

ANNEX 9 (ESF-9) SEARCH AND RESCUE TO GREENWOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Tasked Organization: Greenwood County Fire Administration

**Suggested Liaison: All Fire Departments
Law Enforcement Agencies**

Staff augmentation as directed by the County Manager

I. INTRODUCTION

Urban search and rescue is the process of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by any emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves. Search and Rescue consists of two components:

- A. Rural search and rescue activities include, but are not limited to, emergency incidents involving locating missing persons, locating boats lost in or around inland waters, water rescue, locating downed aircraft, extrication if necessary, and first responder first-aid medical treatment of victims.
- B. Review this annex and the EOP and develop Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for each task established by this appendix and the EOP. Each ESF will insure that the special needs community is factor into their SOPs. Annually review the State EOP & Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.

II. MISSION

Conduct search and rescue operations in Greenwood County in time of emergency and/or disaster incident. Be prepared to act as a monitoring activity in non-emergency situations by providing manpower, coordination, and informational awareness information to the EOC..

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The County Fire Administration 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 SOP.
- B. All personnel will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into all ESF-9 planning and response operations.
- C. Coordination with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations will be a continual process.

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- D. The County Fire Administration shall organize, train, equip, and employ County teams and resources; conduct periodic testing of team capabilities; and coordinate the integration of County efforts with State and Federal assistance teams.
- E. County EOC is responsible for the activation of plans and coordination of resources requested by the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander in all search and rescue operations will be the Fire Chief whose area of responsibility the operation begins. The EOC Manager will coordinate with State EOC for support operations and coordinate with adjacent counties for additional support.
- F. Request for State Support. County ESF-9 will coordinate the request for state support resources. When county assets are exhausted, or anticipated ESF-9 will coordinate requests for state or federal assets. ESF-9 will integrate the use of all search and rescue personnel and resources made available. Implementation of a county search and rescue response will be in accordance with the Incident Command System structure.
- G. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000 mobilizes fire and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency that requires additional resources. All resource requests by municipal or county volunteer fire departments will be requested through the EOC. County ESF-9 will coordinate with State ESF-9 to obtain these requested fire and rescue resources.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

Actions necessary to insure readiness to respond are divided into the four cycles of emergency management. These are: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Each cycle requires actions to be planned for to insure total readiness. Considerations to be planned for are but are not limited to:

- A. Preparedness/Preventive Phases
 1. Maintain a current inventory of resources, including qualified trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations. Maintain records reflecting capabilities.
 2. Participate in county exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-9 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
 3. Maintain liaison with state urban search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets.
 4. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions.
 5. Assist in training of personnel and rescue organizations for search and rescue operations.

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6. Be prepared to receive such specialty teams as US Army Corps of Engineers structures specialists and System to Locate Survivors (STOLS).
7. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate new tasks as appropriate into this plan and/or supporting SOPs.
8. Ensure all personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All ESF personnel will complete all required NIMS training.
9. Determine staffing requirements for performing EOC duties at the three levels of EOC activation and coordinate needs with Emergency Management Director.

B. Response Phase

1. Support appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment, as needed.
2. Assume command of the incident. Insure necessary tracking of all resources committed to the incident. This may include placing personnel at a forward command post and staging areas.
3. Maintain liaison with county EOC.
4. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate committed resources for extended operations.
5. Coordinate requested state and federal support. ESF 9 will plan for their reception, sheltering, feeding, and deployment. to search areas.
6. Coordinate with State ESF-9 for the appropriate time to request US Army Corps of Engineers structures specialists and System to Locate Survivors (STOLS).
7. Coordinate with ESF-1 for use of buses to transport rescue teams or rescued victims or persons evacuated from an emergency area to a safe location or emergency shelter.

C. Recovery Phase

1. Continue to support operations and plan for a reduction of operations.
2. Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
3. Anticipate and plan for arrival of, and coordination with, SEOC and FEMA ESF-9 personnel in the EOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO), if established.

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4. Insure the reporting of costs, type equipment used and manpower resources used during the event.
5. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in County EOC briefings, situation reports and action plans. This information will become valuable in future mitigation considerations

D. Mitigation Phase

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Support requests and directives concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. County Fire Administration

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to staff ESF-9 in the EOC.
2. Establish notification procedures for those designated to staff ESF positions and implement upon activation notification
3. Identify and maintain a current resource inventory of all search and rescue assets within the county, i.e., Civil Air Patrol, Volunteer organizations, Law Enforcement, GIS, County Engineers, etc.
4. Coordinate search and rescue team deployment to incident area.
5. Coordinate logistical support for search and rescue assets during field operations.
6. Develop policies and procedures for the effective use and coordination of search and rescue assets.
7. Coordinate procedures for requesting citizen volunteers to aid in search operations.
8. Develop policy on citizen liability in volunteer status for search operations.
9. Incorporate CERT members in search and rescue operations.

B. County Volunteer Fire Departments:

1. Identify and train personnel in search and rescue operations.
2. Be prepared to execute missions in support of search and rescue operations.

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3. Plan, coordinates, and execute rural search and rescue operations.
4. Provide search and rescue teams, technical assistance, equipment, and communications support.

C. Liaison and Staff Augmentation Personnel.

1. Develop necessary skills, knowledge and training to support functions for which assigned during periods of activation.
2. Provide technical information and hazardous materials technical assistance teams.

VI. STATE/FEDERAL INTERFACE

- A. This annex is supported by State EOP and the National Response Plan ESF-9 (Urban Search and Rescue). The State EOC is authorized to provide state assets in search and rescue operations and the Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is authorized to provide federal assistance as emergency protective measures under the emergency and major disaster provisions of the National Response Plan. ESF-9 will generally be a part of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and may be represented on the advance element of that team (ERT-A).
- B. State and Federal ESF-9 will rapidly deploy components of the Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System to provide specialized lifesaving assistance. Operational activities include locating, extricating, and providing on-site medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures. ESF-9 addresses only urban search and rescue and does not include any other form of search and rescue (e.g. water, wilderness, subterranean).
- C. State ESF-9 will coordinate with Federal ESF-9 to obtain federal assistance as required.