

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION-9- SEARCH AND RESCUE

PRIMARY AGENCY

Kentucky Emergency Management (KyEM)

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Local 911 and 24 Hour Warning Points
Local & County Rescue Squads
Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Office of the County Coroner
Kentucky Department of Military Affairs
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Kentucky Division of Forestry
Kentucky Civil Air Patrol
Kentucky State Police
Office of the Kentucky State Medical Examiner
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
United States Army Corps of Engineers
United States Coast Guard
United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service
Department of Defense/U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

MISSION

The purpose of ESF-9 is to provide timely response, flexibility, organization, and coordination among the counties, local rescue squads and other emergency services organizations who perform search, rescue and recovery operations for lost, missing and overdue persons.

ASSUMPTIONS

Rescue squads may be formed and duly authorized to perform in the public interest with authorization to operate within a jurisdiction granted by the chief elected official of each urban-county government, charter county government, county or city which the squad proposes to serve;

Every Kentucky county is required to designate an entity that shall function as the rescue organization for that county;

Rescue squads shall have a formal affiliation with the local disaster and emergency services organization or local emergency planning committee and that statement of affiliation shall be renewed annually;

Rescue squads may operate in conjunction with a fire division or as a separate unit;

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

All rescue squad members performing specialized types of rescue missions shall have training and experience in compliance with applicable state and federal requirements and all specialized equipment shall be in keeping with state and federally recognized standards;

Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) includes, but is not limited to, locating, extracting, and providing immediate emergency medical assistance to victims trapped in a collapsed structure. US&R is a highly technical field, requiring specialized equipment and training to such a degree that an event requiring US&R will almost automatically exceed local response capabilities and trigger State or Federal assistance.

The ability of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to effectively provide the requested assistance is contingent upon the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management's capability to identify and request the appropriate, local, state [and/or], federal agencies, or other public or private resources capable of assisting in SAR, or a combination thereof, to support the search and rescue efforts. It is also contingent upon the effective planning, coordination and management of those search and rescue resources.

If state resources for SAR are exceeded, KYEM through the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center (CEOC), may request additional SAR resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) System, other Mutual Aid Agreements, Vendor Contracts or Memoranda of Understanding.

DIRECTION AND CONTROL

As the primary agency responsible for SAR, KyEM shall be responsible for coordinating resources and operations among all agencies supporting ESF-9.

When statewide resources are required to respond to a SAR event, KYEM shall activate the Statewide Search and Rescue Task Force to coordinate all field operations of assigned Search and Rescue units.

All local, state and federal agencies responsible for supporting ESF-9 shall communicate resource capability to the Commonwealth Resource Management Group at the CEOC.

Each local, state, federal and private agency involved in SAR response shall make available an individual or individuals to function as Agency Coordinator(s) to assist in coordinating emergency activities of their respective agencies with KyEM at the CEOC.

Each supporting agency shall maintain administrative command and control of their own resources and any others assigned to them;

The direction of emergency operations shall be exercised at the lowest level of government affected whether local, state or federal.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

Five specialized types of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations are conducted by search and rescue squads within the Commonwealth. These specialized areas of operation are:

- structural search and rescue (urban and rural)
- water-borne search and rescue
- inland/wilderness search and rescue
- cave search and rescue
- aeronautical search and rescue

Each of these types of SAR require specialized training and equipment as well as different standard operating procedures and guidelines. ESF-9 provides for overall coordination on a State level for all types of SAR.

Large Animal Rescue is coordinated by ESF-11 Agriculture

Preparedness

KyEM shall develop and maintain on a state-wide basis a search and rescue plan as required by KRS Chapters 39A and 39F as a part of the state emergency operations plan.

Each county and each city maintaining a separate emergency management organization shall develop and maintain a local search and rescue plan as required by KRS Chapters 39B and 39F as a part of the local emergency operations plan.

All search and rescue squads shall prepare and maintain current lists of personnel, equipment and their locations needed to carry out responsibilities as assigned under ESF-9 and KRS Chapter 39F.

All search and rescue squads shall conduct training and exercises as needed to stay compliant with local, Commonwealth and federal requirements for their areas of specialization.

Local jurisdictions shall conduct periodic evaluations of SAR capabilities and identify trigger points at which time SAR assistance from the Commonwealth shall be required.

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

Local jurisdictions shall respond to and manage SAR operations within their capability and call on assistance from the Commonwealth when the incident overwhelms local capabilities.

Each search and rescue squad shall develop plans for ESF-9 to ensure uninterrupted operations during disasters. This includes the development of policies and procedures to ensure appropriate staffing and logistical support throughout disaster response operations.

Each responding rescue squad shall prepare and maintain ESF administrative and financial procedures as required by KRS Chapter 39F and to properly document activities of the ESF during activations.

The state shall develop and maintain EMAC and/or other contracts that allow for personnel and equipment surges to respond to SAR events beyond the response capabilities of local and State resources.

Response

ESF-9 shall be activated when requested by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management at the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center (CEOC).

KYEM shall provide regional support through KYEM regional managers acting as liaisons to local jurisdictional SAR squads and shall provide overall coordination through a SAR State Coordinator acting at the CEOC.

KYEM shall activate the Statewide Search and Rescue Task Force when the deployment of Search and Rescue units exceeds the ability of local or regional managers to adequately manage the resources on the ground.

Each supporting agency shall provide an Agency SAR Coordinator to the CEOC to support ESF-9 requests.

Recovery

The primary and all supporting agencies shall provide ESF-9 coordination and support as required for Recovery Operations.

Primary and supporting agencies shall conduct internal After Action Reviews and document lessons learned and recommendations for improvement of Emergency Operations Plans, Procedures and Guidelines.

Assignment of Responsibilities

Primary Agency – Kentucky Division of Emergency Management

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

KYEM is responsible for coordination of ESF-9 – Search and Rescue in Kentucky and is responsible for the activation and operation of ESF-9 for the Commonwealth as requested by the CEOC;

When two or more Commonwealth agencies respond to an emergency or disaster, KyEM shall coordinate the response operations of the agencies involved if the incident is managed by Commonwealth personnel.

Local authorities shall contact the KyEM Regional Managers when Commonwealth assistance is required to cope with a SAR emergency;

If the KYEM Regional Manager cannot be reached, the KyEM Duty Officer is available twenty-four hours a day to relay requests for assistance and to coordinate Commonwealth response;

The KyEM Duty Officer has the necessary resources to contact local, Commonwealth, federal and private agencies for support and to gather required information.

The KyEM Duty Officer shall remain cognizant of the situation and shall route requests for support to the proper agencies as required.

As necessary, the KYEM Regional Manager shall coordinate at the scene, call for the activation of the Statewide Search and Rescue Task Force, and act as liaison between local, Commonwealth, and federal governments and private agencies. The KYEM Regional Manager may also serve as liaison between federal and Commonwealth officials and may act as public information spokesman for Commonwealth government.

Support Agencies

Local

911 Dispatch Center or 24 Hour Warning Points, law enforcement agencies, law enforcement dispatchers, fire departments, rescue squads, emergency medical service agencies, and emergency management agencies Receive calls relating to missing, lost, trapped and other persons specified in KRS 39F.010 and 39F.180 and direct the caller to the appropriate agency for search and rescue as identified in the local SAR Plan and local Emergency Operations Plan.

No public safety answering point, emergency dispatch center, or 911 center shall delay any call reporting a person lost, overdue, or missing to the organization specified in the county search and rescue annex of the county emergency management plan as responsible for searching for lost, missing, or overdue persons.

911 Centers shall report the information required to be reported by administrative regulation, for all reports of persons missing, lost, or overdue, if a search for the lost person has lasted for more than two (2) hours to the local emergency management

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

director and the local search and rescue coordinator for the jurisdiction in which the person is reported missing.

Make notifications specified in KRS 39F.180.

Make immediate "Golden Alert" notifications to the Duty Officer of the Division of Emergency Management of missing persons suffering from organic brain disorders, Alzheimer's Disease, and other conditions specified in KRS 39F.180.

Notify local law enforcement agencies if the incident is within the purview of law enforcement.

Rescue Squad, Fire Department, or other agency specified in the local SAR Plan and local Emergency Operations Plan

Provide initial response to search and rescue incidents as assigned by the local SAR Plan and the local Emergency Operations Plan.

Provide, as needed, continuing search and rescue services during the continuance of the search or rescue incident or the disaster or emergency.

As specified in KRS 39F.180, any search and rescue mission which has lasted four (4) hours without the subject being located shall be immediately reported to the duty officer of the Division of Emergency Management by telephone or radio.

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

When requested by the local Emergency Management Director or Local SAR Coordinator pursuant to KRS 39F.090, may restrict access to search areas or portions thereof

Office of the County Coroner

In the event that a SAR results in body recovery, the county coroner shall as provided in KRS 72.020, take possession of any objects, medical specimens, or articles which, in his or her opinion, may be helpful in establishing the cause of death, and he or she can make or cause to be made such tests and examinations of said objects as may be necessary or useful in determining the cause of death.

Under KRS 72.025 the county coroner is required to order a post-mortem examination be performed if the death appears to be the result of a homicide, act of violence or suicide, or when the death appears to be from drowning.

The coroner make request assistance from the Kentucky State Medical Examiner in conducting the post-portem examination.

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

In the event a post-mortem examination is determined by the coroner to be necessary, and the coroner orders an autopsy to be performed, the coroner shall convey the remains to one of the offices of the Kentucky State Medical Examiner for autopsy.

In the event that a criminal prosecution arises, all objects and articles together with reports of any examinations made upon them, shall be retained by the coroner until their production in evidence is required by the prosecuting authority, unless otherwise directed by written order of the court in which such prosecution is pending.

Directs the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban county government to pay for the costs of coroner ordered searches for bodies pursuant to KRS 72.455.

State

Kentucky Department of Military Affairs – Army National Guard—Air National Guard

Provide equipment and personnel to assist in search and rescue operations including but not limited to door to door wellness checks to determine the health and safety of persons trapped or isolated due to disaster;

Provide security to the scene and perimeter of search and rescue operations as requested by jurisdictions within which SAR operations are being conducted;

Assist in the extrication and evacuation of persons trapped by disaster.

Provide helicopters which may have hoists or forward looking infrared (FLIR) and fixed wing aircraft to support SAR operations.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Under federal law Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources shall provide an individual to act as the Kentucky liaison between the Commonwealth and the Coast Guard who shall be appointed as the Boating Law Administrator (BLA) for the Commonwealth. This individual shall be available to report to the CEOC as requested by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management;

Provide personnel and equipment to assist in both land and water based SAR operations.

Provide personnel to assist in security operations related to SAR missions.

Assist in coordination with other State and Wildlife Agencies reporting to the Commonwealth under EMAC.

Assist in coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other Department of Interior components in responding to ESF-9 when Commonwealth capabilities are exceeded and federal resources are requested.

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

Provide Public Information Officers to assist in dissemination of information from SAR activities.

Provide tracking dogs for SAR.

Kentucky Division of Forestry

Provide personnel and resources to assist in inland/wilderness SAR operations conducted in backcountry, remote or undeveloped areas that require responders travelling overland by alternate routes or by aircraft.

Kentucky Wing Civil Air Patrol

Provide flight reconnaissance and air support for SAR operations;

Provide additional personnel and equipment for SAR.

.Provide communications during SAR operations.

Department of Kentucky State Police

Receive reports pursuant to KRS 39F.180 of missing minors as defined in KRS 2.015 from agencies initially receiving such reports.

Provide primary coordination amongst responding agencies and entities for all SAR operations in which criminal involvement or conduct is known or suspected;

Provide additional personnel, equipment and resources including dogs to assist in SAR operations.

Provide security for SAR operations.

Provide public affairs officers.

Provide communications and mobile command posts for SAR operations.

Provide fixed wing aircraft and helicopters for SAR operations.

Justice and Public Safety Cabinet – Office of the Kentucky State Medical Examiner

At the request of the County Coroner, and as provided in KRS 72.025, the Medical Examiner's Office shall assist the coroner in determining the identity and cause and manner of death of deceased individuals recovered from SAR operations.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

Provide personnel, vehicles, and equipment to assist in road clearing, debris clearing, and other functions to provide access to or rescue of persons who may be trapped in collapsed structures or who may be inaccessible because of blockage of or damage to roads, bridges, or other means of transportation.

Provide Commonwealth fixed wing aircraft and helicopters for searches, transportation of personnel, damage assessment, and other missions.

Federal

United Army States Corps of Engineers (USCOE)

Provide direction and assistance and additional personnel, equipment, and resources to SAR operations conducted at USCOE maintained and operated facilities including lakes and dams.

United States Coast Guard

The United States Coast Guard is designated by law as the lead agency "to manage each maritime search and rescue mission and coordinate resources" for a response on navigable waterways with federal jurisdiction.

In order for the Coast Guard to meet its legal obligation, Commonwealth and local agencies must notify the USCG of each incident they respond to. Therefore, whenever a municipal or county agency receives notification of a maritime incident they should call Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley at 1-800-253-7465 to provide a notification and to ensure their response is being coordinated with those of all other responding agencies.

When the Coast Guard is the first recipient of a notification, they will inform all Commonwealth and local agencies that have jurisdiction and will coordinate the respective response actions.

Support waterborne SAR operations on lakes and rivers and as the result of dam/levee failure through provision of personnel, equipment and resources as necessary and as available to assist local search and rescue missions.

Through the United States Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley in Louisville promote safety on, under, and over navigable waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction within Kentucky. These water bodies include: the Ohio River, Mississippi River, Tennessee River, Cumberland River, Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake, and Lake Cumberland.

Provide vessel movement control, security for and communications necessary to support and safeguard water-borne search and rescue missions within the Coast Guard's area of responsibility (AOR).

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

Serve as designated SAR lead agency for waterborne SAR under the U.S. National Search and Rescue Plan (2007), U.S. National SAR Supplement, and the United States Coast Guard Addendum to the U.S. National SAR Supplement.

United States Department of Interior/National Park Service

Coordinate SAR activities at properties maintained by the National Park Service within Kentucky. These sites include: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace , Big South Fork, Cumberland Gap, Mammoth Cave, and the various sites along the Trail of Tears.

Provide assistance and technical advice for SAR activities off National Park Service properties.

United States Department of Agriculture/US Forest Service

Assist in the coordination of SAR activities within *and adjacent to* National Forest areas including the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Land Between the Lakes.

United States Department of Defense/U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (USAFRCC)

Provide information from the Federal Aviation Administration's alerting system and the United States Mission Control Center (USMCC) to support SAR missions involving searching for aeronautical or marine tracking devices. As the federal agency charged with the coordination of inland SAR, the USAFRCC has direct connection with the USMCC a multi-agency, multi-national program using satellites to detect an accurately position emergency signals from airplanes and ships in distress. This project is known as "Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking or SARSAT.

Once verified as an actual distress situation, the AFRCC can request support from the appropriate federal SAR force. This may include Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, or other Department of Defense assets, as needed.

USAFRCC may provide resource files of federal and Commonwealth organizations which can conduct or assist in SAR efforts throughout North America.

Kentucky Division of Emergency Management as the authorized Agency for the Commonwealth of Kentucky may request assistance for flight reconnaissance and other assests of the United States Department of Defense for assistance in aeronautical and maritime search and rescue through the USAFRCC.

United States Department of Commerce/National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW ONLY

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) supports civil SAR objectives through research and development or application of technology to search, rescue, survival, and recovery systems and equipment, such as location tracking systems, transmitters, receivers, and antennas capable of locating aircraft, ships, spacecraft, or individuals in potential or actual distress.

NASA has aircraft, spacecraft and worldwide tracking, data acquisition and communications networks that can assist in civil SAR operations;

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

This ESF shall be reviewed annually by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management Planning Branch and the ESF-9 CEOC Coordinator.

KyEM shall assist in the development and review ESF-9 Standard Operating Procedures and provide an updated copy to the Division of Emergency Management Planning Branch no later than December 1st of each year.

REFERENCES

KRS Chapter 39F *Local Rescue Programs—State and Local Search and Rescue Programs*

Title 106 KAR Chapter 1 Disaster and Emergency Services

The National Response Framework

The National Incident Management System

ESF-9 Standard Operating Procedures (under development)

United States National Search and Rescue Plan

United States National Search and Rescue Supplement

United States Coast Guard Addendum to the National SAR Supplement

International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (IAMSAR) documents