

**JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

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**ESF9-Search and Rescue**

**Planning Team**

## Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 provides guidance for the organization of County resources to conduct life saving search and rescue operations. Specifically, ESF #9 discusses:

- Specialized search and rescue resources
- Agency roles and responsibilities
- State and Federal search and rescue resources
- Local coordination and liaison activities

The goal of search and rescue operations is to save the lives of people who are unable to ensure their own survival without assistance. Search and rescue activities include, but are not limited to:

- Locating, extricating and providing immediate medical assistance to victims trapped in collapsed or damaged structures
- Locating and assisting missing or trapped persons, vehicles, boats, and downed aircraft

## Scope

This ESF Annex is designed to provide a flexible organizational structure capable of meeting the varied requirements of many emergency scenarios with the potential to require activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and implementation of the County Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP).

ESF #9 is a functional annex to the CEOP and to the extent possible, information contained in other sections of the EOP will not be repeated in this document.

## Policies

ESF #9 applies to all agencies and organizations with assigned emergency responsibilities as described in the CEOP.

Many of the agencies with ESF #9 responsibilities have existing emergency plans and procedures. ESF #9 is not designed to take the place of these plans, rather it is designed to complement and support the departmental staffing and procedures already in place.

## Concept of Operations

### General

The **INSERT AGENCY** is the **PRIMARY AGENCY AND/OR ESF COORDINATOR** for ESF #9 – Search and Rescue.

Specially trained and equipped Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams are maintained by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). USAR teams may be deployed to assist local jurisdictions with complex search and rescue operations. The closest USAR Teams to the County are located in Columbia, Missouri and Omaha, Nebraska.

This ESF Annex was developed to complement the National Response Plan (NRP) dated December 2005. Where appropriate, ESF #7 also incorporates the elements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to help ensure a coordinated response.

The **INSERT TEXT** trains their personnel in the Incident Command System (ICS) and the NIMS to help ensure coordination during emergency situations and if necessary, the integration of State and Federal resources.

State and Federal search and rescue resources will be requested by the EOC through the procedures described in ESF #5 – Emergency Management.

As described in existing mutual aid agreements, outside search and rescue resources will remain under the direct control of the sponsoring agency but will be assigned by the Incident Commander and/or the EOC to respond as necessary.

In the event of a downed aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for locating the downed aircraft. The County will coordinate ground rescue and/or recovery operations of victims.

The following specialized capabilities exist with local and/or regional agencies for Search & Rescue:

**INSERT LOCAL RESOURCES CAPABILITIES**

Accurate records must be kept to provide information to various agencies and individuals at the completion of search & rescue activities.

**INSERT TEXT** will document where injured persons were found, treated, and transported (if applicable) for additional medical care. Law enforcement, under the direction of the **INSERT TEXT**, will record where deceased victims were found.

Law enforcement, under the direction of the **INSERT TEXT**, will account for and secure evidence and personal

belongings.

Primary communications are via radio. Alternate communications are either through cellular or public telephones, and pagers.

### **Organization**

Tactical search and rescue operations will be controlled by the Incident Commander(s) at the scene(s) ICS structure. The Incident Commander(s) will assess the need for additional resources and request that the EOC deploy assets to support field operations.

Outside search and rescue resources will be controlled by the procedures outlined in mutual aid agreements. These agencies will remain under the direct control of the sponsoring agency, but will be assigned by the Incident Commander and/or the EOC to respond as necessary.

The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will serve as the central location for interagency coordination and executive decision-making, including all activities associated with ESF #9.

The ESF #9 team members are critical members of the EOC Team and will work within the EOC structure as described in ESF #5 – Emergency Management.

In events involving search and rescue operations, the Emergency Management Department will request that an appropriately trained **INSERT TEXT** representative report to the EOC to coordinate ESF #9 activities.

As additional EOC staffing needs become apparent, other agency personnel may be asked to report to the EOC to assist with search and rescue activities. If necessary, State and Federal representatives may be asked to report to the EOC to ensure appropriate coordination.

### **Notifications**

In events involving search and rescue operations, the Emergency Management Department will request that an appropriately trained [insert text] representative report to the EOC to coordinate ESF #9 activities.

As additional EOC staffing needs become apparent, other agency personnel may be asked to report to the EOC to assist with search and rescue activities. If necessary, State and Federal representatives may be asked to report to the EOC to ensure appropriate coordination.

## **Actions**

### **Preparedness**

- Maintain this ESF Annex as well as supporting operating procedures and guidelines
- Ensure personnel receive appropriate emergency operations training
- Ensure mutual aid agreements are in place with surrounding jurisdictions
- Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements with private area resources that could be useful during search and rescue operations
- Participate in Emergency Management training and exercises

### **Response**

- Respond as required on a priority basis
- Activate mutual aid if needed
- Coordinate activities with other responding agencies
- Coordinate with search and rescue elements responding from outside the jurisdiction
- Alert or activate off-duty and auxiliary personnel as required by the emergency
- Conduct other specific response actions as dictated by the situation

### **Recovery**

- Replenish supplies and repair damaged equipment
- Continue all activities in coordination with the EOC based on the requirements of the incident
- Participate in after-action briefings and develop after-action reports
- Make necessary changes in this ESF Annex and supporting plans and procedures

### **Prevention**

- Review the hazards most likely to affect the County and identify potential vulnerabilities in the search and rescue function
- Develop plans to overcome these deficiencies (i.e., new equipment, training, mutual aid procedures)

## **Direction and Control**

The ESF #9 (Search and Rescue) Coordinator will:

- Work with the EOC Team to rapidly assess the situation and take appropriate actions to support search and rescue operations at the scene(s)
- Assess the need to request specialized search and rescue resources from outside the County
- Serve as the liaison with search and rescue resources from outside the County, including State and Federal agencies

- Work with ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) to ensure heavy equipment support to search and rescue operations
- Coordinate with ESF #8 (Health and Medical Services) to help ensure the coordination of emergency medical assistance and victim transport
- Work with the Incident Commander(s) and the EOC Team to help ensure search and rescue personnel deployed to the disaster scene are appropriately outfitted with and trained to use personal protective equipment required by the presence of any potentially hazardous materials/substances

## Responsibilities

### All tasked agencies will:

- Maintain updated resource inventories of supplies, equipment, and personnel resources, including possible sources of augmentation or replacement
- Develop applicable standard operating procedures, guidelines and/or checklists detailing the accomplishment of their assigned functions
- Deploy a representative to the County EOC to assist with ESF #9 activities
- Provide ongoing status reports as requested by the Search and Rescue Coordinator
- Document all costs and expenses associated with response and recovery activities taking care to clearly separate disaster related work from daily work in the event that reimbursement from the State and Federal government becomes available
- Maintain up-to-date rosters for notifying personnel and 24-hour EOC staffing capabilities
- Participate in Emergency Management training and exercises.

**INSERT SPECIFIC LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF ESF #9 BELOW -- SEE STANDARD TEXT FOR SUGGESTIONS**

## Administration and Support

### Support

Requests for emergency assistance will be resolved at the lowest level direction and control facility with appropriate response resources capabilities. Unresolved assistance requests will normally flow upward from cities to the county, and/or field deployed command posts to responsible representatives in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), and as required to other states or the federal government for assistance support.

### Agreements and Understandings

All agreements and understandings entered into for the purchase, lease, or otherwise use of equipment and services, will be in accordance with the provision of laws and procedures.

The Proclamation of a State Disaster issued by the Governor may suspend selected rules and regulations that affect support operations. The primary agency will determine the specific impact of the situation and inform the ESF group members.

### **Status Reports**

The primary agency will maintain status of all outstanding assistance requests and unresolved ESF-related issues. This information will be summarized into periodic status reports and submitted in accordance with applicable operating procedures.

### **Expenditures and Recordkeeping**

Each ESF agency is responsible for establishing administrative controls necessary to manage the expenditure of funds and to provide reasonable accountability and justification for federal reimbursement in accordance with the established guidelines.

The first source of funds for expenditures by agencies in response to an emergency, imminent disaster, or recovery from a catastrophic incident, is to be from funds **INSERT LOCAL FUNDING SOURCE**.

Following the conclusion of any significant emergency event/incident or exercise, the primary agency representative will conduct a critique of the group activities during the event/incident/exercise.

Support agencies will provide written and/or oral inputs for this critique and the primary agency representative will consolidate all inputs into a final report and submit it to the County Emergency Management Director.

### **Critiques**

Following the conclusion of any significant emergency event/incident or exercise, the primary agency representative will conduct a critique of the group activities during the event/incident/exercise.

Support agencies will provide written and/or oral inputs for this critique and the primary agency representative will consolidate all inputs into a final report and submit it to the County Emergency Management Director.

## Attachments

- List of search and rescue resources

[INSERT DOCUMENT](#)

- Sample forms and logs

[INSERT DOCUMENT](#)

- Actions by Time Frame

[LINK TO CHECKLIST](#)