

ESF 9: Search and Rescue

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Section II: Emergency Support Functions

1.0 Introduction

Coordinating Agency:

- Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office

Primary Agency:

- Lewis & Clark County Search & Rescue

Support Agencies:

- Lewis & Clark County Fire Departments
- Montana Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
- Lewis & Clark County DES
- City/County Support Services Division
- Capital City Amateur Radio Club (CCRC)/Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)
- Eklhorn C.O.A.D.
- Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (MTDES)
- Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

1.1 Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 9: Search & Rescue was developed to support search and rescue (SAR) response efforts for all hazards, including searching affected areas for victims (human and, to the extent no humans remain endangered, animal) and locating, accessing, medically stabilizing, and extricating victims from the damaged area.

1.2 Scope

This ESF is applicable to situations within the county when it will be necessary to provide Search and Rescue (SAR) missions for emergencies or disasters. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) is a specialty performance for which the County is not fully organized at this time. This ESF serves as a guideline for those in command of SAR operations and should not be used as a prescribed action plan.

Many of the agencies with ESF-9 responsibilities have existing emergency plans and procedures/guidelines. 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/guidelines already in place

1.3 ESF Activation & Plan Maintenance

ESF 9 may be activated independently or in conjunction with other ESFs, depending on the needs of the situation. The ESF 9 Coordinating and Primary Agencies will be responsible for review and revision of this annex.

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1.4 Policies

- ❖ Land SAR operations are initiated, coordinated and directed by the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office in accordance with local and state plans. The Lewis & Clark County Search and Rescue team is comprised of deputies and community volunteers and is an affiliate of the Sheriff's Office.
- ❖ Air SAR for missing or downed aircraft is the responsibility of the Montana State Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division with the support of the Civil Air Patrol
- ❖ The National Incident Management System principles, in conjunction with the Incident Command System principles, are the on-scene methods for SAR operations in the county
- ❖ Request for additional resources including special skills, expertise, or equipment are coordinated through the 911 Dispatch Center, or in large operations, by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when activated.

2.0 Situation & Assumptions

2.1 Situation

- ❖ Emergencies or disasters of many kinds can result in SAR operations. A mass casualty event may produce the need for large scale SAR response. There is a wide range of outdoor activities in Lewis & Clark County, and for this reason, individual search and rescue missions not related to disasters, are fairly common. Outdoor recreational activities such as boating, hunting, camping, hiking, and fishing may result in people becoming lost, injured, or killed.
- ❖ The widely differing terrain in the county requires a locally-based SAR first response system.
- ❖ The Sheriff's Office maintains mutual aid with surrounding counties and State agencies from which SAR support could be called

2.2 Assumptions

- ❖ Search and Rescue (SAR) operations will continue to increase as the population and recreational opportunities continue to grow.
- ❖ Operations may be overwhelmed during emergencies and disasters. Local SAR efforts may require technical assistance from other agencies, counties, and the state.
- ❖ Access to impacted locations may be limited due to steep or rocky terrain, water, or structural barriers. Some areas may only be accessible by aircraft or boat.
- ❖ Rapid assessment of impacted areas and lost individuals will assist in the determination of response priorities.
- ❖ Local residents and unaffiliated volunteers may initiate activities to assist in SAR operations and will require coordination and direction.

3.0 Concept of Operations

3.1 General

- ❖ Search and Rescue missions in Lewis & Clark County are conducted by trained deputies and volunteers equipped to perform many SAR functions. This volunteer work is conducted under the guidance and direction of the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office. The following are examples of some of the capabilities of SAR in Lewis & Clark County:
 - ♣ Ground Searches
 - ♣ Rappelling/Climbing Operations
 - ♣ Avalanche Rescue
 - ♣ Ice Rescue
 - ♣ Underwater Searches
- ❖ When a SAR mission is requested of the Sheriff's Office, the 911 Dispatch Center may call out volunteers by phone, pager, or radio. Communications with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from the rescue operations Incident Command Post should be through normal radio and telephone capabilities.
- ❖ Prior to deployment, essential information is gathered such as terrain, identification of the search area, and a detailed description of the victim and their circumstances, if available, to better prepare responders for the search. Necessary resources are identified such as K-9 units, horses, extrication equipment, vehicles, and maps.
- ❖ SAR deployments are coordinated through the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's SAR Coordinator and his or her staff, in conjunction with the Search and Rescue Incident Commander, and the individual SAR group leaders.
- ❖ After an SAR mission is completed, there is often an after action review (AAR) where the mission is analyzed to determine what improvements, if any, could be made for similar missions in the future.
- ❖ If a catastrophic event results in major SAR operations involving a multi-jurisdictional effort, requests may be made to the Montana State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) for extensive support.

3.2 Notifications

- ❖ The SAR Coordinator, acting as the Primary Agency representative, should notify support agencies of EOC activations and request that representatives report to the EOC to help support ESF-9 activities.
- ❖ As additional EOC staffing needs become apparent, other support and partnering agency personnel may be asked to report to the EOC to assist resource support activities. Depending on the nature and location of the emergency, state and federal representatives may also become critical members of the ESF-9 team.

3.3 Preparedness

- ❖ Encourage active participation of inter-agency preparedness organizations, which collaborate in SAR activities on a regular basis.

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- ❖ Identify response zones, potential staging areas, and potential medical facilities with local and regional search and rescue teams and establish specialized teams.
- ❖ Prepare and maintain standard operating procedures/guidelines (SOP/SOGs), resource inventories, personnel rosters and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of SAR operations.
- ❖ Ensure Mutual Aid agreements are in place with surrounding jurisdictions.
- ❖ Coordinate and participate in the development and presentation of training courses and exercises for ESF-9 personnel.
- ❖ Maintain liaison with support agencies.
- ❖ Pre-identify typed SAR resources and identify resources from other agencies or capabilities that may assist with SAR, and plan to integrate such additional resources as necessary.
- ❖ Develop management plan to address uncertified volunteers.

3.4 Response

- ❖ Initiate mobilization procedures/guidelines
- ❖ Assemble personnel and equipment at designated location
- ❖ Transport team (personnel and equipment) to incident scene
- ❖ Collect and analyze incident information to assist SAR capability deployment decision.
- ❖ Plan and coordinate SAR operations at incident site
- ❖ Direct SAR resources according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Incident Command System (ICS), and team policies and procedures/guidelines.
- ❖ Deploy ESF 9 Representatives to the EOC.
- ❖ Establish communication between EOC and Incident Management Team to determine resource needs to support incident response and operations.

3.5 Recovery

- ❖ Continue to render support when and where required as long as emergency conditions exist.
- ❖ Participate in after-action briefings and develop after-action reports.
- ❖ Make necessary changes in this ESF Annex and supporting plans and procedures/guidelines
- ❖ Initiate financial reimbursement process for these activities when such support is available.

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3.6 Mitigation

- ❖ Review the hazards most likely to affect the county and identify potential vulnerabilities in the SAR function.
- ❖ Develop plans to overcome identified vulnerabilities (i.e. new equipment, training, mutual aid procedures/guidelines)
- ❖ Ensure that all equipment is regularly checked and maintained for instant deployment.

4.0 Organization & Responsibilities

4.1 Organization

- ❖ On-scene Search and Rescue Operations should be organized using the Incident Command System and remain under the administrative control of the Sheriff's Office.
- ❖ ESF 9 support to SAR operations, if needed, will likely take place through the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). ESF 9 Agency Reps in the EOC should be organized under the ICS Operations Support Section as either a stand-alone "Team" or as part of a functional Group, depending upon the needs of the incident.

4.2 Responsibilities

ESF Coordinator

- ❖ Provide leadership in directing, coordinating and integrating overall County efforts to provide SAR assistance to affected areas and populations.
- ❖ Staff and operate an ICS- compliant command and control structure to assure that services and staff are provided to areas of need.
- ❖ Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of local agencies, SAR personnel, supplies, and equipment.
- ❖ Evaluate the emergency situation, make strategic decisions, identify resource needs and secure resources required for field operations.

Primary Agency

- ❖ Maintain and review ESF 9 Annex and Mutual Aid agreements as needed.
- ❖ Prioritize mission requirements in support of ESF 9, and potentially other ESFs, activated by an emergency or disaster.
- ❖ Manage SAR and other emergency incidents in accordance with each department's Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines (SOP/SOGs) and under the direction of ESF-9 representatives or designee.
- ❖ Work with the EOC Team to rapidly assess the situation and take appropriate actions to support SAR operations at the scene(s).
- ❖ Assess the need to request specialized SAR resources from outside the Jurisdiction.

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- ❖ Provide a liaison for SAR resources from outside the Jurisdiction, including County, State and Federal agencies.
- ❖ Continue to re-assess priorities and strategies, throughout the emergency, according to the most critical SAR needs.
- ❖ Work with the Incident Commander(s) and the EOC Team to help ensure SAR 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.
- ❖ Work with ESF-3 (Public Works and Engineering) to ensure heavy equipment support to SAR operations and structural shoring required to ensure the safety of the teams.
- ❖ Coordinate with ESF-8 (Health and Medical Services) to help ensure the coordination of emergency medical assistance and victim transport.
- ❖ Assist in identifying personnel and resources to support this Annex.
- ❖ Work with support agencies to keep this Annex up-to-date.

Support Agencies

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Work with LCCO SO to keep this Annex up-to-date.

5.0 Authorities and References

5.1 Authorities

- ❖ See [Section 5.1](#) of Basic Plan.

5.2 References

- ❖ See [Section 5.2](#) of Basic Plan.
- ❖ **Lewis & Clark County EOP. May 2011.** ESF 9 – Search & Rescue.

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- ❖ **National Response Framework. January 2008.** ESF 9 – Search & Rescue.
- ❖ **Core Capabilities List. October 2015.**

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Attachment 1: Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AAR/IP	After Action Report/Improvement Plan
C.O.A.D.	Community Organizations Active in Disasters
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Services
AUC	Area Unified Command
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBRNE	<u>C</u> hemical, <u>B</u> iological, <u>R</u> adiological, <u>N</u> uclear, <u>E</u> xplosive
CCRC	Capital City Radio Club
DES	Disaster And Emergency Services
DESC	DES Coordinator
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation (Montana)
DPHHS	Department of Public Health & Human Services
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FBO	Faith Based Organization
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material
HIDC	Helena Interagency Dispatch Center
IAA	Inter-Agency Agreement
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IMT	Incident Management Team
JIC	Joint Information Center
LCCO	Lewis & Clark County
LE	Law Enforcement
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
MANG	Montana Army National Guard
MCA	Montana Code Annotated
MDT	Montana Department of Transportation
MHP	Montana Highway Patrol
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

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Acronym	Meaning
MTDES	Montana Disaster & Emergency Services
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NWS	National Weather Services
PIO	Public Information Officer
SAR	Search & Rescue
SECC	State Emergency Coordination Center (MTDES)
SOG	Standard Operating Guideline
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TCL	Target Capabilities List
UC	Unified Command
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
USC	United States Code
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VA	Veteran's Administration
VOAD	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

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Attachment 2: Definitions

None Identified