



Georgia Emergency Operations Plan



JANUARY 2013

UPDATED: JANUARY 2015

Table of Contents

Executive Order-January 2013

Table of Contents	1
Record of Changes	8
GEOP January 2015 Comprehensive Review	9
PREFACE	10
1.0 Introduction	14
1.1 Purpose.....	14
1.2 Scope.....	14
2.0 Situation Overview	15
2.1 Hazard Analysis	16
2.1.1 Natural Hazards	16
2.1.2 Technological Hazards	21
2.1.3 Human-Caused Hazards	23
2.2 Impact Analysis.....	25
2.2.1 Potential Impact	26
2.3 Planning Assumptions	27
3.0 Concept of Operations (CONOPS).....	29
3.1 General.....	29
3.2 Plan Activation	29
3.3 National Incident Management System	30
4.0 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities.....	31
4.1 Local Responsibility in Emergency Management.....	31
4.1.1 Chief Elected or Appointed Official	31
4.1.2 Local Emergency Management Agency Director.....	32
4.1.3 County, City Department and Agency Heads.....	33
4.2 Individual Citizens Responsibility in Emergency Management.....	33
4.3 Private Sector Partners Responsibility in Emergency Management .	35
4.4 Non-government & Faith Based Organizations in Emergency Management	35

4.5 State Responsibility in Emergency Management.....	36
4.6 State Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)	36
5.0 Direction, Control and Coordination	40
5.1 Direction.....	40
5.2 Control and Coordination.....	40
5.3 Public Information / Situation Reporting.....	41
5.4 Finance and Administration	42
5.5 Information Collection, Analysis and Dissemination	42
5.5.1 Situational Awareness	42
5.6 Communications	42
5.6.1 Information Planning	42
5.7 Administration, Finance and Logistics	44
5.7.1 Administration and Finance	44
5.7.2 Logistics	45
6.0 Plan Development and Maintenance	46
7.0 Authorities and References.....	48
7.1 State Agencies, Boards, Authorities, Partners and Private Sector and Non-governmental Organizations with GEOP Responsibilities.....	49
7.2 GEMA/HS Planning Document List	60



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia may be subjected to emergencies and disasters of various kinds and of different magnitudes; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia will continue to be prepared to respond during emergencies and disaster to protect public peace, health and safety and to preserve lives and property of people; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia will plan and prepare in order to implement effective 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 Agency/Homeland Security; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia, through GEMA/Homeland Security, will coordinate emergency mitigation, preparedness, prevention, 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 GEMA /Homeland Security 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 GEMA / Homeland Security shall be authorized to activate and deactivate the State Operations Center that may be opened in 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 times of emergencies or disasters.

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 Department of Transportation
Georgia Department of Public Safety
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 2 –Communications

Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Primary: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 3 –Public Works and Engineering

Coordinator: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Primary: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Georgia Department of Transportation
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 4 –Firefighting

Coordinator: Georgia Forestry Commission
Primary: Georgia Forestry Commission
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 5 –Emergency Management

Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Primary: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

***Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance,
Housing and Human Services***

Coordinator: Georgia Department of Human Services
Primary: Georgia Department of Human Services
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Support Agencies: American Red Cross
As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 7 – Logistics Management and Resources

Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Primary: Georgia Department of Administrative Services
Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Georgia Forestry Commission
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Coordinator: Georgia Department of Public Health
Primary: Georgia Department of Public Health
Georgia Department of Community Health
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 9 – Search and Rescue

Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Primary: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 10 – Hazardous Materials

Coordinator: Environmental Protection Division, Georgia
Department of Natural Resources
Primary: Environmental Protection Division, Georgia
Department of Natural Resources
Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

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 the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 12 – Energy

Coordinator: Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
Primary: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
Georgia Public Service Commission
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

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
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 14 – Long Term Recovery

Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Primary: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

Coordinator: Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Primary: Office of the Governor
Georgia Emergency Management
Agency/Homeland Security
Support Agencies: As listed in the Emergency Support Function Annex
of the GEOP, 2012

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 Agency/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 Guides.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That each state agency with primary and or support responsibilities shall assign personnel to serve in the State Operations Center (SOC) and or other state command

and control facilities as necessary, maintain a twenty-four 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 improvement 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 Agency/Homeland Security.

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 14 day of January, 2013.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



Chief of Staff

Record of Changes

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted
1	3/29/2013	Various Parts Revised	3/29/2013	K. Grossweiler/ L.Huffman
2	10/16/2014	Entire Base Plan Formatting	10/16/2014	L. Ortiz
3	1/15/15	2 Year Comprehensive Review	1/15/2015	A.Barton

GEOP January 2015 Comprehensive Review

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) is a living document subject to revision at any time to incorporate lessons learned from exercises, actual events and best practices. GEMA Planning conducts a review annually and a comprehensive review every two years. This update represents the 2 year review of the GEOP and **does not include any significant changes**. Since the GEOP was formally approved by the Governor in January 2013, the State experienced 2 major disaster events (January/February 2014 Severe Winter Weather Events) and three major exercises (HURREX 2014, Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill 2014, Winter Ex 2014). These events and activities led to an extensive review and assessment of the State of Georgia's Emergency Management Program. In consideration of the extensive after action review processes which took place following the January/February 2014 Severe Winter Weather Events, the exercises and the various planning resources that have been developed and amended since the January 2013 approval of the GEOP, the following considerations and initiatives have informed this mid-point review and update of the GEOP:

Formatting Changes	Content Changes	New/Revised/Amended Planning Documents	New Initiatives
- New Document Format for consistency with other GEMA Planning Products, including ESF Annexes - Consistent with National Response Framework - Consistent with the National Incident Management System	- Minor wording revisions throughout the plan for clarity - Reference to SOC Activation Levels - Inclusion of EOC Meeting Schedule (8am/2pm/8pm) - First Informer Act Reference - Specific ESF Updates - Reference to human-caused disasters instead of man-made - Clarification of partner roles and responsibilities	- State Mass Care Shelter Strategy (2013) - Functional Needs Supports Services Toolkit (2013) - Communications Support Annex (2013) - Georgia Disaster Recovery & Redevelopment Framework (2013) - Disaster Recovery Center/ Disaster Assistance Center Manual (2013) - House of Worship Emergency Operations Plan Template (2013) - January/February 2014 Severe Winter Weather Incident After Action Reports (2014) - Disaster Volunteer Coordination Manual (2014) - DRAFT State Staging Area Standard Operating Guidance (2014) - Vulnerable Populations Coastal Evacuation Support Annex (2014) - Snow & Ice Incident Annex (2014) - Comfort Station Guidance (2014)	- Praise & Preparedness Initiative (2014) - Volunteer Coordinator Capacity Initiative - Quarterly ESF Planning Meetings--Emergency Services --Infrastructure Support --Human Services Branch

In preparation for the next formal approval of the GEOP (January 2017), GEMA Planning will continue to work with internal and external stakeholders to amend the GEOP and supporting documents (as needed) to address lessons learned from actual events, exercises and new initiatives. For more information about the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan, please contact GEMA Planning at: 1-800-TRY-GEMA.

PREFACE

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) is the State of Georgia's Strategic Plan for coordination and management of disasters. This document is consistent with decades of planning and coordination between local, state, federal and non-governmental partners operating within or in support of the State of Georgia. The GEOP is specifically written to be consistent with the National Response Framework and to support the local emergency operations plans for the 159 counties in the State. This plan is intended to ensure seamless integration of federal and state resources when necessary.

The GEOP is written for the entire State Disaster Response Team, to include, but not limited to: all executives, state emergency management personnel, private-sector partners, non-governmental organization (NGOs) partners, local emergency managers, faith-based organizations and any other individuals or organizations expected to support disaster response efforts through emergency management functions. The GEOP is intended to clarify expectations for an effective response.

The GEOP is based on the authority of the State Government of Georgia, specifically the 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. It is promulgated by State Executive Order and supports the Georgia Emergency Operations Command.

This plan consists of multiple layers of planning documents with five primary sections and several supporting components. In aggregate, these components outline the state emergency management program:

1. Basic Plan

The GEOP basic plan provides an overview of the emergency management system in Georgia. It includes descriptions of the hazards and threats the state may be at risk for, the resources the state anticipates will be needed to support local jurisdictions and the structure in which these resources operate within. The basic plan outlines the phases of the emergency management cycle, the purpose, situation, assumptions, concept of operations, organization, assignment of responsibilities through emergency support functions (ESFs), administration, logistics, planning and activities in prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

2. Emergency Support Function and GaDOD Annexes

Georgia coordinates disaster response through 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and the Georgia Department of Defense (GaDOD). The Support Annexes to the

GEOP 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 GaDOD is identified as a Support Agency to all ESFs except ESF-14. The role of the Georgia Department of Defense/Georgia National Guard and the many unique capabilities of the organization are outlined in a support annex to the GEOP.

3. Support Annexes

Besides the ESF/GaDOD Support Annexes to the GEOP, additional support annexes to the GEOP outline specific support functions to the disaster response operations. Examples of Support Annexes to the GEOP include the Georgia Volunteers and Donations Management Support Annex, the Logistics Management Support Annex, the Georgia Disaster Housing Strategy and the Vulnerable Populations Coastal Evacuation Support Annex.

4. Hazard, Threat and Incident Specific Annexes

Hazard, Threat or Incident Specific Annexes provide more specific 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; therefore these annexes allow room for modification based on situational requirements and resource availability. Examples of incident annexes include: The Hurricane Incident Annex, the Snow and Ice Incident Annex, the Flooding Incident Annex and the Severe Weather Incident Annex.

5. 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:

- A. Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOP)** - Contact local jurisdictions to obtain and become familiar with the most recent edition of a specific jurisdiction's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Many local emergency management agencies have made their EOPs available via web sites, on file in local libraries or by contacting the local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) office directly.
- B. National Response Framework (NRF)** - This planning document explains how federal agencies conduct all-hazards prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. The NRF is available through the NRF Resource Center-
<https://www.fema.gov/national-response-framework>.
- C. National Incident Management System (NIMS)** – This structure provides standard command and management structures that apply to all response

activities. 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/>.

- D. Emergency Support Function-Standard Operating Guides (SOG)** - 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 cycle. Templates have been 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.

6. Related GEMA Agency/State Planning Documents

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security develops and publishes other related planning documents which support the overall Agency mission and goals. The following plans, while developed to be separate and unique documents, are still intended to be consistent with the Agency policies and procedures as reflected in the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP).

- Georgia Emergency Management Agency Overview & Reference Manual
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency Strategic Plan-2013-2016
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- State of Georgia Continuity of Government (COG) Plan

7. Evaluation, Maintenance, Revision and Corrective Measures for all GEMA/ HS Plans

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP), and all other future plans developed by the Agency, will ensure that the GEOP, as well as all other GEMA /HS Plans, remain consistent with the responsibilities of the Agency as reflected in legislation and Governor Executive Orders through a two-step process.

- A) The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP), and all other future plans developed by the Agency, will include a Plan “Record of Changes” and “Maintenance Schedule”; and
- B) The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP), and all other future plans developed by the Agency, will be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the Agency Exercise or Event After Action Reports /Improvement Plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow

the issuance of any Governor Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.

8. Implementation Procedures for all GEMA / HS Plans

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP), and all other plans prepared by the Agency, will be implemented by the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security, or other members of the Agency senior leadership to include the Agency Deputy Directors and the Operations Division Director, in response to actual events as appropriate.

For a complete list of planning documents maintained by Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security, see Section 7.2: GEMA/HS Planning Document List or log onto the GEMA website at: www.gema.ga.gov/Plans & Prepare/Plan Library.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) outlines state agency preparedness and response activities to the various hazards that exist in the state. It is written to clarify expectations for an effective response and to seamlessly integrate the processes and procedures described in the National Response Framework (NRF) and the Local Emergency Operation Plans (LEOP). It supports the overarching goal of protecting lives, public safety and health; minimizing losses and damages to property and the environment; and restoring essential utilities and services at all levels of government through effective planning, preparation, response, and mitigation.

1.2 Scope

The GEOP addresses the full range of complex and constantly changing requirements in anticipation of and in response to the hazards and threats summarized in the hazard vulnerability section of this plan and outlined in further detail in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). While the GEOP describes the fundamentals of mitigation and long term recovery activities in Georgia, it is not the source document for these activities. More information regarding the State of Georgia's Mitigation Plan can be found by contacting GEMA's Hazard Mitigation Division and by logging onto the GEMA website. More information regarding long term recovery initiatives within the State can found by contacting GEMA's Public Assistance Division and by referencing the Georgia Disaster Recovery & Redevelopment Plan (GDRRP).

The GEOP is primarily written to address incidents or emergencies in which local jurisdictions request state or federal support. The GEOP references activities that occur in all phases of the emergency management cycle. **However, the primary focus of this document remains 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.**

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 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 emergencies however, require additional support from neighboring communities and/or the state. A select few incidents rise to the level that require assistance from other states and/or the federal government. Many incidents require multiple resources to respond, which in turn require a unified response approach

from local first responders, NGOs, private sector partners and citizens. 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/HS Field Coordinators and Planning Section provide assistance 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.

2.0 Situation Overview

GEMA/HS completed the latest Hazard Risk Assessment in December 2011 in consultation with local and federal planning partners and subject matter experts in the fields of terrorism preparedness, hazard mitigation, 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. It 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, human-caused and technological hazards. This assessment allows emergency managers to prioritize planning requirements based on verified risk 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 and the anticipated amount of state assistance likely to be requested to support local jurisdictions. Additionally, 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.

2.1 Hazard Analysis

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.

2.1.1 Natural Hazards

Tropical Cyclonic Systems

Tropical cyclones have the potential to impact the entire state of Georgia. Georgia is vulnerable to tropical systems coming from both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast. Tropical systems pose the greatest threat to Georgia's six coastal counties and immediate adjacent seven inland risk counties. The threats from a tropical cyclone (tropical storm or hurricane) include storm surge (along the coast), high winds, inland flooding, and tornadoes. While tropical systems are typically categorized according to maximum sustained winds, even weaker systems can produce catastrophic damage. Along the coast, storm surge poses the greatest threat to life and property. The shallowness of the continental shelf just off the coast, coupled with the concavity of Georgia's coastline, makes the coast very vulnerable to storm surge inundation. Depending on the angle of the storm's approach the forward speed of the storm, Georgia has the potential to experience upwards of 20 feet of surge in many areas. Inland flooding is of major concern in a tropical system as well; one of Georgia's most costly natural disasters was flooding in southwest Georgia as a result of Tropical Storm Alberto (1994). High winds and tornadoes become a threat when a tropical cyclone approaches the shore, often hours in advance of landfall. The threat extends well inland, potentially affecting the entire state, and may last for days. See the State of Georgia Hurricane Incident Annex for more information regarding planning for a hurricane response.

Severe Weather

Georgia is situated in an area of the United States that has the right ingredients for frequent severe weather outbreaks. The Gulf of Mexico warms the air and pumps moisture into the state, contributing to instability. In addition, air flow around the "Bermuda High", a semi-permanent area of high pressure in the Atlantic, creates vertical wind shear; this vertical wind shear allows thunderstorms to survive for greater periods of time and produces rotation in strong thunderstorms. Finally, Georgia is frequently crossed by upper level and surface features that produce lift and aid in convection.

In 2011 in Georgia, there were 948 reports of severe thunderstorm winds; 72 reports of lightning-related incidents; and 67 reports of tornadoes. Note that

these statistics represent just those incidents that have been reported to the National Weather Service; the actual numbers are likely many times these amounts. See the State of Georgia Severe Weather Incident Annex for more information regarding planning for severe weather events.

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 April 25-28, 2011, severe storms moved through the Southeast U.S., producing large hail, damaging winds, and almost 200 tornadoes. The storms reached Georgia on the evening of April 27th and tracked across the state through the early morning hours of April 28th, spawning 15 confirmed tornadoes in Georgia. These included six (6) EF-1 tornadoes; three (3) EF-2 tornadoes; five (5) EF-3 tornadoes; and one (1) powerful EF-4 tornado that devastated portions of northwest Georgia. Fifteen storm-related fatalities were confirmed, and over 500 homes were destroyed. See the State of Georgia Severe Weather Incident Annex for more information regarding planning tornado incidents.

Lightning

Georgia ranks 8th in the nation for density of lightning strikes per square mile. Between 2000 and 2007, over 175 people in Georgia were injured or killed by lightning. Lightning strikes that occur from thunderstorms in June, July, and August are responsible for over half of these injuries and deaths, and over 75% of property damage annually. See the State of Georgia Severe Weather Incident Annex for more information regarding lightning response planning.

Severe Thunderstorm Winds

Severe thunderstorms in Georgia have the potential to cause extensive wind damage. Straight-line winds can reach speeds of up to 100 mph and produce damage similar to a tornado. These winds occur about 19 days per year in Georgia and are most common in the spring and summer, peaking in July. In June 2003, winds from a severe thunderstorm toppled a 250-foot galvanized steel cell phone tower in Dade County. See the State of Georgia Severe Weather Incident Annex for more information regarding severe weather response planning.

Hail

Large hail is another threat from severe thunderstorms. Hail causes close to \$1 billion in damage to property and crops each year in the US. While hail is typically a greater risk for property, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates that 24 people are injured from hail each year.

Inland Flooding

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 25,000 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 receiving a Presidential Disaster Declaration. See the State of Georgia Flooding Incident Annex for more information regarding planning for flooding events.

Wildfire

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 cases, major evacuations may be required to protect citizens. Careless burning of debris such as leaves and household garbage, farm machine usage, and lightning strikes cause most wildfires in Georgia. During the spring and summer months of 2011, the State of Georgia experienced significant wildfire threats. Over 45,000 acres were affected by the South Georgia fires, five counties were placed under a Governor's State of Emergency, 5 counties received Presidential Disaster Declarations and costs for response efforts totaled in the millions. In 2007, South Georgia experienced an even worse outbreak of wildfires with over 441,000 acres burned and over 65 million dollars in timber being destroyed in fires that raged over two months. The Georgia Forestry Commission led the fire suppression efforts and partnered with various local, state and federal entities to ensure a timely and successful response and recovery to both events.

Winter Weather

Although severe winter weather is a greater probability in North Georgia's higher elevations, snow and ice storms have also 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. In recent years, the State has experienced some major severe winter weather events, including: January 2011 and January 2014.

January 2011: On Sunday, January 9, 2011, a severe winter storm crossed the Alabama state line into Georgia. Between 7:00 pm on January 9th and mid-day on January 10th, heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain fell across north and central parts of the state. Some areas of North Georgia had up to 8 inches of snow, and ice up to 0.5" thick accumulated as far south as Americus. Though the precipitation stopped falling by January 10th, freezing temperatures over the following days produced hazardous road conditions for much of the week. The intensity and scale of the winter storm shut down major highways, arterials, and local roads across north and central Georgia, stranding most people at home and many on the interstates.

January 2014: On January 27, 2014 parts of the state began experiencing the impacts of a snow and ice storm that quickly produced large amounts of snow and seasonably low temperatures in metro Atlanta, North Georgia and South Georgia. Total snow accumulations for this storm in the Atlanta area ranged from 1" – 3" inches. The complexity of the event was such that normal preparations for storm-related preparedness actions were made more difficult by the weather's unique aspects. This situation caused Atlanta and the metro area to experience a significant shutdown. Schools, government offices and private businesses closed when it became apparent that the storm's impact was more severe than originally anticipated, resulting in a massive influx of traffic on the roadways within a very short period of time. The traffic volume, in conjunction with deteriorating weather conditions and considerable ice forming on roadways, caused highways and surface roads to become impassable in many areas of metro Atlanta. As a result, thousands of motorists were stranded for up to 24 hours in certain areas. Many students and teachers were unable to leave schools and were forced to shelter-in-place at their locations.

See the State of Georgia Snow and Ice Incident Annex for more information regarding planning for winter weather events.

Drought

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. In 2007, Georgia experienced a significant drought that resulted in the Governor declaring a state of emergency.

A unified command was established to coordinate the state response and determine water conservation policies.

Seismic Hazards

Georgia, like all the other states east of the Rocky Mountains, does not have any active faults and is not on a tectonic plate boundary. However, potentially damaging earthquakes can occur in the interior of tectonic plates; these intraplate earthquakes are 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 east of the Mississippi River, 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.

North Georgia typically experiences the most seismic activity within the state; these earthquakes are minor and typically do not cause any damage. However, the state has been impacted by significant seismic activity in the past. In 1886, a large earthquake in Charleston, South Carolina caused substantial damage in Georgia. Shockwaves reached Savannah, cracking walls, breaking windows, and causing chimneys to tumble. Augusta experienced the most severe shaking in the State; many buildings sustained damage. Subsequent earthquakes have occurred in following years, ranging from intensity III to VI. The last significant seismic event occurred in March 1964 near Haddock and was felt across 400 square miles.

See the Georgia Earthquake Awareness Guide for more information on earthquake preparedness.

Sinkholes

In Georgia, sinkholes typically occur when an area along the fall line, or the border between the coastal plain and Piedmont region. Natural depressions form in the underlying rock due to percolating water, the collapse of cave roofs (due to seismic activity), or the lowering of the water table. While sinkholes are a natural phenomenon, they can also be induced by human activity, such as over-pumping groundwater or altering natural water drainage patterns. During the 1994 flooding event in Albany, numerous sinkholes formed under the floodwaters, particularly in the downtown area.

Dam Failure

Dam failures are generally classified as either hydraulic, seepage, or structural. Hydraulic failures are the result of uncontrolled flow of water over and around the dam as well as the resulting erosion of the dam and its foundation. Seepage occurs when the velocity and quantity of water within the dam compromise the stability of the structure. Structural failure occurs when a dam or its foundation is ruptured by water movement, earthquake, or sabotage. Large earthen dams and those constructed with weak materials are susceptible to structural failure.

All major rivers in Georgia are dammed at least once before crossing state boundaries. Numerous smaller dams exist throughout the state, including smaller agricultural dams. The most significant dam failure in Georgia occurred in 1977, when the Kelly Barnes Dam in Toccoa failed. The collapse resulted in a flash flood that caused 39 fatalities downstream, and \$2.3 million in property damage. It is conjectured that the dam failed due to a variety of factors, including seepage, a local breach in the crest, progressive erosion, saturation of the embankment downstream, and the subsequent total collapse of the structure.

2.1.2 Technological Hazards

Hazardous Materials Release

Hazardous materials are chemical substances which, if released into the environment, can pose a significant threat to public health. The US Department of Transportation defines nine types of hazardous materials by class. These consist of explosives; gases; flammable liquid and combustible liquid; flammable solid, spontaneously combustible, and dangerous when wet; oxidizer and organic peroxide, poison (toxic) and poison inhalation hazard; radioactive; corrosive; and miscellaneous hazardous materials. These types of hazardous materials traverse Georgia's interstates, State and local routes, and rail lines each day. These types of substances are also present in variety of manufacturing processes and may be released if the facility or container is compromised. If liquid, a hazardous material may enter waterways and drinking sources, potentially impacting hundreds, thousands, or millions within the State. If airborne, such as a toxic gas, populations may have to be evacuated.

Utilities Failure

The citizens of Georgia rely on a consistent provision of electric power, natural gas, and water and wastewater services each day. Utilities failures occur when one or more of these systems are taken offline, disrupting the provision of these resources. Because these services are so essential, utility companies typically have multiple layers of protection in place to mitigate equipment or network failures.

In Georgia, the most common utilities failure occurs with electricity. High winds from thunderstorms have the potential to damage power lines and infrastructure, or cause trees to fall on power lines. Typically, damage is confined to localized areas, and utility crews can restore power within hours. Large-scale events, however, such as hurricanes or ice storms, have the potential to disrupt power for a widespread area for an extended period of time. In Georgia, between 2004 and 2009, all major disturbances and unusual occurrences in the provision of electricity have been associated with natural hazards (thunderstorms, ice storms, tropical storms, and hurricanes) rather than a failure of the facility or network.

Transportation Incidents

Georgia is criss-crossed by an extensive transportation networks featuring roads, highways, and rail lines. Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta has consistently ranked as the busiest or one of the busiest airports in the world. In addition, the Ports of Savannah and Brunswick handle significant container traffic throughout the year; in 2007, the Port of Savannah was ranked as the fourth-busiest and fastest-growing container terminal in the US. The extent of Georgia's transportation network and intensity of activity raise the threat of potential transportation incidents. Most transportation incidents are confined to the roadway network and can be mitigated in hours. However, there is the potential for larger scale incidents with more wide-reaching impacts, such as an airplane crash, major train derailment, or port-related incident.

Structural Collapse

A structural collapse refers to: (a) the collapse of a multi-story office building, apartment, hotel, or similar building, or (b) the collapse of a major bridge or other transportation/infrastructure component. These events have high potential to cause multiple injuries or casualties. If a transportation facility is affected, movement of goods and people will be interrupted, and there may be major economic impact. Such buildings and facilities are located across the State.

Structural collapses may occur due to natural events, such as a tornado, earthquake, or storm surge associated with a hurricane. Human error is also sometimes to blame. In June 2009, a parking deck in midtown Atlanta partially collapsed, causing extensive damage to vehicles. In 2008, a bridge at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens collapsed during construction, killing one worker and injuring 18 others.

Radiological Release

A release of radiological material may occur (a) from an incident at a nuclear power plant, or (b) during shipment of transuranic waste through Georgia. Georgia Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, operates two nuclear plants in Georgia – Plant Vogtle near Waynesboro and Plant Hatch near Baxley. Two new units are under construction at Plant Vogtle; these are the first new nuclear

units to be built in the U.S. in 30 years. Nuclear power is attractive due to the reliability of its fuel source and because it is emission-free. While the threat of radiological release exists, GEMA/HS works with Georgia's nuclear power plants and FEMA to ensure that proper plans and procedures are established and exercised on a consistent basis. These actions will help to mitigate any potential impacts of release for local populations, surface waters, and agricultural resources, should a release occur. Radiological release is also a potential risk during shipment of transuranic waste through Georgia to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico. This transport occurs on a routine basis. Although extensive measures have been taken to ensure that transport containers are secure, any accidental release would impact nearby soils and waterways.

2.1.3 Human-Caused Hazards

The State of Georgia is not immune from human caused hazards, or acts of terrorism, whether by domestic, international or transnational terror groups. Georgia experienced a domestic terrorism bombing while hosting the 1996 Summer Olympics. This bombing in Centennial Olympic Park drew worldwide media attention. 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, there are hundreds of facilities, structures or businesses that could at any given time be considered as high value targets for terrorist organizations.

Terrorists may act alone or within an organized group, and utilize a variety of technologies to accomplish their activities, including the following:

- *Individual violent extremist attack*: An active shooter at a public place or school targets individuals or groups of people, potentially causing significant injury or loss of life.
- *Suspicious package*: One or more packages containing biological agents are delivered simultaneously to government offices or other high profile facilities. This would disrupt commerce, impact the ongoing delivery of mail, and potentially sicken people or cause death. The impact would last for months.
- *Civil disturbance*: Unruly groups take over public places and/or private property, causing property damage, disrupting commerce, and impacting traffic flow in the area.
- *Improvised explosive device*: An improvised explosive device is detonated in a public place or at critical facilities or key infrastructure. This has the potential to cause injury or death, and impact transportation networks, utilities, or communications.

- *Chemical agent*: Dangerous materials such as nerve agents or other toxins are dispersed in public places. This would sicken many and could cause casualties, impact commerce and transportation. It may take months before normal operations and a sense of “normalcy” is restored.
- *Improvised nuclear device*: A small thermonuclear device is detonated in a populated area, causing hundreds of injuries or deaths and widespread property loss. There would be adverse impacts to commerce, and travel may be altered for months or years.
- *Radiological dispersion device*: An improvised explosive device containing nuclear material is detonated in a population center, resulting in many injuries or deaths. This would cause panic, disrupt commerce and travel, and require potentially millions of dollars to clean up.
- *Biological agent*: Infectious biological agents are aerially dispersed and delivered to restaurants, livestock operations, or other locations. This would disrupt commerce, statewide agribusiness, and could sicken or cause death for many. The impacts would last for months.
- *Cyber attack*: Computer systems for critical infrastructure and networks are targeted, such as those of the power grid, other utilities, communications networks, transportation systems, or banking facilities.

In addition to terrorism, or deliberate attacks on society, Georgia faces other unique types of human hazards that have required substantial local, state and federal planning and response efforts. Over the past several years, Georgia has hosted numerous events that were classified as National Special Security Events. These include a National Football League Championship (Super Bowl), 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. In addition, 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, the threat of Hurricane Floyd prompted the evacuation of an estimated 1.7 million residents of Florida and South Carolina to Georgia, in addition to over 250,000 residents from Coastal Georgia. In 2005, an estimated 100,000 residents of Louisiana and Mississippi evacuated to Georgia in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Approximately 10,000 of these citizens were transported by

federal response agencies. In addition to receiving thousands of evacuees from other states due to natural or human-caused disasters, Georgia may receive citizens being evacuated from a foreign country for various reasons through repatriation. In 2006, Georgia served as host to several thousand Americans who evacuated from Lebanon when armed conflicts broke out between Lebanese and Israeli forces. In 2010, Georgia served as a host for citizens of Haiti that were evacuated for medical treatment because of a devastating earthquake.

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Threats and Hazards

Natural	Technological	Human-Caused
Resulting from acts of nature	Involves accidents or the failures of systems and structures	Caused by the intentional actions of an adversary
- Storm Surge - Drought - Inland Flooding - Severe Weather - Severe Winter Weather - Tropical Cyclonic Systems - Tornados - Wildfire - Wind - Seismic Hazards - Sinkholes - Dam Failure	- Hazardous Materials Release - Utilities Failure - Transportation Incidents - Structural Collapse - Radiological Release	- Improvised Explosive Device/Large Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (IED/LVBIED) Attack - Individual Violent Extremist (IVE) Attack - Suspicious Package Attack - Organized Terrorism Attack - Civil Disturbance - Cyber Attack - Chemical Agent Attack - Improvised Nuclear Device/Radiological Dispersal Device (IND/RDD) Attack - Biological Attack

2.2 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; effect 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). In addition, impact assessments were gathered from subject

matter experts and reliable intelligence sources in those areas where the hazard has not yet occurred (such as a terrorist attack) to include GEMA/HS 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/HS.

2.2.1 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
- Significant unemployment and loss of revenue from damaged or destroyed businesses
- Overcrowding in schools

2.3 Planning Assumptions

1. A disaster may occur within the State of Georgia with little or no warning, and may escalate faster than any single jurisdiction's ability to respond.
2. All disasters begin and end with local emergency response personnel, therefore it is accepted that all disasters will be managed by local governments.
3. Many state assets are assigned to local geographic areas and deploy without any special declarations or executive orders. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, Georgia Forestry Commission firefighting resources, Georgia Department of Public Safety and Georgia Department of Transportation District Personnel.
4. Most disasters / emergencies will be managed by local governments without regional or state assistance.
5. When an emergency exceeds local resource and response capabilities, local government will request assistance from neighboring jurisdictions and from the next higher level of government.
6. When state property is threatened or impacted, the responsible state agency will utilize its own resources and establish communications with the State Operations Center.
7. Local government and state agencies will utilize resources obtained by pre-arranged agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, locally assigned state and federal entities and private sector partners prior to seeking assistance from the next higher level of government.

Georgia Hazard and Risk Assessment Matrix

Natural Hazards	Vulnerability				Impacts				Impacts		
	Population	Property	Environment	State Governmental Operations	(1) Health and safety of persons in the affected area at the time of the incident (injury and death)	(2) Health and safety of personnel responding to the incident	(3) Delivery of services	(4) Property, facilities, and infrastructure	(5) The environment	(6) Economic and financial condition	(7) Public Confidence
Storm Surge	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Drought	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	L
Inland Flooding	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H
Severe Weather	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Severe Winter Weather	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	M
Tropical Cyclonic Systems	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Tornados	H	H	M	M	H	H	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	M	L	M	M	L	L	M	L	L
Wind	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M
Seismic Hazards	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Sinkholes	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Dam Failure	M	M	M	M	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Technological Hazards	Vulnerability				Impacts				Impacts		
	Population	Property	Environment	State Governmental Operations	(1) Health and safety of persons in the affected area at the time of the incident (injury and death)	(2) Health and safety of personnel responding to the incident	(3) Delivery of services	(4) Property, facilities, and infrastructure	(5) The environment	(6) Economic and financial condition	(7) Public Confidence
Hazardous Materials Release	medium	medium	high	medium	medium	medium	low	medium	high	medium	medium
Utilities Failure	medium	low	low	medium	low	low	low	low	low	low	low
Transportation Incidents	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium
Structural Collapse	low	medium	medium	medium	medium	high	low	high	low	high	high
Radiological Release	medium	medium	high	medium	high	high	high	high	high	high	high
Human Hazards	Vulnerability				Impacts				Impacts		
	Population	Property	Environment	State Governmental Operations	(1) Health and safety of persons in the affected area at the time of the incident (injury and death)	(2) Health and safety of personnel responding to the incident	(3) Delivery of services	(4) Property, facilities, and infrastructure	(5) The environment	(6) Economic and financial condition	(7) Public Confidence
Improvised Explosive Device	high	high	medium	medium	high	medium	medium	high	medium	medium	high
Individual Violent Extremist Attack	high	high	low	low	high	medium	medium	low	medium	medium	high
Suspicious Package Attack	high	high	medium	medium	high	medium	medium	high	medium	medium	high
Organized Terrorism Attack	medium	medium	low	medium	high	medium	medium	high	medium	medium	high
Civil Disturbance	medium	medium	low	medium	medium	medium	medium	low	medium	medium	low
Cyber Attack	medium	medium	low	medium	low	low	medium	low	low	medium	medium
Chemical Agent Attack	medium	medium	medium	medium	high	high	medium	low	medium	medium	medium
Improvised Nuclear Device Attack	high	medium	high	high	high	high	high	high	high	high	high
Biological Attack	medium	medium	medium	medium	high	high	medium	low	medium	medium	medium

3.0 Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

3.1 General

This plan is supported by the local, state and federal organization levels of emergency management. Preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation are general responsibilities of all levels of government working together to provide a delivery system to meet the needs of the response community. Emergency operations will be initiated at the lowest level of government able to respond effectively and efficiently.

3.2 Plan Activation

The GEOP is normally activated in response to actual or potential disasters which have or are likely to occur in the state. However, GEMA/HS maintains an active approach to preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation at all times. In addition to full activation of this plan, GEMA/HS may activate certain portions or specific Emergency Support Functions for those disasters or emergencies that do not warrant a full scale state response. Therefore, some activations of the GEOP will require members of the State Disaster Team to report to and work from the SOC, while some disasters will be successfully coordinated virtually. To efficiently coordinate the many different aspects of the State Emergency Management Program, the State Operations Center is always activated and consists of three levels of activation: 1) Full-Scale Activation, 2) Elevated Activation and 3) Active Monitoring. The levels are outlined in detail in Section 5.6 (Communications) of this plan. Below is an outline of how the different aspects of the plan are activated.

1. When an emergency or disaster has occurred or is imminent, the Governor may issue an Executive Order proclaiming the existence of a State of Emergency or activate the emergency response, recovery and mitigation aspects of state and local plans. The executive order provides for the deployment and use of state personnel, supplies, equipment, materials and or state owned, leased or operated facilities to support local response operations.
2. When an emergency or disaster has occurred or is imminent, the Governor or the Director GEMA/HS may activate the Emergency Operation Command, as needed or otherwise required by the Director GEMA/HS. This command reports to the Governor, and consists of the following representatives: the Director of Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, the Adjutant General, and such other persons as may be directed by the Governor or Director GEMA/HS and as may be required by the nature and magnitude of the event. The Emergency Operation Command is activated at the discretion of the Director in consultation with the Governor. The Emergency Operation Command meets by conference call daily at 8am, 2pm and 8pm and reports to the Governor through the Director of GEMA/HS for all command decisions with the Governor having the final authority.

3. When an emergency or disaster has occurred or is imminent, all State Boards, Departments, Agencies, Associations, Institutions and Authorities shall cooperate fully with the Emergency Operation Command and the Director GEMA/HS, by providing any personnel, equipment, information, or any other assistance that may be requested by the Governor, the Director GEMA/HS or the Emergency Operation Command in order to coordinate all response and recovery efforts.
4. If a disaster threatens or occurs prior to the ability of the Governor to issue an Executive Order proclaiming the existence of a State of Emergency, the Director GEMA/HS is authorized to activate this plan and implement any emergency response actions that may be necessary for the immediate protection of life and property.
5. During a response to a federally declared emergency / disaster situation, the Governor may appoint a State Coordination Officer (SCO), usually the Director GEMA/HS through a FEMA / State disaster agreement.

3.3 National Incident Management System

The State of Georgia has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the standard incident management structure within the state. The Incident Command System (ICS) is the standard for on-scene emergency management throughout Georgia.

When an emergency or disaster involves and affects multiple local geographical jurisdictions or areas not covered by local emergency response organizations, the state or federal senior official may establish a unified area command structure to coordinate state and or federal assets operating in support of local jurisdictions.

All personnel assigned an operational role in the State Operations Center shall complete such NIMS and SOC orientation training as prescribed by the Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency within six months of said assignment and shall report completion of such training in accordance with the procedures specified by the Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

4.0 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

This section 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), faith based organizations 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 human-caused disasters. Often times, government resources are not the most appropriate to meet all disaster response and recovery needs. The state has traditionally relied on the generous services provided by NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations associated with or coordinated through the Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (GAVOAD), to provide basic services to residents.

In addition to NGOs and Faith Based Organizations, private sector planning partners are involved where applicable in the emergency management process. Government emergency managers attempt to incorporate the vast amount of knowledge and resources available from the private sector to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effects of natural and human-caused disasters.

4.1 Local Responsibility in Emergency Management

The responsibility for responding to incidents, both natural and human-caused, 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, faith-based organizations and private sector partners, to coordinate emergency response resources.

4.1.1 Chief Elected or Appointed Official

In nearly all jurisdictions within Georgia, county commission chairs, mayors, city managers or county managers, as the jurisdiction's chief executive officers carry the primary responsibility of ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents and visitors within their communities. In most cases the Chief Elected Official (CEO) is expected to provide senior level strategic guidance to appointed emergency management officials regarding disaster preparedness, prevention, 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 that they provide the necessary resources to ensure these activities are accomplished.

4.1.2 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/HS Field Coordinator. GEMA/HS routinely assists and coordinates with local emergency management agencies with such activities as hazard mitigation projects, the processing of federal or state grants, citizen preparedness initiatives through the Citizen Corp, Ready Georgia and Praise & Preparedness programs, emergency information systems through commercial and government emergency communication systems, school safety planning and local emergency operations plan development.

County governments prepare for emergency related events by conducting a comprehensive assessment of the threats they face and will develop Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs) as required.

- a. County governments are encouraged to implement their LEOPs when an emergency occurs, or at the request of the Director GEMA/HS, or upon the declaration of a State of Emergency for their jurisdiction by the Governor. Counties will use all available local and regional resources to protect against and respond to an emergency to include utilizing pre-established mutual aid agreements. When counties determine that local resources are not adequate, additional resources may be requested through the county EOC to the GEMA/HS Field Coordinator or to the State Operations Center.
- b. Municipal units of government will call upon their county government or other municipalities in coordination with their county for assistance during events in which their own capabilities are overwhelmed. Counties will provide assistance to municipalities and request assistance through mutual aid or from the state when their capabilities are overwhelmed.

- c. As county operations progress, the county may declare a local state of emergency in accordance with county laws and authorities.
- d. The county EOC should serve as the central clearinghouse for all information collection and coordination of response and recovery resources within the county, including municipalities within the county.

4.1.3 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 and competencies.

4.2 Individual Citizens Responsibility in Emergency Management

The events of September 11th, 2001 served as a wakeup call for all Americans to actively engage in personal preparedness activities. The lessons learned from the 2005 Hurricane Season reinforced that message. GEMA/HS supports local emergency management agency directors and individual residents in personal preparedness, through the Ready Georgia Preparedness Program, the Praise & Preparedness Program, the Citizen Corps Program and the Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults.

- **Ready Georgia Campaign:** 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/Homeland Security aimed at motivating Georgians to take action to prepare for a disaster. 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 Public 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.

- *Citizen Corp Program:* 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/HS annually coordinates statewide public service announcements relating to disaster preparedness with local emergency management agencies.
- *Praise & Preparedness:* In 2014, Georgia became one of the first States in the country to launch a preparedness campaign focused on houses of worship. Praise & Preparedness is a three tiered initiative targeted towards all houses of worship and faith-based organizations. To engage houses of worship, the program offers resources and tools to assist with:
 - 1) *Facility Safety-* The program is intended to ensure that houses of worship have a facility safety plan in place for when an emergency or disaster occurs;
 - 2) *Congregant Safety-* The website (www.praise.ga.gov) provides materials for houses of worship to provide to their congregation so that their congregants can be prepared in their own homes; and
 - 3) *Community Involvement-* A disaster relief key and chart provides houses of worship with the opportunity to become more involved in the community in support of disaster response by outlining organizations who can provide training to houses of worship interested in being part of the response and/or recovery in their community after a disaster.
- *Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults:* To ensure the needs of all citizens are incorporated into plans and processes, GEMA/HS actively serves on the Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults (Coalition), which is a key component in statewide preparedness efforts. It consists of stakeholder agencies throughout Georgia. The Coalition's purpose is to serve as a comprehensive clearinghouse between local advocacy groups serving individuals with access and functional needs and Georgia agencies responsible for emergency preparedness under the GEOP. The Coalition has developed a variety of tools and resources focused on individual and personal preparedness. For more information about the Coalition and how to better plan for the needs of individuals with access and functional needs, please visit the State ADA Coordinators Office website: <http://ada.georgia.gov>.

To get more information about the preparedness initiatives listed above (Ready Georgia, Citizen Corp, Praise & Preparedness or the Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults), go to the GEMA website www.GEMA.ga.gov or contact the agency at 1-800-TRY-GEMA or 404-635-7200.

4.3 Private Sector Partners Responsibility in Emergency Management

Government agencies are responsible for protecting the lives and property of their citizens. However, the government does not and should not 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. Emergency managers must work seamlessly with businesses that provide water, power, communication networks, public information, 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.

4.4 Non-government & Faith Based Organizations in Emergency Management

NGOs and Faith Based Organizations (FBO) play enormously important roles before, during, and after an incident. For example, NGOs and FBOs provide shelter, emergency food supplies and debris removal for homeowners after a disaster as well as vital 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 and FBOs 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 and FBOs bolster and support government efforts at all levels – for response operations and planning. However, NGOs and FBOs 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 and FBOs. NGOs and FBOs 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 and providing critical emergency services such as cleaning supplies, clothing, food and basic human needs. NGOs and FBOs provide assistance with post-emergency cleanup, and help local and state emergency managers identify those whose needs have not been met to coordinate the provision of assistance.

Some NGOs and FBOs 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- Mass Care and Human Services and the Georgia Baptist who support feeding efforts within mass care operations.

4.5 State Responsibility in Emergency Management

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

4.6 State Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)

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 Coordinating Agency is responsible for coordinating the actions of agencies, groups, organizations, and or NGOs or FBOs within their ESF and between other ESFs. The Coordinating Agency is responsible for coordinating the ESF and required to provide a person or persons with a good general knowledge of the subject area and knowledge of the stakeholders in their ESF to the State Operations Center (SOC).

The primary and support agencies/organizations form the ESF Working Group. This group plans, organizes, and responds to events working cooperatively to maximize their effectiveness. The Coordinator is the unifying point of contact between the working group members.

The ESFs incorporated into the GEOP and their respective concepts of operations are summarized below and explained in detail in the Emergency Support Function Annexes to the GEOP in detail.

ESF #1- Transportation

Coordinator: *Georgia Department of Transportation*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Intercostal 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

ESF #2 Communications

Coordinator: *Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security*

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

ESF #3 Public Works and Engineering

Coordinator: *Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Infrastructure protection and emergency repair
- Water and Sewer System Assessments
- Boiled water advisories
- Infrastructure restoration and coordination
- Engineering services and construction management
- Damage assessment to critical infrastructure system in disasters

ESF #4 Firefighting

Coordinator: *Georgia Forestry Commission*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Command and coordination of state wild land firefighting operations
- Coordination of state structural and aviation firefighting operations
- Support to transportation strike teams during winter weather incidents

ESF #5 Emergency Management

Coordinator: *Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security*

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 Operations Command Coordination
- Support of Disaster Recovery Centers
- State Staging Area Coordination
- Coordination of information and resources
- Situational Awareness

- Weather Subject Matter Expertise through Staff Meteorologist and NWS Incident Support Meteorologists
- Coordination of Georgia Air Operations Branch

ESF #6 Mass Care & Human Services

Coordinator: *Georgia Department of Human Services*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Mass care
- Sheltering Support
- Emergency assistance
- Disaster housing
- Human services
- Status reporting of mass care, shelter, human services activities in SOC

ESF #7 Logistics Management & Resource Support

Coordinator: *Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security*

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

ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services

Coordinator: *Georgia Department of Public Health*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Public health
- Coordination of private and NGO health systems in disasters
- Mental health services
- Coordination of mass fatality management with ESF #13
- Infection disease surveillance and response coordination
- Coordination of emergency management program

ESF #9 Search and Rescue

Coordinator: *Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Coordination of search activities in disasters
- Coordination of rescue activities in disasters
- Coordination of search and rescue resources

ESF #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

ESF #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

ESF #12 Energy

Coordinator: *Georgia Environmental Finance Authority*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Energy infrastructure assessment, repair and restoration
- Energy industry utilities coordination
- Fuel industry coordination
- Energy forecast and assessment in disasters

ESF #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
- Support of transportation strike teams
- Coordination of mass fatality management with ESF #8

ESF #14 Long Term Recovery & Mitigation

Coordinator: *Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security*

Functional Responsibilities:

- Social and economic impact assessment in disasters
- Long-term community recovery assessment and coordination
- Analysis of mitigation program activities

ESF #15 External Affairs

Coordinator: *Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security*

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

5.0 Direction, Control and Coordination

5.1 Direction

Direction and control of the state's response to an emergency or disaster, when this plan is activated and/or when a state of emergency is declared, resides with the Director of GEMA/HS and the State Emergency Operation Command (EOC). The Director of GEMA/HS (or his/her designee) will coordinate all state agencies, authorities, boards and departments mobilized pursuant to this plan, regardless of the nature of the emergency or disaster.

5.2 Control and Coordination

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/HS 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 Annex to 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/HS 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/HS is responsible for preparing and processing requests for emergency assistance from the federal government on behalf of local governments impacted by natural or human-caused disasters in Georgia. GEMA/HS will also assist in coordinating and integrating requested resources from other states or federal agencies to assist local jurisdictions when applicable.

Through the implementing instructions contained within the executive order executing this document, the GEMA/HS Director will 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/HS Director assumes responsibility for direction and coordination of ESFs at the State Operations Center (SOC). At the discretion of the GEMA/HS 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/HS. 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/HS Director may provide support to assist during an emergency or disaster.

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

GEMA/HS Communications serves as the State Warning Point and disseminates disaster and emergency information from various sources to local and state emergency management and public safety officials when requested. Emergency information can include, but is not limited to, weather bulletins, watches and warnings issued by the various National Weather Service Forecast Offices that serve the state, warnings issued by the Storm Prediction Center, warnings issued by owners or operators of power generation facilities, dams and hydroelectric facilities that could impact the state, alerts for confirmed child abductions issued by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation or any other information from federal, state, local or private sector agencies and organizations that is deemed important for local emergency management officials.

Upon escalation of an emergency or disaster, the GEMA/HS Director may require elevated or full scale 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.

5.3 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/HS Public Affairs in the SOC. Situation reports, awareness statements the common operating picture and incident action plans shall be generated and maintained by the GEMA/HS Planning/Intell/GIS Section and disseminated in conjunction with ESF15 and GEMA/HS Public Affairs within the SOC. The GEMA/HS

Public Affairs Unit assumes the lead role in establishing a Joint Information Center on behalf of the state in all disasters and emergency situations.

5.4 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/HS Finance in the SOC.

5.5 Information Collection, Analysis and Dissemination

5.5.1 Situational Awareness

One of the most important functions of the SOC is to collect, 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 accurate and timely 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. GIS data collected before, during, and after the event may be used to: a) map the location of events, b) conduct damage assessments and response activities, c) identify risks and resources and d) prioritize objectives.

Each ESF must ensure they have properly trained personnel that are designated to work 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.

5.6 Communications

5.6.1 Information Planning

In order to effectively respond to disasters in the state, GEMA/HS develops facts and assumptions that will allow for the effective collection of disaster intelligence for response and recovery operations.

The GEMA Communications Center functions as the State Warning Point (SWP). The SWP is always operational. The mission of the SWP is to maintain daily situational awareness of potential or ongoing human-caused or natural disasters that may affect Georgia and to disseminate disaster and emergency information from various sources to local and state emergency management and public safety officials when requested.

The SWP also receives and processes requests for state level assistance from local jurisdictions when a local emergency requires resources beyond their capability. In addition to the Georgia counties, the SWP maintains direct communications with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the nuclear power plants within and adjacent to Georgia and the National Weather Service forecast offices serving Georgia.

The SWP maintains situational awareness by monitoring various news broadcasts, receiving and redistributing automated weather feeds and by receiving verbal / written reports from local jurisdictions throughout the State. The SWP is also responsible, at the request of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, for initiating Levi's Calls (Amber Alerts). Levi's Calls are missing person bulletins that interrupt television and radio to announce the aggravated abduction of a child. The SWP is equipped with state of the art equipment which includes satellite phones, a satellite based emergency alert system and a variety of VHF and high frequency radios.

For large-scale planned or unplanned events (such as a national security event, human-caused disaster or severe weather) the State Operations Center (SOC) is activated in accordance with this plan. There are three levels of activation: 1) Full-Scale Activation, 2) Elevated Activation or 3) Active Monitoring. The State Operations Center- SWP functions at an active monitoring level, as a minimum, 24 / 7 / 365. During normal activities (Level 3: Active Monitoring), the SOC is staffed by a full-time cadre assigned to the GEMA Operations Division. This cadre includes a 24 hour communications center (State Warning Point) as well as operations, logistics and communications staff members augmented with 24-hour duty officer coverage. The level of activation may be increased to an elevated or full activation at the discretion of the Governor, the GEMA Director or his designated staff. Additionally, the Agency Head of another agency may request that the SOC activation level be increased. The level of activation is scalable based upon the scope of the event.

When activated, appropriate representatives from ESFs, state agencies, FEMA, volunteer organizations and the private sector assemble in the SOC to coordinate a unified response. GEMA Field Coordinators are integrated into the local affected jurisdiction(s) and serve as conduits for communicating resource requirements and situational awareness.

The SOC remains operational throughout the response phase of an event. As recovery operations begin the coordination shifts to a Joint Field Office (JFO) which will be established near the affected area, and staffed by appropriate local, state and federal personnel, if there is a federal disaster declared. Once the JFO is established, the SOC returns to an active monitoring status and the JFO takes on the primary responsibility of communicating information specific to the recovery operations for the initial disaster.

In order to disseminate accurate emergency or disaster information, it is imperative that disaster impact assessments be made quickly by local officials, to determine the necessary state response or federal assistance following any major or catastrophic disaster. To accomplish this, the SOC, through the GEMA/HS Field Coordinators have developed protocols to ensure the effective and efficient reporting of local assessments and conditions following a disaster or emergency occurring. These protocols and key pieces of information include:

- Jurisdiction
- Contact Information of Reporting Party
- Date, Time, Locations of Incident
- Initial Summary of Damages
- Number of Injuries
- Number of Deaths
- Evacuations Ordered (If Applicable)
- Status of Shelter Operations
- Road Closures
- School Closures
- Media Response

5.7 Administration, Finance and Logistics

5.7.1 Administration and Finance

A large scale emergency or disaster places great demands on resources of the state. Distribution of required resources may be made more difficult by the emergency itself. Initially, priority of the distribution of supplies will be given to food, water and medications. Additional requirements will be identified and resources provided as soon as possible.

Volunteer organizations operating within the Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) provide an excellent resource to support the immediate needs of disaster survivors during initial response and recovery operations.

All administrative procedures, rules and regulations currently in place for state agencies, authorities, boards and departments will be followed.

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/HS Finance in the SOC. Through ESF5 and ESF 14, GEMA/HS Public Assistance and Finance will coordinate the processing of all recovery financial documentation, reimbursement applications and payments.

5.7.2 Logistics

For major catastrophic events, the Logistics Unit within the SOC may be tasked to establish, manage, and support a Logistical Staging Area (LSA). The LSA is a temporary warehouse type facility. The LSA will receive, support and organize response resources for deployment. ESF7:Resource Management/Logistics provides more details concerning logistical support in a state response.

6.0 Plan Development and Maintenance

The 2013 publication of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan shall be effective for four years, updated every two years and reviewed and revised as needed. The next version of the GEOP should be published on or around May 2016, with formal approval being executed no later than January 2017.

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

This comprehensive review of the GEOP is inclusive of lessons learned through the January/February 2014 Severe Winter Weather Event after action review processes, HURREX 2014 Full Scale Exercise, the Rehearsal of Concept Drill 2014, the Winter Ex 2014 and the many supporting planning initiatives and efforts that have taken place since the January 2013 publication of the GEOP. For the next planning cycle of the GEOP, GEMA/HS exercise coordinators anticipate conducting a full scale statewide exercise and a Rehearsal of Concept Drill as well as smaller scale, process specific drills. The goal of these exercises is to evaluate processes and procedures described within this plan and supporting documents. For more information on the GEMA/HS Statewide 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/HS has incorporated the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) into its training and exercise programs. In addition, GEMA/HS 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 human-caused disasters. Upon conclusion of an exercise or the actual activation of the GEOP and or the heightened activation of the SOC, ESFs, agencies and organizations listed in this plan shall evaluate their performance against relevant capability objectives to 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/HS 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 unless necessary. Suggested changes should be submitted to the GEMA Planning Section Manager 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 Section Manager
Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security
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 Manager 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: _____

7.0 Authorities and References

The GEOP is based on the authority of the State Government of Georgia, specifically the 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 components, which in aggregate outline the state emergency management program.

These components include:

1. Base Plan
2. Emergency Support Function and GaDoD Annexes
3. Support Annexes
4. Incident Annexes
5. 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 human-caused 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 or you may contact the GEMA/HS Planning Manager at 404-635-7200.

The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) outlines how state agencies in Georgia prepare for, respond to and recover from various natural and human-caused 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 complement the National Response Framework and Local Emergency Operations Plans in Georgia to ensure seamless integration of state and 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.

7.1 State Agencies, Boards, Authorities, Partners and Private Sector and Non-governmental Organizations with GEOP Responsibilities

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 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. 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 mission of the Department of Audits and Accounts is to provide decision-makers with credible management information to promote improvements in accountability and stewardship in state and local government.

B

(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.

Broadcast Media: Broadcast media provides the mechanism to disseminate Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages and other critical public information. In the event of a disaster or emergency, appropriate Broadcaster employees should have access to any facility or equipment necessary to acquire, produce or transmit emergency related programming. See Code Section 38-3-57 of the Official Code of Georgia.

C

(CJCC) 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.

(Coalition) The Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults: The Coalition's purpose is to serve as a comprehensive clearinghouse between local advocacy groups serving individuals with access and functional needs and Georgia agencies responsible for emergency preparedness under the GEOP. The Coalition has developed a variety of tools and resources focused on individual and personal preparedness. For more information about the Coalition and how to better plan for the needs of individuals with access and functional needs, please visit the State ADA Coordinators Office website: <http://ada.georgia.gov>.

D

(DBHDD) Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities: DBHDD provides treatment and support services to people with mental illnesses and addictive diseases, and support to people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. DBHDD serves people of all ages with the most severe and likely to be long-term conditions, including consumers with forensic issues. Services are provided across the state through contracts with 25 community service boards, boards of health and various private providers, and through state-operated regional hospitals.

(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.

(DCH) Georgia Department of Community Health: DCH was created in 1999 to serve as the lead agency for health care planning and purchasing issues in Georgia. The General Assembly created DCH by consolidating four agencies involved in purchasing, planning and regulating health care. The department is designated as the single state agency for Medicaid. In 2009, Healthcare Facility Regulation was created at DCH from sections transferred from the former Department of Human Resources Office of Regulatory Services.

(DDS) Department of Driver Services: The Department of Driver Services is the primary agency responsible for all motor vehicle license issued in the state.

(DHS) Georgia Department of Human Services: DHS 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.

(DJJ) Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice: DJJ operates both short and long term facilities for youth awaiting trial or who have been committed to DJJ custody by the

Juvenile Courts. Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) are secure short-term centers for youths awaiting trial in Juvenile or Superior Court, or awaiting a community-based placement elsewhere more suitable for his/her needs. Youth Development Campuses (YDCs) are long-term rehabilitation facilities for youth sentenced or committed to DJJ custody by juvenile courts.

(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.

(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 Georgia Department of Labor: 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.

(DPH) Georgia Department of Public Health: The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency entrusted by the people of the State of Georgia with the ultimate responsibility for the health of communities and the entire population. At the state level, DPH is divided into numerous branches, sections, programs and offices. At the local level, DPH functions via 18 health districts and 159 county health 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 human-caused 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.

(GaDOD) Georgia Department of Defense: The Georgia Department of Defense is made up of nearly 15,000 soldiers, airmen and civilians who assist in disaster response operations and serve as a support agency to nearly all ESFs except 14. In addition to the men and women of the Army and Air Guard, the GaDoD has hundreds of volunteers within the Georgia State Defense Force who perform 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 a liaison with a variety of local emergency, law enforcement, and homeland security agencies.

(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.

(GDEcD) Georgia Department of Economic Development: The Georgia Department of Economic Development 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 Finance 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 local land conservation goals. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Protection Branch is an invaluable partner to GEFA.

(GEMA) Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security: 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. GEMA/HS's mission is to provide a comprehensive and aggressive all-hazards approach to homeland security initiatives, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and

special events in order to protect life and property and prevent and/or reduce negative impacts of terrorism and natural disasters in Georgia.

(Georgia EMC) Georgia Electric Membership Corporation: 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 and youth programs. 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

(GFC) 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.

(GHCA) The Georgia Health Care Association: The 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 its 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.

(GHA) Georgia Hospital Association: The mission of the Georgia Hospital Association is to advocate for and assist members to improve the delivery of accessible, quality, comprehensive and cost-effective hospital and health services and to improve the overall health status of the community.

(GMA) Georgia Municipal Association: GMA's 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: 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 is the state's largest professional nursing association for registered nurses in all practice settings. 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.

(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.

(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: The mission of GPB is 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 providing both power supply and generation.

(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 to improve Georgia's mobility, air quality and land use practices.

(GSFIC) Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission: The Georgia State Finance 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 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.

(PORTS) Georgia Ports Authority: The Georgia Ports Authority maintains and operates Georgia's Ports, facilitates global trade through strategic U.S. East Coast gateways. The Georgia Ports Authority is a leader in the operation of modern terminals and in meeting the demands of international business.

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

S

(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.

T

(TCSG) Technical College System of Georgia: The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) oversees the state's technical colleges, adult literacy programs, and a host of economic and workforce development programs.

(TSA) The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army's Goals in Emergency Disaster Services is to initiate disaster relief operations. The first aim is to meet the basic needs of those who have been affected, both survivors and first responders (such as firefighters and law enforcement).

V

(VOAD) Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster: Members of Georgia VOAD form a coalition of nonprofit and faith-based 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.

7.2 GEMA/HS Planning Document List

GEMA Plan Library Index

December 2013

Topic	Plan Name	Description
Agency	Agency Overview and Reference Manual	The Agency Overview and Reference Manual describes how GEMA is structured, its leadership, programs and plans, and disaster response process. It also includes a history of Georgia's disaster declarations.
Agency	GEMA/HS Strategic Plan 2013 - 2016	The Strategic Plan examines the challenges facing the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and sets forth strategic goals, objectives and strategies to meet the challenges.
Agency	Georgia Disaster Management Handbook	This handbook provides a variety of tools to help local emergency managers to mitigate hazards, prepare for emergencies, and enhance the response and recovery phases of any emergency situation. It includes information on the Georgia Incident Management System, an explanation of the Emergency Operations Center / On-Scene Commander interface.
Agriculture	GEOP Annex ESF-11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources	ESF#11 has responsibility during disaster operations to: coordinate food for mass feeding and administer the Disaster Food Stamp Program; ensure the safety of the commercial food supply; control outbreaks of animal and plant disease; coordinate pet evacuation and shelters; and protect natural, cultural, and historic resources.
All-Hazard	GEOP - Base Plan	The Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) is the overarching plan that outlines how state agencies in Georgia prepare for and respond to all types of natural and manmade disasters.
All-Hazards	THIRA - Georgia Threat Hazard Identification And Risk Assessment	The purpose of the THIRA is to identify major threats and hazards. This enables state agencies to determine how capable they are to mitigate, respond and recover from these threats and plan to close gaps in their capabilities.
Communication	GEOP Annex ESF-2 - Communications	ESF#2 is responsible for providing notification of certain emergencies, supporting communications for response activities, and coordinating efforts to restore the communications infrastructure following an event.
Communication	Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) - Public	The SCIP describes Georgia's work toward the goal of interoperable communication for public safety. This plan addresses how the State has and will continue to allocate investments for interoperability efforts and support the efforts of local and regional jurisdictions.
Debris	Debris Management Annex	The GEMA Debris Management Plan defines federal, state and local responsibilities and offers guidance to Counties on debris removal contracts, request for assistance, and the creation of local debris management plans.
Defense Support	GEOP Annex DOD - Defense Support	The Georgia Department of Defense (GaDOD) maintains a vast, statewide assortment of specialized resources and personnel. It is because of this diverse capability that the GaDOD can assist with many of the emergency support functions listed in the GEOP. Access to these resources follows an established path of requests for state assistance that is described in this Annex.
Disabilities	Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Toolkit	The intent of the FNSS Toolkit is to assist local official with tools that will enable them to provide reasonable accommodations for all citizens during disaster incidents, including those who have some type of disability (hearing, visual, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living).
Earthquake	Earthquake Awareness Guide	This guide gives an overview of earthquake science and terminology and describes Georgia earthquake history and risk. In addition it offers guidance on earthquake planning.
Earthquake	Earthquake Preparedness Tips and Strategies	Written to encourage individual and family preparedness as the best insurance against an earthquake disaster, this quick reference guide contains checklists of actions to take before, during, and after an earthquake.
Emergency Management	Geographic Area Command Appendix	This Annex provides a framework for managing an incident large in geographic scope and in multiple locations. Its focus is on cohesive direction from the State Operations Center (SOC), interagency coordination, and prioritizing resources for the most critical needs.
Emergency Management	GEOP Annex ESF-5 - Emergency Management	ESF#5 serves as the Coordinating ESF for all State agencies, organizations and private industry partners supporting the state during the implementation of the GEOP. Its responsibilities include managing the State Operations Center (SOC), overseeing the alert and notification process, and providing finance, administration and planning functions.
Emergency Management	Georgia NIMS Incident Qualifications System	The purpose of this guide is to establishment of minimum standards for "All-Risk-All Hazards" emergency incident management. Personnel meeting the minimum standards are qualified for mobilization beyond their home area, to inter-agency incidents within the State. Personnel meeting all requirements will be eligible for mobilization as a national resource in qualified positions.
Emergency Management	Georgia Type III Incident Management Team Guidelines	Georgia Incident Management Teams organize and manage a community's most serious, complex and costly incidents. Their role is to support local emergency responders' efforts. The Type III Georgia Incident Management Teams are considered "all hazard" disciplines, as they may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters.
Energy	GEOP Annex ESF-12 - Energy	ESF#12 serves as the principal conduit by which critical energy infrastructure in Georgia is protected and restored after damage from an emergency or disaster. ESF#12 also coordinates with ESF#7 to obtain electrical service and fuel to support disaster operations.

GEMA Plan Library Index

December 2013

Topic	Plan Name	Description
Public Works	GEOP Annex ESF-3 - Public Works and Engineering	ESF #3 is coordinates the state's response to the disruption of essential services or infrastructure due to a disaster event. These include water systems, sewer systems, electricity, public roadways, and public structures.
Recovery	Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) Operations Manual	This SOG covers the establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center to assist citizens who have been impacted by a disaster. It covers location, logistics, staffing and other issues.
Recovery	GEOP Annex ESF-14 - Long Term Recovery and Mitigation	ESF #14 coordinates assistance to state agencies, local governments, and eligible private nonprofit organizations to repair damaged public facilities after a major disaster declaration. It provides for emergency work such as debris removal. ESF #14 is also responsible for the update of mitigation plans that will reduce potential damages to life and property.
Repatriation	Repatriation Annex	Repatriation is the procedure whereby U.S. citizens are officially processed back into the United States after evacuation from overseas. The goals of this effort are to: (1) allow repatriates to enter the United States expeditiously; (2) promote efficient registration and health inspection of repatriates; and (3) provide temporary care and onward travel assistance and services to repatriates who request them.
Safety	Worker Safety and Health	The purpose of this annex is to detail how response and recovery worker safety and health will be coordinated in support of the on scene Safety Officer.
Search & Rescue	GEOP Annex ESF-9 - Search, Rescue, and Recovery	ESF#9 is responsible for coordinating state resources for search, rescue, and recovery. Included are: Structural Collapse or Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Waterborne Search and Rescue, Inland or Wilderness Search and Rescue, Aeronautical Search and Rescue, Animal and Human Remains Recovery.
Search and Rescue	GSAR Mobilization Manual	The purpose of this Manual is to outline the Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Task Force concept of mobilization, personnel and equipment requirements, policies and guidelines to ensure an organized and efficient response.
Search and Rescue	GSAR - Georgia Search and Rescue Operations Manual	Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Response System methods of operation, organization, capabilities, and procedures in mobilization, on-site operations, and demobilization are described in this document.
Search and Rescue - Canine	GSAR - Canine Team Standards	The purpose of Canine Team Standards is to identify the knowledge and skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a disaster search and rescue canine team.
Search and Rescue - Canine	GSAR Body Recovery - Canine Team Operational Guidelines	The purpose of these canine team standards is to identify the knowledge and skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a human remains detection canine team.
Shelter	GEOP Annex ESF-6 - Mass Care and Human Services	ESF#6 functions include: Mass Care (sheltering, feeding operations, distribution of emergency items, etc.); Emergency Assistance (tracking of evacuees, reunification of families, etc.); Housing (rental assistance, repair, loan assistance, etc.); and Human Services (coordination of disaster assistance such as disaster unemployment benefits, etc.)
Shelter	Sheltering Plan	This plan describes how state level agencies plan to communicate, coordinate and support local jurisdictions' shelter operations during disasters. The plan covers American Red Cross shelter management, accommodation of individuals with functional and access needs, and training of shelter staff.
Transportation	GEOP Annex ESF-1 - Transportation	The scope of operations for ESF#1 encompasses ground-based, maritime, and aviation based transportation support in an emergency or a disaster.
Volunteers	VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Toolbox	This Toolbox consists of reference materials written for local community use in establishing Community VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster).
Volunteers	Volunteer & Donations Management Annex	The Volunteer & Donations Management Support Annex documents the coordinating processes found to be most efficient and effective in utilizing volunteers and donations during disasters.
Volunteers	Volunteer and Donations Management Template (for Counties)	This template assists local governments in designing a plan to manage and benefit from volunteers who respond spontaneously and may lack appropriate training. It also addresses receiving, storing, sorting, and distributing donations to disaster survivors.
Weather	Outdoor Warning Sirens Guide	Guide for Local Emergency Managers for activating and testing outdoor warning sirens.
Weather	Severe Weather Annex	This plan outlines preparedness actions and response procedures for hazardous weather events such as drought, excessive heat, severe thunderstorms (hail, lightning, tornadoes, and winds), and severe winter weather (blizzards, ice storms, severe cold). This plan will not address impacts from inland flooding or tropical cyclones as they are addressed in separate Incident Annexes.
Weather	Snow and Ice Annex	The purpose of the Snow and Ice Annex is to coordinate activities among state agencies to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a significant snow and ice event that impacts Georgia.

GEMA Plan Library Index

December 2013

Topic	Plan Name	Description
Energy	Energy Assurance Plan	The Energy Assurance Plan is an analysis of energy markets, energy interdependencies, energy regulation and the threat environment. It examines options available to the state to respond to and mitigate an energy shortage; and includes a discussion on emerging technologies.
Evacuees	Evacuation Support for a Catastrophic Event	This Evacuation Support Annex provides directions when Georgia hosts of large numbers of evacuees from other states affected by a catastrophic disaster.
Firefighting	GEOP Annex ESF-4 - Firefighting	ESF#4 manages and coordinates firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on publicly and privately owned lands.
Flood	Flood Incident Annex	The Flood Incident Annex outlines GEMA's strategy for responding to and recovering from a flood-based disaster.
Government	Georgia Continuity of Government Plan (COG)	The purpose of this plan is to identify how the State of Georgia Executive and Legislative Branches of Government will continue performing essential functions when important governmental operations are disrupted. This plan will specifically address how the state's constitutional responsibilities will be preserved, maintained and reestablished.
HAZMAT	GEOP Annex ESF-10 - Hazardous Materials	ESF#10 is responsible to respond to a threat caused by hazardous or radiological materials being released into the environment from transportation accidents or fixed facilities (such as chemical plants, nuclear power plants, tank farms, laboratories, or operating hazardous waste sites).
Health	GEOP Annex ESF-8 - Public Health and Medical Services	ESF#8 responsibilities include the coordination of medical patient evacuation and patient care in shelters; infectious disease planning and response; food safety and security; sanitation measures (including potable water and solid waste); Mass Fatality planning; Shelter inspection; distribution of medical equipment and supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS); and crisis counseling.
Housing	Disaster Housing Strategy	This Annex outlines how the State of Georgia will support local disaster housing efforts through the Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force (GDHTF) during the interim housing phase.
Hurricane	Critical Workforce Disaster Re-entry Permits	This SOP seeks to clarify processes that will be followed during a disaster response to ensure that critical infrastructure providers are given timely and efficient access to hurricane-affected areas for the purpose of responding to life threatening hazards and repairing the critical infrastructure.
Hurricane	Hurricane Evacuation Study (Georgia HES)	The Georgia HES was developed to evaluate the major factors that must be considered in hurricane preparedness and to provide emergency management officials with information needed to support hurricane evacuation decision-making. It identifies areas of hurricane vulnerability, potential public behavior, and evacuation clearance times associated with hurricanes making landfall on the east coast of Georgia.
Hurricane	Hurricane Plan	The Georgia Hurricane Plan establishes the overarching framework for preparedness, response, and initial recovery from hazards associated with tropical cyclones. The Georgia's OPCON Timeline, evacuations, and re-entry are addressed in the Appendices.
Logistics	GEOP Annex ESF-7 - Logistics and Resource Support	ESF#7 provides a framework for GEMA/HS, GFC, and DOAS to jointly manage a supply chain that supports incident response and recovery. Topics covered include Initial Response Resources (IRR), temporary emergency power, temporary facilities, mutual aid, emergency purchasing.
Logistics	Logistics Management and Resource Support Operations	This Annex outlines how ESF#7 will support affected counties, State agencies and State emergency workers with critical goods and services as a part of an emergency or disaster response.
Mass Fatality	Mass Fatality Template (for local jurisdictions)	A mass fatality incident is any situation where more deaths occur than can be handled by local medical examiner/coroner resources. This editable template defines procedures for recovery and identification of decedents; morgue services; family assistance and notification; public communication; death certificate processing; tracking; storage; and final disposition.
Mitigation	Hazard Mitigation Strategy	This document assesses the State's risks and vulnerabilities; outlines mitigation priorities and goals, and describes policies, programs, and capabilities at the state and local level. The local mitigation plan development process is also described.
Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid Support Annex	This Annex provides the overarching framework through which intrastate and interstate mutual aid operations will be conducted in response to a Governor's State of Emergency.
Public Information	Crisis Communication Policy	The GEMA Crisis Communications Policy establishes policies and standard operating procedures to ensure that critical information is collected, verified, and disseminated to the public in a timely way for the purpose of saving lives and protecting property.
Public Information	GEOP Annex ESF-15 - External Affairs	The purpose of ESF#15 is to provide information in a clear, concise and accurate manner on actions taken by local and state governments and actions to be taken by the public.
Public Safety	GEOP Annex ESF-13 - Public Safety and Security	ESF #13 integrates state agencies with law enforcement capabilities to provide safety and security operations in response to emergency and disaster incidents.