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**IS-804: ESF #4 – Firefighting  
Student Manual**

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**February 2009**



Topic	Course Overview
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**Display  
Visual 1**



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**Key Points**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with the function and composition of ESF #4 – Firefighting.

**Approximate Time:** 1 hour

**Content Outline:** This module includes the following major topics:

- ESF Overview
- ESF #4 Purpose and Scope
- ESF #4 Coordinator and Primary Agency
- ESF #4 Actions
- Role of State Organizations
- ESF #4 Support Agencies
- ESF #4 Specialized Resources
- Concept of Operations
- Geographic Area Coordination Centers
- National Interagency Coordination Center
- Summary

**Materials:**

- Instructor Guide
- Student Manual (including the ESF #4 – Firefighting Annex)

**Topic**

**Course Overview**

Display  
Visual 2

### Objectives

- Describe the overall purpose and scope of ESF #4.
- Identify the supplemental assistance ESF #4 provides to State, tribal, and local governments.
- Identify typical activities accomplished by ESF #4 resources.
- Describe the types of partnerships formed between ESF #4 and other response agencies and organizations.



ESF #4 – Firefighting  
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Visual 2

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### Key Points

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At the end of this course, you will be able to:


- Describe the overall purpose and scope of ESF #4.
- Identify the supplemental assistance ESF #4 provides to State, tribal, and local governments.
- Identify typical activities accomplished by ESF #4 resources.
- Describe the types of partnerships formed between ESF #4 and other response agencies and organizations.

**Topic**

**Course Overview**


Display  
Visual 3

### Introductions



**Tell us:**

- Your name.
- Your role in emergency management.
- What you hope to gain from this course.



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Visual 3

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**Key Points**

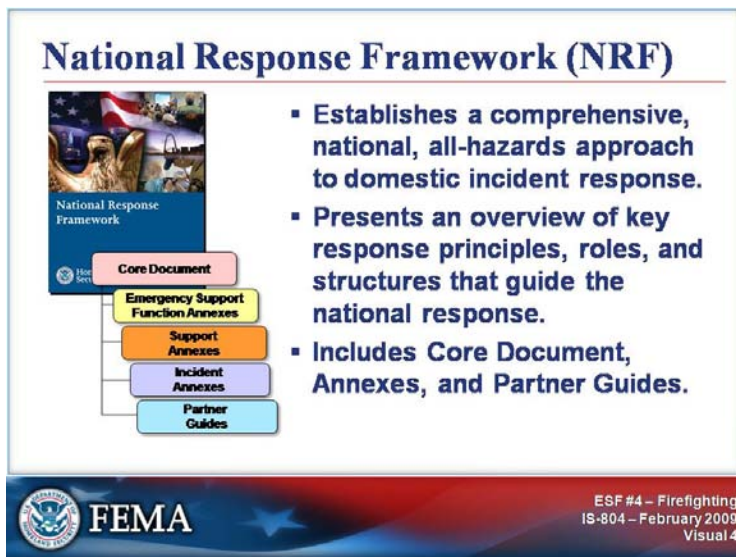
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Introduce yourself to the members of your table groups, providing:

- Your name.
- Your role in emergency management.
- What you hope to gain from this course.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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**Display  
Visual 4**



**Key Points**

The National Response Framework (NRF):

- Is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards response.
- Builds upon the National Incident Management System (NIMS) coordinating structures to align key roles and responsibilities across the Nation, linking all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

The NRF is comprised of:

- The Core Document, which describes the doctrine that guides our national response, roles and responsibilities, response actions, response organizations, and planning requirements to achieve an effective national response to any incident that occurs.
- Emergency Support Function Annexes, which identify Federal resources and capabilities that are most frequently needed in a national response (e.g., transportation, firefighting, mass care).
- Support Annexes, which describe essential supporting aspects that are common to all incidents (e.g., financial management, volunteer and donations management, private-sector coordination).
- Incident Annexes, which address the unique aspects of how we respond to seven broad categories or types of incidents (e.g., biological, nuclear/radiological, cyber, mass evacuation).
- Partner Guides, which provide ready references describing key roles and actions for local, tribal, State, Federal, and private-sector response partners.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 5



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**Key Points**

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The Federal Government and many State governments organize many of their resources and capabilities—as well as those of certain private-sector and nongovernmental organizations—under Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

The ESFs:

- Are coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCCs), and Joint Field Offices (JFOs).
- Are a critical mechanism to coordinate functional capabilities and resources provided by Federal departments and agencies, along with certain private-sector and nongovernmental organizations.


Note that some States also have organized an ESF structure along this approach.


<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 6

### ESF General Duties

- Commit agency assets.
- Approve and implement mission assignments.
- Maintain situational awareness and report on ESF operations.
- Represent agency on task forces and ad hoc groups.
- Serve as technical experts.



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Visual 6

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### Key Points

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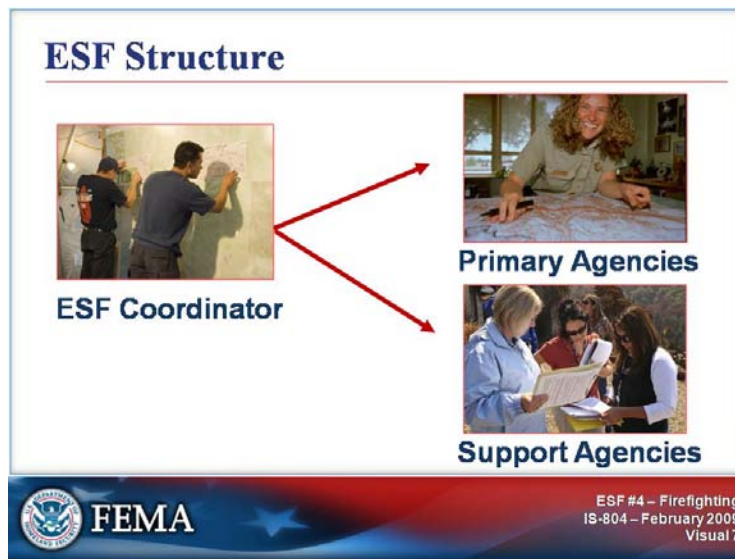
Review the general ESF duties listed on the visual.

Why is it important that ESFs have the authority to commit agency assets?



<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 7



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**Key Points**

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The ESF structure includes:


- **ESF Coordinator.** The entity assigned to manage oversight for a particular ESF.
- **Primary Agencies.** ESF primary agencies are Federal agencies with significant authorities, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF. A Federal agency designated as an ESF primary agency serves as a Federal executive agent under the Federal Coordinating Officer (or Federal Resource Coordinator for non-Stafford Act incidents) to accomplish the ESF mission.
- **Support Agencies.** Support agencies are those entities with specific capabilities or resources that support the primary agencies in executing the mission of the ESF.

ESFs provide support to other ESFs. For example: ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering may support rural ESF #5 – Emergency Management forces to obtain heavy equipment and/or demolition services as needed to suppress incident-related fires.


<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 8

### ESF Coordinator



- Pre-incident planning and coordination
- Ongoing contact with primary and support agencies
- Coordination with private-sector organizations
- Preparedness planning and exercises

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Visual 8

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### Key Points

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The ESF coordinator has management oversight for that particular ESF.

Note that, as described on the visual, the ESF coordinator has a role throughout the incident management cycle.

**Topic**

**ESF Overview**

**Display  
Visual 9**

### Primary and Support Agencies

- **Primary Agency:** Federal agency with significant authorities, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF.
- **Support Agency:** Assists the primary agency by providing resources and capabilities in a given functional area.





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Visual 9

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**Key Points**

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When an ESF is activated in response to an incident:

- The **primary agency** is responsible for:
  - Serving as a Federal executive agent under the Federal Coordinating Officer (or Federal Resource Coordinator for non-Stafford Act incidents) to accomplish the ESF mission.
  - Orchestrating Federal support within its functional area for an affected State.
  - Providing staff for the operations functions at fixed and field facilities.
  - Notifying and requesting assistance from support agencies.
  - Managing mission assignments and coordinating with support agencies and appropriate State agencies.
  - Working with appropriate private-sector organizations to maximize use of all available resources.
  - Supporting and keeping other ESFs and organizational elements informed of ESF operational priorities and activities.
  - Maintaining trained personnel to support interagency emergency response and support teams.
- **Support agencies** are responsible for:
  - Conducting operations, when requested by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or the designated ESF primary agency, using their own authorities, subject-matter experts, capabilities, or resources.
  - Participating in planning for short- and long-term incident management and recovery operations and the development of supporting operational plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), checklists, or other job aids, in concert with existing first-responder standards.
  - Assisting in the conduct of situational assessments.
  - Furnishing available personnel or other resource support as requested by DHS or the ESF primary agency.
  - Providing input to periodic readiness assessments.
  - Participating in training and exercises aimed at continuous improvement of response and recovery capabilities.
  - Identifying new equipment or capabilities required to prevent or respond to new or emerging threats and hazards, or to improve the ability to address existing threats.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 10

### Activation of ESFs



- Not every incident requires the activation of ESFs.
- ESFs may be selectively activated for:
  - Stafford Act Emergency and Major Disaster Declarations.
  - Non-Stafford Act incidents as specified in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5).

**ESF deployment must be coordinated, even if under the agency's own authority!**

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Visual 10

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## Key Points

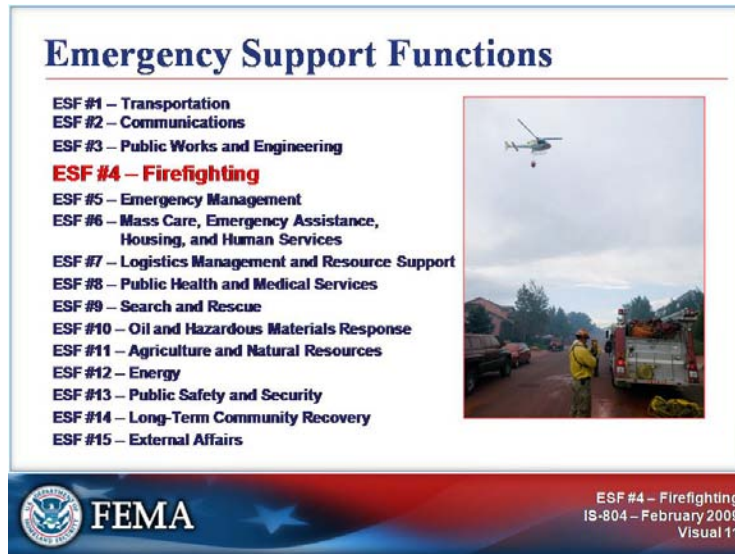
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ESFs may be selectively activated for both Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act incidents under circumstances as defined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5). Not all incidents requiring Federal support result in the activation of ESFs.

FEMA can deploy assets and capabilities through ESFs into an area in anticipation of an approaching storm or event that is expected to cause a significant impact and result. This coordination through ESFs allows FEMA to position Federal support for a quick response, though actual assistance cannot normally be provided until the Governor requests and receives a Presidential major disaster or emergency declaration.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 11



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## Key Points

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The 15 ESFs are listed on the visual. The complete ESF Annexes are available at the NRF Resource Center at [www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf).

This course focuses on ESF #4 – Firefighting.

Describe your roles or associations with ESF #4.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF Overview</b>
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Display  
Visual 12



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**Key Points**

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What types of threats do fires pose?

This course shows how ESF #4 – Firefighting coordinates the resources and expertise of multiple agencies to fight fires on Federal lands to support State, tribal, and local agencies involved in rural and urban firefighting operations, and to support other ESFs in completing their missions under the National Response Framework.

**Topic**


**ESF #4 Purpose and Scope**


Display  
Visual 13


### ESF #4: Purpose

ESF #4 support applies to:

- Fire detection and suppression.
- Incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.
- Wildland, rural, and urban environments.



 See page 1 of the annex

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ESF #4 – Firefighting  
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Visual 13

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**Key Points**

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Emergency Support Function #4 – Firefighting provides Federal support for the detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response for assistance.

Refer to the purpose statement on page 1 of the ESF #4 – Firefighting Annex.



**Topic**

**ESF #4 Purpose and Scope**

**Display  
Visual 14**



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**Key Points**

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Firefighting responsibilities under ESF #4 are delineated for incidents requiring Federal coordination, whether those fires occur in wildland, rural, or urban areas. To respond in such varied environments requires skills and technologies for both wildland and structural fire suppression. ESF #4 is able to tap the appropriate resources for both fire situations.

In addition to providing technical advice and support to FEMA as the ESF #4 coordinator, USDA/Forest Service resources are uniquely applicable to responding to wildland fires. Several agencies in the U.S. Department of the Interior, such as the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, also provide Federal wildland fire resources.

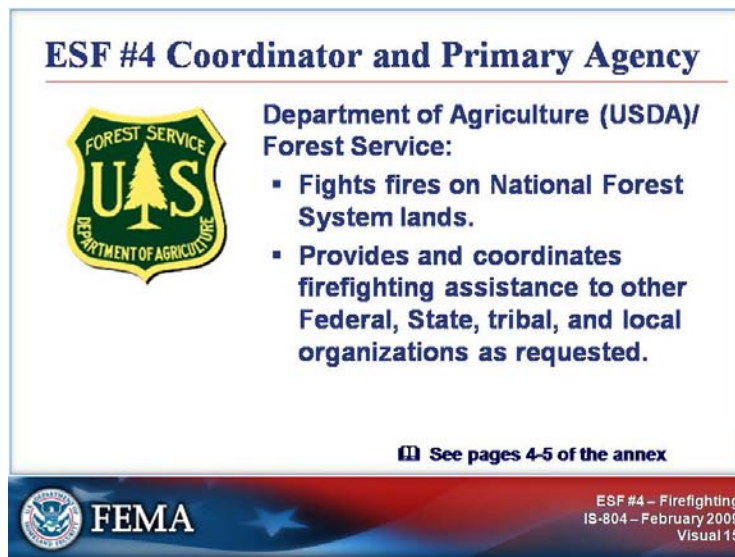
FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) resources are focused on structural fires, providing training and technical assistance to State and local structural firefighting organizations. USFA coordinates with State agencies and national organizations—such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)—when firefighting resources are requested from other States.

The scope information can be found on page 1 of the ESF #4 – Firefighting Annex.



<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF #4 Coordinator and Primary Agency</b>
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Display  
Visual 15



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### Key Points

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The Department of Agriculture/Forest Service (USDA/Forest Service) is the ESF #4 coordinator and primary agency. As ESF #4 primary agency, USDA/Forest Service:

- Assumes full responsibility for suppression of wildfires on National Forest System lands.
- Provides and coordinates firefighting assistance to other Federal land management, State forestry, and local fire organizations as requested.
- Works directly with fire officials in the designated area to coordinate requests for firefighting assistance in structural or industrial fires.

Information can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the ESF #4 – Firefighting Annex.

**Topic**


**ESF #4 Actions**


Display  
Visual 16

### Actions

ESF #4 actions include:

- Providing training to build capacity
- Detecting and suppressing fire on Federal lands
- Providing firefighting resources in support of State, tribal, and local agencies





ESF #4 – Firefighting  
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Visual 16

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**Key Points**

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Federal assistance through ESF #4 may include:

- **Providing Training To Build Capacity**
  - All-hazards incident-specific training is provided to personnel prior to mobilization for any given assignment. Additionally, ESF #4 agencies provide training to Federal, State, tribal, and local partners to build capacity.
  - ESF #4 also provides technical assistance in incident planning to enhance State, tribal, and local organizations' ability to plan.
- **Detecting and Suppressing Fire on Federal Lands**
  - ESF #4 coordinates the use of state-of-the-art technology and equipment to detect and fight wildland fires on Federal lands.
  - The challenge is great. In 2006, a record 9.8 million acres burned and 2,300 buildings were destroyed in a total of 96,385 wildland fires across the country. Twenty-four wildland firefighters lost their lives and fire-suppression costs were \$1.4 billion.
- **Providing Firefighting Resources in Support of State, Tribal, and Local Agencies**
  - In 2005 there were 511,000 structure fires in the United States, causing the deaths of 3,105 people and injuries to 15,325 more. The direct dollar loss was estimated by USFA at \$9.193 billion.
  - While response always begins at the lowest level of government, ESF #4 is responsible for supporting these efforts when requested by coordinating Federal firefighting resources, including:
    - Trained firefighting personnel.
    - Incident management expertise and support.
    - Engines and other heavy equipment.
    - Aerial firefighting support.
    - Logistical support for firefighting operations.

**Topic**

**Role of State Organizations**

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**Display  
Visual 17**

### Role State of Organizations

- State forestry organizations have responsibility for fires on non-Federal lands.
- States augment their capabilities with mutual aid and assistance agreements, such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).



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Visual 17

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**Key Points**

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The State Forester—in cooperation with other State or tribal fire suppression organizations—coordinates with State and local firefighting agencies.


States may augment their capabilities by using local or statewide mutual aid and assistance agreements that describe arrangements for sharing intrastate or interstate resources. States also may get assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a congressionally ratified organization for interstate mutual aid and assistance.

Requests for Federal assistance are first addressed by the appropriate Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC). Requests that cannot be filled within the geographic area are sent to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). More information about GACCs and the NICC are provided later in this course.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF #4 Support Agencies</b>
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Display  
Visual 18

### ESF #4 Support Agencies (1 of 2)



- **Department of Defense (DOD)** fights fires on military installations.
- **Department of the Interior (DOI)** fights fires on land under its jurisdiction.
- **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)** provides marine firefighting assistance.

See pages 5-6 of the annex

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Visual 18

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## Key Points

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The ESF coordinator activates support agencies based on the particular needs of the incident. These agencies are part of a total firefighting “system”—each with unique responsibilities and resources—that allows ESF #4 to effectively coordinate the firefighting response in a variety of incidents.

Some support agencies under ESF #4 have specific responsibility for firefighting in special environments:

- Fires on military installations are the responsibility of the Department of Defense (DOD).
- Fires on land under Department of the Interior (DOI) jurisdiction (for example, National Park Service land) are the responsibility of DOI.
- Marine firefighting assistance is provided by the U.S. Coast Guard.


This information is available on pages 5 and 6 of the annex.


<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF #4 Support Agencies</b>
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Display  
Visual 19

### ESF #4 Support Agencies (2 of 2)

- **FEMA/U.S. Fire Academy (USFA)** provides expertise on fighting structural fires.
- **Department of Commerce (DOC)** forecasts weather and smoke dispersion.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** provides technical assistance on fires involving hazardous materials.



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ESF #4 – Firefighting  
IS-804 – February 2009  
Visual 19

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## Key Points

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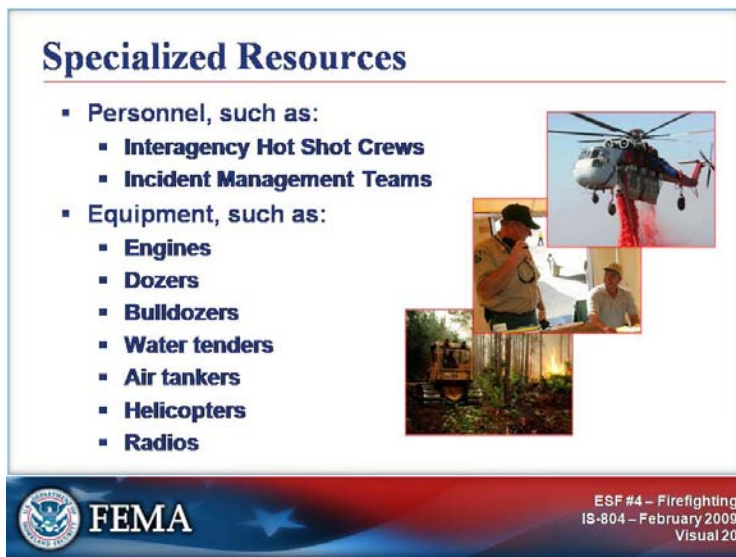
The U.S. Fire Academy (USFA) provides expertise on fighting structural fires.

Two support agencies offer technologies to help anticipate and respond to climatic and environmental firefighting challenges.

- The Department of Commerce (DOC) provides fire/weather forecasting and forecasts of smoke dispersion.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides technical assistance in the event of fires involving hazardous materials.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>ESF #4 Specialized Resources</b>
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Display  
Visual 20



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### Key Points

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Interagency Hot Shot Crews are elite, multiskilled teams comprised of experienced, career firefighters who are trained to fight fire as part of a hand crew or assist in numerous overhead positions.

Incident Management Teams (IMTs) are comprised of highly trained responders experienced in the Incident Command System.

When the situation calls for specialized equipment, ESF #4 can coordinate access to all types of firefighting resources, including:

- Engines for structural fires
- Heavy-duty, off-road engines capable of carrying up to 800 gallons of water.
- Dozers
- Bulldozers
- Water tenders
- Air tankers, which are large planes fitted with tanks for transporting and dropping fire retardant, foam, or water.
- Helicopters that can drop water, foam, or retardant, or be used for reconnaissance.
- Communications and radio equipment also can be provided to support field operations.




<b>Topic</b>	<b>Concept of Operations</b>
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Display  
Visual 21

### Concept of Operations

**ESF #4:**

- **Manages and coordinates Federal firefighting activities by mobilizing the resources of multiple firefighting agencies.**
- **Provides Federal support State, tribal, and local efforts only when requested.**





ESF #4 – Firefighting  
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Visual 21

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## Key Points

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ESF #4 manages and coordinates Federal firefighting activities by mobilizing the resources of multiple firefighting agencies.

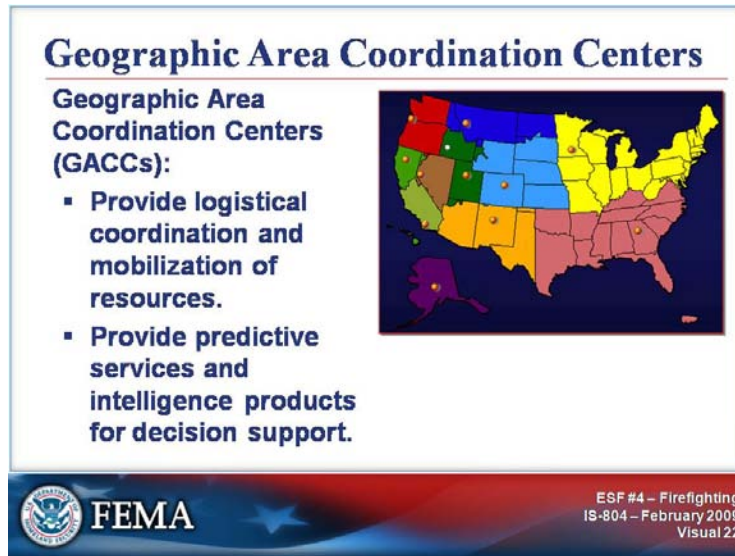
Federal support through ESF #4 is provided to support State, tribal, and local efforts, and only when requested.

Requests for Federal firefighting resources for incidents other than wildland fires are transmitted from the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) or Joint Field Office (JFO) ESF #4 representative to the appropriate Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC).

For wildland fire incidents, requests are submitted to the GACC and coordinated with the JFO. For resources beyond those available within the geographic area, the requests are sent to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Geographic Area Coordination Centers</b>
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Visual 22



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**Key Points**

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When State firefighting agencies need more resources than are available locally or through mutual aid and assistance agreements, they can ask for help from their Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC).

The United States is divided into 11 geographic areas for the purpose of managing wildland fires. Within each geographic area is a GACC, an interagency center responsible for coordinating resource mobilization within the geographic area, and providing predictive services and intelligence products for decision support.



<b>Topic</b>	<b>National Interagency Coordination Center</b>
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Display  
Visual 23



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### Key Points

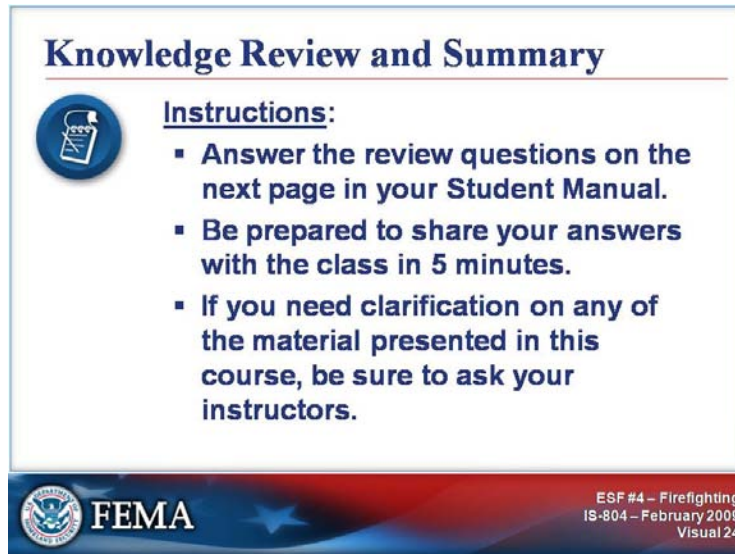
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When a GACC does not have the needed resources within its own geographic area, it can turn to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) for help in locating what is needed, from air tankers to radios to firefighting crews to Incident Management Teams.

The NICC is the focal point for coordinating the mobilization of resources for wildland fire and other incidents throughout the United States. Located in Boise, ID, the NICC also provides Intelligence and Predictive Services-related products designed to be used by the internal wildland fire community for wildland fire and incident management decisionmaking.

Topic	Summary
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Display  
Visual 24

A presentation slide titled "Knowledge Review and Summary" with a blue border. On the left is a circular icon of a notepad and pencil. To the right, under the heading "Instructions:", are three bullet points. The slide has a red and blue wavy footer with the FEMA logo, a star, and text identifying it as ESF #4 - Firefighting, IS-804 - February 2009, Visual 24.

**Knowledge Review and Summary**

**Instructions:**

- Answer the review questions on the next page in your Student Manual.
- Be prepared to share your answers with the class in 5 minutes.
- If you need clarification on any of the material presented in this course, be sure to ask your instructors.

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ESF #4 – Firefighting  
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Visual 24

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## Key Points

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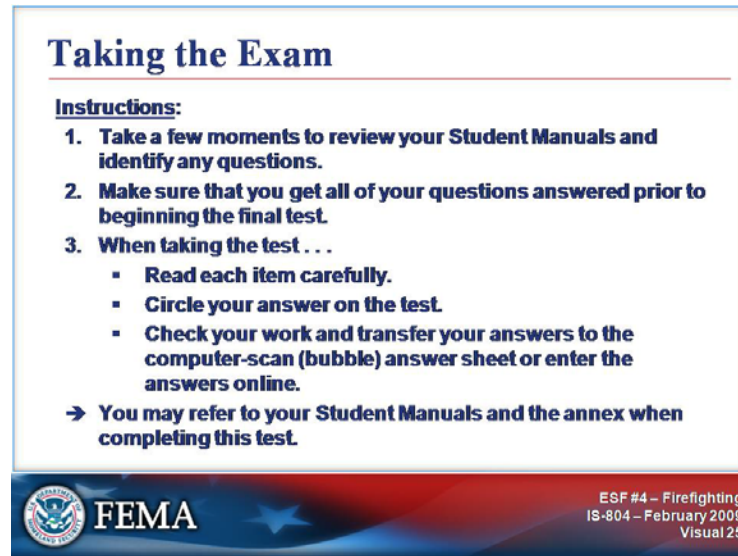
### Instructions:

- Answer the review questions on pages 27 and 28 of your Student Manual.
- Be prepared to share your answers with the class in 5 minutes.
- If you need clarification on any of the material presented in this course, be sure to ask your instructors.

Additional information about the National Response Framework and Emergency Support Functions can be obtained at the NRF Resource Center at [www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf).

Topic	Summary
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Display  
Visual 25




**Taking the Exam**

**Instructions:**

1. Take a few moments to review your Student Manuals and identify any questions.
2. Make sure that you get all of your questions answered prior to beginning the final test.
3. When taking the test . . .
  - Read each item carefully.
  - Circle your answer on the test.
  - Check your work and transfer your answers to the computer-scan (bubble) answer sheet or enter the answers online.

→ You may refer to your Student Manuals and the annex when completing this test.

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ESF #4 – Firefighting  
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Visual 25

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## Key Points

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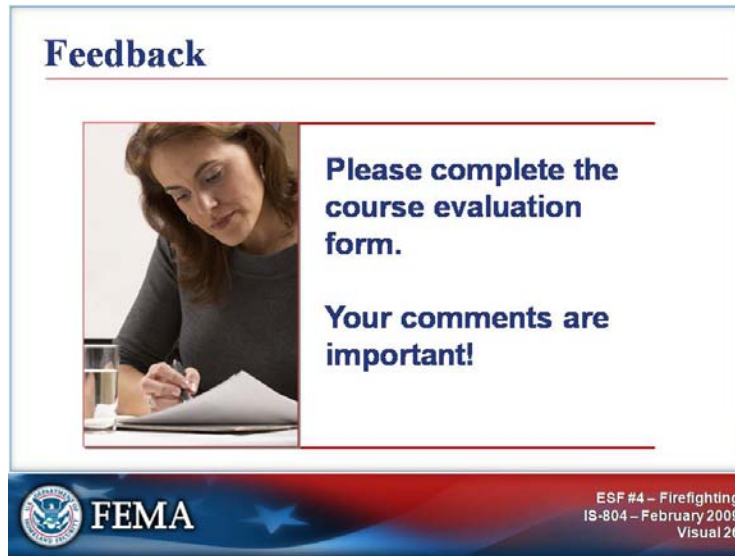
Instructions:

1. Take a few moments to review your Student Manuals and identify any questions.
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  - Circle your answer on the test.
  - Check your work and transfer your answers to the computer-scan (bubble) answer sheet or enter the answers online.

You may refer to your Student Manuals and the annex when completing this test.

Topic	Summary
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Display  
Visual 26



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### Key Points

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Please complete the course evaluation/feedback form.

**ESF #4 – Knowledge Review**

1. Who serves as the coordinator and primary agency for ESF #4?
2. Which of the following activities is **NOT** within the scope of ESF #4?
  - a. Credentialing local firefighters to ensure they are NIMS compliant.
  - b. Coordinating fire suppression response in Nantahala National Forest.
  - c. Providing requested firefighting personnel and equipment on a temporary basis to communities affected by a powerful earthquake.
  - d. Supporting a hurricane response effort with incident management and logistics support.
3. Read the following scenario, and then identify three potential actions for ESF #4.

**Scenario:** A 4.5 magnitude earthquake has ruptured gas and electric lines, spawning multiple fires. A broken water main and damaged firefighting equipment have further crippled the local response capabilities. Local firefighting organizations have requested State assistance. Due to the magnitude of the incident, the Governor has requested Federal assistance and ESF #4 has been activated.

4. Decide whether the following statement is **TRUE** or **FALSE**: When State firefighting agencies need more resources than are available locally or through mutual aid and assistance agreements, they can ask for help from their Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC).

5. Match the services with the ESF #4 support agencies that provide them.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Support Agencies</b>
_____ Expertise and assistance with structural fires.	A. Department of Commerce
_____ Firefighting response in Alaska	B. Department of the Interior
_____ Forecasts of smoke dispersion during an incident	C. Environmental Protection Agency
_____ Fire suppression on vessels, ports, and harbors	D. U.S. Coast Guard
_____ Identification of uncontaminated water for use in firefighting.	E. U.S. Fire Academy

6. Use the space below to make note of any questions you have about the material covered in this course.