

# ANNEX F

## Firefighting





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## Annex F

### Firefighting

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# ANNEX F

## FIREFIGHTING

### I. AUTHORITY

See Section 1 of the Basic Plan for general authorities  
City of Arlington (Arlington), Basic Plan, Attachment 2

### II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to outline operational concepts and organizational arrangements for firefighting during emergency situations at University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). The primary responsibility of this annex and best practice guidelines is assigned to Arlington. Arlington has the responsibility for fire suppression, rescue, and radiological protection operations.

### III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

#### A. Acronyms

Arlington	City of Arlington
EH&S	Environmental Health & Safety
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
HazMat	Hazardous Material
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NRF	National Response Framework
UTA	University of Texas at Arlington

#### B. Definitions

1. Consequence management. Measures taken to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorism. Emergency management agencies normally have the lead role in consequence management. The requirements of crisis management and consequence management are combined in the National Response Framework (NRF).
2. Crisis management. Measures taken to define the threat and identify terrorist acts, resolve terrorist incidents, investigate such incidents, and apprehend those responsible. Law enforcement agencies would normally take the lead role in crisis management. The requirements of crisis management and consequence management are combined in the NRF.

3. Expedient evacuation. Evacuations that must be conducted with little notice, frequently in response to a request from the incident commander (IC) at the scene. The NRF defines hazardous materials (HazMat) as a substance or material, including a hazardous substance, that has been determined by the secretary of transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated under the provisions of 49 Code of Federal Regulations 172.101. The term is also intended to mean hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants as defined by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.
4. Incident action plan. An oral or written plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy for managing an incident. It would include the identification of operational resources and assignments. It would also include attachments that provide direction and important information for management of an incident during one or more operational periods.
5. Terrorist incident. Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, terrorism is defined as activity that involves an act dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources and 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 a government or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assignation, or kidnapping. See Section 2 (15), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

## IV. SITUATION & ASSUMPTIONS

### A. Situation

UTA depends on Arlington for fire protection. Fire prevention and control are daily procedures faced by Arlington personnel. Several hazards present difficulties with regard to fire protection, including conflagrations, nuclear attack, and hazardous materials accidents. Severe structural damage resulting from tornadoes, floods, explosions, water related disasters, or war could result in death, missing persons and people trapped in damaged and/or collapsed structures. Fire scenes would present problems requiring a response by law enforcement, public works, utilities, public health authorities and Environmental Protection Agency. In these cases, effective inter-agency coordination using National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS) is essential.

### B. Assumptions

1. According to Arlington, existing fire personnel and equipment would be able to handle most emergency situations through the use of existing mutual aid agreements.
2. When additional support is required, assistance would be obtained from state and federal agencies.
3. A properly trained, equipped, organized fire department would provide the capability to conduct search and rescue operations. This task would be performed by Arlington.

## V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. General

Arlington has the primary responsibility for protecting UTA students, staff, and faculty from fire hazards, HazMat spills, and radiological incidents.

The responsibility of Arlington in a disaster situations are basically the same as in daily operations. The primary responsibility is fire control. Arlington is involved on a regular basis with rescue operations, treatment of the injured, hazardous materials, and support for radiological protection agencies. Arlington personnel are trained in specialized skills, such as emergency medical technician, underway recovery, and extrication process.

### B. Implementation of NIMS/ICS

1. The first official responder on the scene of an emergency situation would initiate the ICS and establish an incident command post (ICP). As other responders arrive, the individual most qualified to deal with the specific situation present would serve as the IC. For fire, hazmat, and radiological incidents, the senior firefighter would generally assume the role of IC. The IC would direct and control responding resources and designate emergency operating areas. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would not be activated.
2. During major emergencies, disasters, or catastrophic incidents, it would be necessary to transition from the normal ICS structure to a multi-agency coordination system. The EOC is central to this system, and functions as a conduit for coordinating information and resources. The IC would manage and direct the on-scene response from the ICP. The EOC would mobilize and deploy resources for use by the IC, coordinate external resource and technical support, research problems, provide information to senior managers, disseminate emergency public information, and perform other tasks to support on-scene operations. In the event of a catastrophic incident, considerations would be made for the implementation of the regional response framework.

### C. Protective Action Recommendations

1. Arlington's personnel are generally the most knowledgeable regarding the threats posed by fire, radiological materials, and other hazardous materials. As such, they are responsible for assessing threat hazards and recommending to the IC appropriate protective actions for emergency responders, including requirements for personal protective equipment. Arlington personnel are also responsible for recommending appropriate protective actions to ensure public safety in the immediate vicinity of a threat. UTA Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) can be a resource to Arlington in determining what hazardous materials exist on campus.
2. EH&S is responsible for inspecting and maintaining fire and life safety systems on UTA. UTA fire marshal is responsible for conducting fire and life safety training and regular inspections of campus buildings.

## D. Evacuation Operations

1. The IC would direct an expedient evacuation at the incident site, isolation area, or protective action area associated with a fire, HazMat spill, or radiological incident. Arlington and other emergency responders on site would normally initiate the evacuation pending the arrival of follow-on forces.
2. Major fires, hazardous material spills, or a terrorist incident would require a large-scale evacuation. In the event of an evacuation, Arlington's teams would be tasked to:
  - a. Alert students, staff, and faculty in the affected area who have not been warned by other means.
  - b. Evacuate individuals who require assistance.

## E. Terrorist Incident Response

1. Crisis management. Law enforcement agencies generally have the lead in terrorism crisis management activities. Arlington would provide support as requested. Refer to UTA Annex V, Terrorist Incident Response, for more information on the response to terrorist threats and activities.
2. Consequence management. Coordination would be paramount during terrorist incident consequence management activities due to multi-agency involvement and potentially overlapping roles and responsibilities. The ranking official from the agency with primary responsibility for the incident would assume the position of IC. Arlington would normally have the lead local role in consequence management for terrorist incidents involving conventional explosives, radiological materials, and chemical agents. During consequence management, the IC would coordinate response and recovery operations with law enforcement authorities conducting crisis management operations.

## F. Requesting External Assistance

1. If Arlington's resources are inadequate to deal with an emergency situation, the Arlington fire chief or designee would request additional fire resources pursuant to inter-local (mutual aid) agreements.
2. If Arlington's resources and those obtained pursuant to inter-local agreements are insufficient to deal with an emergency situation, statewide mutual aid would be requested in accordance with the *Texas Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan*, see *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*, Annex F, Section IV.H.
3. If the foregoing resources are inadequate to deal with an emergency situation, Arlington would request state firefighting assistance from the disaster district committee in Hurst, Texas. This is a collaboration of Arlington and Tarrant County Emergency Management.
4. During times of extreme fire danger, the Texas fire service would pre-stage firefighting resources in several parts of the state. Arlington would make requests for these resources to

the Disaster District Committee. During emergency situations where time is of the essence, the Arlington's fire chief would make resource requests directly to a Texas fire service regional fire coordinator.

## **G. Phases of Emergency Management**

### 1. Prevention

- a. Arlington, UTA EH&S, and Texas State Fire Marshal's Office, would enforce fire codes.
- b. Recommend fire prevention activities such as brush clearance, outdoor burning restrictions, and use of fireworks when conditions warrant.
- c. EH&S would be a resource to Arlington in determining what hazardous materials exist on campus and at research facilities.
- d. Arlington would maintain current information on known fire hazards present in facilities such as refineries, factories, power plants, and other commercial businesses. On campus, EH&S provides resources to Arlington to known fire hazardous in research facilities and labs with hazardous chemical inventories.

### 2. Preparedness

- a. Arlington would maintain a list of all firefighting resources.
- b. Arlington would inspect and maintain all equipment.
- c. Arlington would stockpile specialized supplies.
- d. Arlington would ensure all Arlington personnel are properly trained on fire control, HazMat response, rescue, and NIMS/ICS. Arlington's emergency response personnel meet the NIMS national qualification and certification standards.
- e. Arlington and UTA police department would develop communications procedures to ensure adequate communications between fire units, law enforcement units, and other emergency responders.
- f. Arlington would plan and execute NIMS compliant training exercises for all firefighting personnel on a regular basis.
- g. Arlington would test, maintain, and repair equipment on a scheduled basis.
- h. Arlington would revise and update response plans at regular intervals.

### 3. Response

- a. Arlington would contain, control, and extinguish fires.

- b. Arlington would initiate rescue missions, as necessary.
  - c. UTA police department and EH&S in collaboration with Arlington, would alert and advise all emergency response personnel and decision-makers to the dangers associated with HazMat and fire during emergency operations.
  - d. Arlington would control HazMat incidents within departmental capabilities giving priority to public and firefighter safety and protecting property.
  - e. Arlington would conduct radiological monitoring and assessment within departmental capability. Maintain an operational radiological protection program in accordance with state and federal standards. The NRF nuclear/radiological incident annex addresses the federal response to incidents involving radiological materials.
  - f. Arlington and UTA police department would initiate evacuation of emergency scenes if necessary.
  - g. Arlington would provide fire inspections and fire protection for temporary shelter and mass care facilities. If UTA opens a temporary shelter and mass care facilities, the UTA fire marshal would provide fire inspections of the facilities.
4. Recovery
- a. Arlington in collaboration with the UTA fire marshal would perform fire inspections of restored or reconstructed buildings.
  - b. Arlington would perform or assist in decontamination and cleanup.
  - c. Arlington would assess damage to fire equipment and facilities if necessary.
  - d. Arlington would recommend condemnation of unsafe buildings.
  - e. When an event occurs on campus, UTA falls under the jurisdiction of Texas State Fire Marshal's Office therefore after the review of fire codes in relation to an incident or disaster, the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office would recommend improvements.

## VI. ORGANIZATION & ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. General

1. Arlington's emergency organization would coordinate firefighting efforts conducted as part of emergency operations in accordance with NIMS. Most fires can be handled by Arlington personnel, with limited support from one or two other emergency services, operating under an IC. The EOC would be activated during major emergencies and disasters involving significant fires or fires occurring simultaneously with other hazards. These situations would require the commitment of all emergency services and external assistance. In such incidents, transition to a multi-agency coordination system is advisable. In the event of a catastrophic

incident, considerations would be made for the implementation of regional response framework.

2. The Arlington fire chief would serve as the chief fire officer and coordinate emergency firefighting operations. Arlington fire officer would normally serve as the IC for the response to fires, HazMat incidents, chemical spills, and radiological incidents.

## **B. Task Assignments**

### Arlington

- a. Coordinate all fire service activities within UTA.
- b. Provide fire control and protection.
- c. Assist in warning and operation of warning sirens.
- d. Support shelter/mass care operations.
- e. Support radiological protection.
- f. Assist during evacuations.
- g. Assist with control of hazardous materials.
- h. Support state fire codes, along with UTA EH&S, Texas State Fire Marshal's Office, and UTA Police Department.
- i. Support other public safety operations, as necessary.
- j. Conduct rescue operations.
- k. Provide basic life support via the first responder program.
- l. Coordinate triage, treatment, and transport of victims.

### IC

- a. Establish an ICP, control and direct emergency response resources.
- b. Assess the incident, request any additional resources needed, and provide periodic updates to the Arlington, and UTA's EOC if activated.
- c. Determine and implement initial protective actions for emergency responders, students, staff and faculty in the vicinity of the incident site.

### UTA police department

Upon request of the IC, initiate evacuation actions and provide perimeter access control around incident sites.

#### UTA EH&S

- a. Provide chemical inventories of buildings when requested.
- b. Supply information as needed to assist Arlington.

#### UTA facilities management

Assist Arlington in providing building specification information.

## VII. DIRECTION & CONTROL

### A. General

Routine operations would be handled according to Arlington's standard operating procedures. During major emergencies or disaster situations which require Arlington EOC activation, the Arlington fire chief or designated representative would be responsible for coordinating all emergency Arlington operations in accordance with NIMS. An on-scene ICP would be established at the site(s) of a disaster situation in conjunction with other responding departments and agencies, such as law enforcement, public works, utilities, and the American Red Cross. The ranking on scene chief from Arlington would be in charge of fire suppression, rescue activities, and treatment/transporting of the injured and reports to the EOC chief at the city and the EOC manager on campus.

### B. IC – EOC Interface

Arlington fire chief or designated representative would establish and maintain communications from the Arlington communication center/EOC and direct emergency operations in coordination with UTA Police Department and agencies representatives. In such incidents, transition to multi-agency coordination system is advisable. In the event of a catastrophic incident, considerations would be made for the implementation of regional response framework. In emergency situations where other jurisdictions, state or federal agencies are providing significant response resources or technical assistances, it is generally desirable to transition from the normal ICS structure to a unified command structure. This arrangement helps to ensure that all participating agencies are involved in developing objectives and strategies to deal with the emergency.

### C. Line of Succession

The line of succession for the fire chief is:

1. Arlington assistant fire chief – fire rescue support
2. Arlington assistant fire chief – fire rescue
3. Arlington assistant fire chief – fire prevention

## VIII. READINESS ACTIONS

### A. Readiness Level 4 – Normal Conditions

1. Arlington would review and update fire and rescue plans, procedures, and standard operating procedures.
2. Arlington would review assignment of all personnel.
3. Arlington would conduct tests and training exercises.

### B. Readiness Level 3 – Increased Readiness

1. Arlington would check readiness of fire/rescue equipment.
2. Arlington would check deficiencies in fire and rescue equipment and facilities.

### C. Readiness Level 2 – High Readiness

1. Arlington would alert personnel of possible emergency duty.
2. Arlington would alert auxiliary personnel.

### D. Readiness Level 1 – Maximum Readiness

Arlington would mobilize all fire and rescue personnel.

## IX. ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

### A. Reporting

The IC would forward periodic reports to the EOC. Pertinent information would be incorporated into the initial emergency report and periodic situation reports. The essential elements of information for the initial emergency report and the situation report are outlined in Support Documents 15 and 17 to UTA Annex N, Direction and Control.

### B. Records

Activity logs. The IC and, if activated, the EOC, would maintain accurate logs recording significant operational activities, the commitment of resources, and other information relating to emergency response and recovery operations. See Section UTA IX., B of Annex N, Direction and Control, for more information on the types of information that would be recorded in activity logs.

EOC information/action logs. The log is a chronological record of events pertaining to a particular incident or period of time. The log is not intended to record each detail of an incident(s), but only to summarize the occurrence(s) and make reference to supporting

documents. Accurate data with sufficient data to fix the time and place and describe important events would characterize all entries in the log. Events would be recorded as they occur. If supporting documents are used to describe the incident(s), the time used would be the same as used on the support document to provide an accurate audit trail. See UTA Annex N, Direction and Control Support Document 14.

### **C. Resources**

A listing of local fire department resources is found in Appendix 2 and 3 of Arlington's Annex M, Resource Management.

### **D. Communications**

Arlington would operate within Arlington's 800 MHz system, see Support Document 1. Arlington, Arlington Police Department, and American medical response ambulance service would operate the communications center located at 620 West Division, Arlington, Texas. The center is staffed 24 hours by dispatcher services personnel. Equipment would be available to provide communications necessary for emergency operations. An internal recall roster would be maintained. Notification would be available by communications.

### **E. Messages**

When written messages are required between Arlington Communications Center, EOC, UTA, and other city departments, they would be handled using the forms found in UTA Annex N, Direction & Control Support Document 11, 12, 13.

## **X. DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE**

UTA in coordination with Arlington is responsible for developing and maintaining this annex.

UTA and Arlington department and agencies assigned responsibilities in this annex are responsible for developing and maintaining standard operating procedures covering those responsibilities.

## **XI. REFERENCES**

*State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*  
*Texas Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan*