

# FIRE SUPPRESSION / SEARCH & RESCUE

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The jurisdictional fire departments within Johnson County are responsible for fire suppression and search and rescue within their respective jurisdictions. Locating missing persons is the responsibility of the jurisdictional law enforcement agency. The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is responsible for dispatching fire suppression and search and rescue resources within Johnson County. When the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, the Fire Service Group provides support to both the Incident Commander and the ECC, as needed.

**COVERAGE:** Fire suppression and search and rescue is provided by fourteen fire agencies made up of municipal or fire district fire departments. The geographic areas of coverage for each agency are shown on Figure F-1. Of note, the City of Bonner Springs, most of which is located in Wyandotte County, provides its own fire service to that small section of the city situated in Johnson County. Johnson County also has an agency that provides fire service to about a 65 square mile area of northern Miami County, which includes the north shore of Hillsdale Lake. While locating missing persons is the responsibility of the jurisdictional law enforcement agency, the Sheriff's Office coordinates the efforts of multi-jurisdictional searches.

**COORDINATION:** The National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) is utilized throughout the county for coordinating activities among local fire organizations and other first responders.

**SPECIALIZED CAPABILITIES:** The following are local and/or regional agencies with specialized capabilities for fire suppression and search & rescue:

- **Aerial Search/Surveillance:**

- Civil Air Patrol (New Century Airport – Photography)
- Kansas Highway Patrol
  - Fixed-wing aircraft (Topeka)
  - Helicopter with forward-looking infrared (Topeka)
- LifeNet - helicopter ambulance (surveillance only)
- Life Flight Eagle - helicopter ambulance (surveillance only)

- **Confined Space Rescue:**

- Olathe Fire Department
- Overland Park Fire Department

- **Trench Rescue:**
  - Consolidated Fire District #2
  - Olathe Fire Department
- **Cave Rescue:** Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG)
- **High Angle Rescue:**
  - Olathe Fire Department
  - Overland Park Fire Department
- **Water Rescue:**
  - Consolidated Fire District #2 (swift water rescue)
  - Johnson County Fire District #2 (swift water, underwater, and ice rescue)
  - Lake Quivira Fire Department (ice rescue including a 3-person ice-rescue hovercraft)
  - Lees Summit Underwater Rescue & Recovery Unit (underwater, swiftwater, and ice rescue)
  - Lenexa Fire Department (swift water and ice rescue)
  - Merriam Fire Department (swift water and ice rescue)
  - Olathe Fire Department (swift water and ice rescue including two rescue boats)
  - Overland Park Fire Department (swift water rescue)
  - Overland Park Police Department Underwater Rescue and Recovery (underwater, swift water, and ice rescue)
  - Shawnee Fire Department (swift water and ice rescue including two rescue boats)
- **Search & Rescue Dogs:**
  - Leawood Police Department (patrol dogs)
  - Lenexa Police Department (patrol dogs)
  - Olathe Police Department (patrol dogs)
  - Overland Park Police Department (patrol dogs)
  - Shawnee Police Department (patrol dogs)
  - Kansas Highway Patrol (patrol dogs)
  - Leavenworth Penitentiary (bloodhounds - tracking only)
  - Missouri Search & Rescue K-9 (Jackson County, MO)
  - Kansas Search & Rescue Dog Association (Topeka, KS)
- **Structural Collapse:**
  - Consolidated District # 2
  - Olathe Fire Department
  - Plan Bulldozer (heavy equipment & operators, but no rescue training)

- FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Task Force (27 units nationwide, the nearest are located in Boone County, MO and Lincoln, NE)
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD):**
  - Olathe Fire Department (EOD and Explosive Canine)
  - Overland Park Police Department (EOD and Explosive Canine)
  - Kansas Highway Patrol (Explosive Canine Only)
  - Kansas – Missouri Working Bomb Group
- **Hazardous Materials:**
  - Olathe Fire Department
  - Overland Park Fire Department
- **Hazardous Materials Medical Support:** Med-Act
- **Tactical Response Teams:**
  - Lenexa Police Department
  - Merriam Police Department
  - Olathe Police Department
  - Overland Park Police Department
  - Shawnee Police Department
  - Johnson County Sheriff's Office
  - Kansas City Metro Disaster Tactical Response Team (MDTRT) (WMD)
  - Kansas Highway Patrol
  - Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- **Tactical Medical Team:** Med-Act

## CRITICAL RESOURCES:

- **Specialized Equipment:** ECC maintains a database of specialized equipment associated with fire department units.
- **Operators:** Providers of specialized equipment are responsible for ensuring the proper training and certification of equipment operators.

**HIGH-RISE TACTICAL PLAN:** High-rise fires present some particular problems in firefighting operations. Most of these are related to the difficulties of access, complexity of construction and number of occupants in these structures. By virtue of these considerations, any situation in a high-rise structure is more complicated than the same situation occurring in a low-rise environment. For this reason, the Johnson County Operations Chiefs have developed a High-Rise Tactical Plan that adapts normal standard operating procedures and systems to a high-rise mode of operation.

## ON-SCENE CONTROL:

- **Traffic Control:** Law enforcement will provide traffic control as directed by the Incident Commander. (See also Annex G: Law Enforcement)
- **Media Access:** The Incident Commander will identify a separate area, at a safe distance from the incident scene, where information will be disseminated to the media. Law enforcement will provide any security required for this area.
- **Airspace:** The Incident Commander may request, via ECC, that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restrict airspace in the immediate vicinity of the incident.
- **Utilities:** The Incident Commander may direct, via ECC, that utility companies shut off gas and/or power lines in the vicinity of the incident.

## ENHANCEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:

- **Mutual Aid Agreements:** There is a county-wide mutual aid agreement in place. (Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners, the Johnson County Fire Chiefs Association and Various Municipalities and Fire Districts within Johnson County, dated 1 March 1993)
- **Private Sector:** There are no private sector fire departments or organizations operating in Johnson County.

**STAFFING:** Consolidated Fire District #2 and the cities of Lenexa and Olathe have all paid firefighters, while Lake Quivira uses exclusively volunteers. The remaining fire districts all have a combination of both paid and volunteer firefighters. The general trend is toward an all paid force, especially in the larger cities.

- **24-Hour Operations:** The Incident Commander is responsible for utilizing shift schedules to ensure individuals are not working for extended periods of time.
- **Volunteers:** Human Resources will register and classify volunteers, based upon criteria provided by the Incident Commander's staff, to work in specific areas such as morgues and triage areas.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT INVENTORY:** A comprehensive resource inventory of county fire department apparatus and equipment is maintained by ECC in a computer database. This database also contains basic information on fire department resources in adjacent counties.

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:

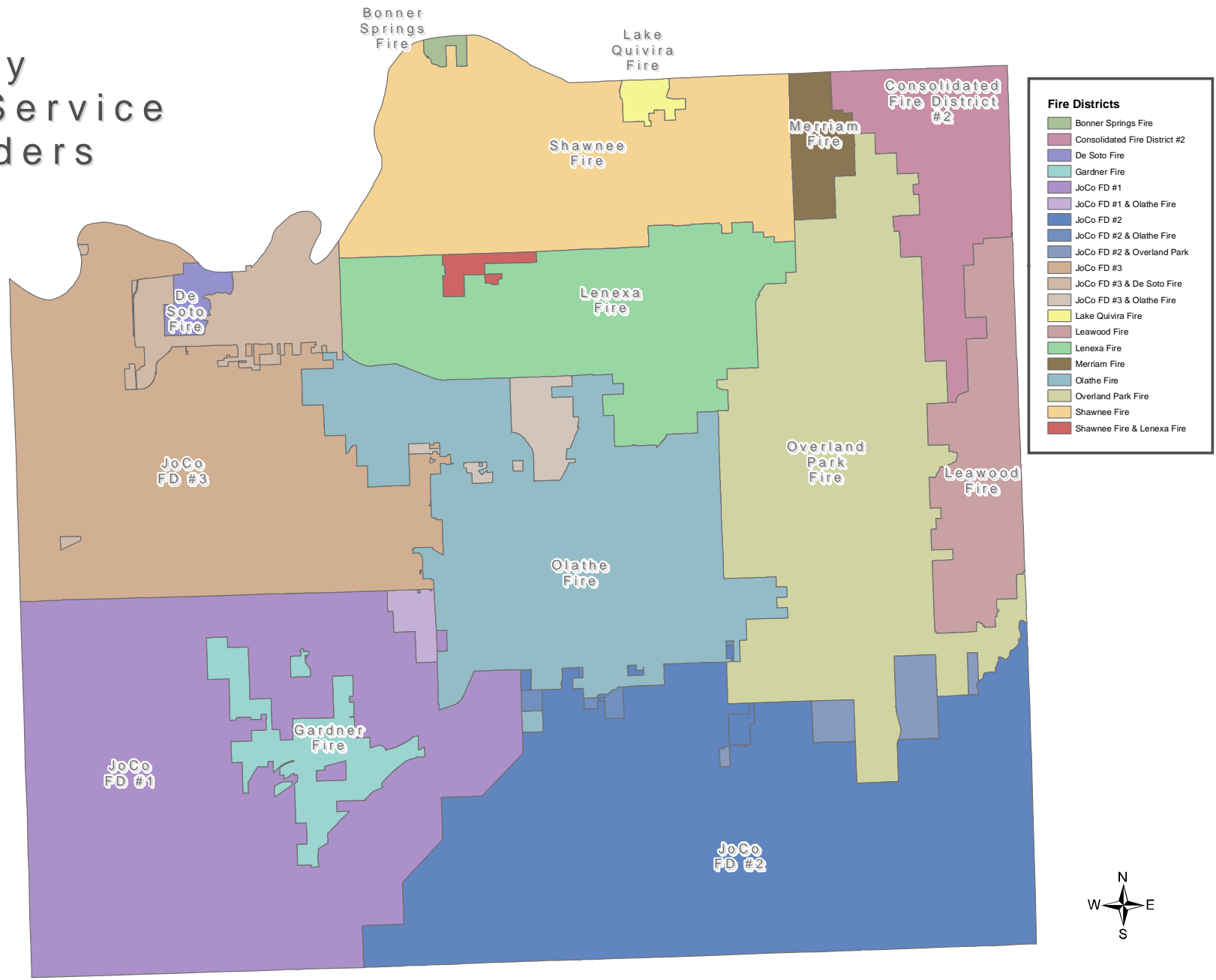
- **Responder Safety:** Under NIMS, the Safety Officer assesses hazardous and/or unsafe situations, and either develops measures or ensures compliance with existing policies for assuring personnel safety of responders, including medical monitoring.

- **Record Keeping:** The tracking of fire service man-hours and resources utilized during emergencies or disaster operations is the responsibility of the individual fire agencies. ECC will assist in tracking the utilization of apparatus.
- **Documentation:** Accurate records must be kept to provide information to various agencies and individuals at the completion of search & rescue activities.
  - On-Scene: Med-Act will document where injured persons were found, treated, and transported (if applicable) for additional medical care. Law enforcement, under the direction of the County Coroner, will record where deceased victims were found.
  - Chain of Custody: Law enforcement, under the direction of the County Coroner, will account for and secure evidence and personal belongings.
  - Fiscal: The Incident Commander will ensure the tracking and accounting of labor and equipment used in search & rescue operations.
- **Communications:** Primary communications are via radio, either conventional VHF highband or 800 Mhz trunking. All fire agencies share common dispatch and tactical radio channels through the ECC. In addition, all fire units have access to a metro-wide mutual aid frequency. Alternate communications are either through cellular or public telephones, and pagers.
- **Resource Management:** Allocating resources during emergencies and forecasting resource needs is done by ECC in coordination with the involved fire district(s). Mutual aid can be activated through ECC by a simple request by the Incident Commander or, in some cases, can be self-initiated by ECC.

**RESPONDER CERTIFICATION:** All firefighters are trained to at least the *operational level* in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120. Hazardous Materials team members are trained to the *hazardous materials technician* level under the same regulation. All Med-Act personnel are trained to at least the hazardous materials awareness level, as well as Emergency Medical Service (EMS) competencies for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 473 Level 1. Med-Act Hazardous Materials Medical Support Team members are trained to at least the hazardous materials operations level (29 CFR 1910.120) and NFPA Level II.

**DISSEMINATION OF WARNINGS:** The role of fire service organizations in disseminating warnings to the public is usually limited to advising people in the immediate vicinity of the emergency/disaster scene. The Incident Commander may, as an element of his staff, appoint a fire service representative to serve as the public information officer at the scene. Any wide-scale public warning will be accomplished through a coordinated effort of public information officers at the scene, and in the city and/or county EOCs. (See also Annex B: Communications)

# County Fire Service Providers



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Figure F-1