
ESF #9-Search and Rescue

Planning Team

ESF Coordinator:
KDEM

Primary Agency:
KDEM

Support Agencies:

- KSFMO
- KDOC
- KHP
- KWP
- CAP
- KSNB
- KBI

Non-governmental Organizations:

- KSVOAD
- Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group (KSARWG)

Federal Agencies:

Private Sector:

Purpose

The purpose of ESF #9 is to provide assistance to local authorities for search and rescue operations. This annex establishes policy guidance and direction for direct state assistance and/or coordination with federal search and rescue teams.

Scope

SAR responsibilities generally fall to local government agencies depending upon the type of activity that is needed. In coordination with their county emergency management directors the state may support the SAR efforts at the local level. The state can assist the local responders with the use of state resources or by coordination of other local resources. SAR activities may include:

- a. Searches and rescues rural areas for lost, missing, or endangered persons;
- b. Waterborne searches and rescues in lakes, ponds, or rivers;
- c. Searching for downed or missing aircraft; and
- d. Searches as a result of a structural collapse.

Policies

1. Kansas Regional SAR Task Forces are contacted and deployed based on the protocol established in regional SAR plans;
2. SAR resources are tasked as required by ESF #9 and remain assets of the parent agency/organization;

3. The National Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) response system assists and augments state and local USAR capabilities;
4. Upon request by the state and activation by the DHS under the NRF, USAR task forces are considered federal assets under the Stafford Act and other applicable authorities.

Concept of Operations

General

The KDEM is designated as the coordinator for ESF #9. Close coordination is maintained with the ESF #9 planning team, local officials, and federal officials to determine potential needs for support and the most expeditious means of acquiring that support.

Search and Rescue Structure in the State

Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group

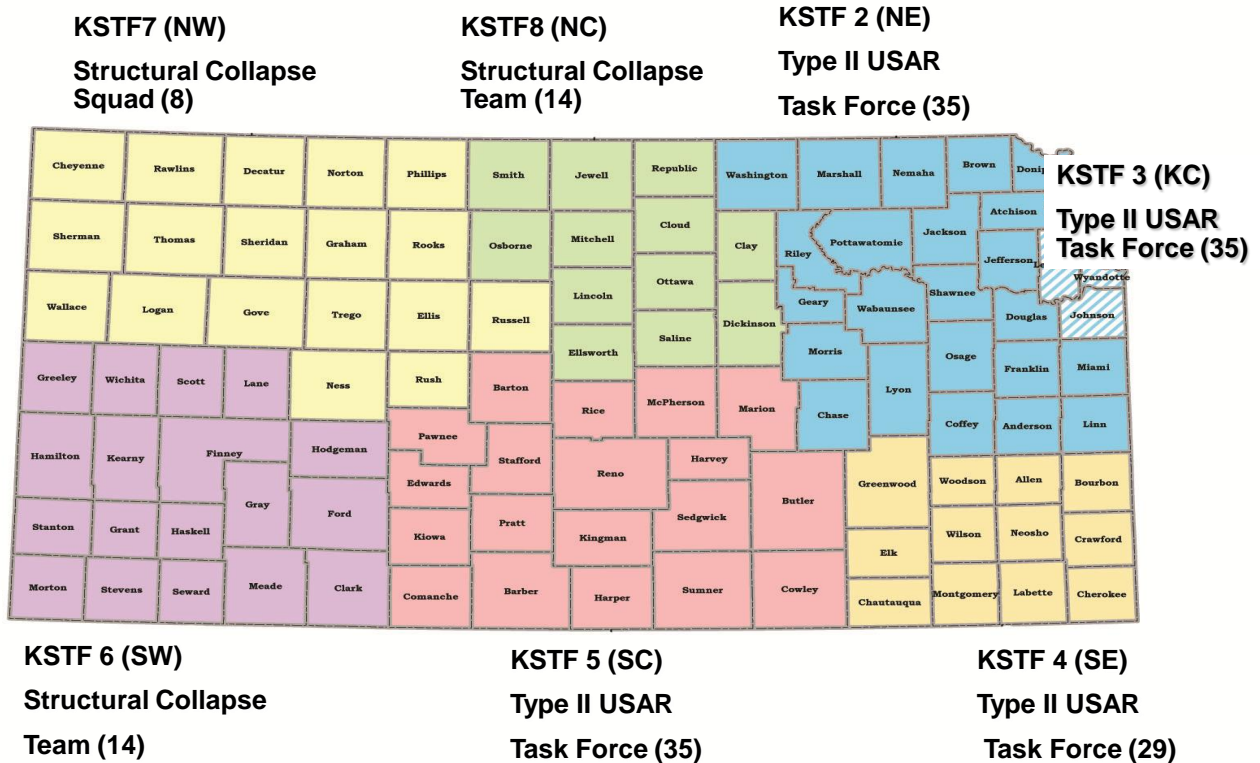
In response to a number of disasters in the state, the KSARWG was established to assist in coordinating the response to incidents requiring search and rescue resources. The initial formation of this group focused on structural collapse response, but the role has expanded to include multiple areas of search & rescue response. The KSARWG is chartered under the governor's CEPR. As chartered, the KSARWG has the following functions:

- 1) Coordinate the development of comprehensive regional and state response plans that will provide for a coordinated response by search and rescue resources;
- 2) Provide an opportunity for improved communications between all responders regarding search and rescue response, resources, etc. Educate public officials and county emergency managers regarding the resources available statewide for search and rescue operations;
- 3) Coordinate regional and state efforts through equipment standardization, training, and operational guidelines for search and rescue response;
- 4) Maintain consistency and coordination with other regional, state, and federal resources including Kansas IMTs, federal and state USAR teams, etc.

Intrastate Assets

There are seven (7) regional SAR Task Forces in the state. Their locations correspond with the seven (7) homeland security regions. The map below shows the regional alignment and sponsoring agencies.

Regional Search & Rescue Task Forces



Each of the regional SAR Task Forces has the following capabilities:

1. Management;
2. Search;
3. Rescue;
4. HazMat (no significant mitigation or decontamination capabilities);
5. Medical (does not provide patient transport capability); and
6. Logistics

The organizational structure of each task force is designed to be modular and adaptable. Depending on the specific circumstances of an incident, these resources can be modified to meet the incident's needs. As such, Regional Task Force assets are deployed in the following teams:

1. **Advance Team:** Select members of a regional task force may be designated as an Advance Team that can be quickly transported to assess incident requirements before the request or arrival of an entire task force. KDEM or the requesting agency, with coordination through the incident commander, will determine if an Advance Team is necessary;
2. **Task Force Response:** This is an immediate response with on-duty personnel and equipment, usually involving an operational period of less than 24-hours. A task force response would likely occur in response to a mutual aid request from a city, county, or other agency; and
3. **Task Force Deployment:** A task force deployment can be mobilized and en-route within two (2) hours of notification, usually involving multiple operational periods and self sustainment for up to 72-hours. This request would likely come from the SEOC or the state's ESF #9 coordinator.

Deployment of SAR Regional Task Forces

For this response system to be most effective, a comprehensive notification and activation system must be in place in each region. Requests for regional task forces for any mission in the state and will come through two processes which include:

- a. KDEM coordinates the deployment of SAR Regional Task Force as mutual aid to requesting area; and
- b. KDEM deploys SAR Regional Task Force as direct state assistance.

However, since each Regional SAR Task Force involves multiple agencies and/or counties, each region has developed a notification procedure that will enable the appropriate agencies and personnel to be notified in a timely manner. Each region has a single point of contact that can be reached 24/7 by KDEM or any requesting agency. This point of contact will initiate notification and/or activation procedures as outlined in each region's response plan. This notification procedure includes the county emergency managers in the affected regions.

Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association (KSARDA)

The KSARDA is a volunteer based canine search and rescue organization. KSARDA has the following capabilities:

- a. Wilderness search;
- b. Water Search;
- c. Cadaver Search;
- d. Collapsed structure/debris/disaster search; and
- e. Urban/populated areas search.

KSARDA is deployed by request to law enforcement or other emergency agencies at both the state and local levels.

Credentialing in Kansas

SAR credentialing in the state are dependent upon policies at the local, state, and federal levels. As such the following processes determine the individual's ability to respond.

- a. **Local Level:** The local jurisdiction approves or denies a fire fighter has the minimum credentials for response service. In the event of mutual aid assistance, the Incident Commander approves or denies search and rescue credentials;
- b. **Regional SAR Task Forces:** The Kansas Search and Rescue Response Plan dated December 2009 identifies the minimum credentials required for SAR Task Force responders. For specific information, this plan should be consulted. These standards are based upon current NFPA standards, as well as NIMS requirements; and
- c. **National Level:** At the national level, national credentialing standard determines the eligibility for deployment.

Organization

KDEM is responsible for coordinating the functions of ESF #9 and will coordinate bringing in additional resources from other federal and state agencies.

During an emergency or disaster, KDEM is the primary agency, and will assign personnel to the SEOC. Support agencies are available as needed for specific issues and are accessed through their respective ESFs in the SEOC.

The ESF #9 primary agency will report directly to the SEOC emergency services branch director, if activated, or the response section chief.

Notifications

- a. KDEM will notify the ESF #9 agencies when an area of the state is threatened or has been impacted by an emergency or disaster event;
- b. Conversely, It is the responsibility of the primary agency for ESF #9 to notify KDEM when having knowledge of such a threat;
- c. The designated agencies notified will report to the SEOC if so advised or requested by the KDEM;
- d. If additional support is necessary, the ESF #9 primary agency will contact the supporting agencies and request applicable support activities;
- e. The Coordinator will notify all ESF #9 primary and support agencies and will continue to update those agencies as the situation progresses; and
- f. The agencies designated to report to the SEOC will notify their agency personnel of the impending or actual event.

Direction and Control

- a. Local fire departments will retain control of their resources and jurisdiction;
- b. Activities will be coordinated through the SEOC, which will serve as the source of all direction and control;
- c. The TAG or his/her KDEM designee provides direction and control for ESF #9 to include mission assignments, mutual aid, SEOC Team, contracts for goods and services, and recovery and mitigation activities;
- d. Agencies of ESF #9 may serve in Field Operations (i.e., the KAT, JFO operations, DRC operations, intrastate and/or interstate mutual aid assistance, etc.);
- e. 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; and
- f. KDEM will assist in the coordination of federal response efforts under the provisions of a presidential disaster declaration.

Actions

ESF #9 will be responsible for coordinating search and rescue preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation on an on-going basis. These efforts include:

Mitigation

Provide ESF #9 representative to the KHMT meetings.

Preparedness

- 1) Maintain liaison with federal search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets;
- 2) Conduct training to first responders;

- 3) Coordinate with the Deployable Resources Working Group and Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group to assist in the credentialing of search and rescue professionals; and
- 4) Develop public awareness programs to reduce the number of injuries, property loss, and accidents.

Response

- 1) Coordinate SAR response operations;
- 2) Provide technical assistance and resources for SAR missions;
- 3) In conjunction with local emergency management command, coordinate mutual aid as required;
- 4) Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended periods;
- 5) Coordinate with ESF #1 for use of buses to transport rescue teams, rescued victims, and/or persons evacuated from an emergency area to a safe location or emergency shelter;
- 6) Continue to re-assess priorities and strategies, throughout the emergency, according to the most critical SAR needs;
- 7) Provide crowd control, security measures, roadway assessments, and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in search and rescue operations; and
- 8) Coordinate with ESF #12 to address search and rescue problems (i.e. leaking natural gas, downed power lines, water flow problems, etc).

Recovery

- 1) Continue to support local operations and plan for a reduction of operations; and
- 2) Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.

Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency

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.

Primary Agency

KDEM

Preparedness

- 1) Maintain listing of search and rescue teams;
- 2) Maintain liaison with state and federal search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets;
- 3) Coordinate with the Deployable Resources Working Group and KSARWG to assist in the credentialing of search and rescue professionals;
- 4) Develop public awareness programs to reduce the number of injuries, property loss, and accidents.

Response

- 1) Coordinate search and rescue response operations;
- 2) Task state SAR assets upon request of county government agencies;
- 3) In conjunction with local emergency management command, coordinate mutual aid as required by the magnitude of the event;
- 4) Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended periods;
- 5) Coordinate with ESF #1 for use of buses to transport rescue teams, rescued victims, and/or persons evacuated from an emergency area to a safe location or emergency shelter;
- 6) Continue to re-assess priorities and strategies, throughout the emergency, according to the most critical AR needs;
- 7) Coordinate with ESF #12 to address search and rescue problems (i.e. leaking natural gas, downed power lines, water flow problems, etc); and
- 8) Request from USAR assets from FEMA VII.

Recovery

- 1) Continue to support local operations and plan for a reduction of operations;
- 2) Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.

Support Agencies

KSFMO

Mitigation

Provide representative to the KHMT meetings.

Response

Provide technical assistance and resources for search and rescue missions.

KSNG and CAP

Response

- 1) Establish a Search and Rescue Coordination Center, if required within the disaster area;
- 2) Provide technical assistance and resources for aerial rescue missions.

KSNG

Response

- 1) Provide technical assistance and resources for urban, rural, and aerial search and rescue missions;
- 2) Provide an air coordination officer to the SEOC to coordinate multiple agency aircraft operations.

KDOC

Response

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

KHP

Response

- 1) Provide technical assistance and resources for urban, rural, and aerial search and rescue missions;

- 2) Provide crowd control, security measures, roadway assessments, and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in firefighting operations.

[The Attorney General's: KBI](#)

Response

- 1) Provide technical assistance and resources for aerial search and rescue missions, and;
- 2) Provide law enforcement resources to support local jurisdictions, if requested in the event of criminal implications.

[KWP](#)

Response

- 1) Provide technical assistance and resources for rural search and rescue missions;
- 2) Provide crowd control, security measures, roadway assessments, and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in search and rescue operations.

[KSVOAD: Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association](#)

Response

Provide tracking/search dog teams for urban and rural search and rescue missions.

Authorities and References

1. **State of Kansas Search and Rescue Response Plan.** Current version.
2. **NFPA 1006:** Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications.
3. **NFPA 1670:** Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents.