OPERATION FAST START

Orange County Post

Readiness Plan

2020 & 2021
TO: SAME Orange County Members and General Post Membership
Orange County Engineering, Architectural and Construction Community and Material Suppliers

It is the policy of the United States to have an Emergency Mobilization Preparedness Capability that will ensure that government at all levels, in partnership with the private sector and the American people, can respond decisively and effectively to any major national emergency with the defense of the United States as first priority.

To support government at all levels in their emergency preparedness capabilities, the Orange County Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), through its Board of Directors, and in cooperation with its sustaining corporate member firms, has published this Operation Fast Start plan in coordination with the National Response Framework, and in response to the Society’s commitment to come to the aid of governments and citizens in time of national emergencies, including natural and manmade disasters.

Operation Fast Start outlines how civilian architectural and engineering firms, construction contractors, material suppliers, and other firms can interact with military and government construction agencies in Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Los Angeles Counties to respond effectively to any major emergency.

As your local representatives of the Society of American Military Engineers, it is our responsibility and our pleasure to provide this tool as a service to the overall populations of Orange County.

We invite you to become a member of SAME, if you are not already, and to share with us your ideas, abilities, and experiences. We look forward to your active participation. Should you require additional information, please contact the undersigned. Our contact information is listed on our website.

Sincerely,

R. Schlesinger, P.E., LEED AP BD+C, F.SAME
Captain, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy (retired) President, SAME Orange County Post

Steven Tayanipour, PE, SE, F. ASCE, F. SAME, MBA
Chairman, Emergency Preparedness and Infrastructure Resilience Committee, SAME Orange County Post
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OPERATION FAST START

I. INTRODUCTION

The Orange County, California Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) encompasses members from geographic areas within and surrounding Orange County.

The Operation Fast Start plan is designed to increase the awareness of local planners, design and construction personnel so that they:

1. Understand the mechanisms of contracting for emergency services;
2. Improve their response time by understanding what they may be required to do and when; and
3. Assist in responding effectively to the emergencies that may face our nation and region.

The objective is to increase preparedness for the full range of emergencies: natural, industrial, and defense.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Orange County Post’s Operation Fast Start plan is to assist Federal, State and local governments in recovery from disasters and emergencies.

The Operation Fast Start Plan has been established to define emergency work requirements, inventory existing regional capabilities, describe capabilities, make capabilities known to governmental agencies, and address specific opportunities for SAME member participation in engineering tasks associated with the recovery from a full range of natural and manmade disasters and emergencies defined as follows:

A. NATURAL DISASTER. A major natural disaster in the Orange County area could result in hundreds of deaths and millions of dollars in property damage. Major damage to energy facilities is also a possibility and could result in disruption to energy supplies.

The most devastating natural disasters that could occur within the region are:

1. Flooding, in the form of flash floods, rising water, or flooding from wind-driven, or wind-held water. Flooding is generally associated with other weather-caused destructive forces.

2. Brush fires, which cause significant damages to buildings and losses of timber and agricultural interests.

3. Earthquakes, which result from movement along fault lines causing structural damage to structures (homes, buildings) and lifelines.
B. MANMADE DISASTERS – INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. The region supported by the Orange County Post is diverse in its mix of residential communities, commercial and recreational centers, government facilities and industry. Manufacturing, storage and distribution, transportation, retail and commercial activities are diverse in their types and dispersed throughout the region. Although many safeguards and regulatory oversight are in place, many of these industries handle hazardous and toxic materials in quantities that represent a threat to human health, property and the environment if accidentally released or subjected to fire or other dangers.

C. MANMADE DISASTERS - TERRORIST THREAT OR ACTIVITY. There are elements within and outside our society that seek to enhance their own goals through sabotage of key buildings, installations, transportation and communications infrastructure which may include deliberate or collateral death and injury to the public.

The engineering/ construction industry may be called upon to help recover from these activities. Participation by member firms would be aimed at restoration of essential services, debris removal, and reconstruction of public facilities such as roads and bridges, utilities and other structures. Design consideration for new facilities should emphasize, where possible, threat reduction and force protection.

Operation Fast Start has four initial goals to better position the engineering/construction assets of the Orange County area to respond effectively in a national emergency, natural disaster, or other type of emergency:

(1) Enhance Awareness of Local Planners. Planners should keep emergency services in mind when planning future relief efforts. They should be aware of the tremendous pool of talent that can be made available by SAME’s Members and agencies to the extent of including SAME in the emergency plans.

(2) Improved Response Time by SAME Members. This goal is aimed at SAME members to help them understand what will be required and when. Coordinating between members and key response agencies to discuss/reduce common problems will reduce the time required to reorient from emergency response to normal activities.

3) Improved Flexible Response. Through improved planning, based on awareness and timeliness, increased flexibility will enable Orange County to respond effectively to a range of disasters and emergencies. The worldwide threats to US interests in the years ahead may be many, new, and diverse. The requirement for flexibility in planning for any contingency is vitally important.

(4) Maximize Use of Existing Capabilities. The construction industry is decentralized, flexible, mobile, and highly responsive to demand. The industry has demonstrated this responsiveness. Existing capabilities are adequate for nearly any contingency, given proper preparedness.

With readiness and rapid response, the effects of a disaster can be mitigated more efficiently.
III. MOBILIZATION READINESS

Prior to a full military mobilization and dependent on congressional priorities, there may be a period of engineering/construction effort devoted to improving emergency operations centers and protecting infrastructure.

During military mobilization, the focus of the nation's defense engineering/construction effort will be to first support the mobilization and deployment of both active and reserve component troops and provide construction support to other federal agencies. This support could consist of engineering or construction at military installations, to include barracks, warehouses, utilities, waterfront structures, and transportation networks.

Military installations in the Southern California area in localities adjacent to Orange County include:

- California Army National Guard Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos
- Edwards Air Force Base
- Air Force Plant 42
- Fort MacArthur, Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Air Force Base
- March Air Force Reserve Base
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton
- Marine Corps Ground Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms
IV. KEY PROGRAMS

A. LOCAL RESPONSE PLANS

Some Orange County cities have established an Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) to save lives and property in an emergency and to repair and restore essential systems and services in the event of an emergency. An Emergency Operations Board consisting of representatives from Police, Fire, and other city agencies supervises the EOO during emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

Other Orange County agencies responsible for emergency preparedness and response may join forces in emergency preparedness, such as Department of Health Services, Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response, etc.

B. STATE RESPONSE PLANS

The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) ensures readiness for response to natural and manmade disaster recovery. OES maintains the State Emergency Plan and coordinates State agencies in their response to local major emergencies and coordinates response to major disasters.

C. FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN

FEMA coordinates the establishment of policies for mobilization preparedness of Federal agencies, prepares and maintains the Federal Master Mobilization Plan and guides the states and federal regional councils in their emergency preparedness. The U.S. is divided into ten FEMA regions, with Oakland being the headquarters for FEMA Region IX, which covers Orange County.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been designated by the Department of Defense as the primary agency for technical assistance, engineering, and construction management resources and support under the Emergency Support Function No. 3, “Public Works and Engineering Annex” (https://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-03.pdf). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District office in Los Angeles County will deliver required federal assistance in the areas of public works and engineering.

When disaster – e.g. a flood, or a chemical spill - threatens a community, local responders, government agencies, and private organizations take action. Most of the time, with the help of the State, they have the skills and equipment to do the job. However, sometimes the destruction exceeds local and State capabilities to respond. That is when Federal help is needed.

The Federal process begins when a state governor asks the President of the U.S. for help. The President, with FEMA advice, authorizes the mobilization of Federal resources. Disaster-stricken areas become eligible for relief when the President declares an emergency or major disaster.

FEMA has the responsibility for, and directs, Federal disaster assistance. In coordination with other federal agencies, FEMA developed the Federal Response Plan (hereafter referred to as the FRP). It
provides the system for delivering Federal assistance to State and local governments when the requirements of emergency response exceed State and local capabilities.

The FRP outlines how the Federal government responds to disasters, provides state and local governments with personnel, technical expertise, equipment and other resources, and assumes an active role in managing a response. The FRP is based on the premise that a significant disaster may require a broad spectrum of Federal assistance to immediately support State and local emergency response operations. The FRP establishes a foundation for a systematic, coordinated, and effective Federal response by:

(a) Establishing fundamental assumptions and policies;
(b) Establishing a concept of operations that provides an interagency coordinating mechanism for immediate delivery of Federal assistance;
(c) Incorporating the coordination mechanisms and structure of other appropriate Federal plans and responsibilities into the overall response;
(d) Identifying specific Federal resources to supplement State and local response operations;
(e) Assigning specific functional responsibilities to appropriate Federal departments and agencies; and
(f) Identifying actions Federal departments and agencies will take to manage the overall Federal response in coordination with the affected State.

The FRP does not specifically address recovery assistance, such as temporary housing, loans and grants to local and State government entities provided under traditional disaster assistance programs of FEMA and other agencies. However, initial recovery efforts may commence as response activities take place.

For the latest updates go to:
V. CONTRACTING AGENCIES

A. In Orange County and surrounding areas, contracting for materials and services during a major emergency or disaster could be handled by California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) /OES @ Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, the military contracting office, also at Los Alamitos, and the Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (See Appendix A). The District office of the Corps is chartered to provide federal engineering management in emergencies at the local level within the civil sector. The Corps of Engineers is prepared for actions in a broad spectrum of emergency conditions including natural disasters. Fundamental authority covers responsibilities for water resources protection and disaster relief and for civil defense. These missions have one thing in common. The Corps is charged to mitigate loss of life and property in national disasters, whether natural or man-made. The U. S. averages about 30 disasters per year of the size that requires the Corps to assist with recovery. However, these events do not compare in magnitude to those experienced and postulated in preparation for, conduct of, and recovery from, war or terrorist activities.

B. The Los Angeles National Guard Units/Bases contracts for materials and services on an ongoing basis. In time of emergency, it would continue to fulfill this role up to the condition of full mobilization where it would be dissolved after all State resources are mobilized and existing contracts completed. The State of California has various departments, which may enter into contracts with local firms for services and/or materials in time of emergency. Finally, several cities in Orange County have various departments, which may also enter into contracts with local firms in times of emergency.

VI. THE PROCESS

To maximize the mitigation capacity of the design and construction industry, a doctrine of planning, preparation, and organization must be known and practiced by industry

A. REPORTING. As a private contractor, when and to whom do I report availability for work in an emergency?

A&E firms, contractors, suppliers, and subcontractors can be prepared to accept mobilization direction from the local agencies of Orange County or others in neighboring counties. To ensure timely and effective direction, these agencies need to know the members/firms’ qualifications.

B. OPERATIONS. What is the nature of emergency operations?

Emergencies can run the gamut of situations from floods, earthquakes and droughts to chemical/nuclear accident, terrorist acts, war mobilization and/or nuclear attack. Private firms, whether A-E firms, contractors, suppliers, and/or subcontractors, must be able to adjust their operations. New relationships must be established with local, state, regional, and national agencies to determine the response necessary for the private sector to perform its role while averting panic. A partial list of agencies responsible for emergency response is provided in Appendix A.
C. PROCEDURES. The types of contracting procedures depend on the hiring agencies.

D. DESIGN STANDARDS/STANDARD DESIGNS. What are the design standards for mobilization construction?

Peacetime standards provide "permanency," whereas emergency standards are often described as "expedient." A combined effort by government, A&E firms, and contractors is necessary to establish standards consistent with good engineering and construction practices and with the environment of the area where the district and/or division offices are located. Engineering and Mobilization construction, as currently envisioned, will use standard plans and non-critical material. The objective is to build functional facilities in minimum time. It can be expected that maximum use of "alternatives" to construction will be sought, such as leasing civilian or other government facilities, and converting nonessential military facilities. The design of standard mobilization facilities is in progress, to include all drawings, standard specifications and individual bills of materials. These designs include all drawings. Once the specific construction requirements are established, a complete bill of materials can be compiled. This will allow a quick assessment of suppliers' ability to meet the demand for materials.

E. MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT READINESS. How can the private sector enhance its readiness?

Prior planning and analysis are the key to readiness. The change in employee priorities and needs during emergency conditions must be recognized. At these times, people's professional dedication will be tempered with worries about the safety of themselves and their families. A readiness plan must be sensitive to the psychological condition of those charged with its execution. The principals of firms must be prepared to assume a leadership role in restoring order to the disorder that inevitably follows a mobilization or emergency. Employees must feel confident of their firm's ability to perform during emergency conditions.

VII. THE FEEDBACK MECHANISM

Once we, as an Individual Member, Sustaining Member, or the interested prospective operator, think through the probability of disaster and our response capability, important new thoughts, concepts, tactics, equipment, and processes will evolve. These can save precious minutes, lives and property. At this point SAME may be able participate in a nonbinding advisory role.

VIII. RESOURCES

The Society of American Military Engineers, Orange County Post, currently has an increasing number of sustaining member firms as well as individual and active or retired members from private sectors firm and the military, with diverse capabilities. These members are from engineering and construction-related businesses. Members are encouraged to communicate with Public Agencies in their territory, and provide them their firm's contact information and their qualifications summary, for their possible availability in the event of natural or manmade disaster recovery.
APPENDIX--A

FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The following Federal departments and agencies agree to support the overall concept of the Plan and to carry out their assigned functional responsibilities. They also agree to implement national and regional planning efforts and exercise activities in order to maintain the overall Federal response capability:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- American Red Cross
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- General Services Administration
- Interstate Commerce Commission
- National Aeronautical and Space Administration
- National Communications System
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
- Office of Personnel Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Postal Service
- Small Business Administration
ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES To facilitate the provisions of Federal assistance, the Plan uses a functional approach to group the types of Federal assistance, which the State is most likely to need fewer than 12 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). The 12 ESFs serve as the primary mechanism under which Federal response assistance will be provided to assist the State in rendering assistance to the affected area. Each ESF is headed by a primary or lead Federal agency, with other agencies providing support as necessary to carry out the function. Primary agencies have been assigned based on having the most resources and capabilities in the particular functional area.

ESF #1. The Department of Transportation has primary responsibility for ESF #1, which is to provide for the coordination of Federal transportation support to State and local governmental entities, voluntary organizations, and Federal agencies requiring transportation capacity to perform disaster assistance missions following a catastrophic earthquake, significant natural disaster, or other event requiring Federal response.

ESF #2. The National Communications System has primary responsibility for ESF #2, which is to assure the provision of Federal telecommunications support to Federal, State, and local response efforts following a Presidential declared emergency, major disaster, extraordinary situation and other emergencies under the Federal Response Plan. This ESF supplements the provisions of the National Plan for Telecommunications Support in Non-Wartime Emergencies.

ESF #3. The Department of Defense has delegated responsibility to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for ESF #3, which is to provide Public Works and Engineering support to assist the state(s) in needs related to lifesaving or life protecting following a major or catastrophic disaster.

ESF #4. The Department of Agriculture has primary responsibility for ESF #4, which is to detect and suppress wild land, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, a catastrophic earthquake, significant natural disaster or other event requiring Federal response assistance.

ESF #5. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has primary responsibility for ESF #5, which is to collect process and disseminate information about a potential or actual disaster or emergency to facilitate the overall activities of the Federal government in providing response assistance to an affected state.

ESF #6. The American Red Cross has primary responsibility for ESF #6, which is to coordinate efforts to provide sheltering, feeding, and emergency first aid services following a catastrophic earthquake, significant natural disaster or other event requiring; Federal response assistance; to operate a Disaster Welfare Information System to collect, receive, and report information about the status of victims and assist with family reunification within the disaster area; and to coordinate bulk distribution of emergency relief supplies to disaster victims following a disaster. Also see chapter 6, Local Programs.

ESF #7. The General Services Administration has primary responsibility for ESF #7, which is to provide logistical/resource support following a catastrophic earthquake, other significant natural disaster, or other event requiring Federal response.
ESF #8. The Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Public Health Service, has primary responsibility for ESF #8, which is to provide U.S. Government coordinated assistance to supplement state and local resources in response to public health and medical care needs following a significant natural disaster or manmade event. Assistance provided under this ESF is directed by the Department of Health and Human Services through its executive agent, the Assistant Secretary of Health, who heads the U.S. Public Health Service. Resources will be furnished when state and local resources are overwhelmed and medical and/or public health assistance is requested from the Federal government.

ESF #9. The Department of Defense has primary responsibility for ESF #9, which is to describe the use of Federal Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) assets following an event requiring a Federal response. The scope of US&R activities includes locating, extricating and providing for the immediate medical treatment of victims trapped in collapsed structures.

ESF #10. The Environmental Protection Agency has primary responsibility for ESF #10, which is to provide Federal support to State and local governments in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or release of hazardous material following a catastrophic earthquake or other catastrophic disaster.

ESF #11. The Department of Agriculture has primary responsibility for ESF #11, which is to identify, secure, and arrange for the transportation of food assistance to affected areas following a major disaster or emergency or other event requiring Federal response.

ESF #12. The Department of Energy has primary responsibility for ESF #12, which is to help restore the Nation's energy systems following a catastrophic earthquake, natural disaster, or other significant event requiring Federal response assistance. Power and fuel are critical to saving lives and protecting health, safety, and property, and enable other emergency support functions to respond more effectively.