

## Capability Standard - Fire Incident Response and Search and Rescue

**Fire incident Response** - The fire incident response support capability provides coordination and implementation of fire suppression operations, which include the following tasks: assessing the scene, assigning resources, establishing an incident command system (ICS) consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), communicating the status of the situation, requesting additional resources, establishing a safe perimeter, evacuating persons in danger, rescuing trapped victims, conducting fire suppression, determining the cause of the fire(s), and ensuring the area is left in a safe condition. This capability further includes support necessary to prepare the community and reduce vulnerabilities in the event of a major event.

Search and Rescue is the capability to coordinate and conduct search and rescue (SAR) response efforts for all hazards, including searching affected areas for victims (human and, to the extent no humans remain endangered, animal) and locating, accessing, medically stabilizing, and extricating victims from the damaged area.

**Associated Target Capabilities:** [On-site Incident Management](#); [Emergency Public Safety and Security Response, Search and Rescue](#). Additional information on building these capabilities can be found on page 349 (Fire Incident Response) and 407 (Search and Rescue) of the U.S Department of Homeland Security's September 2007 document: *Target Capabilities List: A Companion to the National Preparedness Guidelines*.

**Desired Outcomes** – Dispatch and safe arrival of the initial fire suppression resources occur within jurisdictional response time objectives. The first unit to arrive initiates the Incident Command System (ICS), assesses the incident scene, communicates the situation, and requests appropriate resources including any necessary mutual aid or cross-discipline support. Firefighting activities are conducted safely and fire hazards are contained, controlled, extinguished, and investigated, and the incident is managed in accordance with emergency response plans and procedures. The greatest numbers of victims (human and, to the extent that no humans remain endangered, animal) are rescued and transferred to medical or mass care capabilities, in the shortest amount of time, while maintaining rescuer safety.

**The jurisdiction has created and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan and a Resource Manual that:**

### Fire Incident Response

- Describes the process used to detect and suppress wildland, rural, and urban fires, either separate from, or resulting from another incident.
- Describes existing interstate and intrastate firefighting assistance agreements.
- Describes the methods by which situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established channels.

Comments and Notes:

## Search and Rescue

- Identifies the agencies and describe the actions that will be taken to conduct and implement specific search and rescue operations such as: structural collapse (urban), confined space, heavy equipment, river rescue, dive teams, waterborne, inland/wilderness, aeronautical.
- Identifies the agencies and describe the actions that will be taken to monitor distress, communications, location of distressed personnel, coordination, and execution of rescue operations including extrication or evacuation along with the provisioning of medical assistance and civilian services through the use of public and private resources to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress.

Comments and Notes:

**A fully-functioning Fire Incident Response and Search and Rescue Capabilities should address the following measures:**

### Fire Incident Response

- The jurisdiction's fire incident response operations have been established, are maintained in EOP/SOP/SOG, and addresses the following elements:
  - Fire prevention
  - Fire suppression
  - Immediate life safety
  - Hazardous materials response
  - Light rescue
  - Heavy rescue
  - Search and rescue
  - Open and swift water rescue
  - Emergency medical services
  - Patient transportation
  - Standby assistance to utility companies
  - Temporary lighting
  - Backup electric power generation
  - Emergency/alert notification system for responders
- The jurisdiction has Developed resource agreements and/or written mutual aid agreements with other government agencies and counties.
- The jurisdiction has Developed resource agreements and/or written mutual aid agreements with business & industries and contractors.
- The jurisdiction has Developed resource agreements and/or written mutual aid agreements with medical facilities.

Comments and Notes:

### Search and Rescue

- The jurisdiction's Search and Rescue function response operations have been established and are maintained in EOP/SOP/SOG and includes the following elements:
  - The jurisdiction has established an SAR Task Force.
  - The jurisdiction has designated an SAR coordinator.
  - The jurisdiction has completed applicable trainings and certifications.
  - The jurisdiction has developed SAR mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions, businesses and industries, and other government agencies and contractors.

Comments and Notes:

### Capability Assessment - Fire Incident Response and Search and Rescue

- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has engaged an integrated team to develop this capability.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has developed an integrated plan for this capability.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has identified the hazards/threats that would necessitate the application of this capability.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction's local responders have the necessary training to effectively carry out this capability.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has access to the necessary resources to effectively carry out this capability (either local or identified through MOUs).
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction's local responders have received the necessary training to be able to carry out this capability.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction's local responders have the expertise to carry out this capability.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has tested this capability within the last year through exercise or activation.

**Scale Key:**

- 1- The jurisdiction has not started to develop this measure.
- 2- The jurisdiction has started to develop this measure, but we are not far along in the process.
- 3- The jurisdiction has developed this measure, but it needs to be improved.
- 4- The jurisdiction has fully developed this measure.
- 5- The jurisdiction has fully developed and tested this measure.