

ESF 9 Search and Rescue

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1 Introduction: Purpose and Scope

The purpose of ESF 9 is to coordinate Search and Rescue operations and resources during emergency response and recovery. Emergency Support Function 9 describes the use of resources in support of both Urban SAR and Wilderness SAR during actual or potential emergencies, and also addresses mass casualty and mass fatality incidents. The scope of this function includes Urban SAR challenges generated as the result of an earthquake or building collapse, the search for persons lost in wilderness or other recreational or natural environments, the search for escaped prisoners and detainees, the search for downed aircraft, and the extrication of accident victims.

2 Policies and Agreements

The search for, and recovery of, bodies will be conducted only after the rescue of survivors has been completed and the environment will allow for safe operation by SAR personnel.

3 Situation and Assumptions

Presume that the following circumstances may require the initiation of an SAR mission involving field operations:

- Person(s) participating in recreational activity become victims of an accident, a health problem, or disoriented regarding direction;
- Persons have wandered from a facility or a group organization activity designed to house, feed, care, and provide guidance for such person;
- Passengers in a moving vehicle have become submerged in water;
- Person(s) who become victim(s) of drowning; and
- Person(s) traveling via aircraft have crashed or landed in an obscure region not normally or officially provided for landings.

Department heads maintain copies of all volunteers and time sheets, so workers compensation insurance can be maintained. All volunteers are trained in their specialties and are familiar with ICS/NIMS organization and have completed ICS/NIMS basic training.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be developed for each type of mission performance that may require field operations. These procedures fall under the authority and responsibility of the SAR Coordinator.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

LEAD AGENCY

Marion County Sheriff's Office

Note: The Sheriff is the County official legally responsible for SAR activity within the jurisdiction boundaries of Marion County.

SUPPORT AGENCIES/ENTITIES

Contiguous Counties and Mutual Aid partners
Crew 18
Jeep Patrol
Local Fire Protection Districts
Local Police Departments
Mounted Posse
Marion County Fire Defense Board
Marion County Search Dogs
Search and Rescue Communications
Special Vehicles Unit
Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

The State SAR program is under the direction of the Administrator of Oregon Emergency Management. This center is responsible for:

- Providing and coordinating Federal and State resources;
- Assisting local authorities in operational techniques and training when requested to do so;
- Assigning a state mission number to a local jurisdiction and collecting mission statistics; and
- Establishing liaison with Oregon State Sheriff's Association and with public agencies and private organizations involved in SAR activity.

5 Concept of Operations

All SAR incidents are managed using ICS/NIMS organizational structures and processes. A SAR Coordinator is appointed by the County Sheriff through a departmental special order, which activates a command post and implements an incident command structure. Supporting agencies report to the command post and are registered and assigned duties according to the mission objectives and incident action plan as outlined in ICS/NIMS organization and protocols.

Requests for SAR operations are forwarded to the Sheriff or representative for determination of the assistance level warranted under the circumstances. Existing SAR personnel and qualified volunteer SAR units make up the nucleus of emergency SAR operations. Fire protection districts coordinate the search for, and rescue of, persons entrapped in buildings and will direct their movements to a safer place.

The County ECC is the primary location for coordination and control of emergency SAR service operations. The Sheriff may also authorize control from other locations, if needed. The appointed SAR Coordinator implements field operations for an SAR mission. In his or her absence, a designated alternate or the shift commander will implement field operations. The EMD ensures field operations have substantial support from the County ECC in gaining information, resources, and data collection to meet reporting requirements.

Resource inventories supporting SAR operations (Urban and Wilderness) are maintained through the MCSO and can be accessed through the County ECC during an emergency.

Regional and State SAR resources are available to support emergency operations in Marion County through request to OEM. Units sponsored by the Sheriff maintain written administrative policy that encompasses their activities, regulations, and performance reviews. These written administrative policies are available through the Sheriff's Office.

6 Supporting Plans and Procedures

Marion County Mass Casualty Plan. 2004.

(See Incident Specific Annex 7 of this EOP)

Marion County Mass Fatalities Incident Plan. 2005.

(See Incident Specific Annex 7 of this EOP)