

ANNEX 9

ESF-9 - SEARCH AND RESCUE

COORDINATING: South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation/Division of State Fire

PRIMARY: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; South Carolina Department of Transportation; South Carolina Forestry Commission; South Carolina National Guard; Civil Air Patrol

SUPPORT: South Carolina State Guard; Department of Environmental Services

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Ground or Rural Search and Rescue is the search for persons who are lost or in distress on land or inland waterways. Traditionally associated with wilderness zones, ground search and rescue services are increasingly required in urban and suburban areas to locate persons with Alzheimer's disease, autism, dementia, or other conditions that lead to wandering behavior. Ground search and rescue missions that occur in urban areas should not be confused with 'urban search and rescue', which in many jurisdictions refers to the location and extrication of people from collapsed buildings or other entrapments. Situations requiring specialized water rescue training and equipment can be called for under the heading of 'Swift Water Rescue'. Some ground search teams also employ search and rescue dogs. In certain circumstances, aircraft may also be used to conduct search and rescue operations.
- B. Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) involves the location, extrication, and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in structural collapse due to natural disasters, mines and collapsed trenches. The causes of US&R incidents can be categorized as accidental, deliberate, or as a result of a natural disaster. Structural collapse incidents can comprise unstable or collapsed structures in an unsafe position. Collapse incidents usually leave voids inside the debris that can result in numerous casualties trapped under large amounts of very heavy and often unstable debris.
- C. US&R services can face complex rescue operations within hazardous environments. Incident experience shows that people are often found alive many hours and days after rescue operations commence. Corresponding services should be planned accordingly. The first 72 hours of an incident are crucial to minimizing the mortality rate and search and rescue must begin immediately. Urban disaster search and rescue activities include locating, extricating, and coordinating the immediate medical assistance to victims trapped in collapsed structures.
- D. Search and rescue activities include emergency incidents that involve locating missing person(s), boats lost at sea, downed aircraft, extrication if necessary, and initial medical stabilization of victims upon rescue.

- E. Swift water and flood search and rescue activities includes locating victims and effecting safe rescue(s) in a moving water environment by ground, water, or air.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to provide state support to local governments by using state resources in missing person, swift water/flood, and urban/disaster search and rescue (SAR) activities during daily events as well as actual or potential disasters.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATION

- A. The SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (SCLLR); Division of State Fire, is responsible for the coordination of all ESF-9 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-9 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- B. The SERT will provide support to local search and rescue operations through ESF-9 as the coordinating ESF. The SCLLR Division of State Fire, as the lead agency, will coordinate the provision of other state personnel and equipment.
- C. Upon notification by the State EOC of a potential or actual event requiring response, SERT agencies with SAR assets will be notified by telephone, email or text utilizing the Code Red System. All support agency contact persons for the SAR emergency support function will be instructed to alert their contacts throughout the state to ensure all resources are available.
- D. ESF-9 will coordinate the state's search and rescue response.
 - 1. ESF-9 may coordinate the staging of assets before actual requests are forwarded.
 - 2. When state assets are exhausted, or in anticipation of large-scale disasters beyond the state's capability, ESF-9 will coordinate other state or federal resources.
- E. Additional specialized resources may be needed from state and federal resources through mutual aid and Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC).
- F. ESF-9 will coordinate with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure continual operational readiness.
- G. ESF-9 will provide daily situation reports, starting at OPCON 2, to all specialized state teams.
- H. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000, amended 2013, (South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 23, Chapter 49) mobilizes search and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency that requires additional resources. ESF-9 will

use the mobilization plan to coordinate additional search and rescue resources, as needed.

- I. As appropriate, ESF-9 will coordinate deployment of liaison staff to the county emergency operations centers (EOC) and/or the local unified command post(s).
- J. ESF-9 will coordinate deployment of aviation search and rescue resources and send liaison staff to county EOCs if requested and/or the local unified command post(s).
- K. ESF-9 will coordinate with Federal ESF-9 to obtain and coordinate federal assistance as required.
- L. State government agencies assist local government in planning, training, and obtaining resources. The state may assume operational control of any SAR mission, in support of the local incident commander, when requested by local government.
- M. The state may also assume operational control, in support of local incident commanders, in situations involving multi-county areas and/or as the Governor directs.
- N. Organization of the search and rescue function varies from county to county. The emergency manager, fire/rescue chief, or senior law enforcement official may be designated as the local search coordinator. This function may be delegated to state ESF-9 and then assigned to state or federal SAR subject matter experts.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

- A. Prevention/Protection
 - 1. Participate in state exercises and, at least annually, validate this Annex and supporting SOPs.
 - 2. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
- B. Response
 - 1. Initial Response
 - a. Coordinate the support of local agencies with appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment as needed.
 - b. Coordinate and maintain situational awareness of resources committed to an incident.

- c. Coordinate with support agencies for the deployment of liaison team(s) to county EOC(s) or Incident/Area Command Post(s).
 - d. Plan for and coordinate relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources.
 - e. Coordinate other state and federal support for search and rescue operations to include planning for reception and deployment to the area of operations.
 - f. Coordinate air support assets to support search and rescue operations.
 - g. State and local resources from outside the disaster area are committed through coordination with other agencies with SAR resources.
2. Sustained and Enduring Operations
- a. Coordination between state, local, and if requested, federal SAR resources is controlled by the State Emergency Response Team (ESF-9).
 - b. SAR resources are reassigned as needed and requested.
 - c. SAR resources are demobilized when no longer needed.
- C. Recovery
- 1. Provide SAR resources to assist recovery efforts, within the scope of SAR resource mission sets, upon request.
 - 2. Return all activities expeditiously to pre-emergency status.
 - 3. Maintain and update all plans and programs.
 - 4. Continue to coordinate and maintain situational awareness of resources committed to an incident.
 - 5. Continue to coordinate support for local operations and plan for a reduction of operations.
 - 6. Anticipate and plan for the arrival of, and coordination with, FEMA ESF-9 personnel in the SEOC and the JFO.
 - 7. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
 - 8. Support recovery priorities as identified by Recovery Task Force.

D. Mitigation

1. Review, evaluate, and comment on proposed State Hazard Mitigation Plan amendments, upon initiation and within review period.
2. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES**A. General**

1. Coordinating, primary, and support agencies will identify, train, assign, and provide personnel to staff ESF-9 in the SEOC.
2. Support agencies will designate a lead contact from their agency to ESF-9 and will maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
3. Coordinating, primary, and support agencies will establish and maintain a system for alert and mobilization.

B. South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

1. Based on availability and upon request, provide a forward liaison to local government and coordinate assistance and/or response from state and federal governments and private SAR organizations.
2. Organize and appropriately train emergency management personnel for participation in all aspects of SAR operations.
3. Coordinate additional training for state and local government agencies and volunteer organizations to ensure an acceptable level of SAR preparedness.
4. Ensure specialized resources are prepared by maintaining training records, applications, and typing criteria.
5. Maintain current directory of qualified resources for search and rescue.
6. Coordinate air assets to transport specialized resources in a timely fashion in coordination with the Air Operations Branch, when activated.
7. Provide search and rescue training.
8. Coordinate and manage South Carolina Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) resources.

9. Coordinate and mobilize qualified resources from fire and rescue services statewide through Firefighter Mobilization and statewide mutual aid agreements.
10. Provide the South Carolina (Palmetto) Incident Support Team (SC-IST) to coordinate, manage, and/or support search and rescue operations.

C. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

1. Act as guides in woodland and water search areas.
2. Plan, coordinate, and execute rural search and rescue operations.
3. Provide air, water, and land transportation suitable for SAR missions.
4. Provide personnel to support SAR teams.

D. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Provide personnel, tracking teams, working dogs, air assets, hoists, high intensity spotlights, and Forward Looking Infrared Radar imaging (FLIR) as requested.

E. South Carolina Department of Transportation

Provide aviation support and coordination through the Air Operations Branch.

F. South Carolina National Guard

1. Conduct air and ground search as directed.
2. Conduct swift water/flood search and rescue using qualified civilian helicopter aquatic rescue technicians.
3. Conduct stranded personnel rescue and injured personnel extraction through operating aircraft with rescue hoist or Heli-Basket operations capability.
4. Conduct annual recurrent qualification training with pilot(s), crew chief(s), and qualified civilian rescuers.
5. Provide aviation support with FLIR imaging and high intensity spotlights.
6. Provide manpower, expertise, and supervision of the Air Operations Branch.

G. South Carolina Forestry Commission

1. Provide air and ground search and rescue as directed.
2. Act as guides within state forest areas.

3. Provide four Incident Management (1 Type-2, 3 Type-3) Teams (IMTs) to coordinate management of search and rescue operations as required.

H. Civil Air Patrol

1. Provide trained personnel for air and ground search operations.
2. Provide aerial photography during search and rescues operations.
3. Provide an Incident Commander (IC) for air search operations as tasked by the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) or approving and accepting a mission request from emergency management.
4. Upon receiving a mission number from AFRCC or approving and accepting a mission request from emergency management, provide personnel for ground, lake, or river SAR operations.

I. South Carolina State Guard

Provide trained personnel and available equipment for search and rescue operations.

J. Department of Environmental Services (DES)

Provide Hazardous Materials technical assistance.

VI. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

- A. This Annex is supported by the National Response Framework for Federal ESF-9 (Search and Rescue).
- B. Federal ESF-9 will coordinate urban search and rescue support to state and local SAR operations through the SERT. SAR activities on federal property, such as national parks, will be under the direction and control of the federal agency under whose jurisdiction the emergency occurs.
- C. The Regional Administrator of FEMA is authorized to provide federal assistance as emergency protective measures under the emergency and major disaster provisions of the National Response Framework.
- D. The US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center has jurisdiction of inland search operations for incidents involving aircraft.
- E. The US Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center has jurisdiction of search and rescue missions over coastal and navigable waterways.
- F. Federal ESF-9 will generally be a part of the IMAT and may be represented on any advance element.

- G. The National US&R Response System is an integrated system of US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams (IST), and technical specialists.