

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) #9
SEARCH AND RESCUE

ESF Coordinator:

- Pacific Emergency Management Agency

Primary Agencies:

- Pacific Fire Protection District
- Franklin County Emergency Management Agency
- Other Local Fire Protection Districts and Fire Departments

Supporting Department(s):

- Pacific Police Department
- Franklin County Homeland Security Response Team
- Metro Air Support Unit

Supporting Agency(s):

- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team
- “Region C” Heavy Rescue Task Force
- Region C Incident Support Team
- Civil Air Patrol
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- National Weather Service

I. PURPOSE

ESF #9 rapidly deploys components of the local fire departments and districts to provide specialized lifesaving assistance to local authorities when activated for incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated local response.

The search and rescue functions of **ESF #9 – Search and Rescue** also fall under the auspices of the local fire agencies (**ESF #4 – Firefighting**) and are accomplished with their support. The specific duties of that function can be found in ESF #9.

II. SCOPE

The SAR response system is composed of the primary agencies that provide specialized SAR operations during incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated local response. This includes:

- Structural Collapse
- Waterborne Search and Rescue
- Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue

SAR services include:

- Performance of distress monitoring
- Communications
- Location of distressed personnel
- Coordination and execution of rescue operations including extrication or evacuation along with the provisioning of medical assistance and civilian services through the use of public and private resources to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress.
- Animal search and rescue services provided by animal control agencies and humane organizations will be integrated with human search and rescue operations as required.

Structural Collapse Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Primary Agency: Local Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts

Operational Overview: Includes building/structural collapse SAR operations for natural disasters as well as other building collapse operations that primarily require USAR task force operations. The system is built around a core of task forces prepared to deploy immediately and initiate operations in support of ESF #9. These task forces are staffed primarily by local fire department and emergency services personnel who are highly trained and experienced in collapsed structure SAR operations and possess specialized expertise and equipment. The St. Louis Area “Region C” **Heavy Rescue Task Force** is a local asset that would be called upon during any operation requiring that resource.

Waterborne Search and Rescue

Primary Agency: Local Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts

Operational Overview: Includes waterborne SAR operations for river flooding, dam/levee failure, and other disasters that primarily require air and boat force operations. Waterborne SAR response integrates **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)** assets in support of overall SAR operations conducted in accordance with the National Search and Rescue Plan (NSP).

USCG develops, maintains, and operates rescue facilities for the promotion of safety on, under, and over waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction and has been designated as the lead agency for waterborne (i.e., maritime) SAR under the NSP. USCG personnel are highly

trained and experienced in waterborne SAR operations and possess specialized expertise, facilities, and equipment for carrying out responses to maritime distress situations. Additionally, USCG staffing at Area/District/Sector Command Centers promotes effective localized interaction, coordination, and communications with local emergency managers during incidents requiring a coordinated response in which waterborne SAR resource allocation is required.

The **USCG** provides marine firefighting assistance as available, commensurate with each unit's level of training and the adequacy of available equipment.

Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue

Primary Agency: Local fire service agency

Operational Overview: Includes SAR operations conducted in backcountry, remote, undeveloped or rural areas that primarily require operations necessitating the use of specialized equipment to access these areas and may require responders traveling over land by alternate methods or by aircraft. These aircraft would be those of the **local law enforcement** agencies, the **Missouri State Highway Patrol** or volunteer agencies such as the **Civil Air Patrol** or an equivalent.

The personnel needed for these operations may be supplemented by local civilian search and rescue volunteer groups and by equine search and rescue organizations.

Mapping imagery and topography can be provided by the Planning Section of the Incident Command System structure.

Aeronautical Search and Rescue

Primary Agency: Local and State law enforcement agencies with aerial observation capabilities

Operational Overview: Includes SAR operations conducted in aviation-related incidents and aeronautical search and rescue. This may require specialized SAR operations in both open and wilderness areas and in the vicinity of airports requiring the coordinated deployment of personnel and equipment. The United States Air Force (USAF) maintains a Rescue Coordination Center that coordinates a cooperative network to respond to aviation-related incidents. This network is made up of Department of Defense components, facilities, and other resources that are used in civil SAR operations to the fullest extent practicable on a non-interference basis with their primary military duties in accordance with national directives, plans, guidelines, and agreements. The aircraft

needed for this purpose would be those of the **local law enforcement** agencies, the **Missouri State Highway Patrol** or volunteer agencies such as the **Civil Air Patrol** or an equivalent.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

ESF #9 activation is dependent upon the nature and magnitude of the event, the suddenness of onset, and the existence of SAR resources in the area. If those resources are or may become overwhelmed and there is a need for a coordinated Federal response, these actions will occur:

- FEMA will initiate the National USAR Response System for incidents likely to result in collapsed structures. Requests of local jurisdictions will first travel through State channels.
- The USCG, once properly requested through proper channels, will initiate Federal waterborne SAR response activities for incidents likely to result in waterborne or maritime distress.
- Local fire service agencies will initiate SAR response activities for incidents likely to result in a distress situation in inland/wilderness areas.
- Local agencies with aerial response capabilities will initiate response activities for incidents that result in aeronautical distress.

The ESF primary agency recognizes that there are other departments and agencies that may be called upon to provide assistance. The ESF primary agency reserves the right to call upon agencies and departments not listed in this annex, should the need arise.

IV. ACTIVATION

The Unified Command structure issues operation orders and mission assignments to activate ESF #9 based on the scope and magnitude of the threat or incident.

The Franklin County Commission notifies the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, which serves as the focal point for the County's emergency response and the formal point of contact for an ESF #9 activation. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in turn activates ESF #9 primary staff as required and will, if needed, request a fire agency presence in the EOC.

V. ORGANIZATION

ESF #9 will follow the National USAR Response System, which consists of USAR task forces, ISTs, and technical specialists as defined in the Urban Search and Rescue Operations System Description.

VI. ACTIONS

a. Initial Actions

The ESF #9 coordinator or fire agency representative:

- Reports to the EOC upon being notified.
- Establishes communication links with support agencies and regional ESF #9 coordinators
- Will provide the fire service and other stakeholders with Situation Status (SITSTAT) and Resource Status (RESTAT) as required.

b. Continuing Actions

The ESF #9 coordinator or fire agency representative:

- Obtains, maintains, and provides incident situation and damage assessment information through established procedures.
- Coordinates incident resource needs, and determines and resolves, as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues.
- Maintains a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records, and reports.
- ESF #9 continuously acquires and assesses information on the incident and continues to identify the nature and extent of problems and establishes appropriate response missions.
- Provides subject-matter experts/expertise regarding structural/urban/suburban fire and fire-related activities.

VII. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

ESF #9 manages and coordinates search and rescue activities. This function is accomplished by mobilizing resources in support of search and rescue activities. Search and rescue is primarily a response function. Efforts should be made to ensure that resources are managed and utilized appropriately so they can be available for assignment.

The local fire service:

- Serves as the primary response agency for ESF #9 during structural collapse SAR operations in incidents requiring a coordinated local response. They will combine their efforts with regional and State assets which may be called in to provide assistance. ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering assists ESF #9 in rescue operations by providing technical information regarding structural safety concerns.
- Coordinates logistical support for USAR assets during field operations.
- Provides status reports on USAR operations throughout the affected area.

- Serves as the initial primary agency for ESF #9 during waterborne or maritime SAR operations in incidents. In incidents that are prolonged and/or require additional assets, the local U.S. Coast Guard will be called upon to provide assets.
- Facilitates resolution of any conflicting demands for waterborne or maritime distress response resources and ensures coordination between the USCG and other emergency response activities, as appropriate.
- Coordinates the provisioning of additional support assets if required in response to waterborne or maritime incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.
- Acquires and disseminates weather data, forecasts, and emergency information.

The **National Weather Service** acquires and disseminates weather data, forecasts, and emergency information and provides weather information essential for efficient SAR.

The **Franklin County HSRT** provides technical assistance in the event of fires involving hazardous materials.

ESF Coordinator	Function (See above for details)
Pacific Emergency Management Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reports to the EOC upon being notified. ➤ Establishes communication links with support agencies and regional ESF #9 coordinators ➤ Obtains, maintains, and provides incident situation and damage assessment information through established procedures. ➤ Maintains a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records and reports. ➤ ESF #9 continuously acquires and assesses information on the incident and continues to identify the nature and extent of problems and establishes appropriate response missions.

Primary Agency	Function (See above for details)
Fire Service Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Structural Collapse Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) ➤ Waterborne Search and Rescue ➤ Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reports to the EOC upon being notified. ➤ Establishes communication links with support agencies and regional ESF #9 coordinators. ➤ Obtains, maintains, and provides incident situation and damage assessment information through established procedures. ➤ Coordinates incident resource needs, and determines and resolves, as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues. ➤ Maintains a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records, and reports. ➤ ESF #9 continuously acquires and assesses information on the incident and continues to identify the nature and extent of problems and establishes appropriate response missions. ➤ Provides subject-matter experts/expertise regarding structural/urban/suburban fire and fire-related activities.
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Support Department	Function (See above for details)
Metro Air Support Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue ➤ Aeronautical Search and Rescue

Support Agency	Function (See above for details)
Franklin County HSRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides technical assistance and advice in the event of fires involving hazardous materials.
U.S. Coast Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The U.S. Coast Guard provides marine firefighting assistance as available, commensurate with each unit's level of training and the adequacy of available equipment. ➤ Waterborne Search and Rescue
Missouri State Highway Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue ➤ Aeronautical Search and Rescue
Civil Air Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue ➤ Aeronautical Search and Rescue
National Weather Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acquires and disseminates weather data, forecasts, and emergency information. ➤ Provides weather information essential for efficient SAR.

“Region C” Heavy Rescue Task Force	Structural Collapse Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)	Structural Collapse Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Support to other ESFs	Function
#9	The search and rescue functions of ESF #9 – Search and Rescue also fall under the auspices of the local fire agencies and are accomplished with their support. The specific duties of that function can be found in that ESF.
#10	The functions of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (HMERT) [formerly referred to as the HAZMAT Team] fall under the auspices of the fire service and are more clearly defined in ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response .
#11	ESF #9 along with ESF #6, ESF #8, and ESF #14 support ESF #11 to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of household pets and service animals as well as dealing with at-large animals. ESF #9 coordinates with ESF #11 on search and rescue operations for household pets.