GEORGIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

2010

Cover Photos –“Picture Georgia” (http://www.georgia.org/Press/Pages/Resources.aspx)
The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) outlines how state agencies in Georgia prepare for, respond to and recover from all types of natural and manmade disasters in Georgia. This document is in keeping with decades of planning and coordination between local, state, federal and non-governmental Partners operating within and or for the State of Georgia. The GEOP is specifically written to compliment the National Response Framework to ensure seamless integration of federal resources when necessary.

The (GEOP) is written for federal, state and local government executives, private sector and non-governmental organization (NGOs) leaders, local emergency managers and any other individuals or organizations expected to work in or for Georgia performing emergency management functions. The GEOP is intended to capture and reflect the cooperative spirit of all senior elected and appointed leaders and their organizations to partner in a comprehensive emergency management program to protect the lives and property of all Georgia residents and visitors.

The GEOP is based on the authority of the State Government of Georgia, specifically that portion of the Official Code of Georgia, Title 38, Section 3, Articles 1 through 3, known as the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, and is compliant with the National Incident Management System and supports the National Response Framework.

This plan consists of five independent and equally important components, which in aggregate outline the state emergency management program.

These components include:

- **Base Plan**
- **Emergency Support Function and GaDOD Annexes**
- **Support Annexes**
- **Incident Annexes**
- **Companion Documents, Plan Appendices & Standard Operating Guides**

Each of these components are made up of various, plans, guides and documents that collectively describe how the State of Georgia plans for, responds to and recovers from natural and manmade disasters. The five components are published separately but reviewed collectively to ensure seamless integration. More information is available on the GEOP at [www.GEMA.ga.gov](http://www.GEMA.ga.gov) or you may contact the GEMA-OHS Planning Director at 404-635-7000.
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**BASE PLAN**

Georgia- Executive Order Promulgating the 2010 Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

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The following components of the GEOP are accessible by visiting the GEMA website www.gema.ga.gov or by contacting the GEMA Planning Section.

*Note* - documents may have distribution restrictions or limitations.

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION and GaDOD ANNEX**

- ESF Annex #1 Transportation
- ESF Annex #2 Communications
- ESF Annex #3 Public Works and Engineering
- ESF Annex #4 Firefighting
- ESF Annex #5 Emergency Management
- ESF Annex #6 Mass Care, Housing and Human Services
- ESF Annex #7 Resource Support
- ESF Annex #8 Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF Annex #9 Search and Rescue
- ESF Annex #10 Hazardous Materials
- ESF Annex #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ESF Annex #12 Energy
- ESF Annex #13 Public Safety and Security Services
- ESF Annex #14 Long Term Recovery and Mitigation
- ESF Annex #15 External Affairs

**GaDOD Annex** Georgia Department of Defense Support to Civil Authorities

**INCIDENT ANNEXES**

- Hurricane Plan
- Flood Plan
- Severe Weather Plan
- Fuel Emergency Plan
- Pandemic Influenza Plan
- Biological Incident Plan
- Earthquake Plan
- Food Emergency Response Plan
- Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan
*SNote- documents may have distribution restrictions or limitations.

**SUPPORT ANNEXES**

- Logistics Management Plan
- GEMA Mutual Aid Plan
- Emergency Alert System
- GA Emergency Shelter Plan
- Volunteers and Donations Management Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Administrative Plan
- Georgia Repatriation Plan
- State Debris Management Plan
- Statewide Search and Rescue Plan
- Evacuation Support for Catastrophic Incidents Plan
- State Defense Support to Civil Authorities
- Crisis Communications Plan
- Mass Casualty Plan
- Critical Infrastructure Plan
- Communications / Interoperability Plan

**COMPANION DOCUMENTS, PLAN APPENDICIES & STANDARD OPERATING GUIDES**

*Plan Appendices*

- Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force Plan
- Plant Hatch Plan
- Plant Vogtle Plan
- Plant Farley Plan
- Savannah River Site
- Aviation Support Operations Center Plan
- Coastal Re-Entry Plan
- Ingestion Pathway Plan
- Transportation Accidents Involving Radioactive Materials Plan

*Standard Operating Guides*

- ESF#1 SOG and Readiness Checklist
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- ESF#3 SOG and Readiness Checklist
- ESF#4 SOG and Readiness Checklist
- ESF#5 SOG and Readiness Checklist
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- ESF#9 SOG and Readiness Checklist
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- ESF#12 SOG and Readiness Checklist
- ESF#13 SOG and Readiness Checklist
- ESF#14 SOG and Readiness Checklist
- ESF#15 SOG and Readiness Checklist
THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia may be subjected to emergencies and disasters of all kinds and of different magnitudes; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia will continue to be prepared to respond during emergencies and disasters to protect public peace, health and safety and to preserve lives and property of the people; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia will plan and prepare in order to implement efficient emergency operations and to mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS: Such planning and operations should be a coordinated effort of all State Boards, Departments, Agencies, Associations, Institutions and Authorities; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia will coordinate all Emergency Support Functions of state agencies through the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia, through the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, will coordinate emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities in a manner consistent with the National Response Framework, the plans and processes of other states, local jurisdictions, private sector agencies and volunteer disaster relief organizations in accordance with the principles of the National Incident Management System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That on behalf of the Governor, The Director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency shall be authorized to exercise overall direction and coordination of emergency and disaster planning and operations, as stated in the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, as amended.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency shall be authorized to activate and deactivate the State Operations Center that may be opened and/or support of all state agencies in an emergency or disaster.
IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan shall be binding on all state agencies providing Emergency Support Functions and shall serve as the basis to assist all local governments and citizens in time of emergency or disaster.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the coordinating, primary and support function responsibilities for emergency management services and resources are as follows:

**Emergency Support Function 1 – Transportation**
- Coordinator: Georgia Department of Transportation
- Primary: Georgia Aviation Authority
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Department of Public Safety
- Support Agencies: As Listed in Emergency Support Function 1 Annex – January 2010

**Emergency Support Function 2 – Communications**
- Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- Primary: Georgia Emergency Management Agency

**Emergency Support Function 3 – Public Works and Engineering**
- Coordinator: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Primary: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Department of Transportation

**Emergency Support Function 4 – Firefighting**
- Coordinator: Georgia Forestry Commission
- Primary: Georgia Forestry Commission

**Emergency Support Function 5 – Emergency Management**
- Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- Primary: Georgia Emergency Management Agency

**Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing & Human Services**
- Coordinator: Georgia Department of Human Services
- Primary: Georgia Department of Human Services
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- American Red Cross
Emergency Support Function 7 – Logistics Management & Resource Support
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Primary: Georgia Department of Administrative Services
Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Georgia Forestry Commission

Emergency Support Function 8 – Public Health and Medical Systems
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Community Health
Primary: Georgia Department of Community Health

Emergency Support Function 9 – Search and Rescue
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Primary: Georgia Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function 10 – Hazardous Materials
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Primary: Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Environmental Protection Division)
Georgia Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Primary: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Support Agencies: As Listed in Emergency Support Function 11 Annex – January 2010

Emergency Support Function 12 – Energy
Coordinator: Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Primary: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Public Service Commission

Emergency Support Function 12 – Energy
Coordinator: Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Primary: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Public Service Commission
Emergency Support Function 13 – Public Safety and Security
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Public Safety
Primary: Georgia Department of Public Safety
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs

Emergency Support Function 14 – Long-Term Recovery and Mitigation
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Primary: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Primary: Office of the Governor
Georgia Emergency Management Agency

It is further

Ordered: That each state agency shall appoint an Emergency Coordinator and Alternate to serve in time of an emergency or disaster and as a planning liaison to the Georgia Emergency Management/Homeland Security.

It is further

Ordered: That state agencies assigned Emergency Support Function coordination responsibilities shall provide assistance in preparation and revision of such functions, collaborate with primary and support agencies and maintain accompanying Standard Operating Procedures.

It is further

Ordered: That each state agency with primary and/pr support responsibilities all assign personnel to: serve in the State Operations Center (SOC) and/or other state command posts, maintain a 24-hour response capability, conduct and participate in training and exercises, prepare updates to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan as necessary and maintain reporting systems as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

It is further

Ordered: Each state agency with primary and/or support responsibilities shall participate in all after action discussions following activations of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan to identify and complete necessary corrective actions.
IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That all other State Boards, Departments, Agencies, Associations, Institutions and Authorities not assigned a primary or support role in this plan will carry out whatever duties or services that may be required during an emergency or disaster as specified or directed by the Governor or the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That when the Governor declares a State of Emergency, the Department of Public Safety, with assistance from other law enforcement agencies including the Georgia Department of Defense, shall at the direction of the Governor be authorized to enforce criminal laws and assist with evacuations in the State if required.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That any Executive Order in conflict with this document is hereby rescinded.

This 12th day of August, 2010.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Executive Secretary
INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

In order for the GEOP to be applicable and effective, it is structured to be consistent with the terminology, operating structures and processes employed by professional emergency management officials. This document conforms to nationally accepted standards for emergency management practices.

PLANNING FOR THE 2010 GEOP

Beginning in November of 2007, personnel from GEMA-OHS facilitated dozens of joint planning meetings and workshops with local, state, federal and non-government emergency management partners. The overall goal of these meetings and workshops was to validate current state plans and more importantly, assess the needs of local emergency management programs. These meetings and workshops were often conducted using scenario based planning and culminated in one of the state’s largest and most encompassing exercises in Georgia history, HURREX 2008. During this twelve-month period, through meetings, workshops, the statewide exercise and activations for real world disasters, over 21 incident and support annexes were activated. After each event, comprehensive reviews were conducted and detailed reports with corrective action plans were compiled.

The feedback collected from these workshops, meetings, real time activations and post exercise corrective action plans, has been evaluated and incorporated where applicable into this latest draft of the GEOP. The most common suggestion made to planning staff during this twelve month period, was that the GEOP did not provide a common operating picture for its intended audience and was not consistent with or convey the true operational actions of all agencies involved in preparing for, responding to or recovering from disasters in Georgia.

GEMA-OHS Planning Staff, Emergency Support Function coordinators, along with representatives from primary and support agencies completed in depth reviews of the ESFs listed in the GEOP as well as reviewed current incident and support annexes which relate to the GEOP to ensure a seamless integration of all state resources in emergency management efforts. The GEOP has been updated with a stronger emphasis on operational responsibilities, capabilities and systems for all agencies listed within it. Current incident and support annexes have been delineated as such with summaries of each included within the GEOP, with instructions on how to obtain the most recent editions of each annex. ESF Coordinating Agencies have been designated and the establishments of standard operating guides to better describe the concept of operations for each ESF have been emphasized. Several guides developed during this planning cycle have been completed and are referenced within.
Emergency Management Process

In order to successfully plan for, respond to and recover from the natural and manmade disasters that routinely occur in or threaten Georgia, local and state agencies, private sector partners, and non-government organizations must recognize they are all partners who make up an overall program which carries out emergency management activities. Likewise, all program partners must understand their individual roles and shared responsibilities within emergency management and actively participate in the process.

The emergency management process can best be summarized as phases of activities related to disasters with mitigation activities integrated into all four phases:

- **Prevention**
- **Preparedness**
- **Response**
- **Recovery**

- **Mitigation** reduces a community’s vulnerability and/or minimizes the adverse impact of disasters and emergencies.

- **Prevention activities** may prevent an emergency or disaster from occurring.

- **Preparedness activities** occur prior to an emergency or disaster to support and enhance response. Planning, training, equipping, conducting exercises, providing community awareness and education are among such activities.

- **Response activities** address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. These activities help to reduce casualties and damage and to speed recovery. Response includes
coordination and direction, communications and warning, evacuation and specific ESF responsibilities.

- **Recovery activities** involve restoring communities to a day-to-day state. Short-term recovery activities include damage assessment and the return of vital functions to minimum operating standards (e.g., utility and emergency services). Long-term recovery activities may continue for years (e.g., reconstruction and relocation, water treatment plant replacement and well testing on private property).

In order to ensure the State of Georgia and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Office of Homeland Security are meeting or exceeding nationally accepted standards in all phases of the emergency management process, GEMA-OHS participates in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) which is a voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities. EMAP provides emergency management the criteria to assess current programs or to develop, implement, and maintain aspects for prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency responsible for ensuring the state’s accreditation, which includes a program of evaluation of responsibilities and practices, various resources and capabilities, and operating principles and procedures.

The State of Georgia’s formal EMAP accreditation recognizes the ability of the state government to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency. GEMA-OHS remains dedicated to this commitment through continued maintenance and improvement of operational standards in all phases of emergency management and will continue to meet the annual reporting requirements of the EMAP program.
Georgia Emergency Operations Plan Components

The 2010 GEOP describes the basic strategies, assumptions, operational goals and the statewide objectives in coordinating and mobilizing resources to support local emergency management mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

In addition to this base plan, three sets of annexes provide more detailed information to assist users of the GEOP in understanding the roles and responsibilities related to the emergency management process in Georgia.

Emergency Support Function Annexes - detail which state agencies, grouped by functional capability, are most often called upon to support emergency operations. Most ESFs have one coordinator and one primary agency identified. Several ESFs, because of their wide range of functional responsibilities have two or more primary agencies. Additionally the Georgia Department of Defense is identified as a Support Agency to nearly every ESF. The GaDOD’s unique capabilities necessitate a separate annex to describe its role.

Support Annexes - describe essential supporting roles and responsibilities, common to all incidents or events requiring state support to local governments or state support to other states. Some of these annexes for example, are the Georgia Volunteers and Donations Management Plan, the Logistics Management Plan and the Debris Removal Plan.

Incident Annexes - provide broad information concerning the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved in response to a specific type of incident or event. It is generally accepted that not every incident or event can be anticipated, these annexes allow room for modification based on situational requirements and resource availability. Some of these annexes for example, include the Georgia Hurricane Plan, the Repatriation Plan and the Evacuee Support to Catastrophic Disasters Plan.

Additional Resources - additional resources available for users of the GEOP. These resources include standard operating guides, templates, maps and field operating guides. These are intended to serve as references and complimenting documents which better describe strategic or broad actions described in the base plan or annexes. These additional resources may be available for download on the GEMA-OHS Web Site www.GEMA-OHS.ga.gov or by calling 1-800-TRY-GEMA-OHS (404-635-7200)
Companion Documents, Plan Appendices and Standard Operating Guides- In addition to the state developed plans, guides and annexes previously listed, several companion documents with significant relevance to the GEOP are listed below:

**Local Emergency Operations Plans**- users of the GEOP are encouraged to obtain the most recent edition of their LEOP. Many local emergency management agencies have made their EOPs available via web sites, on file in local libraries or by contacting the Local EMA office directly.

**National Response Framework**- is a guide that explains how federal agencies conduct all-hazards prevention, response, recovery and mitigation activities. The NRF along with its support annexes is available from the NRF Resource Center, [http://www.fema.gov/NRF](http://www.fema.gov/NRF).

**National Incident Management System**- provides standard command and management structures that apply to all response activities in Georgia. This system provides a consistent template which allows local, state and federal agencies, as well as NGOs and private sector partners to seamlessly work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of cause, size, location or complexity. The NIMS is available through the NIMS Integration Center, [http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/).

**Emergency Support Function-Standard Operating Guides**- in 2010, ESF Coordinators and Primary Agencies are tasked with completing specific operating guides that outline processes and procedures related to their specific ESF for all phases of the emergency management process. Templates will be provided to ESF Coordinators, these templates shall include a readiness checklist which provides for both an internal and external evaluation of the ESFs ability to carry out assigned responsibilities as described in the GEOP and ESF Annex.
Emergency Management Strategy for Georgia

The 2010 GEOP references activities that occur in all phases of the emergency management process, however the primary focus of this document remains to be an operational plan which describes the basic strategies, assumptions, operational goals and statewide objectives in coordinating and mobilizing resources to support local emergency management response and recovery activities.

Users of this plan should be aware that Georgia employs a tiered response philosophy. Local emergency managers and their ESF partners, have been, and always will be a community’s most appropriate resource to respond to incidents. It is a widely accepted that nearly all emergency incidents are handled at the lowest possible level of government with little or no assistance from state or federal agencies. Some however, require additional support from neighboring communities and/or the State of Georgia. A select few incidents rise to the level that require assistance from other states and/or the federal government. Nearly all incidents require a unified response approach from local first responders, NGOs, private sector partners and citizens. Likewise it is accepted that all incidents, whether they require outside assistance or not, begin and end locally.

These accepted planning assumptions, combined with the tiered response philosophy and vast number of potential responders, emphasize the need for all partners operating within the emergency management process to be prepared to respond and function within a common operating system. The GEOP, because it is consistent with the NRF and NIMS, provides this common operating system. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to complete the valuable planning process with all necessary agencies and ESFs to produce operationally ready plans that align with these documents to ensure seamless integration during disaster operations that overwhelm local response resources. To assist local jurisdictions with accomplishing this, the GEMA-OHS Planning Section, through GEMA-OHS’s Field Coordinators, stand ready to assist in the development of local emergency operation plans that are unique and appropriate to each community in Georgia, yet are consistent with the principles of the GEOP and NRF.
Georgia Hazard Risk Assessment

GEMA-OHS completed the latest Hazard Risk Assessment in January of 2009 in consultation with local and federal planning partners and subject matter experts in the fields of terrorism preparedness, meteorology, law enforcement, maritime operations and urban and wild land firefighting. The completion of this risk assessment included typical planning considerations such as potential impacts to life, property and the environment, but also factored in potential impacts to Georgia’s economy and the continuity of local and state government.

Georgia’s vastly contrasting climates from the saltwater marshes in the southeast to the mountains in the north and its proximity to other states considered as risk states, make it susceptible to a wide range of natural, manmade and technological hazards. This hazard risk assessment allows emergency managers to prioritize planning requirements in a verifiable order and apply human and financial resources appropriately during the preparedness phase of the emergency management process.

During the hazard risk assessment, potential hazards were rated on their

- Frequency of Occurrence
- Required State Assistance to Local Government should they occur

Secondly, the hazards were assigned a numerical value based on the individual hazard:

- Potential Impact on Human Life
- Potential Impact on Private and Public Property
- Potential Impact on the Environment
- Potential Impact on Government Continuity
- Potential Impact on Georgia Economy

The potential hazards were grouped into categories of hazards that share like causes, affects and response requirements. The results of this assessment are explained further on the following pages.

Hazard Analysis

This portion of the GEOP provides further details and descriptions of the hazards identified above. This information should be used to prioritize planning and preparedness activities for all agencies listed in this plan.

Georgia faces a number of natural hazards including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires, winter storms, drought, and earthquakes. These natural disasters can impact areas ranging in size from a local neighborhood to the entire state.
Tropical Systems
Tropical systems can impact the entire state of Georgia depending on a storm’s track and its forward motion. Even the weakest of systems can produce tornadoes and major flooding. Georgia is vulnerable to tropical systems coming from both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast. Hurricanes bring the greatest threats to Georgia’s six coastal counties and immediate adjacent seven inland risk counties. The threats from a major hurricane include storm surge, high winds, flooding, and tornadoes. Although coastal Georgia has not experienced a landfall from a major hurricane (category 3 or stronger) since 1900, many major tropical systems have impacted the state.

Tornadoes
Georgia usually ranks in the top 15 states in relation to the number of tornadoes reported each year. Between 1950 and 1994, Georgia reported 888 tornadoes, ranking the state 13th in the U.S. with an average of 20 per year. Although tornadoes have been reported in every month, most occur in the March to May timeframe. There are also a greater number of tornadoes reported in the fall from October to November caused by late fall cold fronts. Although Georgia rarely experiences the most devastating EF-4 and EF-5 tornadoes experienced in the Midwest, some have occurred in the past. On May 11th 2008, Georgia experienced twenty tornadoes in one day. These storms ranged from EF-0 to EF-4. Two months earlier, an EF2 Tornado struck downtown Atlanta, killed one resident and caused millions of dollars in damage. The disaster occurred while several large events were going on with thousands of people in attendance.

Floods
Georgia’s greatest natural disaster in modern history occurred when freshwater flooding from Tropical Storm Alberto passed over the state in 1994. Some areas received more than 20 inches of rain from Alberto. An estimated 1700 roads and 600 bridges were forced out of service, and several towns were largely under water. Over 40,000 people were evacuated due to the rising waters, and about 12,000 homes and businesses were destroyed or severely damaged by the flooding. Thirty people were killed—many of these vehicle-related. Approximately 11,500 Georgians applied for federal disaster assistance, as 55 counties in Georgia were declared disaster areas. In the Spring of 2009, Georgia experienced severe flooding over a ten day period that resulted in 46 counties being declared a Presidential Disaster. At the time of publishing of this document, the state is still recovering from devastating floods that impacted over 21 counties in North, Central and Western parts of the state. This event may conclude as the most costly natural disaster in state history.

Wildfires
Wildfires in Georgia are impacted by long-term drought conditions. A wildfire threat can increase after a hard freeze, when tender vegetation dies and becomes additional fuel for fires. Wildfire risks also increase in the fall when the combination of low humidity, freezes, and freshly fallen leaves provide the greatest amount of fire material. Wildfires can become disastrous when they threaten and damage residential and business areas. In some, major evacuations may be required to protect citizens. Careless burning of debris such as leaves and household garbage, farm machine usage, and lightning strikes causes most wildfires in Georgia. In 2007, Georgia experienced its worst wildfire in recorded history. The Georgia Forestry Commission led the battle to control this massive wildfire. The Georgia Bay Complex
burned 441,705 acres in Georgia and destroyed 9 homes. An additional 21,000 acres burned in the twenty one county Governor declared Emergency area. More than 3,300 people from 44 states worked to control the wildfires.

Winter Storms
Although winter weather is a greater probability in North Georgia’s higher elevations, snow and ice storms have threatened south and central Georgia. Ice storms pose some of the greatest risks of long-term damage to the state. A major ice storm, caused by a long period of freezing rain, can devastate the impacted areas with widespread power outages and fallen trees. As recently as March 1st, 2009, Georgia experienced a significant winter storm event in which several counties across the north central portion of the state saw snowfall amounts in excess of five inches. This event caused many school districts to close, disrupted electrical power to thousands of residents and caused widespread areas of damage from fallen trees.

Droughts
Long-term lack of rainfall can cause major concerns for Georgia’s agricultural industry and water supply. When dry conditions persist for more than 1 to 2 years, soil moisture levels decrease dramatically and impact agriculture, trees, and drinking water reservoirs. As previously discussed, long-term drought also increases the threat for wildfires in Georgia.

Earthquakes
Earthquakes in Georgia are rare, particularly when compared to the long history of damaging earthquakes associated with California’s active San Andreas Fault zone. Georgia, like all the other states east of the Rocky Mountains, does not have active faults, and is not on a tectonic plate boundary. However, damaging earthquakes do occur in the interior of tectonic plates and these intraplate earthquakes can be an important consideration for emergency managers. Damages from the great eastern United States earthquakes are largely forgotten because the last great earthquake was over 100 years ago. Although large earthquakes are less frequent, some seismologists argue that earthquakes cause damage over much larger areas in the eastern United States than earthquakes of similar size in the western United States. Hence, in Georgia, as in most of the eastern United States, calculations of seismic hazard indicate that large distant earthquakes are likely to cause as much damage in Georgia as earthquakes of any size with epicenters within the state. No area is immune from the earthquake threat, but northern Georgia has experienced the most earthquakes in recent history. Earthquakes large enough to cause damage could be felt in most if not all of Georgia’s counties. If a damaging earthquake occurs, it will affect an area covering many surrounding counties.

Terrorism
The State of Georgia is not immune from acts of terrorism, whether by domestic, international or transnational terror groups. In 1997 Georgia earned the distinction of becoming the first U.S. State to experience a terrorist incident in which a secondary explosive device was employed against first responders. Within the state lie hundreds of facilities, structures or businesses that could at any given time be considered as a high value targets for terrorist organizations.
Technological and Manmade Disasters and Events
In addition to natural hazards, Georgia has historically been faced with unique types of technological and manmade disasters as well as significant events that have required a substantial local, state and federal planning and response effort. Between 1994 and 2008, Georgia hosted numerous events which are classified as National Special Security Events. These include a National Football League Championship (Superbowl), Major League Baseball Championships (World Series), the 1996 Summer Olympics and the 2004 G8 Summit. In 2002 local, state and federal agencies were integrated into response efforts after nearly three hundred sets of human remains were discovered in a private business in North Georgia that was charged with conducting cremations of the remains but failed to do so.

Evacuee Support
The State of Georgia has historically provided assistance and services to residents of neighboring states evacuating coastal areas for major hurricanes. In moderate size evacuations the majority of these citizens obtain shelter and feeding support from the private sector via hotels, motels and restaurants. In most events, these citizens will stay within Georgia for less than a week before returning home. In some instances, because of the catastrophic impact of the event or the volume of the evacuating population, the private sector cannot support these individuals and local and state government must coordinate operations to provide basic support to large numbers of citizens from other states. In 1999 an estimated 1.7 million residents of Florida and South Carolina evacuated to Georgia in addition to over 250,000 residents from Coastal Georgia, due to Hurricane Floyd. In 2005 an estimated 100,000 residents of Louisiana and Mississippi evacuated to Georgia. Approximately 10,000 of these citizens were transported by federal response agencies. In addition to receiving thousands of evacuees from other states because of natural or manmade disasters, Georgia may receive citizens being evacuated from a foreign country for various reasons through repatriation. In 2006, Georgia was a host to several thousand Americans being evacuated from Lebanon when armed conflicts broke out between Lebanese and Israeli forces.

Impact Analysis
Not only must hazards be identified in Georgia, but their potential impact upon many elements must be examined to include: the health and safety of persons in the affected area at the time of the incident; the health and safety of personnel responding to the incident; continuity of governmental operations; affect on property, facilities, and infrastructure; the delivery of essential services, affect upon the environment; economic and financial condition of the affected region; regulatory and contractual obligations of the state and the public’s confidence in the state. The information for these potential impacts were drawn from several agencies that maintain records of natural and technological events that have created hazardous incidents in Georgia, and the record of the impacts of those hazards (such as those contained in the State of Georgia Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan). Additionally, impact assessments were gathered from subject matter experts and reliable intelligence sources in those areas where the hazard has not yet occurred (such as terrorist attack) to include GEMA-OHS staff, academic institutions and state and federal agencies.

The potential impact factors, as mentioned above, were rated as High, Medium or Low, for each of the potential impacts. These impact factors are used to help influence the planning process and prioritization for GEMA-OHS.
Potential Impact

- Evacuation of Coastal Georgia and portions of bordering states into Georgia
- Evacuation of hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities with vulnerable populations
- Evacuation of animals
- Requirement to shelter thousands of coastal residents and animals in shelters inland
- Significant loss of life
- Damage or destruction of infrastructure (roads, bridges, energy systems)
- Personal property loss
- Destruction of irreplaceable historical structures and objects
- Mass care and feeding operations
- Requests for ground transportation assistance
- Temporary and interim housing
- Civil unrest increased security demands
- Increased demand on health care systems
- Increased demand on social services
- Overcrowding in schools
Roles and Responsibilities in Emergency Management

This portion of the GEOP helps to define the roles and responsibilities of key partners involved in the emergency management process.

The GEOP describes three tiers of government; local, state, and federal. In addition to government resources associated with these tiers, non-government organizations (NGOs) and private sector partners are woven into all phases of the emergency management process. Recent catastrophic events have reinforced the fact that government resources can and often are overwhelmed in natural or manmade disasters. The state has traditionally relied on the generous services provided by NGOs associated with or coordinated through the Georgia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), to provide basic services to residents.

In addition to NGOs, private sector planning partners are involved where applicable in the emergency management process. Through the Business Operations Center (BOC), government emergency managers can tap into the vast wealth of knowledge and resources available from the private sector to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the affects of natural and manmade disasters.

Local Responsibility in Emergency Management

The responsibility for responding to incidents, both natural and manmade, begins at the local level with individuals and public officials in the county or city impacted by the incident or disaster. Local leaders through their emergency management director should establish a cohesive command policy group to manage incidents locally. This command policy group should support local emergency management efforts at all times and influence and encourage the involvement of all entities within the county, to include NGOs and private sector partners to coordinate emergency response resources.

Chief Elected or Appointed Official
In nearly all jurisdictions within Georgia, mayors, city managers or county managers, as the jurisdiction’s chief executive officer carry the primary responsibility of ensuring the safety and well being of the residents and visitors within their community. In most cases the Chief Elected Official (CEO) is expected to provide senior level strategic guidance to appointed emergency management officials regarding disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities. It is imperative that these CEOs have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities for successful completion of these emergency management activities and provide the necessary resources to ensure they are accomplished.
Local Emergency Management Agency Director
The local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director has the day-to-day authority and responsibility for overseeing emergency management programs and activities. He or she works with chief elected and appointed officials to ensure that there are unified objectives with regard to the jurisdiction’s emergency management plans and activities. This role entails coordinating all aspects of a jurisdiction’s capabilities.

The EMA Director coordinates all components of the local emergency management program, to include assessing the availability and readiness of local resources most likely required during an incident and identifying and correcting any shortfalls. Local EMA directors are supported during normal operating periods by their respective GEMA-OHS Field Coordinator. GEMA-OHS routinely assists and coordinates with local emergency management agencies on such activities as hazard mitigation projects, the processing of federal or state grants, citizen preparedness initiatives through the Citizen Corps program, emergency information systems through commercial and government emergency communication systems, school safety planning and local emergency operations plan development.

County, City Department and Agency Heads
The local EMA Director is assisted by, and coordinates the efforts of employees in departments and agencies that perform emergency management functions. Department and agency heads collaborate with the EMA Director during development of local emergency plans and provide key response resources. Participation in the planning process ensures that specific capabilities (e.g., firefighting, law enforcement, emergency medical services, public works, environmental and natural resources agencies) are integrated into a workable plan to safeguard the community through the emergency support function concept. These department and agency heads and their staffs develop, plan, and train to internal policies and procedures to meet response and recovery needs safely. They should also participate in interagency training and exercises to develop and maintain the necessary capabilities.

Georgia Residents and Households
The events of September 11th, 2001 served as a wake up call for all Americans to actively engage in personal preparedness activities. The lessons learned from the 2005 Hurricane Season reinforced that message. GEMA-OHS does not directly engage individual residents in personnel preparedness, but instead supports local emergency management agency directors and Citizen Corps Councils in accomplishing this by funding Citizen Corps programs. Citizen Corps brings together local leaders from government, civic organizations, NGOs and the private sector to prepare for and respond to incidents. Citizen Corps Councils are typically sponsored by elected or appointed officials and/or emergency managers. These Councils provide leadership and support for programs that educate, train, and engage community volunteers to support emergency management and responders. GEMA-OHS annually coordinates statewide public service announcements relating to disaster preparedness with local emergency management agencies. The state of Georgia launched the “Ready Georgia” Campaign in January of 2008. Ready Georgia is a statewide campaign supported by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency aimed at motivating Georgians to take action to prepare for a disaster. GEMA-OHS is the state agency that
is responsible for emergency mitigation, preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. This campaign provides a local dimension to a broader national campaign, titled Ready America, and focuses on educating citizens so that they are better prepared for disasters. The Georgia campaign is supported by the Georgia Department of Community Health, The Ad Council, The Home Depot and volunteer organizations and seeks to coordinate a cohesive statewide program and a call to action regarding emergency preparedness. Local Emergency Managers and residents are encouraged to use the resources available on the “Ready Georgia” website to prepare all Georgia households for disasters www.GEMA-OHS.ga.gov or contact GEMA-OHS Public Affairs Division at 1-800-TRY-GEMA-OHS or 404-635-7200.

Private Sector Partners
Government agencies are responsible for protecting the lives and property of their citizens. However, the government does not and cannot, work alone. In many facets of an incident, the government works with private sector groups as partners in emergency management. Private sector organizations play a key role before, during, and after an incident. First, they must provide for the welfare and protection of their employees in the workplace. In addition, emergency managers must work seamlessly with businesses that provide water, power, communication networks, transportation, medical care, security, and numerous other services upon which both response and recovery are particularly dependent. Participation of the private sector varies based on the nature of the organization and the nature of the incident. Many private-sector organizations are responsible for operating and maintaining portions of the Nation’s critical infrastructure and key resources. Critical infrastructures include those assets, systems, networks, and functions – physical or virtual – so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters. Key resources are publicly or privately controlled resources essential to minimal operation of the economy and the government.

Non-government Organizations in Emergency Management
NGOs play enormously important roles before, during, and after an incident. For example, NGOs provide shelter, emergency food supplies and debris removal for homeowners after a disaster and other vital support services to support response and promote the recovery of disaster victims. These groups often provide specialized services that help individuals with special needs, including those with disabilities. A key feature of NGOs is their inherent independence and commitment to specific sets of interests and values. These interests and values drive the groups’ operational priorities and shape the resources they provide. Such NGOs bolster and support government efforts at all levels – for response operations and planning. However, NGOs may also need government assistance, and when planning the allocation of local community emergency management resources and structures, some government organizations provide direct assistance to NGOs. NGOs collaborate with responders, governments at all levels, and other agencies and organizations. Examples of NGO and voluntary organization contributions include: Training and managing volunteer resources, identifying shelter locations and needed supplies, providing critical emergency services to those in need such as cleaning supplies, clothing, food and basic human needs. NGOs provide assistance with post-emergency cleanup, and help local and state
emergency managers identify those whose needs have not been met and help coordinate the provision of assistance.

Some NGOs are officially designated as support elements within the GEOP, such as the American Red Cross, which plays a significant support role in conducting mass care operations through ESF 6.

**State Responsibility in Emergency Management**

**Office of the Governor**

**Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Office of Homeland Security**

The primary role of GEMA-OHS is to support local emergency management activities through respective local EMA directors. GEMA-OHS provides routine assistance to local EMAs regarding grants, hazard mitigation projects, Citizen Corps Programs, EMPG funding, planning and technical guidance. Additionally GEMA-OHS assists local jurisdictions by coordinating with federal officials on behalf of local jurisdictional needs.

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

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

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

**Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Office of Homeland Security**

Under provisions of the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, as amended, subject to the direction and control of the Governor, the GEMA-OHS Director shall be responsible for the programs of emergency management and homeland security in the state. The Director shall coordinate emergency management activities of all agencies/organizations within the state and serve as a liaison with other states and the federal government.
The GEMA-OHS Director assumes responsibility for direction and coordination of ESFs at the State Operations Center (SOC). At the discretion of the GEMA-OHS Director and in concurrence with the Governor, a designated alternate SOC may become operational. Each ESF is assigned a primary coordinator, which is a state agency or organization as well as other state agencies identified as primary or supporting roles through the Executive Order of the Governor.

All primary and support agencies responding to an emergency or disaster will be coordinated by GEMA-OHS. In addition, other assistance through NGOs and private sector organizations will be coordinated as a part of this process.

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

State ESFs are matched with the NRF to assure efficient and effective response. State agencies and organizations with primary ESF responsibilities shall develop and maintain, in coordination with support agencies and organizations, Standard Operating Guides (SOGs).

GEMA-OHS Communications provides warnings and other emergency information of actual, imminent and impending danger or threats to the lives and property of the citizens of Georgia.

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

**Public Information / Situation Reporting**
Public information briefings, news releases and all other emergency information generated by state agencies and organizations will be coordinated and/or released through GEMA-OHS Public Affairs in the SOC. Situation reports, awareness statements and incident action plans shall be generated and maintained by the GEMA-OHS Planning Section and disseminated in conjunction with ESF15 and GEMA-OHS Public Affairs within the SOC.

**Finance and Administration**
Expenditure reports that include personnel, travel, supplies and equipment costs must be in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and will be coordinated through ESF5 and GEMA-OHS Finance in the SOC.

**Situational Awareness**
One of the most important functions of the SOC is to obtain, analyze and properly disseminate situational information to general staff and ESF leaders in the SOC to make operational decisions
for current and future operational periods. In order to obtain true and accurate situational information, all agencies and ESFs operating within the SOC must enter updates, damage assessments and resource status reports into the incident management software system utilized in the SOC. Critical incident information shall be passed through formal reporting channels according to the SOC Operations Guide.

Each ESF must ensure they have properly trained personnel that are designated to represent them within the SOC. These ESF representatives must be able to reach out to personnel operating within their ESF at the local level as well as outward to other state agencies and up to federal partners when necessary to obtain the most accurate incident status. Likewise these personnel must be aware of the roles and responsibilities of their particular ESF.

Information on SOC training is available through the GEMA-OHS State Operations Center Chief’s Office. 1-800-TRY-GEMA-OHS or 404-635-7200.

Command, Control, Coordination and Communication
All command, control, coordination and communication processes and activities will be facilitated through the SOC when conditions warrant activation. The GEMA-OHS Director or designee will reduce the Activation Level and close the SOC, as appropriate. Emergency operations will cease when the situation can be managed by the local jurisdiction(s). Follow-up with local governments will continue until submission of final reports. For more information about State Operations Center activation and operating procedures, please see the SOC Operating Guide.

Emergency Support Functions Summarized
Users of the GEOP must understand and accept that an effective response to a disaster of a magnitude that requires state resources, requires all participating agencies and organizations to work in unison as an “emergency management program”. The process of building an operationally ready state emergency management program begins with the establishment emergency support function groups that actively participate in the overall preparedness, response and processes.

Federal, state and local emergency program managers began using the concept of ESFs nearly twenty years ago. The primary goal of the ESF concept is to group agencies and organizations with similar or like functions into groups to address particular response areas common to all natural or manmade emergencies and disasters. This concept is consistent with the proven principles of the NIMS and allows state officials to have the appropriate subject matter experts strategically aligned to prepare, respond and recover.

In keeping with the unity of command principles of the NIMS and ICS as well as the operational concepts of the NRF, Georgia has identified 15 ESFs, each with a pre-identified coordinating agency as well as primary and support agencies and organizations. The ESFs incorporated into the
GEOP and their respective concepts of operations are summarized below and explained in detail in the Emergency Support Function Annex to the GEOP.

Emergency Support Function #1 - Transportation
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Transportation
Functional Responsibilities
- State aviation asset management
- Intercoastal waterways management and control
- Rail management and control
- Transportation safety
- Restoration and recovery of transportation infrastructure
- Movement restrictions
- Damage and impact assessment
- Evacuation and re-entry coordination
- Damage assessment of critical transportation systems in disasters

Emergency Support Function #2 Communications
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Functional Responsibilities
- Provide communication plans and systems for disaster response
- Communications with telecommunication providers and operators
- Coordination of restoration and repair of telecommunication systems
- Protection, restoration and sustainment of cyber systems and resources
- Damage assessment of critical communication systems in disasters

Emergency Support Function #3 Public Works and Engineering
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Functional Responsibilities
- Infrastructure protection and emergency repair
- Infrastructure restoration and coordination
- Engineering services and construction management
- Damage assessment to critical infrastructure system in disasters

Emergency Support Function #4 Firefighting
Coordinator: Georgia Forestry Commission
Functional Responsibilities
- Command and coordination of state wildland firefighting operations
- Coordination of state structural and aviation firefighting operations
Emergency Support Function #5 Emergency Management
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Functional Responsibilities
- Coordination of emergency management program and GEOP
- Coordination of incident management and response efforts
- Issuance of mission requests through SOC
- Incident Action Plan
- Financial management coordination in disasters
- Collection, compilation and dissemination of damage assessment reports
- State executive information reporting

Emergency Support Function #6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing & Human Services
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Human Services
Functional Responsibilities
- Mass care
- Emergency assistance
- Disaster housing
- Human services
- Status reporting of mass care, shelter, human services activities in SOC

Emergency Support Function #7 Logistics Management & Resource Support
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Functional Responsibilities
- Statewide logistics planning, management and coordination
- Coordination of incident facilities, equipment and supplies in disasters
- Coordination of contract services in disasters
- Status reporting of logistics and resource activities in SOC

Emergency Support Function #8 Public Health and Medical Systems
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Community Health
Functional Responsibilities
- Public health
- Medical
- Coordination of Private and NGO Health Systems in disasters
- Mental health services
- Mass fatality management
- Infection disease surveillance and response coordination
- Coordination of evacuation of special needs
- Coordination of emergency management program

Emergency Support Function #9 Search and Rescue
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Functional Responsibilities
- Coordination of search activities in disasters
- Coordination of rescue activities in disasters
- Coordination of search and rescue resources

Emergency Support Function #10 Hazardous Materials Response
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Functional Responsibilities
- Coordination of hazardous material response activities
- Coordination of environmental protection and long term clean up

Emergency Support Function #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Functional Responsibilities
- Nutrition assistance in disasters
- Coordinate animal, plant disease control activities in disasters
- Food safety and security
- Natural and cultural resources and historic properties protection
- Safety and well-being of household pets
- Coordinate animal evacuation assistance

Emergency Support Function #12 Energy
Coordinator: Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Functional Responsibilities
- Energy infrastructure assessment, repair and restoration
- Energy industry utilities coordination
- Fuel industry coordination
- Energy forecast and assessment in disasters

Emergency Support Function #13 Public Safety and Security
Coordinator: Georgia Department of Public Safety
Functional Responsibilities
- Facility and resource security
- Security planning and technical resource assistance
- Public safety and security support
- Traffic and crowd control

Emergency Support Function #14 Long-Term Recovery
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Functional Responsibilities
- Social and economic impact assessment in disasters
- Long-term community recovery coordination
- Analysis of mitigation program activities
Emergency Support Function #15 External Affairs
Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management Agency

Functional Responsibilities
- Public information and protective action guidance dissemination
- Media and community relations
- State and federal legislative and congressional affairs
- Coordination of state joint information centers in disasters

Private Industry Cooperation in Emergency Management

The Georgia Business Force
The Georgia Business Force was created in October 2003, as a program within the BENS (Business Executives for National Security) Southeast Region. The mission was to establish an alliance of critical infrastructure and key resource businesses that would enhance the security of the State of Georgia.

The Georgia Business Force has worked closely with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Office of Homeland Security, Georgia Division of Community Health, Georgia Information Sharing & Analysis Center, and other state, federal and local governmental bodies.

The Georgia Business Force is actively engaged with its public partners in planning, training, exercising, responding to actual emergencies. Under the All Hazards planning concept, the same disaster response framework and incident command systems manage both manmade and natural emergencies.

Business Operations Center

The Business Operations Center (BOC) is a voluntary, unincorporated affiliation of Critical Infrastructure / Key Resource (CI/KR) businesses and associations committed to a private-public partnership with the State of Georgia and focused on assisting the state plan for and respond to natural and manmade disasters.

Authority: The BOC was created and operates under the Charter of the Governor of the State of Georgia and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA-OHS). The BOC was established in May 2006, and operates under a Charter dated June 27, 2007.

Mission: The BOC fills a critical need for private sector collaboration with the public sector in planning for a responding to catastrophic events affecting the State of Georgia. During and following a disaster, member companies make their goods, services and expertise available to the state on both a donated and reimbursable basis when normal state contracts and procurement channels are unable to meet emergency needs.
Membership:

- “Members” are companies, associations, and other entities with disaster response capabilities which affiliate with the BOC based on the role that each may potentially assume in planning for and responding to disasters. Members affiliate with the BOC without expectation of compensation, sales opportunity, or favorable status in doing business with the state.

- Each Member designates a Primary and Secondary BOC Representative who is knowledgeable of its operations and the procedures for accessing its resources.

- Representatives are encouraged to participate in BOC activities, exercises, and on-site in the State Operations Center (SOC) during periods of activation. Representatives who have received training on the GEMA-OHS emergency management system may assume greater responsibility in receiving and processing requests for support (Resource Requests).

The BOC is administratively managed by a representative of BENS Southeast Region (Business Executives for National Security), located in Atlanta, GA, its original sponsoring organization. The BOC serves as an active component and is directly integrated within the State’s emergency management function as outlined in the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP).

- Preparation: The BOC is actively engaged in exercises organized by the SOC staff and in planning activities designed to identify and address potential preparation, resource and response gaps.

- Activation: When the State Operations Center (SOC) is activated, the BOC may be activated virtually; via telephone, e-mail, and emergency management system contact with its Representatives, or fully; with an on-site presence by the BOC Manager and Representatives located in the SOC.

- Staffing: During sustained activation periods, Representatives are expected to support the BOC with their presence and active participation on-site within the SOC.

- Coordination: The BOC maintains liaison with and serves as an informational resource for each of the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) within the SOC regarding needs and capabilities.

- Resource Requests: All requests for donated and reimbursable materials or services are received by the BOC directly from ESF-7 (Resource Support & Logistics Management). Resource Requests so received are known to be approved and prioritized. Such Resource Requests are forwarded to Representatives who respond as able.

- Third Party Resources: Representatives are encouraged to use personal and business contacts to identify sources beyond the BOC Membership if a third party may offer a more effective solution to a Resource Request.

- Sourcing: The BOC assists ESF-7 in sourcing needed materials for action by ESF-7. The BOC’s role is limited to locating and coordinating potential sources. It will not commit the funds or resources of either the source company or the state. ESF-7 will issue all contacts in keeping with its procedures.
Requesting and Integrating Other State and Federal Resources

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

If Georgia requires additional assistance with an emergency or disaster, GEMA-OHS may seek mutual aid from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC is a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a disaster impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues upfront: liability and reimbursement.

EMAC is a national mutual aid agreement between the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. It is based on 13 Articles which have been enacted into state law by each state. In Georgia, EMAC is addressed in the O.C.G.A., Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 5.

Georgia can only request assistance via EMAC when the Governor has declared a state of emergency. EMAC requires that the state requesting assistance reimburse the state that provides the assistance. The Director of GEMA-OHS, is the Authorized Representative (AR) for EMAC for the State of Georgia. The AR has the authority to commit state resources to assist another state and accept offers of assistance from other states.

The AR has delegated this authority to the Operations Director, Deputy Operations Director and Finance Director, GEMA-OHS. The Logistics Program Manager, GEMA-OHS, is the Designated Contact (DC) for EMAC. Alternate DCs have also been appointed within GEMA-OHS. The DC is commonly referred to as the EMAC Coordinator. The DC coordinates EMAC operations and prepares the official EMAC Request for Assistance (commonly referred to as the REQ-A). When completed, the REQ-A becomes a contract between the requesting and assisting states for the provision of assistance in accordance with EMAC. When the SOC is activated, the Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit coordinates and manages EMAC missions. This unit will be initially staffed with GEMA-OHS personnel, but will likely be augmented by trained EMAC personnel from other states as soon as possible. This unit is also referred to as an EMAC “A” Team.

All ESFs and state agencies will coordinate EMAC requests with the GEMA-OHS EMAC DC or the SOC Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit, when the SOC is activated. No resource (personnel or equipment) may deploy to another state via EMAC until the REQ-A has been approved and signed by the ARs of the requesting and assisting states, and they have been provided a copy, briefed and prepared for the mission. To facilitate obtaining any assistance Georgia may need via EMAC, state ESFs should identify their shortfalls in capability and where resources may be obtained to provide this capability. This may be accomplished via informal coordination with sister agencies in other states to determine if the needed resource is available for potential deployment to Georgia, the
location and the point of contact for the resource. Such information is critical in expediting a request for assistance via EMAC.

Each ESF in the GEOP and the Georgia Department of Defense shall identify a primary and alternate point of contact that is trained and able to facilitate EMAC requests when Georgia is asked to serve as assisting state when disasters impact other regions of the United States.

For more information on EMAC, contact the GEMA-OHS Emergency Management Assistance Compact Designated Coordinator at 1-800-TRY-GEMA-OHS or 404-636-7200.

**Requesting and Integrating Federal Resources**

The GEMA-OHS Director and/or authorized representative will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If the situation awareness shows the potential for the incident to approach disaster status, FEMA will be requested to send a liaison to the SOC. Upon a Presidential Declaration, federal assistance will be provided as requested to the state in accordance with the NRF and as required by The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended. A Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will be assigned by FEMA to work with the state upon Presidential Declaration.

**Other State Departments, Agencies and Authorities**

State department and agency heads and their staffs develop, plan, and train to internal policies and procedures to meet response and recovery needs safely. They should also participate in interagency training and exercises to develop and maintain the necessary capabilities. They are vital to the state’s overall emergency management program, as they bring expertise spanning the ESFs and serve as core members of the state operations center.

(A)

**ACCG** Association of County Commissioners of Georgia - It is the mission of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia to enhance the role, stature, and responsiveness of county government in Georgia. Since counties are the level of government closest to the people and serve all the people of the state, ACCG will promote the ability of Georgia counties to provide public services responsibly, efficiently, and cost effectively through cooperative legislative action, education of public officials, provision of quality member services and technical assistance, and increasing public awareness of critical local government issues. Formed in 1914 with 19 charter county members, today ACCG serves as the consensus building, training, and legislative organization for all 159 county governments in the state.

**AGR** Georgia Department of Agriculture - The Georgia Department of Agriculture regulates, monitors, or assists with the following areas: grocery stores, convenience stores, food warehouses, bottling plants, food processing plants, pet dealers and breeders, animal health, gasoline quality and pump calibration, antifreeze, weights and measures, marketing of
Georgia agricultural products domestically and internationally, pesticides, structural pest control, meat processing plants, seed quality, Vidalia onions, state farmers markets, plant diseases, nurseries and garden centers, fertilizer and lime, potting soil; feed, boll weevil eradication, apiaries, Humane Care for Equines Act, bottled water, and other responsibilities.

**ARC American Red Cross**- Red Cross- disaster relief focuses on meeting people's immediate emergency disaster-caused needs. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, and health and mental health services to address basic human needs. In addition to these services, the core of Red Cross disaster relief is the assistance given to individuals and families affected by disaster to enable them to resume their normal daily activities independently.

**AGRIRAMA Georgia’s Museum of Agriculture and Living History Museum** The mission of the Georgia Agrirama Foundation, Inc. is to raise and appropriate financial support for the Agrirama Development Authority through private donations and grantors in order to financially assist in efforts to acquire and restore artifacts, improve the museum, develop educational programs, and promote the Agrirama. The Agrirama staff has become an integral partner in logistical planning for disasters in Georgia, by incorporating their space and resources available to support staging operations.

**ARCHIVES Georgia Archives**- The mission of the Georgia Archives is to identify, select, preserve, and make accessible records that constitute Georgia's recorded history; to increase the efficiency of State Government through effective records management; and to improve the quality of records and archives management throughout the state.

The Georgia Archives supports the Secretary of State's vision to become the most customer-friendly agency in state government. The agency strives to provide innovative, efficient, accurate, and professional service to the citizens of Georgia. The Georgia Archives is committed to providing assistance to the citizens of Georgia during preparedness, response, and recovery operations, specifically in the case that essential government records, historical and cultural collections, or personal family treasures are damaged by a disaster.

**AUDITS Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts**- The Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts exists to provide decision-makers with credible management information to promote improvements in accountability and stewardship in state and local government.

**AVIATION AUTHORITY Georgia Aviation Authority**- The Georgia Aviation Authority exists to coordinate the state’s aircraft needs. The GAA oversees the maintenance, management and coordination of use for over 80 aircraft.
(BENS) **Business Executives for National Security** - BENS is a nationwide, non-partisan organization which serves as the primary channel through which senior business executives can help enhance the nation’s security. BENS members use their business experience to drive our agenda, deliver our message to decision makers and make certain that the changes we propose are put into practice. BENS has only one special interest; to help make America safe and secure.

(BOR) **University System of Georgia -Board of Regents** - The mission of the University System of Georgia is to contribute to the educational, cultural, economic, and social advancement of Georgia by providing excellent undergraduate general education and first-rate programs leading to associate, baccalaureate, masters, professional, and doctorate degrees; by pursuing leading-edge basic and applied research, scholarly inquiry, and creative endeavors; and by bringing these intellectual resources, and those of the public libraries, to bear on the economic development of the State and the continuing education of its citizens.

(C)  

(CJCC) **Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council** - The CJCC conducts planning, research and evaluation activities to improve criminal justice system operations and coordination. It operates Georgia’s Crime Victims Compensation Program which utilizes federal funds and fee and fine proceeds to provide financial assistance to victims of violent crime.

(CONSUMER) **Governors Office of Consumer Services** - Georgia Office of the Governor-The mission of the Georgia Governor’s Office of Consumer Affairs is to protect consumers and businesses from unlawful, deceptive and unfair practices in the marketplace by enforcement of the laws we administer and through education.

(D)  

(DCA) **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** - DCA operates a host of state and federal grant programs; serves as the state’s lead agency in housing finance and development; promulgates building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's solid waste reduction efforts.  

(DDS) **Department of Driver Services** -

(DHR) **Georgia Department of Human Resources** - DHR is Georgia's human service agency whose mission is to strengthen Georgia families by providing services through about 80 programs that ensure their health and welfare.

(DNR) **Georgia Department of Natural Resources** - The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect, and conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.
**DOAS** **Georgia Department of Administrative Services**- The Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) is Georgia state government’s business solutions provider. DOAS’ product and service offerings encompass a broad spectrum that includes risk management services, purchasing services, fleet management, document services, and surplus property.

**DOD** **Georgia Department of Defense**- Volunteers respond to needs and emergency situations as defined by the Adjutant General or the Governor, and assist local authorities where such missions do not conflict.

The Georgia State Defense Force performs a variety of missions for the National Guard including family support, legal assistance, medical support, and technical assistance in a variety of areas including communications, Emergency Support Teams and in other specialized areas.

The Georgia State Defense Force performs missions such as evacuation and control during natural disasters, perimeter safety and medical assistance to major public festivals, and maintains liaison with a variety of local emergency, law enforcement, and homeland security agencies. The Georgia State Defense Force performs diverse missions from assisting in military data recording to manning emergency operations centers ([http://www.gasdf.com/about-gsdf.htm](http://www.gasdf.com/about-gsdf.htm)).

**DOE** **Georgia Department of Education**- The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) oversees public education throughout the state. It ensures that laws and regulations pertaining to education are followed and that state and federal money appropriated for education is properly allocated to local school systems. The mission of the GaDOE is to increase graduation rates, strengthen teacher quality, improve workforce readiness skills, develop strong education leaders, and improve student achievement scores.

The Georgia Department of Education is fully committed to communicating essential emergency information to all public schools districts in Georgia through the State School Superintendent’s office during disaster preparedness, response and recovery operations to protect the citizens of Georgia.

**DOL** **Georgia Department of Labor**- The GDOL: 1) Helps individuals attain their work goals and increase self-sufficiency through employment, training, comprehensive rehabilitation, and support services and 2) Helps employers meet their business needs through employee recruitment and selection services, workforce information, and technical support.

**DOR** **Department of Revenue**- The Department of Revenue was created in 1938 and is the principal tax-collecting agency for the State of Georgia. In addition to administering tax laws, the department is responsible for enforcing laws and regulations pertaining to the control of
alcoholic beverages and tobacco products in Georgia as well as motor vehicle tag and title administration.

(DOT) **Georgia Department of Transportation** - The Georgia Department of Transportation plans, constructs, maintains and improves the state's road and bridges; provides planning and financial support for other modes of transportation such as mass transit and airports; provides airport and air safety planning; and provides air travel to state departments.

(DPS) **Georgia Department of Public Safety** - The mission of the Georgia Department of Public Safety is to work cooperatively with all levels of government to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors to the state. Although focused primarily on the enforcement of traffic laws and investigation of traffic crashes, the Department of Public Safety will support the efforts of all public safety agencies to reduce crime, apprehend those who commit them, and respond to natural and manmade disasters.

G

(GBA) **Georgia Building Authority** - GBA provides maintenance, renovations, housekeeping, landscaping, food service, event catering, recycling, parking, and building access services to state employees housed in GBA-managed facilities.

(GBC) **Georgia Baptist Convention** - The Disaster Relief Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Convention is ready to respond to the ministry needs of disaster victims in Georgia and across the nation whenever a disaster strikes. They can respond with feeding units, clean up and recovery units, communications, child care and chaplaincy.

(GBI) **Georgia Bureau of Investigation** - The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is an independent, statewide agency that provides assistance to the state's criminal justice system in the areas of criminal investigations, forensic laboratory services and computerized criminal justice information. The mission of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is to provide the highest quality investigative, scientific, and information services and resources to the criminal justice community and others as authorized by law, for the purpose of maintaining law and order, and the protection of life and property. The Mission will be achieved by a team of skilled and dedicated employees, utilizing innovative programs and state of the art technology.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is fully committed to provide law enforcement assistance in the way of investigations, victim recovery, identification of victims, communications, laboratory facilities, and intelligence/information during disaster preparedness, response, and recovery operations to protect lives and property of all Georgia residents and visitors.

(GDC) **Georgia Department of Corrections** - The Georgia Department of Corrections protects and serves the public as a professional organization by effectively managing offenders while helping to provide a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Georgia. Services provided include:
• Ensuring public safety
• Operating safe and secure facilities
• Providing effective community supervision of offenders
• Creating opportunities for restoration to offenders
• Ensuring the rights of victims
• Partnering with public, private, and faith-based organizations

(GDEcD) **Georgia Department of Economic Development** - The GDEcD is a global agency and one-stop-shop for accessing Georgia’s assets and finding the right components for success. Specialists assist in business expansion and relocation, international trade, small business development, tourism foundation creation, cutting-edge technological advances, the entertainment industry, and travel.

(GEFA) **Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority** - GEFA is a state agency that administers a wide variety of programs that provide financial assistance and other support services to improve Georgia’s environment. GEFA’s program focus areas are water, wastewater, solid waste, recycling, land conservation, energy efficiency and fuel storage tanks for local governments, other state agencies and non-profit organizations.

• The GEFA Division of Energy Resources promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy assistance programs that improve environmental quality, strengthen quality of life and stimulate sustainable economic development in Georgia.
• The Fuel Storage Tank Division was established in 1995 in response to new federal construction and maintenance standards for fuel storage tanks. Its responsibility encompasses underground and aboveground storage tanks used to provide vehicle fueling, heating oil and/or emergency generator support at State of Georgia facilities.
• Water Resources Division highlights: The Water Resources Division provides inexpensive, easy-to-use financing to build water and sewer system improvements and solid waste disposal solutions, GEFA helps cities and counties purchase properties or easements that help them meet their land conservation goals. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division’s Watershed Protection Branch is an invaluable partner to GEFA.

(GEMA) **Georgia Emergency Management Agency** - This agency coordinates emergency management activities of all agencies/organizations within the state and serves as a liaison with other states and the federal government.

(Georgia EMC) **Georgia Electric Membership Cooperatives** - Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (Georgia EMC) is the statewide trade association serving Georgia’s 42 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs). The co-ops provide legislative representation, community and economic development services, training, youth programs and publishing of *GEORGIA Magazine*.

Georgia Electric Membership Corp. is the statewide trade association that serves:
Georgia's 42 electric membership corporations
Oglethorpe Power Corp.
Georgia Transmission Corp.
Georgia System Operations Corp.

Georgia EMC's services include:

- Legislative representation at the state and national levels
- Community and economic development
- Youth and education programs
- Safety and training programs
- Media relations and communications/member services support
- Monthly magazine for Georgia's EMC consumers

**Georgia Forestry Commission** - GFC professionals provide a wide variety of services including fire detection, issuing burn permits, wildfire suppression and prevention services, emergency and incident command system expertise, rural fire department assistance, forest management assistance to landowners and communities, the marketing and utilization of forest resources and nature services, and growing and selling quality tree seedlings for planting.

**Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)** - is an association of nursing homes representing the best interests of residents as well as owners, administrators, and other personnel. GHCA strives to enhance the ability of our member facilities to provide competent and compassionate care to meet the ever changing health care needs of Georgia elderly and disabled citizens. GHCA is committed to continuously improve the quality of life of all persons requiring long term health care. To achieve these goals, GHCA works closely with government agencies and other trade and professional associations in developing, amending, and implementing, sound legislation, regulatory policies, and standards of care.

**Georgia Municipal Association** - Our purpose is to anticipate and influence the forces shaping Georgia's communities and to provide leadership, tools, and services that assist local governments in becoming more innovative, effective, and responsive. GMA's membership currently totals more than 502 municipal governments, accounting for more than 99% of the state's municipal population. A 56-member Board of Directors, composed of city officials, governs GMA. Program implementation is charged to the Executive Director and staff of over 80 full-time employees.
**GMAG** Georgia Mutual Aid Group- (GMAG) The mission of GMAG is to maximize the saving of life, property, and the environment through preparedness for, mitigation of, timely response to, and efficient recovery from disastrous incidents exceeding local capabilities.

The Georgia Mutual Aid Group is fully committed to providing Mutual Aid Services for Public Safety Agencies during disaster preparedness, response and recovery operations to protect the lives and property of all Georgia Residents and Visitors.

**GNA** Georgia Nurses Association- GNA for the purpose of uniting the profession, advocates for quality healthcare and provides opportunities for growth through energizing experiences, empowering insight, and essential resources. GNA is the state's largest professional nursing association for registered nurses in all practice settings.

**GOV** Governor’s Office of Consumer Affairs- The mission of the Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs is to protect consumers and businesses from unlawful, deceptive and unfair practices in the marketplace by enforcement of the laws we administer and through education.

**Georgia State Office of the State Climatologist**- The purpose of the State Climatology Office is to provide climate information to all interested users of historic or long-term weather data, to monitor current climate conditions around the state, and to conduct research into topics related to Georgia's weather and climate.

**GPA** Georgia Pharmacy Association- The mission of the Georgia Pharmacy Association shall be to promote and enhance the profession of pharmacy and the practice standards of its practitioners.

**GPB** Georgia Public Broadcasting- Mission -To create, produce and distribute high quality programs and services that educate, inform and entertain our audiences and enrich the quality of their lives.

**GPC** Georgia Power Company- Georgia Power serves 2.25 million customers in 155 of Georgia's 159 counties.

**GPSTC** Georgia Public Safety Training Center- The department is charged with the development, delivery, and facilitation of training that results in professional and competent public safety services for the people of Georgia.

The Training Center is responsible for the coordination of the delivery of training to all state public safety officers, job specific training programs for state agencies, advanced and specialized training for both state and local peace officers, chief executive training and supervisory and management training.
(GRTA) **Georgia Regional Transportation Authority** - It is the mission of GRTA /GDC to improve Georgia's mobility, air quality and land use practices.

(GSIFIC) **Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission** - The Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission, created by Constitutional Amendment in 1972, is responsible for the proper application of proceeds from general obligation debt and the issuance of all public debt by the State. No agency or authority can incur debt or employ other financial or investment advisory counsel, without Commission approval. The Commission consists of the Financing and Investment Division and the Construction Division.

(GTA) **Georgia Technology Authority** - GTA also has statutory responsibilities, including technology enterprise management (methods for managing technology resources for state agencies—data centers, servers, mainframes, PCs and laptops, wide and local area networks, telecommunications and technology personnel) and technology portfolio management (approaches for analyzing and ranking the state’s technology investments).

(GTC) **Georgia Transmission Corporation** - GTC provides bulk power over high-volume electric lines to 39 EMCS, essentially serving as a link between power generation and the EMCS' individual electric distribution systems. Georgia Transmission plans, builds and maintains a transmission system of more than 2,700 miles of power lines and nearly 600 substations.

(O)  

(OCI) **Georgia Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety** - The mission of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance is to ensure that the public’s interests are served through professional oversight of regulated industries, consumer protection, and broad-based educational activities.

(OPB) **Georgia Office of Planning & Budget** - The Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) was formally enacted to serve the Office of the Governor as a budget and planning unit.

Each year, the Governor, as the state’s budget director, is required to present to the General Assembly a recommended state budget for the upcoming and amended fiscal year. Prior to submitting the proposed budget, OPB analyzes agency budget requests and policy issues, and develops comprehensive budget recommendations for the Governor’s review, from which the final recommendations are brought to the legislature for consideration. OPB submits this budget recommendation in a prioritized budgeting format, a programmatically and results-oriented presentation of funding requirements.

(P)  

(PAP) **State Board of Pardons and Paroles** - The State Board of Pardons and Paroles is a part of the executive branch of Georgia's government, authorized to grant paroles, pardons, reprieves, remissions, commutations, and to restore civil and political rights. In continuous
service since its establishment by Constitutional law in 1943, the Georgia Board is one of the nation's most experienced, innovative, and respected paroling authorities. The mission of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles is to enhance public safety by making informed parole decisions and successfully transitioning offenders back into the community.

(PORTS) **Georgia Ports Authority** - Maintains and operates Georgia's Ports.

**Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia**- The Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia assists the prosecuting attorneys of Georgia who seek justice with honor in their efforts against criminal activity.

(PSC) **Georgia Public Service Commission**- The mission of the Georgia Public Service Commission is to exercise its authority and influence to ensure that consumers receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced telecommunications, transportation, electric and natural gas services from financially viable and technically competent companies.

The Georgia Public Service Commission has exclusive power to decide what are fair and reasonable rates for services under its jurisdiction. The commission may: conduct investigations, hearings and gather evidence, inspect properties, books and paper of regulated companies, determine costs, make and ensure rules, issue orders giving effect to commission decisions, institute judicial proceedings to enforce orders, rules and regulations

The Salvation Army - The Salvation Army's Goals in Emergency Disaster Services When The Salvation Army initiates a disaster relief operation, the first aim is to meet the basic needs of those who have been affected, both survivors and first responders (such as firefighters).

(SDVS) **Georgia State Department of Veterans Service**- The mission of the Department of Veterans Service is to serve the some 700,000-plus veterans residing in Georgia, their dependents and survivors in all matters pertaining to veterans benefits. The Department's mission falls into two basic tasks: informing the veterans and their families about veterans' benefits; and directly assisting and advising veterans and their families in securing the federal and state benefits to which they are entitled.

(SOS) **Georgia Secretary of State**- Users can file corporation renewals, find information on a corporation, renew a professional license, register to vote, view state election results, or view historical documents, among many other options.

(SPC) **State Properties Commission**- The Georgia State Properties Commission (GSPC) is responsible for the acquisition and disposition of all State-owned real property and all real property interests.
(VOAD) Georgia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster- Members of Georgia VOAD form a coalition of nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters as part of their overall mission. Together they foster more effective service through the four C’s—communication, coordination, cooperation and collaboration—by providing convening mechanisms and outreach for all people and organizations involved in disasters.
Preparedness Activities in Georgia

This portion of the GEOP defines in broad terms, how all agencies and organizations identified within, collectively prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and manmade disasters in Georgia as functional groups. A summarized list of the ESFs, their coordinating agency and a brief synopsis of their functional area(s) are listed below. The process by which these ESFs collectively prepare themselves to respond to disasters in Georgia is in keeping with the federal “preparedness cycle”. A description of this cycle and how and where agencies listed in the plan should be engaged is discussed below.

To ensure the state is ready to respond to actual or potential hazards that threaten Georgia, GEMA-OHS and its emergency management partners subscribe to a methodical process with achievable and measurable objectives. The first step in this process is planning.

Planning
The planning process sets the tone for the overall state program’s success as it progresses through the preparedness cycle. It includes gathering information and intelligence, measuring known capabilities and resources, understanding individual agencies capabilities and limitations, political or geographical nuisances, facilitation of structured goal oriented meetings, development of policies, plans and procedures, assistance with developing mutual aid agreements between agencies and jurisdictions, review of local and federal planning and policy changes to ensure compliance and continuity.

During the twelve month period leading up to the publishing of this current version of the GEOP, state planners made great strides in meeting the demands that effective planning calls for. GEMA-OHS Planners have gathered information for state agencies expected to respond and the local jurisdictions expected to request assistance. Planners have reached out to internal and external partners to quantify resource capability lists, resource gaps and broker mutual aid agreements to better protect residents and have reviewed all existing operational response documents.
Organize
It is imperative that all agencies expected to support disaster operations in Georgia are organized appropriately and operate within the structure of the GEOP and NIMS. Leaders of state agencies and organizations listed in this plan must ensure their agency’s participation in training and exercises conducted in support of the GEOP. Likewise, these agencies must actively engage in after action meetings that produce corrective action plans to enhance Georgia's overall preparedness level.

Equip
Serving as the State Authorized Agency that administers U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants, GEMA-OHS adheres to national policy, strategy and guidance in building appropriate response capabilities throughout the state. There are thirty-seven identified capabilities, termed Target Capabilities, which the state is charged to build in conjunction with local governments. Through the development of Regional Strategic Plans (that align with the GEMA-OHS operational areas) that are informed and guided by each region’s All Hazards Council, specific Target Capabilities are identified for program development. Funding for these programs may include equipment, planning, training and exercise monies.

Train
In a continuing effort to effectively mitigate emergencies, as well as to be better prepared to respond to them, GEMA presents emergency management training courses to all state and local agencies with emergency management preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation responsibilities.
The courses are conducted at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, GEMA-OHS's Atlanta headquarters, or in local communities by qualified instructors from within, as well as outside the agency. In addition to traditional classroom and field delivered training, emergency management partners can receive training online via independent study courses offered through federal training centers such as the Emergency Management Institute.

The independent study, emergency preparedness, and field program courses are designed for all personnel who are a part of the emergency management team. This includes: emergency management directors and staff; law enforcement; fire and rescue service; emergency medical service; public works; public health; 911 personnel and volunteers.

**Exercise- Evaluate and Improve**

The GEMA-OHS Statewide Exercise Program Coordinators are involved in all phases of the preparedness process during the initial planning phase, response and exercise phases and most importantly the evaluation and improvement phase. GEMA-OHS has facilitated scenario based planning meetings between state ESFs, local emergency management agency representatives and their respective ESFs. This has so far resulted in more accurate plans that reflect the needs of the local jurisdictions, has helped to identify areas for further improvement, established quantifiable resource shortfalls and most importantly has cultivated better relations between state and local agencies and organizations.

In FY 2008, GEMA-OHS conducted the largest statewide exercise in its history. In meetings, drills and discussions leading up to the exercise, emergency response partners participated in substantial workshops, coordination meetings and scenario based planning discussions. The objective of these events was to ensure response activities were coordinated and agency activities were aligned with applicable operational plans.
Planning Cycle of the 2010 GEOP

This version of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan shall be effective for two years. The next version of the GEOP should be published on or about 18 January 2012.

Emergency Support Function Annexes shall be effective for two years, but will undergo comprehensive reviews annually. ESF Annexes may be updated and republished as necessary based on lessons learned from exercises or activations of the GEOP.

For the planning cycle of this latest edition of the GEOP, GEMA-OHS exercise coordinators anticipate conducting a full scale statewide exercise as well as smaller scale, process specific drills. The goal of these exercises is to evaluate processes and procedures described within this latest GEOP. For more information on the GEMA-OHS State Wide Exercise Program call 1-800-TRY-GEMA or 404-635-7200. Evaluation and continual process improvement are cornerstones of effective preparedness and progressive emergency management programs. GEMA-OHS has incorporated the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) into its training and exercise programs. Additionally GEMA-OHS has integrated principals of developing structured after action evaluations and corrective action plans.

All agencies listed in the GEOP shall actively participate in after action meetings to identify areas for improvement in the GEOP or other supporting plans or guides to ensure the State of Georgia is continually improving its operational capability to respond to natural and manmade disasters. Upon conclusion of an exercise, actual activation of the GEOP and or SOC, ESFs, agencies and organizations listed in this plan shall evaluate performance against relevant capability objectives, identify deficits, and institute corrective action plans. Improvement planning should develop specific recommendations for changes in practice, timelines for implementation, and assignments for completion.

The GEMA-OHS Planning Section has formatted the GEOP so that necessary changes may be made to ESFs, Support or Incident Annexes without significant impacts on this base plan or other plan components. Any user of this plan is encouraged to recommend changes that they feel may enhance or clarify a particular portion. Suggested changes should be submitted to the GEMA Planning Director for coordination, comment, concurrence and necessary approval, at the address on the following page. The format of suggested changes is shown on the following page.
GEOP Change Request

Planning Director
Georgia Emergency Management Agency
P. O. Box 18055
Atlanta, GA 30316-0055
1-800- TRY-GEMA
404-635-7200

Recommended Changes, Corrections, Additions and Deletions to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

Any user of this plan is encouraged to recommend changes to the plan that the user feels might enhance or clarify a particular portion of the area being addressed. Suggested changes should be submitted to the GEMA Planning Director for coordination, comment, concurrence and necessary approval, at the above address. The format of suggested changes is shown on this page.

AREA OF PLAN: (Basic Plan, ESF Annex, Support Annex, Incident Annex.) Be as specific as needed.

CHANGE: The wording that should be changed. Please include a sentence or two before and after the area that should be changed. If word change only, then underline the words to be changed.

SHOULD READ: How the statement or information is to look after the change.

Submitted by:

Name: ________________________________

Agency: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Agency:** A division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance. In the Incident Command System, agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance). Governmental organizations are most often in charge of an incident, though in certain circumstances private-sector organizations may be included. Additionally, nongovernmental organizations may be included to provide support.

**Agency Representative:** A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating Federal, State, tribal, or local government agency or private organization that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency’s or organization’s participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.

**All-Hazards:** Describing an incident, natural or manmade, that warrants action to protect life, property, environment, and public health or safety, and to minimize disruptions of government, social, or economic activities.

**Annexes:** See Emergency Support Function Annexes, Incident Annexes, and Support Annexes.

**Area Command:** An organization established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by a separate Incident Command System organization or to oversee the management of a very large or evolving incident that has multiple incident management teams engaged. An agency administrator/executive or other public official with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident usually makes the decision to establish an Area Command. An Area Command is activated only if necessary, depending on the complexity of the incident and incident management span-of-control considerations.

**Assessment:** The evaluation and interpretation of measurements and other information to provide a basis for decision-making.

**Assignment:** A task given to a resource to perform within a given operational period that is based on operational objectives defined in the Incident Action Plan.

**Branch:** The organizational level having functional or geographical responsibility for major aspects of incident operations. A Branch is organizationally situated between the Section Chief and the Division or Group in the Operations Section, and between the Section and Units in the Logistics Section. Branches are identified by the use of Roman numerals or by functional area.

**Business Executives for National Security (BENS):** Business Executives for National Security, a nationwide, non-partisan public interest group, is the primary channel through which senior business executives help enhance the Georgia and the Nation’s security. BENS members use their business experience to assist state emergency management officials in all phases of the emergency management process. Members of BENS establish and operate the Business Operations Center within the SOC when it is activated.
**Catastrophic Incident:** Any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions.

**Chain of Command:** A series of command, control, executive, or management positions in hierarchical order of authority.

**Chief:** The Incident Command System title for individuals responsible for management of functional Sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Intelligence/Investigations (if established as a separate Section).

**Chief Elected Official:** A mayor, city manager, or county manager.

**Citizen Corps:** A community-level program, administered by the Department of Homeland Security, that brings government and private-sector groups together and coordinates the emergency preparedness and response activities of community members. Through its network of community, State, and tribal councils, Citizen Corps increases community preparedness and response capabilities through public education, outreach, training, and volunteer service.

**Command:** The act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority.

**Command Staff:** An incident command component that consists of a Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Liaison Officer, and other positions as required, who report directly to the Incident Commander.

**Common Operating Picture:** A continuously updated overview of an incident compiled throughout an incident's life cycle from data shared between integrated systems for communication, information management, and intelligence and information sharing. The common operating picture allows incident managers at all levels to make effective, consistent, and timely decisions. The common operating picture also helps ensure consistency at all levels of incident management across jurisdictions, as well as between various governmental jurisdictions and private-sector and nongovernmental entities that are engaged.


**Coordinate:** To advance systematically an analysis and exchange of information among principals who have or may have a need to know certain information to carry out specific incident management responsibilities.

**Corrective Actions:** Implementing procedures that are based on lessons learned from actual incidents or from training and exercises.

**Critical Infrastructure:** Systems, assets, and networks, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating
impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.

**Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO):** Individual who serves as the Department of Defense (DOD)'s single point of contact at the Joint Field Office (JFO) for requesting assistance from DOD. With few exceptions, requests for Defense Support of Civil Authorities originating at the JFO are coordinated with and processed through the DCO. The DCO may have a Defense Coordinating Element consisting of a staff and military liaison officers to facilitate coordination and support to activated Emergency Support Functions.

**Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA):** Support provided by U.S. military forces (Regular, Reserve, and National Guard), Department of Defense (DOD) civilians, DOD contract personnel, and DOD agency and component assets, in response to requests for assistance from civilian Federal, State, local, and tribal authorities for domestic emergencies, designated law enforcement support, and other domestic activities.

**Demobilization:** The orderly, safe, and efficient return of a resource to its original location and status.

**DHS:** Department of Homeland Security

**Disaster Recovery Center (DRC):** A facility established in a centralized location within or near the disaster area at which disaster victims (individuals, families, or businesses) apply for disaster aid.

**Division:** The partition of an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are established when the number of resources exceeds the manageable span of control of the Operations Chief. A Division is located within the Incident Command System organization between the Branch and resources in the Operations Section.

**DOD:** Department of Defense

**Domestic Readiness Group (DRG):** An interagency body convened on a regular basis to develop and coordinate preparedness, response, and incident management policy. This group evaluates various policy issues of interagency importance regarding domestic preparedness and incident management and makes recommendations to senior levels of the policymaking structure for decision. During an incident, the DRG may be convened by the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate relevant interagency policy issues regarding response and develop recommendations as may be required.

**Emergency:** Any incident, whether natural or manmade, that requires responsive action to protect life or property. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, an emergency means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

**Emergency Management:** As subset of incident management, the coordination and integration of all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, or mitigate against threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other manmade disasters.
Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC): A congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a disaster-affected State can request and receive assistance from other member States quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues up front: liability and reimbursement.

Emergency Manager: The person who has the day-to-day responsibility for emergency management programs and activities. The role is one of coordinating all aspects of a jurisdiction’s mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOCs may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, and medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., Federal, State, regional, tribal, city, county), or some combination thereof.

Emergency Plan: The ongoing plan maintained by various jurisdictional levels for responding to a wide variety of potential hazards.

Emergency Public Information: Information that is disseminated primarily in anticipation of an emergency or during an emergency. In addition to providing situational information to the public, it also frequently provides directive actions required to be taken by the general public.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes: Present the missions, policies, structures, and responsibilities of agencies for coordinating resource and programmatic support to States, tribes, and other agencies or other jurisdictions and entities when activated to provide coordinated support during an incident.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) Coordinator: The entity with management oversight for that particular ESF. The coordinator has ongoing responsibilities throughout the preparedness, response, and recovery phases of incident management.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) Primary Agency: An agency with significant authorities, roles, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) Support Agency: An entity with specific capabilities or resources that support the primary agencies in executing the mission of the ESF.

Emergency Support Functions (ESFs): Used by the Federal Government and many State governments as the primary mechanism at the operational level to organize and provide assistance. ESFs align categories of resources and provide strategic objectives for their use. ESFs utilize standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventorying, and tracking to facilitate the dispatch, deployment, and recovery of resources before, during, and after an incident.

External Affairs: Organizational element that provides accurate, coordinated, and timely information to affected audiences, including governments, media, the private sector, and the local populace.

Evacuation: Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
Event: See Planned Event.

Federal: Of or pertaining to the Federal Government of the United States of America.

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO): The official appointed by the President to execute Stafford Act authorities, including the commitment of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources and mission assignment of other Federal departments or agencies. In all cases, the FCO represents the FEMA Administrator in the field to discharge all FEMA responsibilities for the response and recovery efforts underway. For Stafford Act events, the FCO is the primary Federal representative with whom the State Coordinating Officer and other State, tribal, and local response officials interface to determine the most urgent needs and set objectives for an effective response in collaboration with the Unified Coordination Group.

Federal-to-Federal Support: Support that may occur when a Federal department or agency responding to an incident under its own jurisdictional authorities requests Department of Homeland Security coordination to obtain additional Federal assistance. As part of Federal-to-Federal support, Federal departments and agencies execute interagency or intra-agency reimbursable agreements, in accordance with the Economy Act or other applicable authorities.

Federal Resource Coordinator (FRC): Official who may be designated by the Department of Homeland Security in non-Stafford Act situations when a Federal department or agency acting under its own authority has requested the assistance of the Secretary of Homeland Security to obtain support from other Federal departments and agencies. In these situations, the FRC coordinates support through interagency agreements and memorandums of understanding. The FRC is responsible for coordinating timely delivery of resources to the requesting agency.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA Regional Offices: FEMA has 10 regional offices, each headed by a Regional Administrator. The regional field structures are FEMA’s permanent presence for communities and States across America.

Finance/Administration Section: (1) Incident Command: Section responsible for all administrative and financial considerations surrounding an incident. (2) Joint Field Office (JFO): Section responsible for the financial management, monitoring, and tracking of all Federal costs relating to the incident and the functioning of the JFO while adhering to all Federal laws and regulations.

Function: One of the five major activities in the Incident Command System: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The term function is also used when describing the activity involved (e.g., the planning function). A sixth function, Intelligence/Investigations, may be established, if required, to meet incident management needs.

Fusion Center: Facility that brings together into one central location law enforcement, intelligence, emergency management, public health, and other agencies, as well as private-sector and nongovernmental organizations when appropriate, and that has the capabilities to evaluate and act appropriately on all available information.

General Staff: A group of incident management personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander. The General Staff normally consists of the Operations Section.
Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief. An Intelligence/Investigations Chief may be established, if required, to meet incident management needs.

**Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force (GDHTF):** A group of representatives from State and Local Agencies, Volunteer Organizations and the Private Sector, that collectively examine and plan for the potential housing needs in Georgia following a catastrophic disaster occurring within Georgia or in the event that the state is asked to host displaced residents from another state due to similar circumstances.

**Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR):** Specially trained and equipped teams, strategically located across the Georgia that can locate, rescue (extricate), and provide initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces.

**Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (GAVOAD):** A consortium of more than 30 recognized state and national organizations active in disaster relief. Their organizations provide capabilities to incident management and response efforts at all levels. Agencies within the GAVOAD often times are able to assist local emergency management programs with such things as debris removal, direct assistance to private property owners and counseling services.

**Governor’s Authorized Representative:** An individual empowered by a Governor to: (1) execute all necessary documents for disaster assistance on behalf of the State, including certification of applications for public assistance; (2) represent the Governor of the impacted State in the Unified Coordination Group, when required; (3) coordinate and supervise the State disaster assistance program to include serving as its grant administrator; and (4) identify, in coordination with the State Coordinating Officer, the State’s critical information needs for incorporation into a list of Essential Elements of Information.

**Group:** Established to divide the incident management structure into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division. Groups, when activated, are located between Branches and resources in the Operations Section. See Division.

**Hazard:** Something that is potentially dangerous or harmful, often the root cause of an unwanted outcome.

**Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA):** A process to identify hazards and associated risk to persons, property, and structures and to improve protection from natural and human-caused hazards. HIRA serves as a foundation for planning, resource management, capability development, public education, and training and exercises.

**Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP):** A capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.

**Incident:** An occurrence or event, natural or manmade, that requires a response to protect life or property. Incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, civil unrest, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents,
Incident management organizations requirements overall are generally grouped in five types. Types I and II are national teams, Type III are State or regional, Type IV are discipline- or large jurisdiction-specific, and Type V are ad hoc incident command organizations typically used by smaller jurisdictions.

Incident Management: Refers to how incidents are managed across all homeland security activities, including prevention, protection, and response and recovery.

Incident Command: Entity responsible for overall management of the incident. Consists of the Incident Commander, either single or unified command, and any assigned supporting staff.

Incident Command Post (ICP): The field location where the primary functions are performed. The ICP may be co-located with the incident base or other incident facilities.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is a management system designed to enable effective incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.

Incident Commander: The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and the release of resources. The Incident Commander has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT): An interagency national- or regional-based team composed of subject-matter experts and incident management professionals from multiple Federal departments and agencies.

Incident Management Team (IMT): An incident command organization made up of the Command and General Staff members and appropriate functional units of an Incident Command System organization. The level of training and experience of the IMT members, coupled with the identified formal response requirements and responsibilities of the IMT, are factors in determining the “type,” or level, of IMT. IMTs are generally grouped in five types. Types I and II are national teams, Type III are State or regional, Type IV are discipline- or large jurisdiction-specific, and Type V are ad hoc incident command organizations typically used by smaller jurisdictions.
**Incident Objectives:** Statements of guidance and direction needed to select appropriate strategy(s) and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based on realistic expectations of what can be accomplished when all allocated resources have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow strategic and tactical alternatives.

**Infrastructure Liaison:** Individual assigned by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Infrastructure Protection who advises the Unified Coordination Group on regionally or nationally significant infrastructure and key resources issues.

**Interoperability:** The ability of emergency management/response personnel to interact and work well together. In the context of technology, interoperability also refers to having an emergency communications system that is the same or is linked to the same system that a jurisdiction uses for non-emergency procedures, and that effectively interfaces with national standards as they are developed. The system should allow the sharing of data with other jurisdictions and levels of government during planning and deployment.

**Job Aid:** A checklist or other visual aid intended to ensure that specific steps for completing a task or assignment are accomplished.

**Joint Field Office (JFO):** The primary Federal incident management field structure. The JFO is a temporary Federal facility that provides a central location for the coordination of Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations with primary responsibility for response and recovery. The JFO structure is organized, staffed, and managed in a manner consistent with National Incident Management System principles and is led by the Unified Coordination Group. Although the JFO uses an Incident Command System structure, the JFO does not manage on-scene operations. Instead, the JFO focuses on providing support to on-scene efforts and conducting broader support operations that may extend beyond the incident site.

**Joint Information Center (JIC):** An interagency entity established to coordinate and disseminate information for the public and media concerning an incident. JICs may be established locally, regionally, or nationally depending on the size and magnitude of the incident.

**Joint Information System (JIS):** Mechanism that integrates incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, accurate, accessible, timely, and complete information during crisis or incident operations. The mission of the JIS is to provide a structure and system for developing and delivering coordinated interagency messages; developing, recommending, and executing public information plans and strategies on behalf of the Incident Commander; advising the Incident Commander concerning public affairs issues that could affect a response effort; and controlling rumors and inaccurate information that could undermine public confidence in the emergency response effort.

**Joint Operations Center (JOC):** An interagency command post established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to manage terrorist threats or incidents and investigative and intelligence activities. The JOC coordinates the necessary local, State, and Federal assets required to support the investigation, and to prepare for, respond to, and resolve the threat or incident.
**Joint Task Force (JTF):** Based on the complexity and type of incident, and the anticipated level of Department of Defense (DOD) resource involvement, DOD may elect to designate a JTF to command Federal (Title 10) military activities in support of the incident objectives. If a JTF is established, consistent with operational requirements, its command and control element will be co-located with the senior on-scene leadership at the Joint Field Office (JFO) to ensure coordination and unity of effort. The co-location of the JTF command and control element does not replace the requirement for a Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO)/Defense Coordinating Element as part of the JFO Unified Coordination Staff. The DCO remains the DOD single point of contact in the JFO for requesting assistance from DOD.

**Joint Task Force (JTF) Commander:** Individual who exercises operational control of Federal military personnel and most defense resources in a Federal response. Some Department of Defense (DOD) entities, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, may respond under separate established authorities and do not provide support under the operational control of a JTF Commander. Unless federalized, National Guard forces remain under the control of a State Governor. Close coordination between Federal military, other DOD entities, and National Guard forces in a response is critical.

**Jurisdiction:** A range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g., Federal, State, tribal, and local boundary lines) or functional (e.g., law enforcement, public health).

**Jurisdictional Agency:** The agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area, or a mandated function.

**Key Resources:** Any publicly or privately controlled resources essential to the minimal operations of the economy and government.

**Liaison Officer:** A member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies or organizations.

**Local Government:** A county, municipality, city, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district,

**Logistics Section:** (1) Incident Command: Section responsible for providing facilities, services, and material support for the incident. (2) Joint Field Office (JFO): Section that coordinates logistics support to include control of and accountability for Federal supplies and equipment; resource ordering; delivery of equipment, supplies, and services to the JFO and other field locations; facility location, setup, space management, building services, and general facility operations; transportation coordination and fleet management services; information and technology systems services; administrative services such as mail management and reproduction; and customer assistance.

**Logistics Staging Area:** A pre-designated location at which state or mutual aid personnel, supplies, and equipment are to be received within Georgia during disasters, and then deployed to impacted counties.

**Long-Term Recovery:** A process of recovery that may continue for a number of months or years, depending on the severity and extent of the damage sustained. For example, long-term recovery may include the complete redevelopment of damaged areas.
The mechanism used to support Federal operations in a Stafford Act major disaster or emergency declaration. It orders immediate, short-term emergency response assistance when an applicable State or local government is overwhelmed by the event and lacks the capability to perform, or contract for, the necessary work. See also Pre-Scripted Mission Assignment.

Activities providing a critical foundation in the effort to reduce the loss of life and property from natural and/or manmade disasters by avoiding or lessening the impact of a disaster and providing value to the public by creating safer communities. Mitigation seeks to fix the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. These activities or actions, in most cases, will have a long-term sustained effect.

The process and procedures used by all organizations—Federal, State, tribal, and local—for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

Typically, administrators/executives, or their appointed representatives, who are authorized to commit agency resources and funds, are brought together and form MAC Groups. MAC Groups may also be known as multiagency committees, emergency management committees, or as otherwise defined by the system. A MAC Group can provide coordinated decisionmaking and resource allocation among cooperating agencies, and may establish the priorities among incidents, harmonize agency policies, and provide strategic guidance and direction to support incident management activities.

Multiagency coordination systems provide the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information coordination. The elements of multiagency coordination systems include facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications. Two of the most commonly used elements are emergency operations centers and MAC Groups. These systems assist agencies and organizations responding to an incident.

An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that each have jurisdiction to manage certain aspects of the incident. In the Incident Command System, these incidents will be managed under Unified Command.

Written or oral agreement between and among agencies/organizations and/or jurisdictions that provides a mechanism to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services. The primary objective is to facilitate rapid, short-term deployment of emergency support prior to, during, and/or after an incident.
**National**: Of a nationwide character, including the Federal, State, tribal, and local aspects of governance and policy.

**National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)**: A federally coordinated system that augments the Nation's medical response capability. The overall purpose of the NDMS is to establish a single, integrated national medical response capability for assisting State and local authorities in dealing with the medical impacts of major peacetime disasters. NDMS, under Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical Services, supports Federal agencies in the management and coordination of the Federal medical response to major emergencies and federally declared disasters.

**National Exercise Program**: A Department of Homeland Security-coordinated exercise program based upon the National Planning Scenarios contained which are the National Preparedness Guidelines. This program coordinates and, where appropriate, integrates a 5-year homeland security exercise schedule across Federal agencies and incorporates exercises at the State and local levels.

**National Incident Management System (NIMS)**: System that provides a proactive approach guiding government agencies at all levels, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work seamlessly to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life or property and harm to the environment.

**National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC)**: As part of the National Operations Center, monitors the Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources on an ongoing basis. During an incident, the NICC provides a coordinating forum to share information across infrastructure and key resources sectors through appropriate information-sharing entities.

**National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)**: Plan that provides a coordinated approach to critical infrastructure and key resources protection roles and responsibilities for Federal, State, tribal, local, and private-sector security partners. The NIPP sets national priorities, goals, and requirements for effective distribution of funding and resources that will help ensure that our government, economy, and public services continue in the event of a terrorist attack or other disaster.

**National Operations Center (NOC)**: Serves as the primary national hub for situational awareness and operations coordination across the Federal Government for incident management. The NOC provides the Secretary of Homeland Security and other principals with information necessary to make critical national-level incident management decisions.

**National Planning Scenarios**: Planning tools that represent a minimum number of credible scenarios depicting the range of potential terrorist attacks and natural disasters and related impacts facing our Nation. They form a basis for coordinated Federal planning, training, and exercises.

**National Preparedness Guidelines**: Guidance that establishes a vision for national preparedness and provides a systematic approach for prioritizing preparedness efforts across the Nation. These Guidelines focus policy, planning, and investments at all levels of government and the private sector. The Guidelines replace the Interim National Preparedness Goal and integrate recent lessons learned.
**National Response Coordination Center (NRCC):** As a component of the National Operations Center, serves as the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency primary operations center responsible for national incident response and recovery as well as national resource coordination. As a 24/7 operations center, the NRCC monitors potential or developing incidents and supports the efforts of regional and field components.

**National Response Framework (NRF):** Guides how the Nation conducts all-hazards response. The Framework documents the key response principles, roles, and structures that organize national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government, and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. And it describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. It allows first responders, decisionmakers, and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.

**Nongovernmental Organization (NGO):** An entity with an association that is based on interests of its members, individuals, or institutions. It is not created by a government, but it may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs include faith-based charity organizations and the American Red Cross. NGOs, including voluntary and faith-based groups, provide relief services to sustain life, reduce physical and emotional distress, and promote the recovery of disaster victims. Often these groups provide specialized services that help individuals with disabilities. NGOs and voluntary organizations play a major role in assisting emergency managers before, during, and after an emergency.

**Operations Section:** (1) Incident Command: Responsible for all tactical incident operations and implementation of the Incident Action Plan. In the Incident Command System, it normally includes subordinate Branches, Divisions, and/or Groups. (2) Joint Field Office: Coordinates operational support with on-scene incident management efforts. Branches, divisions, and groups may be added or deleted as required, depending on the nature of the incident. The Operations Section is also responsible for coordinating with other Federal facilities that may be established to support incident management activities.

**Planning Section:** (1) Incident Command: Section responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of operational information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of the Incident Action Plan in the Georgia State Operations Center. This Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. (2) Joint Field Office: Section that collects, evaluates, disseminates, and uses information regarding the threat or incident and the status of Federal resources. The Planning Section prepares and documents support actions and develops unified action, contingency, long-term, and other plans.

**Preparedness:** Actions that involve a combination of planning, resources, training, exercising, and organizing to build, sustain, and improve operational capabilities. Preparedness is the process of identifying the personnel, training, and equipment needed for a wide range of potential incidents, and developing jurisdiction-specific plans for delivering capabilities when needed for an incident.
**Pre-Positioned Resources:** Resources moved to an area near the expected incident site in response to anticipated resource needs.

**Pre-Scripted Mission Assignment:** A mechanism used often times in Georgia within the Georgia Department of Defense or ESF 7 (Resources) Planning area. Pre-scripted mission assignments identify resources or capabilities that state agencies, through the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), are commonly called upon to provide during incident response. Pre-scripted mission assignments allow primary and supporting ESF agencies to organize resources that will be deployed during incident response.

**Prevention:** Actions to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

**Primary Agency:** See Emergency Support Function (ESF) Primary Agency.

**Principal Federal Official (PFO):** May be appointed to serve as the Secretary of Homeland Security’s primary representative to ensure consistency of Federal support as well as the overall effectiveness of the Federal incident management for catastrophic or unusually complex incidents that require extraordinary coordination.

**Private Sector:** Organizations and entities that are not part of any governmental structure. The private sector includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal and informal structures, commerce, and industry.

**Protocol:** A set of established guidelines for actions (which may be designated by individuals, teams, functions, or capabilities) under various specified conditions.

**Public Information:** Processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely, accurate, accessible information on an incident’s cause, size, and current situation; resources committed; and other matters of general interest to the public, responders, and additional stakeholders (both directly affected and indirectly affected).

**Public Information Officer (PIO):** A member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media and/or with other agencies with incident-related information requirements.

**Recovery:** The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public-assistance programs to provide housing and to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; postincident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.
**Resource Management:** A system for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident. Resource management includes mutual aid and assistance agreements; the use of special Federal, State, tribal, and local teams; and resource mobilization protocols.

**Resources:** Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Under the *National Incident Management System*, resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an emergency operations center.

**Response:** Immediate actions to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency plans and actions to support short-term recovery.

**Section:** The organizational level having responsibility for a major functional area of incident management (e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Intelligence/Investigations (if established)).

**Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official (SFLEO):** An official appointed by the Attorney General during an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response to coordinate all law enforcement, public safety, and security operations with intelligence or investigative law enforcement operations directly related to the incident. The SFLEO is a member of the Unified Coordination Group and, as such, is responsible to ensure that allocation of law enforcement requirements and resource allocations are coordinated as appropriate with all other members of the Group. In the event of a terrorist incident, the SFLEO will normally be a senior Federal Bureau of Investigation official who has coordinating authority over all law enforcement activities related to the incident, both those falling within the Attorney General’s explicit authority as recognized in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 and those otherwise directly related to the incident itself.

**Short-Term Recovery:** A process of recovery that is immediate and overlaps with response. It includes such actions as providing essential public health and safety services, restoring interrupted utility and other essential services, reestablishing transportation routes, and providing food and shelter for those displaced by a disaster. Although called “short term,” some of these activities may last for weeks.

**Situation Report:** Document that contains confirmed or verified information and explicit details (who, what, where, and how) relating to an incident.

**Situational Awareness:** The ability to identify, process, and comprehend the critical elements of information about an incident.

**Span of Control:** The number of resources for which a supervisor is responsible, usually expressed as the ratio of supervisors to individuals. (Under the *National Incident Management System*, an appropriate span of control is between 1:3 and 1:7, with optimal being 1:5.)

**Special Needs Populations:** Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; who live in institutionalized settings; who
are elderly; who are children. Most emergency practitioners in Georgia recognize for disaster response purposes, those citizens with medical assistance needs that are above the services avail in congregate shelters, or those because of their medical conditions, require transportation assistance, especially during evacuation and re-entry operations.

**Stafford Act:** The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended. This Act describes the programs and processes by which the Federal Government provides disaster and emergency assistance to State and local governments, tribal nations, eligible private nonprofit organizations, and individuals affected by a declared major disaster or emergency. The Stafford Act covers all hazards, including natural disasters and terrorist events.

**Staging Area:** Any location in which personnel, supplies, and equipment can be temporarily housed or parked while awaiting operational assignment.

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):** Complete reference document or an operations manual that provides the purpose, authorities, duration, and details for the preferred method of performing a single function or a number of interrelated functions in a uniform manner.

**State Coordinating Officer (SCO):** The individual appointed by the Governor to coordinate State disaster assistance efforts with those of the Federal Government. The SCO plays a critical role in managing the State response and recovery operations following Stafford Act declarations. The Governor of the affected State appoints the SCO, and lines of authority flow from the Governor to the SCO, following the State's policies and laws.

**State Operations Center (SOC):** The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support those incidents and or events that warrant a significant state response. The current Georgia SOC is co-located with GEMA Headquarters in Atlanta, GA. Alternate SOCs are identified and may be activated when necessary.

**Status Report:** Relays information specifically related to the status of resources (e.g., the availability or assignment of resources).

**Support Agency:** See Emergency Support Function (ESF) Support Agency.

**Support Annexes:** Describe how Federal departments and agencies, the private sector, volunteer organizations, and nongovernmental organizations coordinate and execute the common support processes and administrative tasks required during an incident. The actions described in the Support Annexes are not limited to particular types of events, but are overarching in nature and applicable to nearly every type of incident.

**Task Force:** Any combination of resources assembled to support a specific mission or operational need. All resource elements within a Task Force must have common communications and a designated leader.

**Terrorism:** As defined under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, any activity that involves an act dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States in which it occurs; and is intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population or influence or

**Threat:** An indication of possible violence, harm, or danger.

**Unified Area Command:** Command system established when incidents under an Area Command are multi-jurisdictional. See Area Command.

**Unified Command (UC):** An Incident Command System application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through the designated members of the UC, often the senior person from agencies and/or disciplines participating in the UC, to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan.

**Unity of Command:** Principle of management stating that each individual involved in incident operations will be assigned to only one supervisor.

**Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Forces:** A framework for structuring local emergency services personnel into integrated disaster response task forces. The 28 National US&R Task Forces, complete with the necessary tools, equipment, skills, and techniques, can be deployed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist State and local governments in rescuing victims of structural collapse incidents or to assist in other search and rescue missions.

**Volunteer:** Any individual accepted to perform services by the lead agency (which has authority to accept volunteer services) when the individual performs services without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation for services performed.
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