



NEW HAMPSHIRE

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 9 – SEARCH AND RESCUE

2019

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Acronyms

AFRCC	US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
DAMF	NH Department of Agriculture, Market and Foothills
DNCR	NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
DOS	NH Department of Safety
DOT	NH Department of Transportation
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMO	NH Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal
GPS	Global Positioning System
HazMat	Hazardous Materials
HSEM	NH Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
IC	Incident Commander
IEMAC	International Emergency Management Assistance Compact
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NHFG	NH Department of Fish and Game
NHNG	NH National Guard
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NRF	National Response Framework
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SEOP	State Emergency Operations Plan
SME	Subject Matter Experts
SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
SP	NH Division of State Police
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	US Coast Guard



Lead Agency

NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG)

Support Agencies

NH Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal (FMO)

NH Department of Transportation (DOT)

NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)

NH National Guard (NHNG)

US Coast Guard (USCG)

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Introduction

For Emergency Support Function (ESF) 9 – Search and Rescue, search and rescue activities are defined as:

Rural and/or Wildland Search and Rescue - Activities include, but are not limited to emergency incidents involving missing persons, the recovery of victims, locating boats lost in or around inland and coastal waters, water rescue, swift water, flood recovery, locating individuals lost in forest or wildlands, locating downed aircraft, extrication, if necessary, and providing first-aid treatment to victims. Swift water and flood search and rescue activities includes locating victims and effecting safe rescue(s) in a moving water environment by ground, water, or air.

Urban/Structure Search and Rescue - The process of locating, extricating, recovering, and providing initial medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by an emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves. Additionally, this may include swift water and flood recovery. Some SAR activities will result as a request from and coordination with ESF 4 Firefighting.

Purpose

The purpose of ESF 9 is to provide a framework for coordination and cooperation across state agencies and response partner organizations to support and assist local jurisdictions in technical and non-technical search and rescue operations before, during, and after a disaster or emergency in the State of New Hampshire when needs exceed available local resources or capabilities. Operations may include searches for missing persons, aircraft and/or marine vessels, extrication of victims from confined spaces, and immediate medical support of located victims.



Concept of Operations

This annex will be activated at the direction of HSEM when there is potential for, or an actual disaster situation, or planned event involving search and rescue operations in New Hampshire.

General

1. The Department of Fish and Game (NHFG) is the Lead Agency for ESF 9, but it is recognized that in cases requiring urban search and rescue activities, the NH Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal (FMO) has significant responsibility, expertise and resources. Upon consultation with NHFG, the FMO may assume the responsibilities of the Lead Agency.
2. During an emergency or disaster, ESF 9 will coordinate search and rescue support to local operations through coordination of State personnel and equipment from support organizations and volunteer agencies. Supporting agencies will provide additional staff support for the ESF 9 in the SEOC as needed.
3. NHFG, as the Lead Agency, must ensure that through coordinated annual planning, all ESF 9 agencies are:
 - a. Participating in reviews and maintenance of the ESF 9 Annex; and
 - b. Receiving sufficient training and are capable of supporting responsibilities of ESF 9 in the SEOC; and,
 - c. Coordinating, attending, and participating in ESF 9 meetings, training sessions, conferences and exercises.
4. Maintain manual or automated listings of the following:
 - a. NHFG and Support Agency emergency points of contact that may need to be contacted by ESF 9 representatives, and;
 - b. Available search and rescue resources (i.e., state, local, contract) such as types of equipment, equipment operators, and other personnel.
5. Coordinate ESF 9 activities in the SEOC during periods of activation by developing and maintaining the ESF 9 staffing schedule.
6. Coordinate evaluation and performance of mission/task requests.
7. Ensure the status of committed and uncommitted equipment and inventory resources are tracked during activation of the SEOC.
8. Ensure Unified Command is used to manage assets in the field due to the number and variety of government and private sector organizations that may be involved.
9. ESF 9 may coordinate the staging of assets before actual requests are forwarded.

Organization

1. **Organizational Chart (Command & Control):** ESF 9 shall function under the direction and control of the Public Safety Branch under the SEOC Operations Chief. (*See Organizational Chart in SEOP Base Plan.*)
2. **Operational Facilities/Sites**
 - a. Headquarters – 11 Hazen Drive Concord NH
 - b. Lancaster Regional Office – 629B Main St. Lancaster NH
 - c. New Hampton Regional Office – 204 Main St. New Hampton NH
 - d. Keene Regional Office – 15 Ash Brook Court Keene NH
 - e. Durham Regional Office – 225 Main St. Durham NH
3. **Field Operations**

ESF 9 may serve in Field Operations for deployment or standby status. As activation of these activities usually occurs early in an event, its activation sequence should be prepared for in the first hours of an event.
4. **Volunteer Organizations**

It will be up to the local Incident Commander to make the determination when and to what extent to utilize volunteer organizations in SAR activities. NHFG utilizes volunteer organizations to assist with inland SAR missions. Volunteer entities that work under the direction of NHFG for SAR missions will be determined by NHFG and are to be member organizations and active participants of the White Mountain Search and Rescue Working Group.
5. **Federal Resources**

When ESF 9 foresees or has a need for resources not otherwise available, action will be taken to secure such resources through the *National Response Framework* (NRF) or some other federal source. This request should be coordinated through the SEOC Operations Chief and Logistics Chief, as required.
6. **Contracts and Contractors**

Resources that are available through ESF 9 may, at times, best be obtained through a contractor. State of NH contracts or private sector contracts should be facilitated through Logistics and ESF 7 – Resource Support.

Notification

1. HSEM will notify the Lead Agency points of contact when there is, or will be an SEOC activation requiring ESF 9 representation.
2. The Lead Agency will then notify the Support Agencies and determine coverage for the ESF 9 desk in the SEOC.
3. ESF 9 agencies will make notifications to their appropriate regions, districts, local offices, etc.



4. The above notification process will be utilized for all phases of activation and activities in which the ESF 9 will be involved.

Event Reporting

1. WebEOC will be utilized to provide continuous situational awareness.
2. Position logs should be maintained by each ESF agency in sufficient detail to provide information on activities taken during the event.
3. Agencies are also expected to keep their Lead Agency updated upon all activities and actions.
4. The Lead Agency will be responsible for making periodic reports to the Operations Section Chief on activities taken by the ESF during the event and assure they are properly documented.
5. Lead and Support agencies must maintain financial records of all activities and costs during the event. The records will be turned into the Lead Agency when requested.

ESF Actions

Prevention/Preparedness Actions

1. Maintain situational awareness through coordination with ESF 9 support agencies for current inventories of SAR personnel, supplies and equipment.
2. Establish and maintain liaison with the Federal and border state SAR officials.
3. Participate in State exercises or conduct an exercise to validate this Annex and supporting SOPs.
4. Support the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) including training of ESF on EMAC/IEMAC responsibilities, and pre-identification of assets, needs, and resources that may be allocated to support other states/provinces.
5. Annually review the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Core Capabilities and integrating tasks as appropriate.
6. Integrate NIMS principles in all aspects of planning for ESF 9.
7. Maintain notification systems to support emergency/disaster response.
8. Develop and maintain internal agency search and rescue plans, procedures, resource directories, and emergency contact lists to support ESF 9 activities.
9. Maintain current inventories of search and rescue facilities, equipment, and materials and supplies by agency and type to ensure a timely response.
10. Maintain a system to recognize credentials of associated agencies/personnel.
11. Assist local governments in training of personnel and rescue organizations for SAR operations.

Response Actions

1. Assign and schedule sufficient personnel to cover an SEOC activation for an extended period of time.
2. Provide information and status on SAR efforts to SEOC Operations via WebEOC.
3. Provide updates and briefings for personnel reporting for ESF 9 duty.
4. Notify ESF 9 counterparts in the threatened or impacted areas.
5. Generate information to be included in SEOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans.
6. Evaluate and respond to ESF 9 mission/task requests including providing available resources equipment and personnel for fulfilling ESF missions. Maintain situational awareness of resources committed to an incident.
7. Consult incident specific annexes for specialized actions.
8. Support requests and directives resulting from a Governors State of Emergency Declaration and/or Presidential Disaster Declaration.
9. Coordinate available data on buildings, structures and other related risks associated with the work of ESF 3 if the incident involves structural issues and ESF 4 if the incident involves wildfire or structural fires.
10. Coordinate air support assets to support search and rescue operations.
11. Provide monitoring for contaminated areas and consult with appropriate support agencies to provide access and egress search and rescue control to contaminated areas.
12. Coordinate with the Logistics Section for the location and use of storage sites as staging areas for the deployment of personnel, assets and materials (including food, equipment, medical supplies, etc.) into the affected area.
13. Establish communications with appropriate field personnel to coordinate resources to support response efforts and gain situational awareness.
14. Conduct ongoing assessments of search and rescue priorities and strategies to ensure adequate resources to support critical search and rescue operational needs with a priority on life safety.
15. Prepare for the arrival of, and coordinate with, FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, as appropriate.
16. Prepare damage assessment documents to be submitted to HSEM and other appropriate ESFs/agencies.
17. Evaluate the probability and time period of the recovery phase for the event. Continue development of an "After-Action Report" for ESF 9.
18. **Radiological Emergency Preparedness Actions**

- a. Refer to the ESF 9 section of the NH Radiological Emergency Response for Nuclear Facilities Incident Annex, Attachment A – Implementing Procedures for State Agencies.

Recovery Activities:

1. Maintain information and status of SAR activities to SEOC Operations via WebEOC.
2. Continue to coordinate activities and requests with partner ESFs.
3. Prepare for arrival of and coordinate with FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, as appropriate.
4. Generate information to be included in SEOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans.
5. Ensure ESF 9 Lead and Support Agencies document event related costs for any potential reimbursement.

Mitigation

1. Provide input to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan as needed.
2. Support and plan for mitigation measures including monitoring and updating mitigation actions in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
3. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.

Responsibilities

General

1. Agencies will provide Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to support ESF 9 in the SEOC.
2. Agencies will maintain inventories/databases, status of availability, and procedures to obtain access to and use of their search and rescue assets.
3. Participate in the evaluation and mission assignment of ESF 9 resource requests submitted to the SEOC including resources that are available through mutual-aid agreements, compacts, contracts, etc.

Agency Specific

Lead Agency

NH Department of Fish and Game (NHFG)

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to staff ESF 9 in the SEOC.
2. Notify all ESF 9 supporting agencies upon activation.
3. Develop operating procedures to implement the Search and Rescue Emergency Preparedness/Response functions.
4. Provide SAR teams and expertise for activities related to wildland and inland water SAR.
5. Maintain Situational Awareness, monitor weather conditions, and ensure a state of readiness for the ESF.

6. As needed, pre-stage resources to support ESF 9 requirements.
7. Organize and appropriately train emergency management personnel for participation in all aspects of SAR operations.
8. Coordinate additional training for state and local government agencies and volunteer organizations to ensure an acceptable level of SAR preparedness.
9. Ensure specialized resources are prepared by maintaining training records, applications, and typing criteria.
10. Maintain current directory of qualified resources for search and rescue.
11. Coordinate air assets to transport specialized resources in a timely fashion following the Air Operations Branch.
12. Coordinate and mobilize qualified resources from fire and rescue services statewide through firefighter mobilization and statewide mutual aid agreements.
13. Provide/secure appropriate mappings, etc. pertinent to mission response activities.
14. Provide mutual aid data and points of contact.

Support Agencies

1. NH Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal (FMO)

- a. In coordination with NHFG, assume some of the Lead Agency responsibilities for incidents involving urban or structural search and rescue activities. In many Urban/Structure SAR events, NHFG will defer lead responsibilities to FMO.
- b. Maintain inventories of urban search and rescue assets, equipment, and personnel throughout the State.
- c. Coordinate resources to provide assistance in coordinating technical search and rescue operations.
- d. Coordinate specialty teams and expertise for structural/urban related SAR activities.
- e. Coordinate resources to support ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in firefighting operations and technical search and rescue operations.
- f. Coordinate structure specialists, as appropriate.

2. NH Department of Transportation (DOT)

- a. Provide aviation support and coordination through the Bureau of Aeronautics or the Air Operations Branch.
- b. Maintain a database of all state-owned aviation assets that may be utilized for aerial SAR
- c. Provide SMEs and infrastructure and engineering support, damage assessment and critical information that may impact SAR activities.



3. N.H Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR)

- a. Provide information on wildland and rural areas, including state-owned land as they relate to and have impact upon SAR activities.
- b. Act as guides within state forest and park areas.
- c. Provide transportation and make state park facilities available to support search and rescue.
- d. Plan, coordinate and execute Rural Search and Rescue operations.

4. NH National Guard (NHNG)

- a. Conduct air and ground search as directed.
- b. Conduct swift water/flood search and rescue using qualified civilian helicopter aquatic rescue technicians.
- c. Conduct stranded personnel rescue and injured personnel extraction through operating aircraft with rescue hoist or Heli-Basket operations capability.
- d. Conduct annual recurrent qualification training with pilot(s), crew chief(s), and qualified civilian rescuers.
- e. Provide aviation support with Forward Looking Infrared Radar imaging (FLIR) and high intensity spotlights.

5. US Coast Guard (USCG)

- a. Setting up security and safety zones in and around navigable rivers and federal waterways and vessel traffic upon them.
- b. Conducting SAR activities within identified areas, as requested.
- c. With the USACE, authorizing the closure to traffic within areas identified, as requested.
- d. During flooding operations, providing assistance as needed with resources, including marine vessels, aircraft, personnel and environmental threat resources needed to provide SAR activities and mission-related activities.

6. Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

- a. Provide trained personnel for air and ground search operations.
- b. Provide aerial photography during search and rescues operations.
- c. Provide an Incident Commander (IC) for air search operations as tasked by the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) or approving and accepting a mission request from emergency management.
- d. Upon receiving a mission number from AFRCC or approving and accepting a mission request from emergency management, provide personnel for ground, lake, or river SAR operations.



Coordination with Other Emergency Support Functions

ESF 9 will coordinate with other ESFs through the SEOC by:

1. Notifying organizations of available resources.
2. Providing availability of subject matter experts for specialized requests.
3. Notifying ESFs and Support Agencies of any pertinent information that may impact their ability of the to carry out missions/tasks.

Mutual Aid

Lead and Support Agencies will maintain up-to-date agreements and Memoranda of Understanding/Letters of Agreement (MOU/LOA) with various other agencies, regions, states or countries, as appropriate. Each agency is responsible for keeping these documents updated and with appropriate points of contact. Support Agencies should keep the Lead Agency informed of any such agreements which may impact resources or capabilities during an emergency incident. The State of New Hampshire also maintains agreements and mutual aid compacts on behalf of various organizations. These may be activated as the situation warrants.

Attachments

Plans/Procedures, Etc.

1. State-wide Search and Rescue Manual
2. NH Statewide Fire Mobilization Implementation Master Plan
3. Fish and Game Resource Lists – vehicles, specialized equipment and resources

MOUs/LOAs

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service - White Mountain National Forest
2. New Hampshire National Guard – Aviation & Ground Support
3. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center – Support of National Search and Rescue Plan
4. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Fish and Game, DOT Aeronautics – Search and Rescue Operations

Record of Update

Date	Title and Agency of ESF Lead Approving Update