

Overview of Emergency Support Functions

ESFs are the primary, but not exclusive, response coordinating structures at the federal level (p. 21). Communities, states, regions, and other tribal, territorial, insular area, and federal departments and agencies may use the ESF construct, or they may employ other coordinating structures or partners appropriate to their location, threats, or authorities (p. 21). Each ESF is composed of a department or agency that has been designated as the ESF coordinator, along with a number of primary and support agencies (p. 21). Primary agencies are designated on the basis of their authorities, resources, and capabilities (p. 21). Support agencies are assigned based on resources or capabilities in a given functional area (p. 21).

The federal ESFs bring together the capabilities of federal departments and agencies and other national-level assets (p. 37). Most federal ESFs support a number of the response core capabilities (p. 37). The core capabilities are delivered to stabilize the community lifelines (p. 37). Any core capability may be required to help stabilize any community lifeline; therefore, any ESF can contribute toward the stabilization of any community lifeline in coordination with the lead ESF (p. 37).

Table I. Description of Emergency Support Functions

ESF	Example Supporting Actions or Capabilities
ESF #1 Transportation	Coordinate the opening of roads and manage aviation airspace for access to health and medical facilities or services.
ESF #2 Communications	Provide and enable contingency communications required at health and medical facilities.
ESF #3 Public Works & Engineering	Install generators and provide other temporary emergency power sources for health and medical facilities.
ESF #4 Firefighting	Coordinates federal firefighting activities and supports resource requests for public health and medical facilities and teams.
ESF #5 Information & Planning	Develop coordinated interagency crisis action plans addressing health and medical issues.
ESF #6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, & Human Assistance	Integrate voluntary agency and other partner support, including other federal agencies and the private sector, to resource health and medical services and supplies.
ESF #7 Logistics	Provide logistics support for moving meals, water, or other commodities.
ESF #8 Public Health & Medical Services	Provide health and medical support to communities, and coordinate across capabilities of partner agencies.
ESF #9 Search & Rescue	Conduct initial health and medical needs assessments.

ESF	Example Supporting Actions or Capabilities
ESF #10 Oil & Hazardous Materials Response	Monitor air quality near health and medical facilities in close proximity to the incident area.
ESF #11 Agriculture & Natural Resources	Coordinate with health and medical entities to address incidents of zoonotic disease.
ESF #12 Energy	Coordinate power restoration efforts for health and medical facilities or power-dependent medical populations.
ESF #13 Public Safety & Security	Provide public safety needed security at health and medical facilities or mobile teams delivering services.
ESF #14 Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure	Be informed of and assess cascading impacts of health or medical infrastructure or service disruptions, and deconflict or prioritize cross-sector requirements.
ESF #15 External Affairs	Conduct public messaging on the status of available health and medical services or public health risks.

Table II. Description of Federal Emergency Support Functions.

ESF #1 – Transportation ESF Coordinator: Department of Transportation
Coordinates the support of management of transportation systems and infrastructure, the regulation of transportation, management of the Nation’s airspace, and ensuring the safety and security of the national transportation system. Functions include but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Transportation modes management and control;▪ Transportation safety;▪ Stabilization and reestablishment of transportation infrastructure;▪ Movement restrictions; and▪ Damage and impact assessment.
ESF #2 – Communications ESF Coordinator: DHS/ Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Coordinates government and industry efforts for the reestablishment and provision of critical communications infrastructure and services, facilitates the stabilization of systems and applications from malicious activity (e.g., cyber), and coordinates communications support to response efforts (e.g., emergency communication services and emergency alerts and telecommunications). Functions include but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coordination with telecommunications and information technology industries;▪ Coordination of the reestablishment and provision of critical communications infrastructure;▪ Protection, reestablishment, and sustainment of national cyber and information technology resources;▪ Oversight of communications within the federal response structures; and▪ Facilitation of the stabilization of systems and applications from cyber events.
ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering ESF Coordinator: DOD/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Coordinates the capabilities and resources to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other support to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or an incident. Functions include but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Infrastructure protection and emergency repair;▪ Critical infrastructure reestablishment;▪ Engineering services and construction management; and▪ Emergency contracting support for life-saving and life-sustaining services.
ESF #4 – Firefighting ESF Coordinator: USDA/U.S. Forest Service and DHS/FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration
Coordinates the support for the detection and suppression of fires. Functions include but are not limited to supporting wildland, rural, and urban firefighting operations.
ESF #5 – Information and Planning ESF Coordinator: DHS/FEMA
Supports and facilitates multiagency planning and coordination for operations involving incidents requiring federal coordination. Functions include but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deliberate and crisis action planning; and▪ Information collection, analysis, visualization and dissemination.

ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services**ESF Coordinator: DHS/FEMA**

Coordinates the delivery of mass care and emergency assistance. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Mass care;
- Emergency assistance;
- Temporary housing; and
- Human services.

ESF #7 – Logistics**ESF Coordinator: General Services Administration and DHS/FEMA**

Coordinates comprehensive incident resource planning, management, and sustainment capability to meet the needs of disaster survivors and responders. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Comprehensive national incident logistics planning, management, and sustainment capability; and
- Resource support (e.g., facility space, office equipment and supplies, and contracting services).

ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services**ESF Coordinator: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Coordinates the mechanisms for assistance in response to an actual or potential public health and medical disaster or incident. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Public health;
- Medical surge support, including patient movement;
- Behavioral health services;
- Mass fatality management; and
- Veterinary, medical, and public health services.

ESF #9 – Search and Rescue**ESF Coordinator: DHS/FEMA**

Coordinates the rapid deployment of search and rescue resources to provide specialized life-saving assistance. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Structural collapse (urban) search and rescue;
- Maritime/coastal/waterborne search and rescue; and
- Land search and rescue.

ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**ESF Coordinator: Environmental Protection Agency**

Coordinates support in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or release of oil or hazardous materials. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Environmental assessment of the nature and extent of oil and hazardous materials contamination; and
- Environmental decontamination and cleanup, including buildings/structures and management of contaminated waste.

ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources**ESF Coordinator: Department of Agriculture**

Coordinates a variety of functions designed to protect the Nation's food supply, respond to pest and disease incidents impacting agriculture, and protect natural and cultural resources. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Nutrition assistance;
- Agricultural disease and pest response;
- Technical expertise, coordination, and support of animal and agricultural emergency management;
- Meat, poultry, and processed egg products safety and defense; and
- Natural and cultural resources and historic properties protection.

ESF #12 – Energy

ESF Coordinator: Department of Energy

Facilitates the reestablishment of damaged energy systems and components, and provides technical expertise during an incident involving radiological/nuclear materials. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Energy infrastructure assessment, repair, and reestablishment;
- Energy industry utilities coordination; and
- Energy forecast.

ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security

ESF Coordinator: Department of Justice/Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Coordinates the integration of public safety and security capabilities and resources to support the full range of incident management activities. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Facility and resource security;
- Security planning and technical resource assistance;
- Public safety and security support; and
- Support to access, traffic, and crowd control.

ESF #14 – Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure

ESF Coordinator: DHS/Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Coordinates cross-sector operations with infrastructure owners and operators, businesses, and their government partners, with particular focus on actions taken by businesses and infrastructure owners and operators in one sector to assist other sectors to better prevent or mitigate cascading failures between them. Focuses particularly on those sectors not currently aligned to other ESFs (e.g., the Financial Services Sector). Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Assessment, analysis, and situational awareness of cross-sector challenges; and
- Facilitates operational coordination with critical infrastructure sectors.

ESF #15 – External Affairs

ESF Coordinator: DHS

Coordinates the release of accurate, coordinated, timely, and accessible public information to affected audiences, including the government, media, NGOs, and the private sector. Works closely with state and local officials to ensure outreach to the whole community. Functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Public affairs and the Joint Information Center;
- Intergovernmental (local, state, tribal, territorial, nongovernmental, and private sector) affairs; and
- Congressional affairs.