



Emergency Support Function #9
Search and Rescue
2024

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Approval Signatures

The undersigned have hereby reviewed and approved ESF #9 of the Outagamie County Emergency Response Plan:

County Board Chairperson

Date

Emergency Management Director

Date

Emergency Support Function #9 Search and Rescue

Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to provide guidance for agencies which may be deployed during search and rescue (SAR) efforts. SAR operations include, but are not limited to, the location, recovery, immediate medical assistance for the extrication of victims who become lost or entrapped as the result of a major disaster or life-threatening event, structural collapse, water rescue, trench rescue and confined space incidents.

Scope

This system of response is built around a core of special task forces prepared to deploy and initiate operations in support of the initial responders. These task forces are primarily staffed by local fire departments and emergency services personnel who are highly trained and experienced in structural collapse search, trench rescue, air reconnaissance, wilderness search, swift water operations and confined space rescue.

Incidents in which this ESF may apply are: Incidents involving search and rescue only and/or large scale disaster support with search and rescue needs.

Mutual aid and cross training is essential for this type of operation and should be encouraged, not only in the public sector but the private sector as well.

Policies

SAR is a local government responsibility dependent upon the mechanism for the search and rescue operation. County government assistance in this area will normally be initiated at the request of local government upon exhaustion of local resources, the anticipated exhaustion of resources, or the lack of trained and equipped resources.

County and/or local government requests for Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, State Patrol, and Wisconsin Task Force 1 assistance must be processed through the County Emergency Management Office/EOC.

Emergency Management/EOC may request a resource for a local jurisdiction. The IC takes responsibility for the resource and the local jurisdiction is responsible for the cost.

All responding agencies must participate and follow the local Incident Command System (ICS) or Unified Command (UC), agencies/organizations freelancing will be asked to leave. A Safety Officer should be assigned for the incident as well.

Concept of Operations

At any time, agencies or departments may be asked to initiate a SAR Mission that may require utilization of specific equipment and personnel for a life safety situation. Agencies must carry out pre-planning and training for such missions.

In the event the Incident Commander requires specific competencies for such missions, they must state the requirements upon request, or the coordinating agency will obtain the first available resources.

Responders may face different hardships or hindrances in SAR Missions. Safety of the overall scene and operation is an essential process and may be impeded by outside influences. Responders will maintain situational awareness to the best of their abilities.

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) Standard Operating Policies (SOPs) for Search and Rescue:

SOGs and SOPs for SAR operations are on file with each designated and trained department. Specifics for response are to be followed within the respective guidelines and policies.

SAR operations and actions are likely performed under emergency conditions. All precautions and safety procedures should be taken during all phases of the SAR operation.

Use of these procedures will result in an improved SAR operation, improved management awareness, accurate expenditure of resources, coordination between response agencies, improved communications and accurate planning and training techniques.

All guidelines and policies should utilize the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Response System for development of procedures and associated marking processes, OSHA 1910 requirements and individual internal policies.

Search and Rescue Resources and Capability:

Emergency Management maintains the contact and resource information. Below are the agencies and organizations providing these services.

Public Safety Agencies

- Local Fire and Law Enforcement
- Appleton Fire Department Special Operations
- Wisconsin Task Force 1

VOAD

- American Red Cross
- Appleton City Emergency Management
- Catholic Charities Social Ministry and Community Outreach
- Civil Air Patrol
- Community Clothes Closet
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
- Fox Cities Victim Crisis Response Team
- Fox Valley Humane Association
- Information Technology Disaster Resource Center
- K9 Emergency Response Team (KERT)
- K9SOS Search and Rescue Team
- Leaven
- MN-WI Baptist Convention
- Outagamie County ARES/RACES
- Outagamie County Emergency Management
- Outagamie County Public Health
- Salvation Army
- St. Joe's Food Pantry
- Team Rubicon
- United Way 2-1-1
- Valley Builders Association
- Valley Mountain Volunteers
- Volunteer Fox Cities

Primary and Supporting Agencies

Outagamie County

Primary Agencies

Local Fire Department & County Sheriff's Department/Local Law Enforcement

Supporting Agencies

County Emergency Management/Local EM
County Highway Department/Local Public Works
VOAD

State of Wisconsin

Primary Agency

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)

Supporting Agencies

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
Wisconsin State Patrol
Civil Air Patrol
Wisconsin Task Force 1
54th Civil Support Team

Likely Support Includes

- Provide state support to local governments to locate, extricate, and to administer immediate medical treatment to victims involved in a technical rescue incident/event, potentially and/or lost and missing people
- Request Federal Urban Search and Rescue assistance as needed

Federal

Primary Agency

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Supporting Agencies

Department of Agriculture
Department of Defense
Department of Health & Human Services
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of Transportation
Agency for International Development
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Likely Support Includes

- Equipment, personnel to search for, extricate, and provide medical treatment of victims involved in a technical rescue incident/event. (Urban Search/Rescue Task Forces)
- Conduct needs assessment and provide technical advice
- Provide technical specialists and expertise in various urban SAR disciplines

Responsibilities and Tasks

**Primary Agency: Local Fire Department & County Sheriff's
Department/Local Law Enforcement**

Mitigation and Preparedness Phase

- ☐ Maintain list of special response teams for various SAR responses
- ☐ Maintain levels of response to SAR events (MABAS box cards, etc.)
- ☐ Ensure special teams maintain training levels
- ☐ Develop and maintain respective SOGs/SOPs and Procedure Manuals

Response Phase

- ☐ Ensure safety of responders and the public
- ☐ Report to or send a representative to the ICP/EOC
- ☐ Identify any hazards that are Immediate Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)
- ☐ Work with IC on establishing/maintaining perimeter to the affected area
- ☐ Coordinate search and rescue activities with the appropriate tasked organizations and the IC
- ☐ Coordinate with Incident Commander to determine specific needs for SAR operations
- ☐ Place request for local SAR resources utilizing MABAS, mutual aid, etc.
- ☐ Coordinate with EMS to provide medical services
- ☐ Request additional assistance through Emergency Management in order to provide special teams for entrapment
- ☐ Provide mass casualty support
- ☐ Provide necessary security and control for on-scene operations
- ☐ Request drone support if needed

Recovery Phase

- ☐ Ensure safety of responders and the public
- ☐ Coordinate with the EOC on a re-entry plan for evacuees
- ☐ Provide security in the area affected by the emergency to protect public and private property during re-entry
- ☐ Participate in the debriefing and After Action Report (AAR)

Responsibilities and Tasks

Supporting Agency: County Highway Department/Local Public Works

Mitigation and Preparedness Phase

None

Response Phase

- ☐ Send a representative to the EOC if requested
- ☐ Provide barricades to assist with perimeter control in the affected area
- ☐ Assist with search and rescue operations as directed
- ☐ Provide the necessary support to the IC, response agencies, and special teams for response, control, and recovery efforts

Recovery Phase

- ☐ Participate in the debriefing and After Action Report (AAR)

Responsibilities and Tasks

Supporting Agency: County Emergency Management/Local EM

Mitigation and Preparedness Phase

- ☐ Maintain this ESF
- ☐ Maintain Search and Rescue capability resource lists for the county

Response Phase

- ☐ Contact necessary SAR resources listed in this ESF
- ☐ Provide and coordinate resources for SAR activities
- ☐ Contact the WEM Duty Officer if the State USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) WI-TF1 team or WEM Air Ops is needed
- ☐ Locate specialized rescue equipment and/or personnel if required
- ☐ Support the development of SAR capabilities in other municipal departments
- ☐ Activate ESF #15 – External Affairs for media support if needed

Recovery Phase

- ☐ Participate in the debriefing and After Action Report (AAR)

Responsibilities and Tasks

Supporting Agency: VOAD

Mitigation and Preparedness Phase

- ☐ Maintain relevant policies and training

Response Phase

- ☐ Provide the necessary support to the IC, response agencies, and special teams for response, control, and recovery efforts

Recovery Phase

- ☐ Participate in the debriefing and After Action Report (AAR)