



**Support Annex 5
Worker Safety and Health**



Coordinating Agency

WV Division of Labor (WVDOL)

Support Agencies and Organizations

All Executive Branch Agencies
All Non-Governmental Agencies
Public Service Commission (PSC)

Purpose

This Worker Safety and Health Annex provides for State support to local jurisdictions response and recovery organizations in their initiatives to assure threats to responder safety and health are anticipated, recognized, evaluated, and controlled during incidents requiring a coordinated response.

Scope

A. This Worker Safety and Health Annex addresses resources, capabilities, and other support critical to provide protection of worker safety and health for all emergency responders and response organizations during an emergency. While this annex addresses coordination and provision of technical assistance for incident safety management activities, it does not address public health and safety. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 Public Health & Medical Services addresses public health and safety.

B. Coordination mechanisms and processes used to provide technical assistance for carrying out incident safety management activities include identification and characterization of incident hazards, assessments and analyses of health risks and exposures to responders, medical monitoring, and incident risk management.

Policies

A. ESF 5 Emergency Management, activates the WVDOL Safety Office as the coordinator for worker safety and health technical support. WVDOL then implements the activities described in this annex.

B. This annex does not replace the responsibilities of private sector and local jurisdictions, and State government employers; rather, it ensures that assistance is available to meet those responsibilities during incidents requiring a coordinated response.

C. WVDOL assistance and coordination, as described in this annex, also may be requested during the course of an incident if specific needs are identified by other ESFs or individual agencies.

D. Private-sector and Federal employers are responsible for the safety and health of their own employees.

E. State and local governments are responsible for worker health and safety pursuant to State and local statutes. This responsibility includes allocating sufficient resources for safety and health programs, training staff, purchasing and providing protective clothing and equipment as needed, and correcting unsafe or unsanitary conditions.

F. This annex does not replace the primary responsibilities of the government and employers; rather, it ensures that in fulfilling these responsibilities, response organizations plan and prepare in a consistent manner and that interoperability is a primary consideration for worker safety and health.

G. Several Federal and State agencies, including WVDOL/OSHA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have oversight authority for responders and response operations. While these agencies retain their authorities, they are expected to work cooperatively and proactively with Federal, State, local, and private-sector responders prior to and during response operations to ensure the adequate protection of all workers.

H. Worker safety and health representatives work with the Joint Information Center (JIC) regarding the release of general occupational safety and health information.

Situation

A. An incident or emergency has occurred that impacts emergency responders and response organizations during an emergency and may necessitate the activation of the WVEOP Worker Safety and Health Support Annex.

B. A major disaster could include death or injury to emergency responders.

Planning Assumptions

An incident can occur at any time, with or without warning, and may disrupt the ability of State government to provide critical services to citizens of the State of West Virginia.

Organizational Structure

A. The WVDOL coordinates the activities of the State agencies that provide the core architecture for worker safety and health technical support during an emergency or incident or when otherwise directed.

B. The WVDOL and cooperating agencies provide staff to support the WVSEOC Safety Officer. WVDOL and cooperating agencies also may serve as technical specialists in other State field elements as required.

C. The WVDOL will request technical assistance from WVOSHA when State resources are exhausted. It is anticipated that initial coordination will begin when the State requests deployment of the DHS, FEMA Region 3 Liaison.

Concept of Operations

The WVDOL coordinates State safety and health assets to provide proactive consideration of all potential hazards; ensures availability and management of all safety resources needed by responders; shares responder safety-related information; and coordinates among Federal agencies, State, local, and private-sector organizations involved in incident response.

Agency Responsibilities Matrix

Supporting Agency	Acronym	Responsibilities
West Virginia Division of Labor / Safety Section	WVDOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists the WVSEOC Incident Coordination Team Safety Officer by providing and coordinating technical support for responder safety and health. Resolves technical, procedural, and risk assessment conflicts, if necessary through formal recourse to the WVSEOC Safety Officer or Incident Director, before they adversely affect the consistency and accuracy of the advice and information provided to responders, and response organizations Carrying out the policies identified in this annex Implements a system to capture and manage incident exposure data in a centralized location to enable data-sharing among agencies with a responder health and safety focus.
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection	WVDEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions pertaining to WVDEP are identified in ESF 10 Hazardous Material and other applicable WVEOP annexes
West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety	WVDMAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide direction, coordination, and oversight as required
Public Service Commission	PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions pertaining to PSC are identified in ESF 12 Energy and other applicable WVEOP annexes.
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources	WVDHHR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions pertaining to WVDHHR are identified in ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services and other applicable WVEOP annexes

Authorities & References

Authorities

West Virginia Code §21-3, as amended

West Virginia Code §21-3A, as amended

References

West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, Basic Plan as amended