



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pollution responses can involve a large number of organizations due to the potential for widespread and diverse impacts. Government agencies at several levels may have jurisdiction over different aspects of a pollution response. To ensure effective coordination, lead agencies have been designated within the National Response System to coordinate or direct pollution response efforts. While many pollution incidents are small and are cleaned up by the responsible party under the supervision of local authorities, the National Response System ensures that state and federal resources are available to ensure adequate cleanup on larger or more complex spills. Within the National Response System, the US Department of Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been designated as the supporting agency for oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents occurring within the U.S.

In addition, under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP – 40 CFR Part 300.175), USDA has the scientific and technical capability to measure, evaluate, and monitor, either on the ground or by use of aircraft, situations where natural resources including soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation have been impacted by hazardous substances and other natural or manmade emergencies. Through the Forest Service, additional response equipment is also available.

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The Hazardous Materials Policy Council Hazardous Materials Management Division (HMMD) serves as USDA's representative on the National Response Team for oil spills and hazardous materials releases and is the Region III Regional Response Team (RRT) point of contact.

GENERAL

USDA, through organizations such as the Forest Service and Agricultural Research Service, contribute personnel, laboratory, and field capabilities to evaluate, monitor, and control situations where natural resources, including soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation, have been impacted by hazardous substances and other natural or manmade emergencies. Through the Forest Service, additional response equipment is also available.

Mission Statement

The USDA will provide management leadership to ensure that USDA administrative programs, policies, advice and counsel meet the needs of USDA program organizations, consistent with laws and mandates; and provide safe and efficient facilities and services to customers.

Organization/Structure

The USDA HMMD, would coordinate USDA resources with Region III during an ESF 10 activation including the following agencies:

- Forest Service (FS)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- Rural Development (RD)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

- Economic Research Service (ERS)
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The Washington, DC HMMD Office is the main contact for the jurisdictional area served by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) RIII and is the link to all agency resources within the USDA.

Role/Responsibility

It is the policy of USDA to be prepared to respond swiftly in the event of natural disaster, technological, national security, and other emergencies at the national, regional, State, and county levels in order to provide support and comfort to the people of the United States.

USDA will provide its vast array of resources for a response under the NCP by request of the RRT. The resources that are most likely to be utilized include: the Hazardous Material Management Group, APHIS, FSA, Food Safety, and the Forest Service.

Laws/Authorities Governing their Response (to be reviewed)

- National Response Plan
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Stafford Act, as Amended
- USDA Departmental Regulation 1800-1, as Amended
- Executive Order 12148 — Federal Emergency Management



Laws/Authorities Governing their Response (con't) (to be reviewed)

- Executive Order 12656 — Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities Executive Order 12656 — Assignment Of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- Executive Order 13148 – Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management
- HSPD-5 Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-7 Critical Infrastructure
- HSPD-8 National Preparedness
- HSPD-9 Defense of United States Agriculture and Food
- HSPD-10 Biodefense for the 21st Century

Response Requirements

During times of national threat or a Presidential Declaration, the Department of Homeland Security serves as the planning integrator for the President for a more robust federal incident management capability and in order to coordinate all Federal incident Management Activities in support of our State and local partners. All Federal departments and agencies may play significant roles in incident management and response activities, depending on the nature and size of an event. FEMA coordinates response support from across the Federal Government and certain NGOs by calling up, as needed, one or more of the 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF).

Each of these functions are coordinated by a single agency (Primary ESF Coordinating Agency) but may rely on other agencies (Support Agencies) to provide resources for each functional area. The mission of the ESFs is to provide the greatest possible access to capabilities of the Federal Government regardless of which agency has those capabilities. Under the National Response Framework (formerly known as the National Response Plan), the USDA and its member agencies and services plays a role (either as the Primary or as a Support agency) for the following ESFs:

DEFINED:

ESF #1 – Support Agency – Forest Service provides Transportation assets when Forest Service Resources are the most effective to support the ESF #1 mission.

ESF #2 – Support Agency – Forest Service provides radio communications systems for support of firefighters, law enforcement officers and incident response operations. Also provides the technical personnel to assist and support the

Communications Branch Director / Federal Emergency Communications Coordinator (FECC) and to maintain the National Interagency Radio Support Systems (NIRSS).

ESF #3 – Supporting Agency – USDA & Forest Service – Provides technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other support personnel.

ESF #4 – Primary Agency – Forest Service

ESF #5 – Supporting Agency – USDA – Provide Incident Command System (ICS) expertise and staff representation.

ESF #6 – Supporting Agency – USDA / Food and Nutrition Service – locate, secure supplies of food to supplement those in the disaster area.; Forest Service – provide departmental resources for shelters and provide logistical guidance and support.

ESF #7 – Supporting Agency – USDA & Forest Service – provide management and support of mobilization centers.

ESF #8 – Supporting Agency – USDA & Forest Service – provide personnel, equipment, supplies and food for communications, aircraft, and establishment of base camps for federal health and medical teams in disaster area.

ESF #9 – Supporting Agency – Forest Service

ESF #10 – Supporting Agency – USDA – ensure food safety, distribution and monitoring and various other farm assistance.

ESF #11 – Primary Agency – USDA Food and Nutrition Service – assess supplies, coordinate distribution of food supplies.

ESF #12 – Supporting Agency – USDA Rural Utilities Service – Provide guidance on restoration of electrical power in rural utilities services systems.

ESF #13 – Supporting Agency – Forest Service

ESF#14 – Primary Agency – USDA

ESF #15 – Supporting Agency – USDA

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