

2015

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION



SEARCH AND RESCUE

As of Apr 06

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 9 Search and Rescue

Primary Agency:	Santa Rosa County Emergency Management
Support Agencies:	Santa Rosa County and Municipality Fire/Rescue Departments/Districts Santa Rosa County Firefighters' Association Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Santa Rosa County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Navarre CERT Pace CERT

I. Purpose

The purpose of ESF 9 is to provide search and rescue coordination and support services in support of emergency events in Santa Rosa County. ESF 9 can provide personnel and resources to support prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in support of the primary emergency management objectives. The ESF 9 Emergency Coordination Officer (ECO) directs all aspects of Search and Rescue. Each municipality will be responsible for search and rescue operations within their respective jurisdictions. SRC may provide mutual aid assistance upon request.

II. Concept of Operations

A. GENERAL

The first priority after a disaster is to locate any victims in affected areas and ensure the safety of injured or stranded personnel. The injured must be treated on the scene and moved to medical facilities as soon as possible. Those stranded must be relocated to safe areas. The search and rescue effort within Santa Rosa County will be a coordinated effort involving fire, Search and Rescue, emergency medical, public works, and law enforcement agencies.

1. Emergency Support Function 9 is organized consistent with the State Emergency Operations Center and the requirements of the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System in order to provide incident assessment, planning, procurement, deployment, coordination and support operations to the Santa Rosa County EOC, Area Operations and State Emergency Response Team officials to assure a timely and appropriate response to an emergency/disaster event.
2. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management will assist in coordinating county assets and augment local agencies with their SAR responsibilities and efforts.
3. SAR will be coordinated by the local fire departments with the assistance of Santa Rosa Firefighters Associations
4. In a large event requiring local and State mutual aid assistance, the Division of Emergency Management will request state and federal Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) assistance as required. ESF 9 will work with its support agency counterparts to seek and procure, plan, coordinate and direct the use of any required assets.
5. Throughout the response and recovery periods, ESF 9 will evaluate and analyze information regarding search and rescue, and prevention requests for response, develop

and update assessments of the search and rescue situation and status in the impact area, and do contingency planning to meet anticipated demands or needs.

6. Search and Rescue (ESF-9) will interface with Health and Medical (ESF 8) to assist with medical assistance and transportation of victims beyond initial collection points.
7. When an event is focused in scope to a specific type or response mode technical and subject matter expertise may be provided by an appropriate person(s) from a supporting agency with skills pertinent to the type of event, who will advise and/or direct operations within the context of the Incident Command System structure.

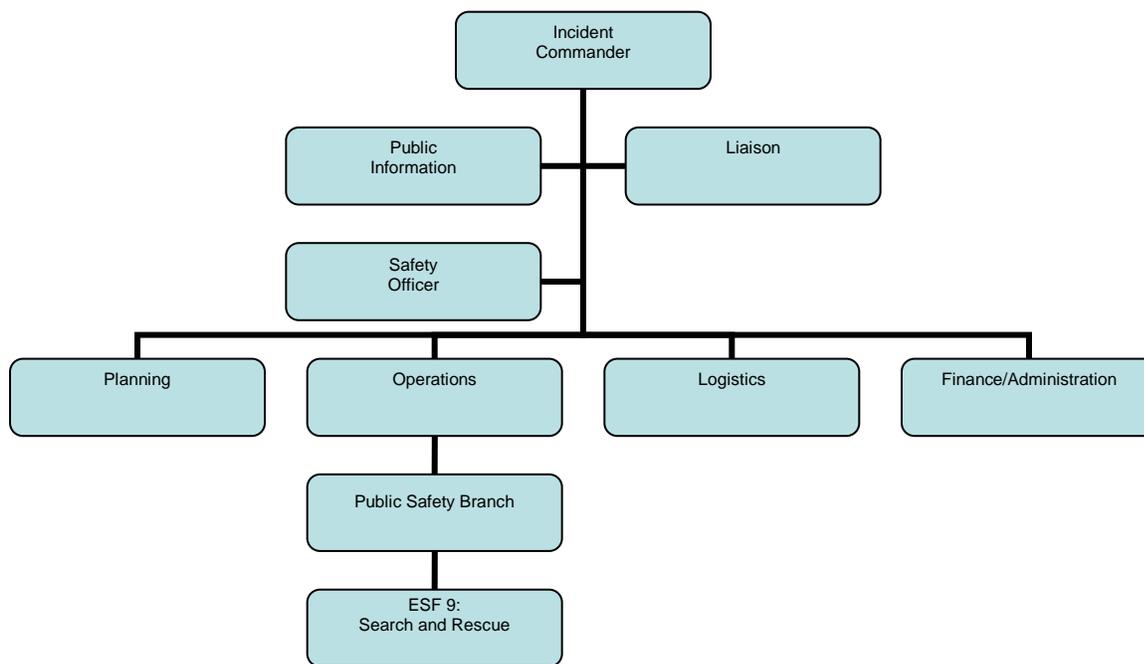


Figure 13 – Incident Command System Structure: ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

Organization

1. COUNTY

- a. During an activation of the County Emergency Operations Center, support agency staff is integrated with the Santa Rosa County Fire Rescue staff to provide support that will allow for an appropriate, coordinated and timely response.
- b. During an emergency or disaster event, the Emergency Operations Center Operations Section chief will coordinate the support resources from the support agencies with the Public Safety Branch Director.
- c. During the response phase, ESF 9 will evaluate and analyze information regarding search and rescue requests. Also, ESF 9 will develop and update assessments of

the search and rescue status in the impact area and do contingency planning to meet anticipate demands and needs.

- d. Each component serves a distinct function and ambient conditions that determines where and when a component will be deployed. Search and Rescue teams will be provided by local fire departments and augmented with CERT teams.. Each team will be capable of transiting areas impassable to street-type vehicles; of clearing debris from roadways; of extinguishing fires; of rendering emergency life support, of transportation of survivors to shelters, hospitals, or other safe areas and of maintaining security within the area of the team's operation.

2. AREA

- a. The Public Safety Branch Director, in consultation with the requesting jurisdiction, may obtain additional search and rescue resources via established mutual aid agreements.
- b. The Florida Department of Financial Services serves as the lead agency for search and rescue coordination and support and will designate a liaison to the EOC from the Regional Office and/or the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF). The liaisons have been trained to carry out ESF 9 responsibilities and will function as coordinators, assessors, and operational personnel in support of EOC or field activities.
- c. If more than one county EOC is activated State search and rescue may support the coordination of the event response with regional resources or request additional resources from the State Emergency Operations Center, the State search and rescue agencies will participate in a Multi-Agency coordinating entity to coordinate requests for search and rescue resources among multiple Emergency Operations Centers.

3. STATE

- a. During an activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of State Fire Marshall is the designated lead agency for search and rescue and will provide a liaison to facilitate requests for State search and rescue resources to local Emergency Operations Centers.
- b. During an emergency or disaster event, the primary and support agencies of ESF 9 at the State Emergency Operations Center will report to the Emergency Services Branch Director who reports to the Operations Section Chief under the overall direction of the State Coordination Officer.
- c. During the response phase, ESF 9 will evaluate and analyze information regarding Search and Rescue requests. Also, ESF 9 will develop and update assessments of the Search and Rescue situation and status in the impact area and do contingency planning to meet anticipated demands and needs.
- d. The Department of Financial Services, Division of State Fire Marshall develops and maintains the overall ESF 9 Emergency Operations Plan and accompanying Appendices, annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines that govern response actions related to emergencies. However support agencies may develop and maintain their own similar documents for internal use, which must be compatible with and in support of the overall Emergency Operations Plan. All such documents will be in compliance with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System and the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

B. ALERTS/NOTIFICATIONS

1. The County Warning Point, will notify the “on call” Emergency Duty Officer and/or Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) for ESF 9 when the county or an area of the County has been threatened or impacted by an emergency or disaster event as provided in the County Warning Point procedure.
2. Should a site-specific SAR event occur, the Fire District in which the situation exists will be alerted to respond and establish Incident Command. The EOC will assist in deploying other agencies to report to command as needed. Fire resources will be notified via the Plectron system. Other agencies including CERT will be contacted using the County Paging System. Notification to State Warning Point (SWP) will be performed by Emergency Management Communications (EMC) and documented on the appropriate form, when required.
3. Should SAR be required on a countywide basis resulting from a major disaster event, SAR teams will be coordinated by the Search and Rescue (ESF-9) representative and contacted via EMC with the assistance of the Emergency Management Division coordinating support agencies and equipment. Additional agencies will be contacted to rally available personnel and report to a designated staging area.
4. Notification to State Warning Point (SWP) or SEOC, whichever appropriate, will be made for a potential or actual event requiring response and coordination of statewide resources.

C. ACTIONS

Actions carried out by ESF 9 are grouped into phases of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation. Each phase requires specific skills and knowledge to accomplish and requires significant cooperation and collaboration between all supporting agencies and the intended recipients of service. ESF 9 encompasses a full range of activities from training to the provision of field services. It also functions as a coordinator and, at times, assumes direct operational control of provided services. The following services may be provided:

- Assessment of Search and Rescue needs and potential impacts.
- Search and Rescue personnel.
- Search and Rescue equipment and supplies.
- Evacuation and Re-entry support.
- Emergency responder health and safety.
- Radiological/chemical/biological hazards.
- Mental health and crisis counseling for responders.
- Search and Rescue Public Information and risk communication.
- Search and Rescue Management, Command and control of assets.
- Search and Rescue activities related to terrorist threats and/or events.
- Logistical Staging areas and Points of Dispensing.
- Catastrophic incident and alternate Search and Rescue facility support.

1. PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

- a. Actions and activities that develop Search and Rescue response capabilities may include planning, training, orientation sessions, and exercises for ESF 9 personnel (i.e., County, State, Regional, and Federal) and other emergency support functions that will respond with ESF 9. This involves the active participation on inter-agency preparedness organizations, which collaborate in such activities on a regular basis.

- b. Local and State search and rescue teams will jointly address planning issues on an on-going basis to identify response zones, potential staging areas, and potential medical facilities and establish specialized teams.
- c. Conduct planning with ESF 9 support agencies, Regional Domestic Security Task forces, and other emergency support functions to refine Search and Rescue Operations.
- d. Develop and refine procedures to be used in the following field surveys: Rapid Impact Assessment (i.e., recon), Community Search and Rescue assessment.
- e. Conduct training and exercise for EOC and Search and Rescue Team members.
- f. Prepare and maintain emergency operating procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of the responsibilities of the lead agency. Ensure lead agency personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.
- g. Develop and implement emergency response and Search and Rescue strategies.
- h. Develop and present training courses for ESF 9 personnel, provide information on critical facilities to the County Emergency Management and develop protocols for frequently provided services.
- i. Maintain liaison with support agencies.
- j. Conduct vulnerability analysis at critical facilities and make recommendations to improve the physical security.
- k. Conduct all hazards exercises involving ESF 9.

2. RESPONSE ACTIONS

- a. Coordinate operations at the ESF 9 desk in the County Emergency Operations Center and/or at other locations as required.
- b. Establish and maintain a system to support on-scene direction and control and coordination with county EOC, regional task force and State EOC.
- c. Establish Mutual Aid procedures for the following resources; Urban Search and Rescue, Interoperable Communications and Command Vehicles, Resource Management and Logistical Support.
- d. Implementation of Impact Assessment Teams to determine post-storm impact to Emergency Services functional group resources and ability to perform Continuity of Operations of essential functions.
- e. Mutual Aid procedures to assist with supporting issues related to a terrorist event.
- f. Search and Rescue support RDSTF in the investigation of a terrorist attack.
- g. Preposition response resources when it is apparent that fire-search and rescue resources will be necessary. Relocate fire-search and rescue resources when it is apparent that they are endangered by the likely impacts of the emergency situation.
- h. Monitor and direct Search and Rescue resources and response activities.
- i. Participate in EOC briefings, Incident Action Plans, Situation Reports and meetings.
- j. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support emergency activities.
- k. Obtain State resources through the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP); coordinate all resources into the affected areas from designated staging areas.

- l. Coordinate with other County ESFs to obtain resources and to facilitate an effective emergency response among all participating agencies.
- m. Aviation assets will go airborne as soon as weather conditions permit, to determine which areas of the County will require search and rescue assistance and to direct Search and Rescue units into those areas requiring assistance. Each aircraft will be equipped with a video camcorder so that the observer can make a visual record of storm damage. The recorded videotapes will be offloaded each time the aircraft refuels. Recorded tapes will then be transported, by the most expedient means practical under existing conditions, to the representative in the Emergency Operations Center. These tapes will then be made available for damage assessment reports to the State.
- n. Search and Rescue teams will report to their respective staging areas in advance of the storm. Said deployment will commence when the initial evacuation order is promulgated by the Board of County Commissioners or may begin jointly with the first call for voluntary evacuation. The Search and Rescue teams will deploy to their assigned search and rescue areas as soon after the storm as weather permits. Each team will be responsible for their assigned area. Teams will, however, be deployed to other areas of the County if the need arises.
- o. Search and Rescue units will be deployed as soon as weather and law enforcement operational priorities permit. These units may be assigned to any location within the County where the roads are passable by standard automobile. Deployment will be based upon information received from the aviation units, ground units, or calls for service received by the Emergency Operations Center.
- p. As search and rescue teams will probably be the first into damaged areas, they should be able to provide an initial rough assessment of damage incurred. As time and resources permit, search and rescue supervisors should provide initial overviews of the extent of damage in their area of operations back to the Emergency Operations Center.

3. RECOVERY ACTIONS

- a. Continue to provide support as required until response activities are concluded or until they can be managed and staffed by the primary incident agency or jurisdictions.
- b. Continue to provide support as required to support the recovery phase.
- c. Initiate financial reimbursement process for these activities when such support is available.

4. MITIGATION ACTIONS

- a. Identify and seek funds for retrofitting critical facilities and providing auxiliary power.
- b. Provide personnel with the appropriate expertise to participate in activities designed to reduce or minimize the impact of future disasters.

D. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- 1. ESF 9 complies with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System and uses the Incident Command System composed of Planning, Operations, Logistics and Finance/Administration Sections with their standardized Units, Teams, positions, forms and terminology) to manage its emergency/disaster responsibilities. Key

to this system is the Division of Emergency Management, which functions as the official disaster prevention, protection, response, preparedness, recovery, and mitigation organization within Santa Rosa County. The Division of Emergency Management also serves as the focal point for ESF 9 activities. It is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate program departments, support agencies, other Emergency Support Functions and other private voluntary agencies have knowledge about the system and ESF 9 expectations, as well as coordinate and cooperate efficiently during an event.

2. The ESF 9 system operates in two arenas; 1) the county Emergency Operations Center; 2) field locations.
3. During emergency activations, all management decisions regarding County or regional response are made at the County EOC by the ESF 9 coordinator. Under the Incident Command System structure, the Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Operations Section Coordinators and staff at the County Emergency Operations Center assist the commander in carrying out the overall mission. Sections, Units, Teams, staffing levels, etc. are modular and scalable, depending on the type, size, scope and complexity of the emergency or disaster event.
5. All search and rescue field personnel are subordinate to the ESF 9 coordinator at the County Emergency Operations Center.
6. In accordance with a mission assignment from ESF 9, and further mission tasking by a Local primary agency, each support organization assisting ESF 9 assignment will retain administrative control over its own resources and personnel but will be under the operation control of ESF 9. Delegation of mission operational control may be delegated to a Management Support Unit, Multi-Agency Coordination Team or a local entity.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRIMARY AGENCY – SANTA ROSA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- a. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management (DEM) will have primary agency responsibility for Search and Rescue (ESF-9). As the primary agency, DEM will coordinate with the Fire Departments and Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (FFAC) in directing SAR activities. FFCA will work with Department of Insurance and the State Fire Marshall's Office by forwarding requests to the five regional response zones designated in the State of Florida Fire Rescue Disaster Plan (prepared by the FFCA).
- b. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of County agencies CERT personnel, supplies, and equipment and provide certain direct resources.
- c. Evaluate the emergency situation, make strategic decisions, identify resource needs and secure resources required for field operations as requested.
- d. Make specific requests for Search and Rescue assistance to the State ESF 9/State Fire Marshal's Office, through the Santa Rosa County Liaison, as needed. The State will activate resources through the State Emergency Response Plan.

2. SUPPORT AGENCIES

(NOTE: Each Support Agency should review its own roles and responsibilities and revise in conjunction with the Department of Financial Services, The Division of the State Fire Marshall)

- a. There are numerous potential local, state, and federal agencies, which have assets that could be applied to search and rescue operations. Among these include Florida

Marine Patrol, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, local television/radio stations (helicopters). The Emergency Operations Center will coordinate requests for search and rescue assistance from other agencies.

- b. County and City law enforcement agencies (ESF 16) can provide crowd control, security measures, roadway assessments, and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in fire fighting operations; keep emergency forces informed of hazardous areas.
- c. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will work with the Department of Financial Services by forwarding requests for search and rescue assistance to the five regional response zones designated in the State of Florida Fire-Rescue Disaster Response Plan (prepared by the Florida Fire Chiefs Association).

F. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. ESF 9 is responsible for managing financial matters related to resources that are procured and used during an event. During a response, each agency/department is responsible for recording and tracking its own expenditures and seeking reimbursement from the appropriate resource after the event. If a federally declared disaster exists, then a reimbursement formula is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that may be as much as 100 percent, but usually does not exceed 75 percent.
2. This section will coordinate closely with the Logistics Section to ensure that procurements and staff hours are properly documented and processed for payment and potential reimbursement. It will also be responsible for following up all financial issues after response has ceased by coordinating with Division of Emergency Management fiscal and personnel management officials, the State Division of Emergency Management fiscal agents and the Federal Emergency management Agency fiscal agents and directly with vendors as necessary.
3. Expenditures by other department entities will be documented by those entities and submitted directly to the Finance/Administration Section or a designated Finance Service officer as soon as possible.

G. REFERENCES AND AUTHORITIES

- State Emergency Support Function 9
- Florida Statutes 1993, Emergency Management, chap. 252 (252.31- 52.61)
- Florida SS 911 (1993)
- The Federal Response Plan for P.L. 93-288 (1992)
- Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, Section 943.0312, F.S.
- Florida Field operations Guide (FFOG)
- DHS Homeland Security Act (2002)
- HSPD-5, Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-8, National Preparedness Goal
- DHS National Incident Management System (2004)
- DHS National Response Plan (2004)
- Fire Suppression Draft – Forestry
- The Guidelines of the State Emergency Response Team for Wildfire Events.” 1999 version
- The Florida fire Chiefs' Association, Fire-Rescue Disaster Response Plan.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Emergency Support Function 8,” (March 1999).

STATEMENT OF CONCURRENCE

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #9 - SEARCH AND RESCUE

The signature appearing below indicates the individual has the authority to commit resources of the agency represented and agrees to the functions and tasks prescribed for this ESF. Furthermore, concurrence also indicates adequate coordination with the Support Agencies listed during the four phases

