

## ANNEX 9

### ESF-9 - SEARCH AND RESCUE

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PRIMARY: SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety

SUPPORT: SC Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control; SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; SC Department of Transportation, SC Forestry Commission; SC Law Enforcement Division; Civil Air Patrol; SC National Guard

#### I. INTRODUCTION. Search and Rescue consists of three components:

- A. Urban Search and Rescue. The location, extrication, and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces due to natural disasters, structural collapse, transportation accidents, and collapsed trenches, or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by any emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves.
- B. Rural Search and Rescue. The location, extrication, and initial medical care of victims from rural settings or locations. Rural search and rescue activities include, but are not limited to:
- Emergency incidents involving locating missing persons
  - Locating boats lost in or around coastal waters or inland waters
  - Water rescue
  - Locating downed aircraft
  - Extrication if necessary
- C. Aerial Search and Rescue. The use of aviation assets to assist in searching for and/or extricating victims. Aerial search and rescue is used when traditional rescue methods will not be effective.
1. This type of rescue is the most dangerous; therefore is a last resort.
  2. Aerial rescue can be used when victims are trapped in areas where there is limited or no access for responders.
  3. Aerial search and rescue is not a patient-transporting resource

#### II. PURPOSE

Define the roles and responsibilities of State and federal agencies in preparing, responding and recovering from search and rescue incidents.

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### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (SCLLR); Division of Fire and Life Safety, 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. ESF-9 supporting agencies will assist SCLLR; Division of Fire and Life Safety, in the planning and execution of the above.
- C. Due to its unique capabilities, SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for the coordination of Rural Search and Rescue operations.
- 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. ESF-9 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Framework for ESF-9 and the corresponding Annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the organization, structure, functions and responsibilities of the Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- F. ESF-9 will coordinate with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure continual operational readiness.
- G. In coordination with and in support of the Counties, ESF-9 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local Emergency Management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.
- H. Local Governments/Assistance
  - 1. Local governments should organize, train, equip, and employ local teams and resources; conduct periodic testing of team capabilities and be prepared to coordinate the integration of local efforts with State and Federal assistance teams when necessary.
    - a. Local governments will activate applicable plans for the appropriate use of personnel and equipment tasked for search and rescue missions.

- b. Local Emergency Management organizations may coordinate with adjacent Counties for additional support.
- 2. ESF-9 will make every effort to support local equipment and personnel needs when requested and, when appropriate, integrate local resources into a regional or statewide response.
- I. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000 (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.
- J. 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).
- K. ESF-9 will coordinate deployment of aviation search and rescue resources and send liaison staff to County EOCs and/or the local Unified Command Post(s).
- L. ESF-9 will coordinate with Federal ESF-9 to obtain and coordinate Federal assistance as required.

#### **IV. ESF ACTIONS**

##### **A. Preparedness**

- 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.
- 3. Participate at least annually in State exercises and/or conduct an exercise to validate this Annex and supporting SOPs.

##### **B. Response**

- 1. Coordinate the support of local agencies with appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment as needed.
- 2. Coordinate and maintain situational awareness of resources committed to an incident.
- 3. Coordinate with support agencies for the deployment of liaison team(s) to County EOC(s) or Incident/Area Command Post(s).
- 4. Plan for and coordinate relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources.

5. Coordinate other State and Federal support for search and rescue operations to include planning for reception and deployment to the area of operations.
6. Coordinate with ESF-1 (Transportation) for transportation support as needed.
7. Coordinate air support assets to support search and rescue operations.
8. Provide ESF-9 representation on the Recovery Task Force.

**C. Recovery**

1. Continue to coordinate and maintain situational awareness of resources committed to an incident.
2. Continue to coordinate support for local operations and plan for a reduction of operations.
3. Anticipate and plan for the arrival of, and coordination with, FEMA ESF-9 personnel in the SEOC and the JFO.
4. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
5. Support recovery priorities as identified by Recovery Task Force.

**D. Mitigation**

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

**V. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. General. ESF-9 lead and support agencies will maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
- B. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Division of Fire and Life Safety
  1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to staff ESF-9 in the SEOC.

2. Identify and maintain a current resource inventory of search and rescue resources within the state.
  3. Identify and train liaisons.
  4. Coordinate search and rescue team deployment, and demobilization.
  5. Coordinate logistical support for search and rescue resources during field operations.
  6. Develop policies and procedures for the effective use and coordination of search and rescue resources.
  7. Coordinate South Carolina Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) resources.
  8. Provide trained rescue personnel and equipment to support short haul and hoist rescue operations as part of SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART).
  9. Maintain liaison with Federal urban search and rescue teams and plan for reception of external resources.
- C. SC Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement
1. Plan, coordinate, and execute Rural Search and Rescue operations.
  2. Provide personnel technical assistance, equipment and communications support.
- D. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Provide and hazardous materials technical assistance.
- E. SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
- Provide personnel for search operations.
- F. SC Forestry Commission
- Provide communications, personnel, equipment, to include air assets, and transportation.
- G. SC Law Enforcement Division
- Provide security, personnel, tracking dogs, and air assets (specifically helicopters with rescue hoist capabilities).

- H. Civil Air Patrol
  - 1. Provide aerial photography during search and rescue missions.
  - 2. Provide trained personnel and equipment for air and ground search operations.
  - 3. Provide aircraft, aircrews, and ground and operations personnel and communications for transportation of emergency officials, personnel, light-load cargo, and for various aerial reconnaissance flights.
- I. SC National Guard
  - 1. Provide trained personnel and aircraft to support short haul and hoist rescue operations as part of SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART).
  - 2. Be prepared to provide Aviation Support Operations Center (ASOC) in support of aerial rescue operations.

**VI. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

- A. This Annex is supported by the National Response Framework for Federal ESF-9 (Search and Rescue).
- B. 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.
- C. Federal ESF-9 will generally be a part of the IMAT and may be represented on any advance element.
- D. The National US&R Response System is an integrated system of US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams (IST), and technical specialists.