

HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN ANNEX I - EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #9 — SEARCH AND RESCUE

COORDINATING AGENCY: Hamilton County Task Force 1 (Provides SAR Coordinator)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Local Fire/Rescue Departments
Ohio Region 6 USAR Team
Hamilton County Engineer's Office
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Ohio Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Ohio Task Force One (OHTF-1)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

ESF-9 provides for the guidance and organization of county agencies that may be employed during Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. SAR operations include, but are not limited to, the location, recovery, and extrication of victims who become lost or entrapped as the result of a major disaster or life-threatening emergency. The goal of search and rescue operations is to save the lives of victims who are unable to ensure their own survival without assistance.

Each ESF representative is responsible for the dissemination of information that may be of value to other ESF representatives located in the ROC. This information sharing contributes to the response and recovery during an emergency/disaster of any type.

II. SITUATION

- A. Hamilton County agencies and/or departments may be tasked to initiate a SAR mission that may require the utilization of air, ground, and water rescue operations to preserve life.
- B. Agencies that conduct preplanning for SAR mission(s) must consider hazards such as fire, confined space rescue, high-rise structures, urban or rural areas, trench, subsurface, recreational areas/facilities, waterways, chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear/explosive locations.
- C. Responders may face added difficulties or hindrances after a disaster because of extensive damage to the local infrastructure. Such damage then may create environmental safety and health hazards such as downed power lines, unstable foundations or structures, rapidly rising waters, exposure to biohazards, toxins, blood-borne pathogens and explosive environments.
- D. Responders must also take into consideration when their safety and the safety of the victims are being impacted by severe weather conditions such as temperature extremes, snow, rain, high winds, and by civil unrest.
- E. Assumptions

1. Every community may experience the need for search and rescue operations.
2. Many of these search and rescue operations only necessitate the need for local resources or responders.
3. Especially in the case of a localized incident, community volunteers often freely want to offer assistance with the mission. These well-meaning volunteers must be directed to volunteer reception centers to prevent either their personal injury, contamination of the search area and to provide accountability.
4. Access to the areas impacted by the disaster may be limited or restricted. Initially some areas may only be accessible to aviation, maritime assets or by foot.
5. Support such as helicopters, tracking dogs, and outside search and rescue groups may be required from adjoining political subdivisions or from state resources to ensure maximum search and rescue effectiveness.
6. A survival window for many victims occurs within the first 48 hours of the incident. A concentration of efforts should be directed then towards locations where the greatest potential for survivors exists.
7. The availability of personnel with foreign language and /or special needs communications skills maybe necessary.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The Hamilton County SAR Coordinator will be the Commissioner of the Hamilton County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force or his/her designee.
2. The Hamilton County SAR Coordinator is the point of contact for Search and Rescue operations in the Hamilton County ROC. All requests for additional resources will be channeled through the ROC and the County SAR Coordinator.
3. When it is determined that the scope of the incident will or has overwhelmed local, county and state resources, the ROC will contact Ohio EMA and request appropriate assets to fit the needs of the emergency.
4. For the overall efficiency of the SAR mission(s), where there exists the overlapping of jurisdictional authority, responders will utilize a unified command system following the guidelines established in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
5. The Ohio National Guard is a state asset that, if activated, can:
 - a. Provide general and unique engineering services such as debris hauling, emergency road repairs, and emergency erosion control and demolitions.
 - b. Augment civilian law enforcement agencies to prevent looting, prevention of unauthorized scene access, or maintaining the continuance of routine services to the communities.
 - c. Provide emergency medical services to civilians and emergency transportation to medical providers.
 - d. Provide air assets, including fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

6. Local jurisdictions should develop their own SOPs and annexes to their EOPs for SAR incidents.

B. Overview

1. A staging area for all incoming agencies to be involved in the SAR mission(s) should be established.
2. If the need exists, additional communications resources or redundant systems should be established and coordinated through ESF #3 — Engineering and Public Works, ESF #2 — Communications, or ESF #7 — Resource Support.
3. Begin to acquire the resources necessary to sustain the mission(s) and to meet the needs of the responders. Examples of such resources may include shelter, food supplies, fuel, and sanitation facilities.
4. In search mission(s) the media can be a valuable resource. In coordination with the Authority Having Jurisdiction, determine the best location for the media to set up their operations. The Hamilton County Public Information Officer will coordinate PIO functions for county level emergencies, establish the Joint Information Center and establish a media briefing schedule.
5. The Hamilton County SAR Coordinator will go to the Hamilton County ROC when requested by the HCEM/HS. He/she will brief Hamilton County ROC representatives and coordinate between all local, county, state and federal resources involved in search and rescue operations
6. Each agency involved in the SAR mission(s) will maintain authority with its jurisdictional assets and relay "Situation Status Reports" to the County SAR Coordinator.
7. All requests for mutual-aid support will be submitted through established channels.
8. Ensure the completion of all recommended reports occurs in a timely manner.
9. Account for all equipment utilized during the mission(s). Assure the repair or replacement of any equipment damaged or destroyed during rescue operations.
10. All reports and documentation, including but not limited to after action reports and situation status reports, shall be maintained by each agency with copies being provided both to the Hamilton County SAR Coordinator and HCEM/HS for inclusion in possible reimbursement requests.

C. Relationships between Levels of Government

1. Federal
 - a. Coordination with federal ESF #9 may occur in the Regional Operations Center, Ohio ROC, at the site of the emergency and/or in the Disaster Field Office (DFO).
 - b. The state ESF #9 will interface with the federal ESF #9 during assessment, response, and recovery operations in order to ensure coordinated activities.
2. State

- a. The state ESF #9 will maintain communications with Search and Rescue related organizations throughout the state of Ohio.
 - b. The State of Ohio is a participant in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, so other State's USAR assets could be requested in the event that the emergency exceeds Ohio's capabilities within the State.
3. Local
- a. The Hamilton County ROC will direct local-level requests related to ESF #9 for action.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

All ESF #9 — Search and Rescue organizations are responsible for development of internal SOPs that support ESF #9 — Search and Rescue operations.

- A. When an incident occurs, local public-safety organizations are usually the first responders on the scene. If their resources are inadequate, they will activate mutual-aid agreements. When all local resources have been activated and assistance is still required, they may obtain assistance from the organizations appearing in the following table pending appropriate emergency declarations.
- B. The lead agency for ESF #9 is the Hamilton County Search and Rescue Coordinator. The lead agency acts as the spokesperson for the ESF on search and rescue issues and maintains an overview of countywide operations during emergencies. The lead agency may defer to support organizations for briefings and information releases related to support agency's specific programs or areas of concern
- C. Assignment of Responsibility
 - 1. Hamilton County SAR Coordinator will:
 - a. Report to the Hamilton County ROC upon its activation.
 - b. Receive "situation status reports" during emergency operations. Each fire and rescue organization will maintain authority within its own jurisdiction and will relay these reports to the ROC during an emergency.
 - c. Provide, as required, information on the availability of rescue equipment on a countywide or area specific basis.
 - d. Coordinate rescue activities with the Hamilton County ROC.
 - e. Brief other ESF representatives on the status of search and rescue related activities.
 - 2. Local Fire/Rescue Agencies will:
 - a. Assist in SAR operations within capabilities.
 - 3. Hamilton County Engineer's Office will:
 - a. Assist in SAR operations within capabilities.

- b. Provide vehicles and crews to assist in debris removal and access to SAR mission(s) area(s).
 - c. Provide for the transportation of supplies and equipment to the affected area(s).
4. Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will:
- a. Assist in SAR operations within capabilities.
 - b. Provide site security and access restrictions to areas upon request.
 - c. Assist in establishing communications webs and command centers.
 - d. Ensure evidence collection is provided once a deceased person(s) is found.
5. Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security will:
- a. Activate the Regional Operations Center and it will be the central coordinating location for all county, state and federal agencies/resources involved in the SAR mission(s).
 - b. Coordinate Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA's) to prioritize communities for SAR operations.
 - c. Serve as the liaison between all levels of government to support operations.
 - d. Assist in prioritizing debris removal operations to provide access to SAR mission area(s).
 - e. Establish periodic ROC briefing sessions
 - f. Coordinate with the Ohio EMA in forwarding a disaster declaration to the Governor of Ohio, if the situation warrants, with the hope of obtaining a gubernatorial declaration. The Governor then may decide to request a federal declaration through FEMA.
6. Ohio Region 6 USAR Team will:
- a. Function as an all hazards search and rescue team capable of providing resources for the first operational period.
7. Ohio State Highway Patrol can:
- a. Provide additional Law Enforcement personnel.
 - b. Provide air assets, including fixed wing and rotary aircraft.
8. Ohio Task Force One (OHTF1) if activated, can:
- a. Ohio Task Force One is a FEMA recognized, all hazards search and rescue team capable of fulfilling subsequent operational periods.
 - b. OHTF-1 is a State of Ohio asset
 - c. Estimated Time of Arrival from Activation is 5-6 hours

- d. For the first 72 hours after deployment, the team is totally self-sufficient, including but not limited to, food, fuel, repair/replacement equipment, and communications resources.
9. Ohio Civil Air Patrol can:
- a. Provide ground support crews for S & R missions
 - b. Provide air reconnaissance
 - c. Provide communications capabilities
10. Ohio Department of Natural Resources can:
- a. Provide heavy equipment (bulldozers, dump trucks, graders), fire-fighting equipment.
 - b. Provide additional Law Enforcement personnel.
 - c. Provide air assets, including fixed wing and rotary aircraft.
 - d. Provide trained personnel and watercraft resources for missions involving SAR in aquatic environments.
 - e. Provide assistance with swift water rescues, side-scan sonar, underwater video capabilities, night vision and thermal imaging equipment.
 - f. Provide a wide range of vehicles, including 4 wheel drive and All-Terrain Vehicles.
 - g. Provide K-9 units for assistance in searches.

V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF #9 — SEARCH and RESCUE

- A. ESF #9 — Search and Rescue organizations are responsible for the maintenance of their own agreements, SOPs, SOGs, MOUs and Resource Listings that document the equipment, supplies, and services available to them during emergencies. Additional support needs during an emergency may be requested through the Hamilton County ROC to ESF #7, Resource Support.
- B. Agencies involved in SAR missions will be expected to provide the initial necessary support for their own personnel (food, water, lodging, fuel, and equipment) for the first few hours until ESF-7 can be established to provide resources for additional operational periods.