state to prepare for, respond to and recover from a severe weather event.

The CONOPS provides information relating to the needs and expectations of local governments and ESF partners. It serves as a valuable communication instrument for informing stakeholders and ESFs of the operational and support context during a severe weather event.

This section includes annual preparedness activities, preparedness actions by severe weather risk categories and response operations. The preparedness activities are based on the Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories developed by the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), an agency that is part of the NWS and the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). The SPC products are associated with different possible impacts and the probability that the impacts will occur.

4.1 ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

The annual preparedness activities include reviewing and updating operations plans, developing Standard Operating Procedures, conducting training and exercises, facilitating public outreach and education, reviewing impacts from previous severe weather events, and incorporating lessons learned and best practices into operational procedures.

4.1.1 The annual preparedness activities and programs include but are not limited to the following:

4.1.1.1 NWS StormReady Program

4.1.1.2 NOAA Weather Radio Initiative

4.1.1.3 Emergency Management Network

4.1.1.4 Emergency Alert System

4.1.1.5 Severe Weather Preparedness Week Initiative

4.1.1.6 Ready Georgia Campaign

* See Annex B for more details.

Preparedness actions by severe weather risk category

The preparedness actions are based on SPC Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories. The SPC products are associated with: a) different intensities of impacts, b) the probability that the impact will occur, and c) the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of location. The preparedness activities are not intended to be exhaustive; the actions listed represent an overview of the most important and mission critical actions/decisions to be undertaken to support the response effort. The categories are summarized below. Detailed guidance for each category level by ESF is provided at 7.6 (Severe Thunderstorm State Synchronization Matrix).

4.1.2 **Marginal (MRGL):**

4.1.2.1 Marginal Risk – An area of severe storms, of either limited organization and longevity, or very low coverage and marginal intensity.

4.1.2.2 Impacts expected: Winds 40-60 mph; hail up to 1”; low tornado risk.

4.1.2.3 *Actions:*

4.1.2.3.1 Maintain situation awareness of current and future weather conditions.

4.1.2.3.2 Maintain email and telephonic contact with the State Operations Center (SOC).

4.1.2.3.3 Coordinate assigned resource requests.

4.1.2.3.4 Maintain communication with Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators and County Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted.

4.1.3 **Slight (SLGT):**

4.1.3.1 Slight Risk – An area of organized severe storms, which is not widespread in coverage, with varying levels of intensity.

4.1.3.2 Impacts expected: One or two tornadoes; reports of strong winds/wind damage; hail~1”, isolated 2”.

4.1.3.3 *Actions:*

4.1.3.3.1 Maintain situation awareness of current and future weather conditions.

4.1.3.3.2 Maintain email and telephonic contact with the SOC.

4.1.3.3.3 Monitor WebEOC for resource requests.

4.1.3.3.4 Maintain communication with Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators and County EMAs for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted.

4.1.4 **Enhanced (ENH):**

4.1.4.1 Enhanced Risk – An area of greater (relative to slight risk) severe storm coverage with varying levels of intensity.

4.1.4.2 Impacts expected: A few tornadoes; several reports of wind damage; damaging hail, 1-2”.

4.1.4.3 *Actions:*

4.1.4.3.1 Maintain situation awareness of current and future weather conditions.

4.1.4.3.2 Maintain email and telephonic contact with the SOC.

4.1.4.3.3 Monitor and coordinate WebEOC for resource requests.

4.1.4.3.4 Maintain communication with Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators and County EMAs for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted; consider requesting a Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration.

4.1.4.3.5 Consider initiating Wireless Emergency Alerts.

4.1.4.3.6 Consider upgrading the SOC activation level to Elevated Activation.

4.1.4.3.7 Send the awareness statement by email to GEMHSA staff, ESF partners, EMA directors, and school superintendents, with relaying information from the NWS concerning the forecasted severe weather situation.

4.1.4.3.8 Review emergency supply inventory and test equipment and systems.

4.1.4.3.9 Review pre-scripted notification messages for severe weather and check contacts and specifications in order to ready the notification system.

4.1.5 **Moderate (MDT):**

4.1.5.1 Moderate Risk – An area where widespread severe weather with several tornadoes and/or numerous severe thunderstorms is likely, some of which should be intense. This risk is usually reserved for days with several supercells producing intense tornadoes and/or very large hail, or an intense squall line with widespread damaging winds.

4.1.5.2 Impacts expected: Strong tornadoes; widespread wind damage; destructive hail 2”+.

4.1.5.3 *Actions:*

4.1.5.3.1 Maintain situation awareness of current and future weather conditions.

4.1.5.3.2 Maintain email and telephonic contact with the SOC.

4.1.5.3.3 Monitor WebEOC for resource requests.

4.1.5.3.4 Coordinate assigned resource requests.

4.1.5.3.5 Maintain communication with Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators and County EMAs for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted; Consider to upgrade the SOC activation level.

4.1.5.3.6 Consider to initiate Wireless Emergency Alerts.

4.1.5.3.7 Consider to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

4.1.5.3.8 Consider to request direct federal assistance.

4.1.5.3.9 Send the awareness statement by email to GEMHSA staff, ESF partners, EMA directors, and school superintendents, with relaying information from the NWS concerning the forecasted severe weather situation.

4.1.5.3.10 Review emergency supply inventory and test equipment and systems.

4.1.5.3.11 Review pre-scripted notification messages for severe weather and check contacts and specifications in order to ready the notification system.

4.1.6 **High (HIGH):**

4.1.6.1 High Risk – An area where a severe weather outbreak is expected from either numerous intense and long-tracked tornadoes or a long-lived derecho thunderstorm complex that produces hurricane-force winds and widespread damage. This risk is reserved for when high confidence exists in widespread coverage of severe weather with embedded instances of extreme severe weather (i.e., violent tornadoes or very damaging convective wind events).

4.1.6.2 Impacts expected: Tornado outbreak; Derecho – a widespread, long-lived wind storm associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms.

4.1.6.3 *Actions:*

4.1.6.3.1 ESFs are fully staffed in SOC.

4.1.6.3.2 12-hour shifts are implemented for 24-hour operations.

4.1.6.3.3 Monitor WebEOC for resource requests.

4.1.6.3.4 Coordinate assigned resource requests.

4.1.6.3.5 Maintain communication with Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators and County EMAs for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted.

4.1.6.3.6 Send the awareness statement by email to GEMHSA staff, ESF partners, EMA Directors, and School Superintendents, with relaying information from the NWS concerning the forecasted severe weather situation.

4.1.6.3.7 Review emergency supply inventory and test equipment and systems.

4.1.6.3.8 Review pre-scripted notification messages for severe weather and check contacts and specifications in order to ready the notification system.

4.2 COORDINATION

4.2.1 **State Coordination**

4.2.1.1 GEMHSA operates the SOC according to principles established by the National Response Framework and the National Incident Command System.

4.2.1.2 The SOC follows the objectives provided by the Governor, the GEMHSA Director, and the Emergency Operations Command (EOC). The Director of GEMHSA activates the EOC as needed and initiates a regular 8 AM / 2 PM / 8 PM schedule coordination calls.

4.2.1.3 Prior to the onset of weather related impacts, GEMHSA may initiate an elevated activation of the SOC. Upon quantification of impacts through situational awareness updates and Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA), the SOC Event Manager or designee may decide to request additional ESFs to support state-level response, or may initiate a full activation of the SOC.

4.2.1.4 The state will coordinate the deployment of aerial reconnaissance to further augment the PDA process. Should significant and overwhelming impacts be observed, GEMHSA may request that the Governor of Georgia issue a State of Emergency for impacted counties.

4.2.1.5 Requests for state-level resources will be made by the local EMA Director to the SOC. All available response capabilities within the state or from neighboring states via EMAC may be made available for response operations and integrated into the response effort.

4.2.2 Local Coordination

4.2.2.1 GEMHSA uses the Emergency Management Network (EMnet) to alert local EMA Directors to emergency situations. EMnet has been fielded in most of the County and Regional 911 Centers throughout Georgia. In addition, the EMnet system is Georgia's access into FEMA's Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System. More information can be found in the Georgia Emergency Alert System Plan.

4.2.2.2 Each county EMA director has access to GEMHSA's WebEOC system for internal use in their own county as well as for communicating Requests for Assistance (RFAs) and situational awareness to the SOC. Counties can also call in RFAs and situational updates through the State Warning Point.

4.2.2.3 County conference calls will be coordinated between the SOC and the affected counties. The purpose of this call is to provide direct support to the local EMAs and provide them with an opportunity to raise major issues that the state may be able to resolve. All SOC Command and General Staff and a representative from each ESF will be present at this call to provide direct feedback to impacted counties upon request.

4.2.3 Federal Coordination

4.2.3.1 Because severe weather has the potential to produce widespread damage, the Governor of Georgia, with the assistance of GEMHSA, may submit a request for a Presidential Emergency or Major Disaster Declaration. More detailed and specific information regarding Federal response is outlined in the NRF and the GEOP.

4.2.4 Volunteer Organizations

4.2.4.1 Volunteer organizations play a critical role in fulfilling requests for goods and services, when locals and the state are overwhelmed after a disaster. During a disaster, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs), 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 partners are an integral component of a comprehensive disaster response effort. In order to facilitate coordination between the SOC and private sector partners, GEMHSA is developing the Business Coalition Initiative. The private sector liaison will work with a Georgia Department of Economic Development partner to work with private sector organizations around the state to get businesses back up and running after the occurrence of a disaster. WebEOC will also be used as a means of communication amongst the organizations. This contact will be ensuring the seamless integration of private-sector response capabilities during a disaster – a critical component of the catastrophic response strategy.

4.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (ESF)

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 For the Severe Weather 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. A detailed list of each ESF actions per Risk Category is in Section 7.6 Appendix F. Also for general responsibilities, see the GEOP or the ESF annexes.

4.4 LOGISTICS

4.4.1 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), maintains 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.

4.4.2 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.

4.4.3 Counties are authorized to use contracts that GEMHSA has in place and are provided the same terms 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.

4.4.4 Is something supposed to go here?

4.4.5 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.”

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

4.5 CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS

4.5.1 During disasters it is crucial to ensure effective coordination of public information. ESF 15 – External Affairs coordinates public information sharing and media relations during disaster operations. ESF 15 facilitates the provision and synchronization of public information across a broad spectrum of response entities, the media, and the public.

4.5.2 ESF 15 uses WebEOC to share finalized documents to ESF partners and local EMAs.

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

5.0 PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This incident annex will be reviewed every four 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's Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the agency.

6.0 REFERENCES

6.1 FEDERAL

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

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

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

6.2 STATE

6.2.1 Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (2013 – Updated January 2015)

6.2.2 2014 State of Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy

6.2.3 GEOP: Crisis Communication Policy (2012)

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

7.1 APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS

CONOPS – Concept of Operations

CPG – Comprehensive Planning Guide

DOAS – Department of Administrative Services

EAS – Emergency Alert System

EF – Enhanced Fujita Scale

EMA – Emergency Management Agency

EMnet – Emergency Management Network

ESF – Emergency Support Function

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

GEMHSA – Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

GEOP – Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

ICS – Incident Command System

JIC – Joint Information Center

NIMS – National Incident Management System

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NRF – National Response Framework

NWS – National Weather Service

PDA – Preliminary Damage Assessments

PIO – Public Information Officer

POD – Points of Distribution

RFA – Request of Assistance

SAME – Specific Area Message Encoding

SHELDUS – Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database for the United States

SOC – State Operations Center

SPC – Storm Prediction Center

7.2 APPENDIX B: ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

7.2.1 **NWS StormReady Program**

7.2.1.1 StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

7.2.1.2 To be officially StormReady, a community must:

7.2.1.2.1 Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;

7.2.1.2.2 Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public;

7.2.1.2.3 Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally;

7.2.1.2.4 Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;

7.2.1.2.5 Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

7.2.2 **NOAA Weather Radio**

7.2.2.1 NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide initiative that aims to broadcast hazardous conditions to the public via a NWS Weather Radio. Information pertaining to hazardous watches, warnings, forecasts, and other hazard information is broadcast directly from the NWS forecast offices and operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

7.2.2.2 Most NOAA Weather Radios are equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology. This SAME technology ensures that citizens receive information that only applies to the area in which they live. These information broadcasts are a significant enhancement to watch and warning order dissemination.

7.2.2.3 In Georgia, 23 transmitters disseminate NWS information for NOAA Weather Radio. Approximately 98% of Georgia's population is capable of receiving this information.

7.2.3 **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

7.2.3.1 The EAS was created by the Federal Communication Commission in 1994 and replaced the Emergency Broadcast System. The EAS has the capability to disseminate information regarding emergencies over AM/FM radio, broadcast, Cable, and Satellite television.

7.2.3.2 The purpose of the EAS is to allow Local, State, and Federal entities the ability to provide information on emergencies – local or national – to the public. This information is disseminated automatically to thousands of network providers.

This system interfaces with NOAA Weather Radio and EMnet.

7.2.3.3 EMnet is an internet and satellite-based communications network that serves as the EAS backbone in Georgia. GEMHSA utilizes EMnet to interrupt radio and television broadcasting with certain categories of emergency messages. EMnet can be locally configured to distribute these alerts to key personnel throughout various agencies and jurisdictions all over the state. GEMHSA and County EMAs may also utilize EMnet to transmit Wireless Emergency Messages (WEA) to the public.

7.2.3.4 EMnet also serves emergency management communities in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia. Federal entities served by EMnet include: FEMA, CSX Railroads, Amtrak, and multiple NWS forecast offices and operational facilities.

7.2.4 **Severe Weather Preparedness Week**

7.2.4.1 Severe Weather Preparedness Week is a nationwide NWS initiative that is aimed at raising the citizen's awareness of severe weather threats. This week, generally occurring every first full week in February in Georgia, addresses preparedness issues associated with severe weather. Each day covers a different topic addressing preparedness including: Family preparedness, NOAA Weather Radio, thunderstorm preparedness, lightning safety, tornado safety, flooding, and the statewide tornado drill, which is a large component of the observance.

7.2.4.2 GEMHSA provides information to the public concerning severe weather awareness via the GEMHSA website and through press releases. Media outlets provide information to the public through TV and radio based endorsements and informational segments on the local news. The NWS provides media outlets with information regarding severe weather threats as well as conducts public presentations.

7.2.5 **Ready Georgia**

7.2.5.1 Ready Georgia is a statewide campaign designed to educate and empower Georgians to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, pandemic outbreaks, potential terrorist attacks and other large-scale emergencies. To help Georgians prepare for severe weather, Ready Georgia offers resources and information residents can use to create an emergency supply kit, develop a communications plan and stay informed about potential threats. An interactive website provides detailed information on Georgia-specific emergency preparedness and allows users to create a personal profile and receive a customized checklist and family communications plan.

7.3 APPENDIX C: SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK CATEGORIES

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	**Isolated severe thunderstorms possible**	**Scattered severe storms possible**	**Numerous severe storms possible**	**Widespread severe storms likely**	**Widespread severe storms expected**
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					
• *Winds to 40 mph* • *Small hail*	• *Winds 40-60 mph* • *Hail up to 1"* • *Low tornado risk*	• *One or two tornadoes* • *Reports of strong winds/wind damage* • *Hail ~1", isolated 2"*	• *A few tornadoes* • *Several reports of wind damage* • *Damaging hail, 1 - 2"*	• *Strong tornadoes* • *Widespread wind damage* • *Destructive hail, 2" +*	• *Tornado outbreak* • *Derecho*

* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.

National Weather Service
www.spc.noaa.gov

7.4 APPENDIX D: NWS SEVERE WEATHER PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

NWS Atlanta Severe Weather Product Definitions and Colors on Our Website

Watch

Product	Conditions Expected
Severe Thunderstorm Watch	Severe thunderstorms (*Winds greater than 58mph or hail larger than 1"*) are becoming more likely in the next few hours. When a severe thunderstorm watch is issued, severe wind gusts and large hail are thought to be the main threat. Usually last 6-8 hours and should be issued with 2-3 hours lead time of a severe thunderstorm occurring. (***Severe thunderstorms can and do produce tornadoes with little or no advanced warning***)
Tornado Watch	Tornadoes from severe thunderstorms are becoming more likely in the next few hours. Usually last 6-8 hours and should be issued with 2-3 hours lead time of a severe thunderstorm producing tornadoes. You can expect severe thunderstorms as well (see definition above).

Advisory/Alert

Product	Conditions Expected
Significant Weather Advisory	Issued for strong thunderstorms, minor flooding, and weak rotation within a thunderstorm. These thunderstorms could produce wind gusts to 50 mph, hail the size of nickels, minor flooding, excessive lightning, heavy rain, and/or weak rotation. Usually last 30-90 minutes depending on what the SWA was issued for.

Warning

Product	Conditions Expected
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	A severe thunderstorm has been detected on radar or reported to the National Weather Service. You should take emergency precautions immediately. Please read the warning text. You can get an idea of wind strength, hail size and whether the storm is rotating along with location, speed and direction of movement. Lasts from 30 to 60 minutes.
Tornado Warning	A tornado has been sighted or identified on radar. Take emergency precautions. Read the text to gain more important information. A Tornado Emergency means that a strong tornado has been identified on radar or has been reported. Most fatalities occur from strong tornadoes. Lasts from 15 to 60 minutes.
Severe Weather Statement	Statements that are issued about storms that have been warned. New information like location, strength and movement are in these statements. If a warning is cancelled early a SVS will be issued.
Flash Flood Warning	Flood will occur within the next six hours. This flooding can be extremely life threatening as the water will rise rapidly in areas that don't necessarily have a lot of water. Can be more life threatening than a tornado. Flash Flood Emergency means that significant flash flooding is occurring. The use of this statement is coordinated with the county EMA. Usually last 6 hours.
Flood Warning	Flooding is occurring over a large area and may not be contained to rivers only. Usually issued for flooding that has been on-going. Flooding could be long in duration. This product lasts from 4 to 24 hours.
Flood Warning (River)	Issued for specific rivers that are flooding. Usually issued for specific gauge sites. Warnings last as long as the river remains above flood stage.

Be sure to read the text of the products when they are issued. Important information is included in the text.

7.5 APPENDIX E: ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE FOR TORNADO DAMAGE

The Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale, which became operational on February 1, 2007, is used to assign a tornado a 'rating' based on estimated wind speeds and related damage. When tornado-related damage is surveyed, it is compared to a list of damage indicators (DIs) and degrees of damage (DoD) which help estimate better the range of wind speeds the tornado likely produced. From that, a rating (from EF0 to EF5) is assigned.

The EF Scale was revised from the **original Fujita Scale** to reflect better examinations of tornado damage surveys so as to align wind speeds more closely with associated storm damage. The new scale has to do with how most structures are designed.

EF SCALE	
EF Rating	3 Second Gust (mph)
0	65-85
1	86-110
2	111-135
3	136-165
4	166-200
5	Over 200

*** IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT EF SCALE WINDS: The EF scale still is a set of wind estimates (not measurements) based on damage. Its uses three-second gusts estimated at the point of damage based on a judgment of 8 levels of damage to the 28 indicators listed below. These estimates vary with height and exposure. Important: The 3 second gust is not the same wind as in standard surface observations. Standard measurements are taken by weather stations in open exposures, using a directly measured, "one minute mile" speed.

Assigning a Tornado Rating Using the EF Scale

The NWS is the only federal agency with authority to provide 'official' tornado EF Scale ratings. The goal is assign an EF Scale category based on the highest wind speed that occurred within the damage path. First, trained NWS personnel will identify the appropriate damage indicator (DI) [see list on the next page] for more than one of the 28 used in rating the damage. The construction or description of a building should match the DI being considered, and the observed damage should match one of the 8 degrees of damage (DoD) used by the scale. The tornado evaluator will then make a judgment within the range of upper and lower bound wind speeds, as to whether the wind speed to cause the damage is higher or lower than the expected value for the particular DoD. This is done for several structures, not just one, before a final EF rating is determined.

Enhanced Fujita Scale Damage Indicators

NUMBER (Details Linked)	DAMAGE INDICATOR	ABBREVIATION
1	Small barns, farm outbuildings	SBO
2	One- or two-family residences	FR12
3	Single-wide mobile home (MHSW)	MHSW
4	Double-wide mobile home	MHDW
5	Apartment, condo, townhouse (3 stories or less)	ACT
6	Motel	M
7	Masonry apartment or Motel	MAM
8	Small retail bldg. (fast food)	SRB
9	Small professional (doctor office, branch bank)	SPB
10	Strip mall	SM
11	Large shopping mall	LSM
12	Large, isolated ("big box") retail bldg.	LIRB
13	Automobile showroom	ASR
14	Automotive service building	ASB
15	School: 1-story Elementary (interior or exterior halls)	ES
16	School – Junior or Senior High School	JHSH
17	Low-rise (1-4 story) bldg.	LRB
18	Mid-rise (5-20 story) bldg.	MRB
19	High-rise (over 20 stories)	HRB
20	Institutional building. (hospital, govt. or university)	IB
21	Metal building system	MBS
22	Service station canopy	SSC
23	Warehouse (tilt-up walls or heavy timber)	WHB
24	Transmission line tower	TLT
25	Free-standing tower	FST
26	Free standing pole (light, flag, luminary)	FSP
27	Tree - hardwood	TH
28	Tree - softwood	TS

7.6 SEVERE THUNDERSTORMSTATE SYNCHRONIZATION MATRIX

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
Forecast Event	**No Severe Weather is Expected**	**Isolated Severe Weather is Possible**	**Scattered Severe Storms are Possible**	**Numerous Severe Storms are Possible**	**Widespread Severe Storms are Likely**	**Widespread Severe Storms are Expected**
Expected Impacts:	Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms. Winds to 40 mph; small hail	Severe Weather will be limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity. Winds 40 - 60 mph; hail up to 1"; low tornado risk	Severe Weather is anticipated to be short-lived and/or not widespread; isolated intense storms are possible. One to two tornadoes; reports of strong winds/wind damage; hail ~1"; isolated 2"	Severe Weather is expected to be more persistent and/or widespread; a few storms may be intense. A few tornadoes; several reports of wind damage; damaging hail, 1" - 2"	Severe Weather is expected to be long-lived; storms will be widespread and intense. Strong tornadoes; widespread wind damage; destructive hail, 2"+	Severe Weather will be long-lived; storms will be very widespread and particularly intense. Tornado outbreak; Derecho (a widespread, long-lived, straight-line wind storm that is associated with a land-based, fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms. Derechos can cause hurricane force winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flash floods)
ALL	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and telephonic contact with SOC ✓ Coordinate assigned resource requests	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and telephonic contact with SOC ✓ Coordinate assigned resource requests	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and telephonic contact with SOC ✓ Monitor WebEOC for resource requests ✓ Coordinate assigned resource requests	✓ Report to SOC ✓ ESFs are fully staffed in SOC ✓ 12-hour shifts are implemented for 24-hour operations ✓ Monitor WebEOC for resource requests ✓ Coordinate assigned resource requests	✓ Report to SOC ✓ ESFs are fully staffed in SOC 12-hour shifts are implemented for 24-hour operations ✓ Monitor WebEOC for resource requestsCoordinate assigned resource requests
ISSUES & CONSIDERATIONS	✓ Are special events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted?	✓ Are special events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted?	✓ Are special events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted?	✓ Are special events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Is Severe Weather anticipated to affect major metropolitan areas during normal business hours? ✓ Is Severe Weather anticipated to affect transportation hubs?	✓ Are special events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Is Severe Weather anticipated to affect major metropolitan areas during normal business hours? ✓ Is Severe Weather anticipated to affect transportation hubs?	✓ Are special events scheduled for the geographic area(s) potentially impacted? ✓ Is Severe Weather anticipated to affect major metropolitan areas during normal business hours? ✓ Is Severe Weather anticipated to affect transportation hubs?

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
GEMHSA Meteorologist	✓ Continue day-to-day activities: monitor weather models, NOAA products, local broadcast meteorologists' forecasts, radar trends, etc.	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Determine what course of action should be taken in consultation with the management staff	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Determine what course of action should be taken in consultation with the management staff	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Determine what course of action should be taken in consultation with the management staff, including: • Meet with the GEMHSA Director and Deputy Directors; • Consult the Weather Advisory Group (WAG); • Notify EMA Directors by Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators, GEMHSA staff, and GEMHSA weather distribution list; • Meet with Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to construct proper messaging	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Determine what course of action should be taken in consultation with the management staff, including: • Communicate with GEMHSA Director, Deputy Directors, Division Directors, and certain ESF partners; • Consult the Weather Advisory Group; • Notify EMA Directors by Areafield coordinators, school safety coordinators, GEMHSA Staff and GEMHSA distribution list; • Meet with GEMHSA Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to construct proper messaging	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Determine what course of action should be taken in consultation with the management staff, including: ✓ Meet with GEMHSA Director and Deputy Directors and certain ESF partners. ✓ Notify EMA directors by Area Field Coordinators, School Safety Coordinators, GEMHSA staff, and GEMHSA weather distribution list ✓ Maintain communication with key partners ✓ Meet with GEMHSA PAO to construct proper messaging ✓ Consult the Weather Advisory Group
GEMHSA State Warning Point	✓ Day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of weather in Georgia • Monitor SWP GIS Portal • 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 SWP GIS Portal ✓ 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 SWP GIS Portal • 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	✓ Day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of weather in SE U.S ✓ Track weather systems approaching Georgia ✓ Report adjacent state weather impacts eesulting from approaching weather system ✓ Report impacts of weather systems within Georgia ✓ Maintain communications with FEMA Region IV Watch Office

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
GEMHSA Field Operations	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future conditions ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC and local EMAs	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future conditions by actively monitoring news and weather sources. ✓ School Safety Coordinator will ensure that school systems are aware of the threat level and remind the school systems to monitor NOAA Weather Radio and news media ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC ✓ Field Coordinators will contact the EMA in those jurisdictions threatened by an approaching storm for any needs ✓ Review and evaluate and submit damage reports to the SWP ✓ Conduct follow-up calls to those jurisdictions impacted by a storm to ascertain needs or damage reports	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future conditions by actively monitoring news and weather sources ✓ School Safety Coordinator will ensure that school systems are aware of the threat level and remind the school systems to monitor NOAA Weather Radio and news media ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC ✓ Field Coordinators will contact the EMA in those jurisdictions threatened by an approaching storm for any needs. ✓ Review and evaluate and submit damage reports to the SWP ✓ Conduct follow-up calls to those jurisdictions impacted by a storm to ascertain needs or damage reports ✓ Be prepared to be deployed to the affected area	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future conditions by actively monitoring news and weather sources ✓ School Safety Coordinator will ensurethat school systems are aware of the threat level and remind the school systems to monitor NOAA Weather Radio and news media ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC ✓ Field Coordinators will contact the EMA in those jurisdictions threatened by an approaching storm for any needs ✓ Review and evaluate and submit damage reports to the SWP ✓ Conduct follow-up calls to those jurisdictions impacted by a storm to ascertain needs or damage reports ✓ Be prepared to be deployed to the affected areas	✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future conditions by actively monitoring news and weather sources ✓ School Safety Coordinator will ensure that school systems are aware of the threat level and remind the school systems to monitor NOAA Weather Radio and news media ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC ✓ Field Coordinators will contact the EMA in those jurisdictions threatened by an approaching storm for any needs ✓ Review and evaluate and submit damage reports to the SWP ✓ Conduct follow-up calls to those jurisdictions impacted by a storm to ascertain needs or damage reports ✓ Be prepared to be deployed to the affected areas

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
GEMHSA Planning	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC and GEMHSA meteorologist ✓ Create maps, if necessary	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC and GEMHSA meteorologist ✓ Create maps, if necessary	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC and GEMHSA meteorologist ✓ Create maps with the possible affected areas (using NWS shp. files) ✓ Monitor WebEOC for resource requests ✓ Develop staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC and GEMHSA meteorologist ✓ Create maps with the possible affected areas (using NWS shp. files) ✓ Monitor WebEOC for resource requests ✓ Develop a staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Facilitate planning meetings ✓ Develop Incident Action Plan	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain email and phone communication with the SOC and GEMHSA meteorologist ✓ Create maps with the possible affected areas (using NWS shp. files) ✓ Monitor WebEOC for resource requests ✓ Develop a staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Facilitate planning meetings ✓ Develop Incident Action Plan
GEMHSA Finance	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop a staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Be prepared to provide support to ESF 7	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop a staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Be prepared to provide support to ESF 7	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop a staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Be prepared to provide support to ESF 7
ESF 1 Transportation	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
ESF 2 Communications	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ 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 ✓ Monitor communications infrastructure and provide information updates to SOC ✓ Begin restoration efforts ✓ 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. ✓ Collect communications input from responder state agencies	✓ Identify and possibly deploy communications resources to support requesting EMA and/or state-level operational response ✓ Monitor water quality ✓ Begin restoration efforts ✓ Actively collect communications input from responder state agencies ✓ Finalize and distribute the ICS Form 205 (Incident Radio Communications Plan) to all responding agencies, as required) ✓ Continue email updates to the ESF 2 team to gain situational update and to provide a common operational picture ✓ Finalize the recall of any communications equipment that may have been in maintenance or on loan ✓ Prepare to conduct Wireless Emergency Alerts	✓ 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 identify all known communications issues ✓ Continue email/conference call updates to ESF 2 team provide situational updates ✓ Send out weather alerts direct the general population to the appropriate messaging available on governmental and media platforms in the affected geographic areas	✓ 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 identify all known communications issues ✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ ESF 2 team provide situational updates ✓ Consider to activate the Wireless Emergency Alerts direct the general population to the appropriate messaging available on governmental and media platforms in the affected geographic areas

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Continue planning activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Monitor water quality ✓ Continue planning activities	✓ Continue day-to-day 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 day-to-day activities ✓ 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	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ 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 ✓ Notify our contacts for 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	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Continue to monitor water quality ✓ Continue planning activities ✓ Develop ESF staff 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 ✓ Notify our contacts for 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 ✓ Identify all drinking water, wastewater and dams in the potentially impacted area ✓ Issue public advisories (templates) for water systems can use and distribute to their customers with info on how to boil their water, along with contact info

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
ESF 4 Firefighting	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Continue planning activities ✓ Continue equipment maintenance	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Monitor for any increase in risk	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Send out weather alerts and notifications received from the SOC ✓ Direct assistance to counties when requested ✓ Delete this bulletpoint	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ 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 ✓ Provide support to any state/ESF response	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ ID potential staging areas for response operations ✓ Determine if damage areas might require POD operations for life support items ✓ Consider tasking the NG to operate direct distribution of commodities if necessary ✓ Monitor the opening of any shelter locations (non-Red Cross) for possible support requirements ✓ Provide support to the SOC and other ESF partners
ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services		✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness ✓ Duty Officer actively monitoring current weather conditions	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness ✓ Duty Officer actively monitoring current weather conditions	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Establish communication with local EMAs in the potentially impacted area	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Establish communication with local EMAs in the potentially impacted area	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Establish communication with local EMAs in the potentially impacted area

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
ESF 7 **Logistics Management and Rescue**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Monitor for any increase in tornado risk		✓ 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	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation. ✓ ID potential staging areas for response operations ✓ Determine if damage areas might require POD operations for life support items ✓ Consider tasking the NG to operate direct distribution of commodities if necessary ✓ Monitor the opening of any shelter locations (non-Red Cross) for possible support requirements
ESF 8 **Public Health and Medical Services**	✓ 2PT EOC Activation Level - 3 (GREEN) - Active Monitoring ✓ Duty Officer actively monitoring current weather conditions	✓ 2PT EOC Activation Level - 3 (GREEN) - ACTIVE MONITORING ✓ Duty Officer actively monitoring current weather conditions	✓ 2PT EOC Activation Level - 3 (GREEN) - ACTIVE MONITORING ✓ Duty Officer actively monitoring current weather conditions ✓ Alert District Public Health offices and state emergency preparedness staff to be weather aware ✓ Create an incident in Public Health's WebEOC to capture any reports or requests for assistance, and to maintain situational awareness	✓ 2PT EOC Activation Level – 2 (RED) – Enhanced Monitoring ✓ Alert District Public Health offices, Regional Coordinating Hospitals, and state emergency preparedness staff ✓ Emergency Preparedness Leadership conducts a conference call with district offices and state staff to capture anticipated actions/status ✓ Prepare to staff the SOC if requested ✓ Create/fuse an incident. ✓ Review initial reports and maintain situational awareness ✓ Participate in any NWS/GEMHSA conference calls. Review and evaluate damage reports ✓ Coordinate resource requests	✓ 2PT EOC Activation Level – 1 – Full Activation. ✓ Alert District Public Health offices, Regional Coordinating Hospitals, state emergency preparedness staff ✓ Emergency Preparedness Leadership conducts a conference call with district offices and state staff to capture anticipated actions/status ✓ Activiate General and Command staff to support operations (virtual EOC) ✓ Prepare to staff the SOC if requested ✓ Create/fuse an incident in Public Health's WebEOC with GEMHSA's WebEOC to capture any reports or requests for assistance, and to maintain situational awareness ✓ Participate in NWS/GEMHSA conference calls ✓ Review and evaluate damage reports ✓ Coordinate resource requests	✓ Alert District Public Health offices, Regional Coordinating Hospitals, and state emergency preparedness staff ✓ Emergency Preparedness Leadership conducts a conference call with district offices and state staff to capture anticipated actions/status ✓ Activate General and Command staff to support operations (virtual EOC) ✓ Prepare to staff the SOC if requested ✓ Create/fuse an incident in Public Health's WebEOC with GEMHSA's WebEOC to capture any reports or requests for assistance, and to maintain situational awareness ✓ Participate in any NWS/GEMHSA conference calls ✓ Review and evaluate damage reports ✓ Coordinate resource requests

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
ESF 9 **Search and Rescue**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Delete this extra bullet	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain communication with the SOC	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain communication with the SOC ✓ Establish communication with Search and Rescue teams	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain communication with the SOC ✓ Maintain communication with Search and Rescue teams	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Maintain communication with the SOC ✓ Maintain communication with Search and Rescue teams
ESF 10 **Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Monitor weather conditions ✓ Delete extra bullet	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Monitor weather conditions ✓ Delete extra bullet	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ 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 staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions ✓ Assist the public on the roadways and waterways	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Monitor weather conditions Identify possible hazmat threats in the potentially affected areas
ESF 11 **Agriculture and Natural Resources**	✓ Continue Day-to-Day Activities.	✓ Continue Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.	✓ Continue Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions.	✓ Continue Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Identify ✓ Coordinate with ESF 6 possible sheltering support. ✓ Be prepared to coordinates 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.	✓ Continue Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Coordinate with ESF 6 possible sheltering support. ✓ Be prepared to coordinates 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.	✓ Continue Day-to-Day Activities. ✓ Maintain situational awareness of current and future weather conditions. ✓ Coordinate with ESF 6 possible sheltering support. ✓ Be prepared to coordinates 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.

	THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL) RISK	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT) RISK	3 - ENHANCED (ENH) RISK	4 - MODERATE (MDT) RISK	5 - HIGH (HIGH) RISK
ESF 12 **Energy**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation
ESF 13 **Public Safety and Security**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities Bullet point needed here Monitor weather conditions and report any severe weather or damage.	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Monitor weather conditions and report any severe weather or damage ✓ Assist the public on the roadways and waterways Bullet point Assist local Public Safety agencies as requested	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF 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 Bullet point needed Assist local Public Safety agencies as requested Bullet point All ESF 13 support agencies will ensure all personnel, facilities, and equipment are properly prepared for the weather risk	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ Develop ESF S=staffing roster for SOC activation Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, 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.	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ 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 ✓ Prepare for the possible evacuation of Corrections Facilities near the potentially affected areas ✓ Notify critical work force personnel to prepare for 1. Extended shifts, 2. Potential deployment to top of the state, and 3. Coordinated emergency responses.

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ESF 14 **Long-Term Community Recovery**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation
ESF 15 **External Affairs**	✓ Continue day-to-day activities ✓ 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 (Could this last section be broken down into bullets?) – Same message applies to the next two boxes.	✓ Continue day-to-day activities **Social media**: Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx • Retweet relevant NWS updates; • Tweet messages to stay weather-aware; • Share unified NWS risk map on Facebook/Twitter along with safety tips. **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. No changes to the website. Homepage reflects the most notable weather conditions for that time of year	✓ Continue day-to-day activities **Social media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx: • Retweet relevant NWS updates; • Tweet messages about expected impacts, stay weather-aware, download Ready Georgia app, preparedness messages driving people to Ready Georgia, difference between watch and warning; • Share unified NWS risk map on Facebook/Twitter along with safety tips **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 GEMHSA meteorologist, Operations, and Leadership on messaging **Social media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx: • Retweet relevant NWS, partner updates; • Tweet messages (expected impacts, staying weather-aware) • Share appropriate infographic on Twitter and Facebook; • Share unified NWS risk map on Facebook/Twitter along with safety tips as new information becomes available; • Pin most important information to top of social media pages **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. Through coordination with GEMHSA meteorologist and Operations, the Homepage **<u>may</u>** reflect the enhanced risk with addition of appropriate map and links to NWS products	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Coordinate with GEMHSA meteorologist, Operations and Leadership on messaging **Social media:** Maintain situational awareness of weather by monitoring Twitter feeds/Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx, and agency partners: • Retweet relevant NWS, partner updates; • Tweet messages (expected impacts, staying weather-aware) • Share appropriate infographic on Twitter and Facebook; • Share unified NWS risk map on Facebook/Twitter along with safety tips as new information becomes available; • Pin most important information to top of social media pages. **Website:** Continue monitoring day-to-day activities. Through coordination with GEMHSA meteorologist Operations and Leadership, **News Conference:** Coordinate with the Governor's Office, GA DOAS, and GEMHSA Finance to ensure a certified American Sign Language Interpreter will be on hand if the Governor holds a news conference	✓ Develop ESF staffing roster for SOC activation ✓ Coordinate with GEMHSA meteorologist, Operations, and Leadership on messaging **Social media:** Maintain situational awareness monitoring Twitter feeds /Facebook pages of NWS offices, local meteorologists, #gawx, and agency partners: • Tweet hourly messages about expected impacts, staying weather-aware/downloading Ready Georgia app with specific preparedness message driving people to Ready Georgia; • Share unified NWS risk map on Facebook/Twitter along with safety tips as new information becomes available; • Send Twitter alert using the following format: <Name of NWS product> from <time> <location> (link to full message on NWS website); • May send push notification to Ready Georgia app users **Website:** GEMHSA homepage **<u>will</u>** convert to the State's emergency response page, reflecting weather risks and impacts

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GA DoD	✓ Continue day-to-day activities	✓ Man JOC to level 1 ✓ Man SOC Ga DOD desk ✓ Convene TAG Executive Board ✓ OPORD to units in GEMHSA RFAs ✓ WarnO for other units to BPT support ✓ Coordinate w/ GEMHSA 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/ GEMHSA & 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 GEMHSA RFAs ✓ WarnO for other units to BPT support ✓ Coord w/ GEMHSA for potential EMAC requests	✓ Man JOC to level 1 ✓ Man SOC Ga DOD desk ✓ Convene TAG Executive Board ✓ OPORD to units in GEMHSA RFAs ✓ Coord w/ GEMHSA for potential EMAC rqsts ✓ Coord w/ Governor to request Dual Status Commander