



ESF 9: SEARCH & RESCUE

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 – Search and Rescue describes local, state and federal plans, guidelines, and capabilities for conducting structural collapse, land, water and air-based search and rescue operations, as well as regional coordination activities to be accomplished in support of search and rescue operations.



Coordinating Agencies	Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) Heart of America (HOA) Fire Chiefs Association
Cooperating Agencies	Regional Technical Search and Rescue System Law Enforcement Agencies Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agencies Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments Engineering Departments Building Codes Departments All Local Government Departments and Agencies Assigned Responsibilities in Local Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
Non-governmental Organizations	Volunteer and Community Organizations Private Sector Entities
State and Federal Agencies	Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS), State Emergency Management Agency, Missouri State Water Patrol (MSWP), Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP), Missouri National Guard The Adjutant General’s Department (TAG), Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), Kansas National Guard Missouri and Kansas Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Missouri and Kansas Departments of Transportation (MDOT/KDOT) Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Teams Department of Defense (DOD), US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center



**State and Federal Agencies
(Continued)**

Department of Interior (DOI)

Disaster Mortuary Response Teams (DMORTs)

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Other State and Federal Agencies Assigned Search and Rescue Support
Responsibilities in State and Federal Emergency Plans

Agency roles are described in Section VI – Organization & Assignment of Responsibilities



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COMPLIANCE NOTE: CPG-101 version 2 indicates the following for all "support annexes" and documents: "for consistency, the recommended structure for all annexes is the same as that of the basic plan." (page 3-15 of CPG-101 vs. 2). In order to eliminate unnecessary redundancy, the ESFs include only those sections that have direct application and relevance to each respective support function. Sections that are not included in each of the ESFs (e.g. Introductory Materials; Admin, Finance, and Logistics; and Plan Development and Maintenance) are addressed in the Base Guide section of the Regional Coordination Guide.

I. PURPOSE

1. The goal of all regional coordination activities conducted in the Kansas City region is to promote a coordinated approach to accomplishing emergency activities and to ensure all jurisdictions have the ability to accomplish the following:
 - a. Exchange and/or Clarify Information
 - b. Develop and Disseminate Common Messages
 - c. Share Available Resources and Assist Impacted Jurisdictions
 - d. Develop a Regional Common Operating Picture
 - e. Participate in the Coordination of Multi-Jurisdictional Actions
 - f. Participate in the Facilitation and Discussions Pertaining to the Prioritization of Resources within the Region
2. For more information on general regional coordination activities, see the RCG Base Guide and the summary of regional coordination activities included as **Attachment A**.
3. ESF #9 describes initiating and maintaining the coordination activities necessary to achieve the most effective and efficient search and rescue operations possible.
4. ESF #9 focuses on the following types of search and rescue activities:
 - a. Technical search and rescue operations following a structural or other infrastructure collapse (e.g., highway overpass, bridge, mine, etc.).
 - b. Technical search and rescue operations following natural disasters (e.g., tornado, flood, earthquake etc.)
 - c. Land and water-based search and rescue operations.
 - d. Air-based search and rescue operations.
5. The technical, land, water and air-based search and rescue operations addressed in ESF #9 are applicable to all hazards.
6. ESF #9 provides information about the following:
 - a. Local, regional, state and federal search and rescue-related plans, programs and guidelines.
 - b. Equipment, specially trained personnel and other capabilities available to assist with search and rescue operations in the region.
 - c. Specific regional coordination activities to be considered or accomplished during search and rescue incidents.

ESF #9 provides information regarding search and rescue operations conducted by local agencies, as well as how state and federal agencies tasked with ESF #9 responsibilities will support and integrate with local search and rescue efforts.

II. SCOPE

1. Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 is one component of the RCG consisting of a Base Guide and fifteen (15) ESFs developed for use by all of the jurisdictions, agencies and organizations in the nine (9) county, bi-state metropolitan region as described in the RCG Base Guide.
2. To the extent possible, information contained in the RCG Base Guide and other ESFs will be referenced and not repeated in ESF #9.
3. ESF #9 is intended to support, but never supersede, the functional annexes of local Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), and other plans and protocols maintained by public and private agencies and organizations involved in the execution of ESF #9-related activities.
4. ESF #9 supports the operational plans and procedures maintained by local, state and federal agencies with ESF #9 roles and responsibilities. ESF #9 is intended to complement these plans and discuss how to access and coordinate existing capabilities, not to provide operational guidance to emergency response agencies and organizations. For more information, see **Attachment A** to this ESF and the RCG Base Guide.
5. ESF #9 will address or reference, where appropriate, the following Core Capabilities and desired outcomes associated with ESF #9 related activities (see **Table 1**). It incorporates the region's 2012 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The THIRA, which builds off the 2010 Regional Capabilities Assessment, re-evaluated the region's threats, hazards, and capabilities against the Core Capabilities outlined in the National Preparedness Goals.

The Regional THIRA expands on existing local and multi-state Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (HIRAs) and other risk methodologies by broadening the factors considered in the process, incorporating the whole community throughout the entire process and by accounting for important community-specific factors. Copies of both the 2010 Regional Capabilities Assessment Report and THIRA may be obtained from MARC.

Table 1: ESF 9 Core Capabilities

CORE CAPABILITY	ESF #9 – SEARCH & RESCUE	OTHER REGIONAL PLANS AND ESFs
<p>Mass Search and Rescue Operations</p> <p><i>2012 KC THIRA Desired Outcomes, as applicable:</i></p> <p><i>Within 30 minutes, initiate systematic search and rescue operations to locate and rescue persons in distress.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates search and rescue planning and operations between primary and support agencies. • Coordinates resolution of conflicting operational demands for SAR response resources. 	

III. SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Hazards and Risks

- a. It is recognized the region is at risk from a wide-range of hazards potentially resulting in the need for search and rescue operations. The local EOPs maintained by individual jurisdictions in the region identify the specific hazards and risks potentially affecting their communities, including those with the potential to initiate search and rescue operations.

2. Search and Rescue-related Plans

a. Local

- i. As described below, the local jurisdictions in the region maintain a functional annex or ESF in their EOPs to address search and rescue-related events in their communities:
 - Missouri Counties address the search and rescue function through maintenance of a fire and rescue functional annex, or some jurisdictions model the National Response Framework (NRF) and address search and rescue activities in ESF #9 of their EOPs.
 - Kansas Counties address the search and rescue function by using a functional fire and rescue annex, or the sample ESF #9 developed for local use and provided by KDEM (the sample ESF #9 may be obtained by contacting the KDEM Planning Division).
- ii. These local EOPs in both Kansas and Missouri describe the roles and responsibilities of local agencies with resources and personnel potentially available to assist with search and rescue-related emergency events. EOPs further describe the critical coordination activities occurring at the local level to help ensure all appropriate agencies, departments and capabilities are fully available to support search and rescue operations.

- iii. In addition to local EOPs, first responders with search and rescue-related support responsibilities (e.g., local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, public works and engineering departments, etc.) are encouraged to maintain procedures and guidelines specifying their roles, responsibilities and operational response actions.
- iv. For more information on local EOPs and supporting protocols, authorized agencies and organizations may contact the local EMA in their jurisdiction.
- v. Local plans and supporting documents (e.g., procedures, guidelines, protocols, checklists, etc.) follow the principles set forth in ICS and NIMS. Training and exercises conducted in support of these plans and protocols are described in Training and Exercises.

Local, state, federal and non-governmental agencies maintain plans and supporting guidelines defining their roles and responsibilities in an incident requiring search and rescue operations, and documenting available specialized equipment, personnel and other capabilities.

b. State

- i. The Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) maintained by SEMA outlines the roles and responsibilities of state agencies with primary responsibility for search and rescue-related mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities. A copy of the SEOP may be obtained by authorized officials by contacting SEMA.
- ii. The Kansas Response Plan (KRP) maintained by KDEM describes the mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery roles, responsibilities and actions of the state agencies assigned ESF #9 responsibilities in the KRP. The KRP may be found at the following Internet link:

http://kansastag.ks.gov/AdvHTML_doc_upload/2008%20KRP.pdf
- iii. The state departments and agencies assigned roles and responsibilities in the SEOP and KRP maintain plans, procedures, Standard Operating Guides (SOGs), checklists and other implementing documents detailing their activities in a search and rescue event.

c. Federal

- i. The National Response Framework (NRF) ESF #9 – Search and Rescue describes the roles and responsibilities of federal agencies with search and rescue responsibilities, such as DHS (which maintains the federal Urban Search and Rescue [US&R] Teams responsible for response to structural collapses); the Department of the Interior (DOI) (for land-based search and rescue operations), and the Department of Defense/US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (DOD/AFRCC) responsible for air-based search and rescue operations.

- ii. ESF #9 of the NRF also addresses water rescue operations utilizing the capabilities of the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG). When needed, local coordination with USCG will take place during any large water rescue operations occurring on major waterways in the region, such as the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. USCG has limited assets to support large scale operations, and will coordinate with local, state and federal agencies.
- iii. Additional coordination with federal agencies during search and rescue events is addressed under ESF #9-Specific Coordination Activities.
- iv. For more information on federal activities during search and rescue operations, see ESF #9 of the NRF located at the following Web site:

<http://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-resource-library>

d. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- i. Several businesses in the region with specialized heavy equipment capabilities potentially needed in a search and rescue incident have worked with local governments to develop a mutual aid agreement (called Plan Bulldozer) to make providing heavy equipment in support of an emergency more effective and efficient.
- ii. Local EMAs, fire departments and other emergency response agencies are familiar with Plan Bulldozer, its capabilities and guidelines for use. A copy of Plan Bulldozer may be obtained from local EMAs, the Heavy Constructor's Association of the Greater Kansas City Area or MARC. For more information on Plan Bulldozer, see ESF #3 Public Works and Engineering.

3. Search and Rescue Capabilities

a. Local

- i. In addition to Regional Technical Search and Rescue System capabilities, some local fire departments have equipment and personnel to assist with search and rescue operations, but their capabilities are limited.
- ii. Local law enforcement agencies have limited or no assets for water based search and rescue operations but will be the lead agencies for land based search for missing persons. Technical search and rescue teams can assist law enforcement as required for water based search and rescue.
- iii. Several jurisdictions in the region have volunteer organizations, such as CERTs and other groups trained and potentially available to assist in land based search for missing persons. The use of these volunteer resources will depend on their availability and their qualifications.

b. Regional

- i. The region has developed a Technical Search and Rescue System to provide assistance when needed to any of the jurisdictions in the bi-state region. The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System is made up of specialized capabilities and one hundred



eighty (180) individuals trained to conduct high angle rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, structural collapse rescue, elevator rescue and mass transportation rescue.

- ii.** In addition, members of the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System have both technical swift water rescue and technical boat water rescue training. Other agencies in the region maintain some capabilities to assist with water rescue, but should be used to support the capabilities of the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System.
- iii.** The specially trained personnel and capabilities making up the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System are maintained by the following fire departments:
 - Kansas City, Missouri Fire Department
 - Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department
 - Olathe, Kansas Fire Department
 - Central Jackson County Fire Protection District (located in Blue Springs, Missouri)
- iv.** Depending on the type of search and rescue operations required, the appropriate Regional Technical Search and Rescue System capabilities will be deployed at the request of the Incident Commander (IC).
- v.** The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System may be deployed to incidents in Kansas by contacting the Johnson County, Kansas Communications Center (CCC); or in Missouri, through the Lee's Summit Fire Department (Missouri Region A Mutual Aid).
- vi.** The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System also maintains a K-9 group with dogs and handlers that respond to incidents that require K-9 search. Additional information regarding this capability may be obtained by authorized personnel from members of the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System.
- vii.** There are other regional capabilities potentially available to provide support to an incident involving search and rescue operations, including communications equipment, command vehicles, medical resources, specially trained response teams, volunteers and others. For more information on these all-hazard capabilities available in the region, see the Regional Resource Annex.

Members of the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System, local law enforcement agencies, the HOA Fire Chiefs Association and EMAs, will work with the RHSCC when needed to coordinate the acquisition of additional regional capabilities to support technical search and rescue activities in the region.



c. State

- i.** In addition to local and regional resources, state resources will normally be available to assist with the event. Notifications and requests for state and federal resources will be made by local EOCs (both county and city EOCs in Missouri and county EOCs in Kansas) to their respective state EOCs.
- ii.** To support state search and rescue operations, SEMA and KDEM will implement appropriate plans and Standard Operating Guides (SOGs), as well as activate the State EOC as needed. SEMA and KDEM will work closely with other state departments and agencies with responsibilities in support of search and rescue operations.
- iii.** To activate state resources, state disaster declarations may be made by the Governor of the affected state based on guidance from SEMA and KDEM. Depending on the incident, a variety of state assistance may be available to local officials, including resources and technical assistance from state agencies tasked with responsibilities in state EOPs. State resources potentially available to assist with search and rescue operations include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Kansas National Guard (to assist with water and land-based search and rescue).
 - Kansas Air Guard (to assist with air-based search and rescue);
 - Kansas Highway Patrol (to assist with land-based search and rescue).
 - Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife (to assist with land and water-based search and rescue).
 - Missouri and Kansas Civil Air Patrol (CAP) (to assist with air-based search and rescue).
 - Missouri State Highway Patrol (to assist with land/water-based search and rescue).
 - Missouri National Guard (to assist with land-based search and rescue).
 - Missouri Air Guard (to assist with air-based search and rescue).
 - Missouri Department of Conservation (to assist with land-based search and rescue).
- iv.** In addition, the Boone County, Missouri Fire Protection District maintains a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, Missouri Task Force 1 (MO-TF1). MO-TF1 maintains an extensive equipment cache, as well as trained rescue specialists, structural engineers, hazardous materials technicians, communications specialists, canine search specialists, logistics specialists, physicians, surgeons, nurses, technical information specialists and safety officers. Additional information on MO-TF1 may be found on the following Website:

http://www.bcfldmo.com/missouri_tf1/index.asp.

The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System maintains specialized capabilities available to provide immediate response to mitigate incidents technical in nature. If requested by the Incident Commander, Missouri Task Force One, a Federal USAR team located in Columbia Missouri, may be requested to assist the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System.

d. Federal

- i. In a search and rescue operations that are large in scale, the Incident Commander may request assistance from the federal government in providing specialized response capabilities in support of local government due to the expertise and equipment required for such an event (such as a major structural collapse) requiring use of the Federal Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Teams.
- ii. As appropriate, the state(s) will work closely with FEMA/DHS to request needed federal resources (such as US&R Teams) in a timely manner.
- iii. Each FEMA US&R Task Force consists of two 31-person teams, four canines, and a comprehensive equipment cache. US&R task force members work in four areas of specialization: search (to find survivors trapped after a disaster); rescue (to remove survivors from collapsed concrete and metal); technical (structural specialists to make rescues safe for the rescuers); and medical (to care for survivors before and after rescue). For additional information on the FEMA US&R Teams, see their Website at: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/usr/index.shtm>.
- iv. Information on other resources and personnel potentially available from federal agencies in support of search and rescue operations is included in ESF #9 of the NRF, and detailed in the supporting SOGs and protocols of federal agencies with primary and support responsibilities (e.g., the USCG, DOI, DOD, etc.).

e. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- i. Another resource available to support search and rescue operations is the Missouri Structural Assessment Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition. SAVE coalition members are registered engineers, architects, construction contractors, equipment dealers, owners and operators of construction equipment, and other trained professionals potentially available to volunteer their services and equipment to support disaster operations.
- ii. The SAVE Coalition is intended to ensure a building inspection program is available to support disaster events by providing trained personnel to assist local officials with damage inspections. SAVE coalition resources may be requested through SEMA – for more information see: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/savecoalition.asp>

- iii. There are several volunteer-based canine search and rescue organizations in the region with resources and personnel potentially available to assist with operations. In addition, mounted search and rescue assets, such as horses or all-terrain vehicles, may be available in some jurisdictions. The use of such volunteer resources will depend on their availability and their qualifications.
- iv. Local EMAs are strongly encouraged to identify and document the volunteer search and rescue capabilities in their jurisdictions. Resources will be requested and activated through local EMAs, when needed.

IV. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

The following planning assumptions set forth what was assumed to be true when ESF #9 of the RCG was developed. These assumptions are intended to identify the limits and expectations of ESF #9 and form the basis for what should occur during search and rescue operations.

1. ESF #9 of the RCG is consistent with and complementary to local, state and federal search and rescue-related plans, procedures and guidelines.
2. Local departments and agencies as well as private sector resources may be available to provide necessary support for search and rescue operations. It is recognized that the effectiveness of local search and rescue operations will be contingent on the availability of personnel, capabilities and the extent/impact of the incident.
3. While trained technical search and rescue equipment and personnel are available for response to an incident, a significant search and rescue operation (e.g., a major structural collapse) may require the Incident Commander to consider federal and state resource support.
4. Local EOCs will work closely with their respective state EOCs to request needed and available state resources and personnel (e.g., if there is a need for air search capabilities potentially provided by the Civil Air Patrol [CAP]).
5. State and federal agencies will respond as requested and necessary, but may not be available for 72 - 96 hours.
6. Jurisdictions should maintain procedures to provide available resources to other jurisdictions in the region in support of search and rescue-related events. Further, mutual aid agreements with other local agencies and the private sector regarding search and rescue-related equipment and personnel should be maintained and updated on a regular basis.
7. Local EMAs and other responsible local agencies (e.g., fire departments) should work to obtain information and coordinate with state and federal agencies regarding the protocols in place for requesting and deploying state and/or federal resources in support of a major search and rescue incident.
8. Members of the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System train together on a regular basis and are able to cross state lines to provide support for search and rescue operations in either Kansas or Missouri.

9. The possibility of terrorism being associated with a structural collapse may require immediate notification to, and coordination with, the FBI – for more information, see ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Coordination Actions

1. Regional coordination activities will be conducted based on the guidance set forth in the RCG Base Guide and ESF #5 – Information and Planning. These concepts are summarized in Attachment A.

General Response Actions

Search and rescue operations may require a multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency response with the need for significant coordination activities to effectively manage the incident. Local EMAs and EOCs are encouraged to coordinate and share information among local agencies, and with other jurisdictions in the region to help ensure a coordinated response.

1. The following general actions are intended to summarize basic emergency response actions to be taken regardless of the type of incident. Since a major incident may involve several jurisdictions and responding agencies, it is essential that ICS be quickly implemented. Responding agencies will implement ICS in compliance with NIMS, their local EOPs, and supporting procedures and guidelines.
2. The IC for the event (or their designee) should maintain communications with the EOC to ensure the EOC is available to support field operations, request additional resources and maintain appropriate coordination with other departments, agencies and jurisdictions. As requested by the IC in support of field activities, the local EOC will assist with resource identification and coordination. As appropriate, local EOCs will make notifications to other county and city departments, agencies and public officials.
3. If local response capabilities are insufficient, assistance should be requested from other unaffected or less affected jurisdictions in the region. If a regional resource is needed, the responsible agency (i.e., the agency maintaining the resource) will deploy the resource at the request of the IC, unless it is already in use or other limitations prevent the responsible agency from deploying the resource.
4. The need for additional or specialized resources and personnel from outside the region will be based on the extent to which the jurisdictions in the region are involved and what available



resources are needed and in use. When the event exceeds (or threatens to exceed) local and regional resources, local EOCs will maintain contact with their respective governing county or state EOCs and request state and/or federal assistance as appropriate.

5. Depending on its potential impact, search and rescue-related incidents may generate media and public interest. When needed, local jurisdictions should implement the Emergency Public Information Annex of their local EOP to help manage the event and if appropriate, establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to coordinate the release of public information from all responding agencies. For more information on the regional coordination of emergency public information activities, see ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information.
6. All responding departments and agencies will initially use their existing equipment for communicating with their field operations and will request additional communications resources as needed to support the event in accordance with ICS, NIMS and the Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan. For additional information, see ESF #2 – Communications.

ESF #9 – Specific Actions

1. Immediate Response Activities

a. General Search and Rescue Operations

- i. ESF #9 is activated when an incident is anticipated or occurs that may result in a request for a unified SAR response to an affected area.
- ii. Depending on the event, the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System may respond to structural collapses and water rescues etc., while local law enforcement agencies may perform land or air-based search operations.
- iii. Members of both the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System and local law enforcement agencies should work closely with other agencies and organizations tasked with ESF #9 responsibilities to accomplish the following activities:
 - Activate SOPs or guidelines for immediate emergency operations considering the following actions:
 - Assess staging areas, as well as the use, status and sustainability of facilities, equipment, and supplies needed for search and rescue operations;
 - Alert and activate as necessary search and rescue capabilities (personnel and equipment); and
 - Initiate emergency communications and reporting procedures.
 - Use the ICS command structure and reporting requirements to establish operations, as well as document and track all resources and personnel committed to the event.
 - Evaluate the ability to communicate with all ESF #9 personnel as well as other support personnel, and implement back-up communications as needed.



- Activate mutual aid agreements or contracts with agencies, organizations or private entities providing personnel and resources needed to support search and rescue operations.
- Determine the level of support required by other agencies and work with local EMAs and EOCs to ensure local agencies with ESF #9 responsibilities are available to provide assistance.
- Ensure personnel have been notified, activated and deployed for essential tasks including, but not limited to the following:
 - Performing critical activities and providing EOC assistance;
 - Providing operational period situational assessments of field operations;
 - Reporting on personnel, equipment and support resource needs;
 - Supporting local and regional command structures;
 - Activating contingency and continuity of operations plans if needed; and
 - Developing and distributing maps, weather information and other needed information to support field operations.
- Coordinate with ESF #13 (Public Safety and Security) to provide security, staging areas, traffic and crowd control, and when appropriate, coordination with federal law enforcement officials.
- Work closely with ESF #4 (Firefighting), ESF #10 (Oil & Hazardous Materials), ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) and other functions as needed to support search and rescue operations.
- Work with EMAs to provide situation reports and critical information for integration into local and regional WebEOC boards.

b. Structural Collapse Search and Rescue Operations

- i. The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System should work to accomplish the following activities:
 - Perform extrication for survivors trapped in collapsed structures, and activate health and medical support to provide emergency treatment and transport for trapped and/or recovered survivors.
 - As needed, continue to work closely with ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) to provide timely medical care and transport of search and rescue survivors and if necessary, deceased victims.
 - Request and deploy a structural engineer to assist in determining building safety (this trained and certified individual would be deployed under the umbrella of SAVE – see Situation Overview - Capabilities: NGOs).
 - Depending on the site(s) affected, conduct critical infrastructure planning activities (such as facility awareness, GIS mapping, pre-planned facility ingress and egress

routes, etc.) to facilitate technical search and rescue operations. As their capabilities allow, local EOCs should be prepared to provide support for such operations.

- ii. If requested by the IC, local EMAs/EOCs may assist with additional resource acquisition. For example, in the event of a major emergency, an inventory of available regional capabilities may be coordinated by the EOC(s) in the affected jurisdiction(s) through the Regional Coordination System. See RCG Base Guide and Attachment A. Note: Information on all regionally available capabilities is included in the Regional Resource Annex.

c. Land, Water and Air-Based Rescue Operations

- i. Local law enforcement agencies should work to accomplish the following activities:
 - Assemble, activate, deploy and monitor land-based search teams. Notify health and medical agencies of the potential need for emergency treatment when survivors are located and continue to work closely with health and medical personnel to provide for the timely medical care and transport of search survivors.
 - Determine the need for air-based assistance and work with local EOCs and EMAs to coordinate with SEMA and KDEM to activate and deploy Civil Air Patrol (CAP) resources, and if needed, federal air resources to support search operations.
 - Depending on the area, utilize GIS mapping capabilities and weather information to facilitate land-based search operations. Local EOCs should be prepared to provide support (e.g., maps, weather forecasting information) for such operations.

2. Ongoing Response Activities

- a. Major search and rescue operations will likely require special equipment and expertise from state and/or federal agencies to effectively manage the incident. Local EMAs and EOCs will maintain contact with their respective state EOCs to ensure timely state and federal assistance is provided and information shared with state and federal agencies with ESF #9 responsibilities.
- b. The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System will be responsible for initial response to structural collapse search and rescue operations. If requested by the Incident Commander, federal US&R Teams will be integrated into local response operations using the principles of ICS and NIMS. As appropriate, local agencies should be prepared to support federal US&R Team efforts by providing necessary logistical, resource and technical guidance.
- c. Media attention generated by a major search and rescue incident may require the coordination of information between local jurisdictions and state and federal agencies. For additional information, see ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information.

3. Training and Exercises

- a. The Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) Training and Exercise (T & E) Subcommittee is responsible for providing guidance and oversight for regional training and exercises. The T & E Subcommittee should work closely with the agencies and

- organizations representing the emergency services disciplines in the region to identify individuals and agencies in need of training to support the search and rescue function.
- b. Each Coordinating and Cooperating agency will work to comply with applicable requirements for training as directed by their individual agencies. Additionally, training requirements from federal or state authorities may be appropriate.
 - c. In addition to training activities, exercises should be conducted to build awareness, practice roles and validate the performance of ESF #9-related functions. Departments and agencies with search and rescue responsibilities, including state and federal agencies, should participate in these exercises to help improve and/or maintain their knowledge, skills and abilities.
 - d. The T & E Subcommittee should work with appropriate state and federal agencies to help ensure search and rescue-related activities are considered and key agencies included in training activities. The T & E Subcommittee will also work with state and federal agencies to ensure search and rescue functions and key agency activities are included in regional exercise development, execution and evaluation.
 - e. The results of multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional exercises may require modifications or enhancements to ESF #9 and other areas of the RCG. Exercises may also identify the need for additional training to support the activities described in ESF #9 of the RCG.

The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System and local law enforcement agencies will work with the RHSCC Training and Exercise Subcommittee to ensure appropriate training is offered to support structural, land, air and water-based search and rescue activities.

VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

General

1. The roles and responsibilities of local agencies, NGOs and state and federal government agencies are formally assigned and defined in EOPs and their supporting guidelines. Search and rescue-related roles and responsibilities are also defined in the plans and procedures maintained by emergency responders, volunteer agencies, the private sector, as well as state and federal agencies.



2. The responsibilities described in this section are not meant to be all inclusive, but rather to complement the responsibilities assigned in local plans and reinforce the activities described in ESF #9 of the RCG.
3. For purposes of the RCG:
 - **Coordinating Agencies** are responsible for the following general activities:
 - Conducting pre-incident planning and coordination;
 - Maintaining ongoing coordination with the Cooperating Agencies, NGOs, and state and federal agencies; and
 - Conducting or supporting preparedness activities, including planning, training and exercises.
 - **Cooperating Agencies and NGOs** are responsible for the following general activities:
 - Providing specialized knowledge, skills and expertise to support search and rescue operations; and
 - Supporting search and rescue operations with available resources, personnel and other capabilities.
 - **State and Federal Agencies** are responsible for providing resource and personnel support to local governments, and working closely with local EMAs and other officials to help ensure a timely, integrated and coordinated response to the event.
4. The specific responsibilities of the Coordinating Agencies, Cooperating Agencies, NGOs, and state and federal agencies in support of search and rescue operations are described in the following sections.

Coordinating Agencies

1. As Coordinating Agencies for ESF #9, the **Heart of American (HOA) Fire Chiefs Association** and **local Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs)** are responsible for the following general activities:
 - a. Working with appropriate local, regional and state agencies to acquire and maintain the resources and personnel needed to support search and rescue operations.
 - b. Identifying training and exercise needs and work with appropriate local, regional and state agencies to ensure appropriate training and exercise activities are conducted in support of the search and rescue function.
 - c. Providing information to appropriate agencies and organizations regarding training and exercise opportunities available in support of search and rescue operations.
 - d. Coordinating with appropriate agencies to accomplish the prevention and protection activities described in this ESF.

2. The Cooperating Agencies for ESF #9, in particular, members of the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System, fire departments and law enforcement agencies in the region, are responsible for the following general activities:
 - a. Serving as the lead for providing or locating technical expertise and assistance in conducting search and rescue operations.
 - b. Identifying and evaluating resource needs to support search and rescue operations and work with the Coordinating Agencies to address these needs.
 - c. Determining appropriate training and exercise activities needed in support of search and rescue activities and working with the Coordinating Agencies to address these needs.
 - d. Developing and maintaining plans and SOGs to accomplish search and rescue functions, including coordinating with other jurisdictions, as well as state and federal agencies with resources to support search and rescue operations.
 - e. Working to address the prevention, protection, response and recovery activities required for effective and efficient search and rescue operations.

Cooperating Agencies and NGOs

1. All Cooperating Agencies and NGOs are responsible for the following general activities:
 - a. Supporting local governments with available resources, personnel and other capabilities to accomplish search and rescue-related activities.
 - b. Providing specialized knowledge, skills and expertise to support ESF #9 activities as needed.
 - c. Working with other Cooperating Agencies and NGOs to accomplish search and rescue prevention, protection, response and recovery activities.

State and Federal Government Agencies

1. State and federal agencies have specialized equipment and personnel for response to a major search and rescue operation (e.g., one involving the US&R Teams in a structural collapse incident, or the CAP and USCG in a major land or water-based search and rescue operation). These state and federal agencies will work closely with local first responders, EMAs and other officials to help ensure a timely, integrated and coordinated response to the event.

All Agencies

In addition to the responsibilities noted in the table above, all agencies and organizations are tasked with working to support regional coordination in a search and rescue-related event by:

1. Providing information to EMAs and EOCs regarding ESF #9 activities for the regional WebEOC boards, as well as resource tracking and reporting activities.
2. Participating when needed in regional coordination activities, such as conference calls and meetings.



3. Maintaining communications with agencies and organizations in other jurisdictions regarding the availability of resources to support search and rescue-related activities.
4. Working with the Cooperating Agencies in other jurisdictions to consider the potential pooling of local resources to meet a regionally identified need.
5. Ensuring consistent and useful emergency public information is provided regarding agency activities and coordinating the release of information with the other jurisdictions in the region (for more information, see ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information).
6. Including regional coordination activities required to support ESF #9 in their standard operating procedures, guidelines and/or checklists.
7. When requested and if available, deploying representatives to local EOCs to provide technical assistance to support search and rescue-related activities.
8. Providing ongoing status reports regarding resources and personnel needed and available as requested by local IC and EOCs.
9. Maintaining up-to-date rosters for notifying personnel of emergencies and 24-hour staffing capabilities.
10. Working to ensure training is available and completed as appropriate in ICS/NIMS, WebEOC, and in the use of local and regional resource databases.
11. Participating in training, as well as local and regional emergency exercises, especially those involving search and rescue emergencies.
12. Working to ensure recordkeeping procedures are in place to accurately track resources and personnel used in an ESF #9-related event.
13. Performing other search and rescue-related emergency tasks as requested by local EMAs, EOCs and other appropriate officials.
14. For additional information on the general responsibilities tasked to all agencies with roles in the RCG, see the Base Guide.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Regional Coordination Guide Summary
- B. First Hour Checklist for Regional Emergencies – Search and Rescue

Regional Resource Annex

- Search and Rescue related resources are included in the Regional Resource Annex

Attachment A. Regional Coordination Guide Summary

Overview

- The RCG provides an overall framework for regional coordination activities and may be initiated and maintained when there is a need for the jurisdictions in the metro area to provide common messages, and share information and resources.
- The protocols described in the RCG are intended to assist participating jurisdictions, agencies and organizations (whether government, volunteer or private sector) in augmenting their emergency resources and maximizing their emergency capabilities.
- The RCG is not intended to be an operational document. Operational emergency activities are coordinated through local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and described in local Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), standard operating guides, and the operating procedures maintained by local emergency response agencies.
- The RCG is flexible and scalable and was developed for use during any type or size of incident or event. Use of the principles and actions described in the RCG will be determined by the incident or event and the needs of the involved jurisdictions, agencies and organizations. Furthermore, the RCG is applicable for both planned events (i.e. MLB All-Star Game), which are scheduled nonemergency activities; and incidents (i.e. natural and manmade hazards), which are occurrences that require a response to protect life and property. Because events can sometimes turn into incidents, and because regional coordination may be needed in both instances, the application and use of these terms and their meaning throughout the RCG may be interchangeable and are not necessarily mutually exclusive.
- Local participation in the activities described in the RCG is voluntary. Therefore, the RCG represents a voluntary agreement among participating organizations, and as such, no participating organization has “control” or authority over another participating organization except where stated elsewhere in federal, state or local laws.

Key Concepts & Organizations

Some disaster events may overwhelm the resources of a single jurisdiction or impact multiple jurisdictions within the region, necessitating assistance from regional partners or collective decision-making to meet the needs of the situation. The **Regional Coordination Guide** (RCG) was developed to document and outline these protocols for regional action in order to maximize the sharing and coordination of information and resources and to improve the surveillance, early detection and mitigation of hazards and threats. These regional protocols can be best understood to comprise a **Regional Coordination System** (RCS). The RCS is a comprehensive concept to describe the mechanisms for how planning and response occur on a regional level, and to ensure the efforts of jurisdictions impacted or potentially impacted by a disaster are appropriately inter-connected and complementary, rather than duplicative. It reinforces interoperability among area jurisdictions and organizations, and makes response efforts more efficient and effective by coordinating available resources, services, and aid.

Furthermore, another foundational component of the RCS is the Regional Incident Coordination Group (RICG). This group is meant to be adaptable and scalable to any incident/event, and will serve as the primary coordinating body during a significant disaster event necessitating regional coordination. The nature of the incident/event and corresponding and evolving response and recovery needs will largely determine which participants will make up the RICG at any given time during the incident/event.

KEY CONCEPTS

Resources:

Resources are defined as personnel, vehicles, established teams, equipment, supplies and facilities available for assignment.

Impacted Jurisdiction(s):

The area defined as the "Impacted Jurisdiction" encompasses the jurisdiction and all the political subdivisions located within that jurisdiction, including special districts. The "Impacted Jurisdiction" is the jurisdiction that has or will be adversely impacted by an incident/event.

Assisting Jurisdiction(s) and/or Disciplines:

The Assisting Jurisdiction and/or discipline(s) provides timely emergency resources, services, and manpower to the Impacted Jurisdiction(s) -- and in some cases, the Host Jurisdiction -- in accordance to the provisions set forth by the RCS.

Host Jurisdiction(s) and/or Facility:

In situations where evacuation and/or mass care operations are necessary, the Host Jurisdiction serves as the jurisdiction that receives and shelters residents and animals coming from the Impacted Jurisdiction(s), and provides mass care and other needs as appropriate.

Regional Incident Coordination Group (RICG): This group is meant to be adaptable and scalable to the incident/event. The nature of the incident/event and corresponding and evolving response and recovery needs will largely determine which participants will make up the RICG at any given time during the incident/event. Specifically, the RICG may be comprised of those designated representatives from the Impacted and Assisting/Host jurisdictions' key leadership, emergency management, first responder disciplines (i.e. Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, SAR, HAZMAT), public health/medical, other regional disciplines, nongovernmental organizations, and ESF representatives (i.e. Transportation, Mass Care, Communications, Public Works, etc.). Other groups and organizations may be included, depending on the type and scale of the incident.

Activation & Initiating Regional Coordination

Although the criteria for initiating regional coordination are subjective, the Regional Coordination System (RCS) encourages a proactive approach to enhance regional vigilance/surveillance, information sharing, and, if necessary, a coordinated approach to incident/event management.

- Activation procedures may vary depending on the nature of the incident/event. The activation of the RCS, as the Regional Coordination Levels below indicate, are only meant to provide possible courses of action that can easily be adapted to the situation.

Pre-Planned Events

For pre-planned events, the decision to utilize components of the RCS will vary. However, because the RCS is scalable and flexible, the Region can utilize the RCS as long as it is not in conflict with existing laws and/or agreements between all of the involved parties.

The RCS may be activated:

- When planning for large or high profile public gatherings that affect multiple jurisdictions.
- When similar past events have required multi-agency coordination within the Region.

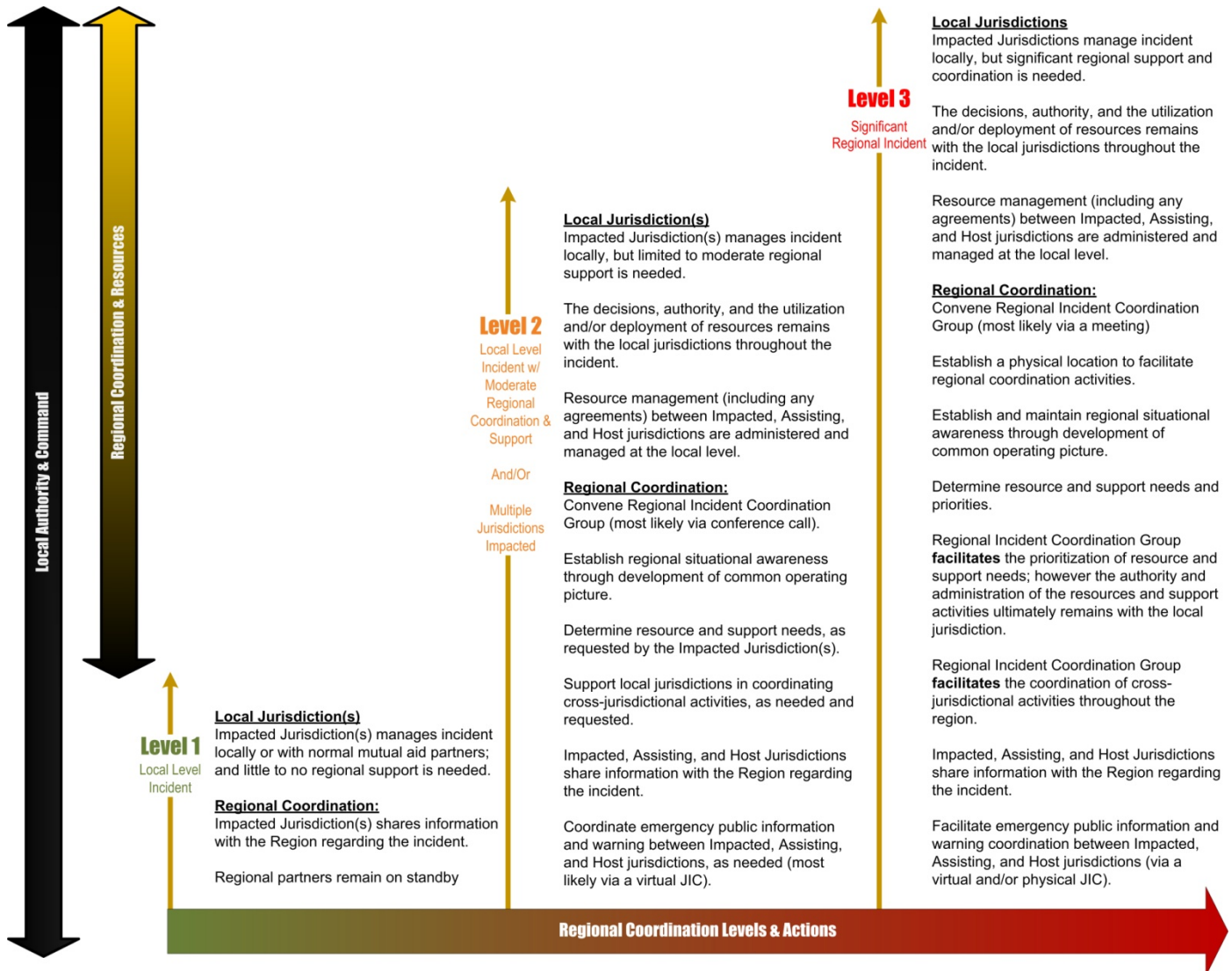
Notice and No-Notice Incidents (Hazards and Threats)

The RCS may be activated:

- When an impacted local jurisdiction's chief executive OR designee initiates the activation of the RCS.
- During a Level 1, 2, or 3 Regional incident/event. (i.e. When there is the possibility or reality that more than one jurisdiction could become involved in the incident response and recovery)
- When the incident could expand rapidly and involve cascading events.

Implementing Regional Coordination: Regional Coordination Levels

The type, scope and nature of the incident/event will dictate when it has regional significance and when regional coordination activities are initiated. Regional coordination within the RCS can be understood to occur across three "levels". The levels are meant to illustrate how regional coordination activities should increase in operational function and complexity as the magnitude or severity of incidents increases. The levels are not meant to be concrete with distinct transition points from Level 1 to Level 2 to Level 3, but rather are defined by planning considerations to generally describe how regional coordination needs and activities differ with the scale of an incident. The figure below provides a summary of key actions for each level. For specific information and detail, see RCG: Base Guide.



(Note: For specific actions for each level, see RCG: Base Guide.)

Attachment B. First Hour Checklist for Regional Emergencies – Search & Rescue

The following actions should be carried out as needed based on the specifics of the incident by local officials tasked with responsibilities for accomplishing emergency functions. In addition to the ESF #9 checklist below, the **RCG: Base Guide** includes an initial checklist of actions for all emergency functions and discusses the immediate actions for situational awareness, gaining regional awareness, overall response status, and emergency public information (see **RCG: Base Guide**).

Gaining Search and Rescue (ESF #9) Situational Awareness

Determine if the following actions have been initiated:

- SOPs or guidelines for search and rescue events have been implemented.
- Assessments have been initiated for staging, use, status and sustainability of facilities, equipment, supplies and other resources to support search and rescue functions.
- Personnel with emergency roles and responsibilities have been notified and activated.
- Emergency communications and reporting procedures have been initiated.

Search and Rescue Response Actions

Ensure ESF #9 personnel have the ability to accomplish the following as needed:

- Provide support and local guidance to state and federal agencies with ESF #9 responsibilities.
- Work to assess and procure equipment, supplies and resources to support ESF #9 functional areas.
- If search and rescue operations involve suspected terrorism, work with the FBI and ESF #13 (Public Safety and Security).
- Depending on the event, the Regional Technical Search and Rescue System may respond to structural collapses and water rescues etc., while local law enforcement agencies may perform land or air-based search operations.
- Activate mutual aid agreements or contracts with agencies, organizations or private entities providing personnel and resources needed to support search and rescue operations.
- Determine the level of support required by other agencies and work with local EMAs and EOCs to ensure local agencies with ESF #9 responsibilities are available to provide assistance.
- Coordinate with ESF #13 (Public Safety and Security) to provide security, staging areas, traffic and crowd control, and when appropriate, coordination with federal law enforcement officials.
- Work closely with ESF #4 (Firefighting), ESF #10 (Oil & Hazardous Materials), ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) and other functions as needed to support search and rescue operations.
- Work with EMAs to provide situation reports and critical information for integration into local and regional WebEOC boards.
- Major search and rescue operations will likely require special equipment and expertise from state and/or federal agencies to effectively manage the incident. Local EMAs and EOCs will maintain contact with their respective state EOCs to ensure timely state and federal assistance is provided and information shared with state and federal agencies with ESF #9 responsibilities.
- The Regional Technical Search and Rescue System will be responsible for initial response to structural collapse search and rescue operations. If requested by the Incident Commander, federal US&R Teams will be integrated into local response operations using the principles of ICS and NIMS. As appropriate, local agencies should be prepared to support federal US&R Team efforts by providing necessary logistical, resource and technical guidance.