

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) #9 URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

Primary Agency: Savannah Fire Department

Support Agencies:

Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services
Chatham County Coroners Office
Chatham County Emergency Medical Service Providers
Chatham County Mosquito Control
Chatham County Sheriff's Department
Civil Air Patrol
Marine Rescue Squadron
Municipal and Private Fire Departments
Municipal Police Departments
US Coast Guard

Supporting information, documentation, activation instructions and checklists are contained in the Introduction to Emergency Support Functions Annex.

I. Introduction:

- A. Purpose: Rapidly deploy local search and rescue components to provide specialized life-saving assistance to municipal authorities during an Incident of Critical Significance.
1. CEMA will assist in coordinating county assets and augment agencies having SAR responsibilities.
 2. The Savannah Fire Department will coordinate SAR.
 3. CEMA may request state and Federal SAR assistance.
 4. ESF 9 will interface with ESFs 1 and 8 to assist with medical assistance and the transportation of victims beyond initial collection points.
- B. Scope: Urban SAR activities include, but are not limited to, locating, extricating, and providing immediate medical assistance to victims trapped in collapsed structures. Non-urban SAR activities include, but are not limited to, emergency incidents that involve locating missing persons, boats which are lost at sea, locating downed aircraft, extrication if necessary, and treating any victims upon their rescue.

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include, but are not limited to:

1. Preparedness

- a. Maintain a current inventory of resources, including trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations. Maintain records reflecting local capability.
 - b. Participate in exercises and training to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
 - c. Maintain liaison with State urban search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets.
 - d. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.
 - e. Assist local governments in training of personnel and rescue organizations for search and rescue operations.
 - f. Ensure all ESF #9 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. As a minimum, primary action officers for all ESF #9 agencies will complete ICS 200, 300, and 700 courses.
2. Response
- a. Support local agencies with appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment as needed.
 - b. Using the ICS, assume responsibility for coordinating and tracking all resources committed to an incident. This may include placing personnel at a forward command post. Establish staging areas with the requesting group.
 - c. Deploy liaison teams to county EOC or incident base of operations, as needed.
 - d. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.
 - e. Coordinate other State and Federal support for search and rescue operations to include planning for reception and deployment to area of operations.
 - f. Coordinate with ESF #1 for use of buses to transport rescue teams or rescued victims or persons evacuated from an emergency area to a safe location or emergency shelter.
3. Recovery
- a. Continue to support local operations and plan for a reduction of operations.
 - b. Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
 - c. Anticipate and plan for arrival of, and coordination with, GEMA ESF #9 personnel in the EOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
 - d. Require ESF #9 team members and their agencies maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.
4. Mitigation
- a. Support and plan for mitigation measures.

- b. Support requests and directives resulting from the Governor and/or GEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
- c. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in county or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

II. Concept of Operations:

- A. General: A major or catastrophic disaster may result in a substantial number of persons being in life-threatening situations requiring prompt rescue and medical care. Since the first 72 hours are crucial to lessening the mortality rate, SAR must begin immediately. Depending upon the type and magnitude of the disaster, either urban, non-urban, or both, might be mandated. SAR personnel will potentially have to deal with extensive damage to buildings, roadways, public works, communications, and utilities. Secondary to the precipitous event, effects such as fires, explosions, flooding, and hazardous material releases may compound problems and threaten both survivors and rescue personnel.
 - 1. All available SAR resources will be committed, and additional help is needed from the state.
 - 2. Coordination and direction of efforts, including volunteers, will be required.
 - 3. Damaged areas will have access restrictions and will not be readily accessible except, in some cases, by air or water.
 - 4. Secondary events or disasters will threaten survivors as well as SAR personnel.

III. Responsibilities:

- A. Primary Agency: The Savannah Fire Department is the primary agency for ESF 9. The designated EOC Fire Department Coordinator will coordinate provision of representatives on a 24-hour basis to the EOC, to insure full deployment and utilization of resources identified under ESF 9. Multi-disciplinary teams will consist of team leaders, law enforcement for security problems, fire personnel and paramedics to search and treat victims, bus driver for transport, debris personnel to push back debris for team vehicle movement (debris clearance will follow search and rescue in most instances) power company and gas company personnel for emergency issues, and a building inspector/engineer for structural integrity. It must be noted that this will be the ideal and not practical or feasible in many instances. The composition of each SAR team shall be determined by the Incident Commander/SAR Coordinator
- B. Support Agencies:

1. Agencies participating in SAR will rely on ESF 11 to provide food and water to support operations, just as other critical work force personnel will.
2. The local SAR leaders will coordinate with ESF 3 for assistance in completing any structural shoring required to ensure the safety of the teams.
3. The Marine Rescue Squadron will assist with water related SAR efforts.
4. Coastal Crisis Response Team - May be called upon to provide counseling to SAR team members.
5. Medical Examiner's Office, in conjunction with Chatham County Sheriff's Office is responsible to secure and investigate the deaths.
7. Municipal Police and the Sheriff's Office will provide security for SAR teams.