

ESF #9 – Urban Search and Rescue

ESF #9 Coordinator:	The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Primary Agency:	The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Support Agencies:	The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Civil Air Patrol The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas National Guard Kansas Department of Corrections Kansas Highway Patrol Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 – Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) rapidly deploys components of the National US&R Response System to provide specialized life-saving assistance to state and local authorities during a disaster/emergency. US&R activities include locating, extricating, and providing onsite medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures. ESF #9 also provides Search and Rescue (SAR) aerial and ground search resources to state or local authorities during times of emergency.

Scope

The US&R and SAR Response System integrate task forces, Joint Management Teams (JMT), and technical specialists.

The National US&R 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 search and rescue operations and possess specialized expertise and equipment. JMT provide coordination and logistical support to US&R task forces during emergency operations. They also conduct needs assessments and provide technical advice and assistance to state and local government emergency managers. The JMT are comprised of personnel from US&R task forces; federal, state, and local government emergency response organizations; and private sector organizations.

Technical specialists provide expertise in various US&R disciplines and are mobilized as needed.

The SAR system is built around teams that plan, coordinate and deploy as needed to support ESF #9. These teams staffed by military, law enforcement and volunteers provide aerial observation platforms and special canine teams to locate victims of a disaster/emergency.

Policies

The National US&R Response System assists and augments state and local US&R capabilities.

Upon request by the State and activation by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the National Response Plan (NRP), US&R task forces are considered Federal assets under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and other applicable authorities.

SAR resources are tasked as required by ESF #9 and remain assets of the parent agency/organization.

Concept of Operations

General

Request for activation of US&R resources will be made by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

State SAR resource activation will be made through the mission assignment process to any ESF #9 agencies which have the resources and availability for the assignment. Those responding assets, when deployed, will be coordinated by the local Incident Commander.

Organization

During an emergency or disaster, the primary and support agencies of ESF #9 will assign personnel to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). ESF #9 will respond directly to the Emergency Services Branch Chief who reports to the Operations Section Chief.

Notifications

- KDEM will notify the ESF #9 agencies when an area of Kansas is threatened or has been impacted by an emergency or disaster event;
- The designated agencies notified will report to the SEOC if so advised or requested by the KDEM; and
- The agencies designated to report to the SEOC will notify their agency personnel of the impending or actual event.

Actions

Once activated in the SEOC, ESF #9 team members on duty will accomplish one or more preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation actions. The following is a list of those actions:

- **Preparedness**
 - Conduct training to first responders;
 - Conduct exercises and review and update response plans; and
 - Maintain list of resources.
- **Response**
 - Initiate rescue missions;
 - Control traffic and perimeter area(s);
 - Mobilize support services.
- **Recovery**
 - Prepare public information materials;
 - Initiate return of equipment and personnel;
 - Inventory and replace supplies and equipment; and
 - Secure and return to normal operations.
- **Prevention**
 - Develop public awareness programs to reduce the number of injuries, property loss, and accidents.

Direction and Control

- Activities will be coordinated through the SEOC that will serve as the source of all direction and control;
- The Adjutant General (TAG) or designee of KDEM provides direction and control for ESF #9 to include mission assignments, mutual aid, Kansas Emergency Response Team (KERT), contracts for goods and services, radiological emergencies, and recovery and mitigation activities;
- ESF #9 falls within the Emergencies Services Branch Chief's arena;
- Agencies of ESF #9 may serve the KERT in Field Operations (i.e., the Kansas Assessment Team, Joint Field Office (JFO) operations, Disaster Recovery Center operations, intrastate and/or interstate mutual aid assistance, etc.);
- When a request for assistance is received by ESF #9 it is assigned to the agency or agencies that have the most appropriate resources and expertise to accomplish the task;

- All requests for rescue operations and coordination for additional resources will be channeled through KDEM;
- KDEM will assist in the coordination of federal response efforts under the provisions of a Presidential Disaster Declaration; and
- Communications between operating units and the ESF #9 will normally be over radio frequencies already designated.

Responsibilities

KDEM is designated as the coordinator for ESF #9. As ESF coordinator, KDEM coordinates meetings, plans, exercises, training, and other activities with the private sector and the ESF #9 support agencies.

Adjutant General's Department

Kansas Division of Emergency Management

- Request from the FEMA US&R assets; and
- Task state SAR assets upon request of county government agencies.

Kansas Civil Air Patrol

- Establish a Search and Rescue Coordination Center, if required within the disaster area;
- Provide and deploy aerial and ground search assets; and
- Establish liaison and communications with local, state, and volunteer agencies providing search and rescue assets.

Kansas National Guard

- Provide personnel and vehicles for ground search and rescue operations; and
- Provide aviation and ground search assets.

Kansas Department of Corrections

- Provide personnel and K-9 resources to assist other assembled rescue response forces in locating missing persons.

Kansas Highway Patrol

- Provide personnel, vehicles and tracking canines, for air and ground search and rescue operations.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

- Provide personnel and watercraft for search, rescue, and recovery of persons on waterways or flooded areas.

Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

- Provide tracking/search dog teams.