

**OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #9**

SEARCH AND RESCUE

COORDINATING

AGENCY: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

PRIMARY AGENCY: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Adjutant General’s Department, Ohio National Guard (ONG)
Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)
Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)
Ohio Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA)
Ohio Task Force One (OH-TF1)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

1. This plan provides guidance for the application of the resources of state-level agencies that are available to be activated in response to Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. SAR operations include, but are not limited to, the location, recovery, and extrication of victims who become lost or entrapped as the result of a natural or human-made disaster or emergency.
2. Additionally, SAR operations include the location, extrication and recovery of deceased victims.

II. SITUATION

- A. State-level agencies and/or departments will anticipate being tasked to initiate a SAR mission that may require the utilization of air, ground, and water rescue operations.
- B. Locally- and regionally-based SAR response equipment and trained SAR personnel are maintained throughout the state and can be called on to respond to missions through the State EOC.
- C. Agencies that respond to and/or provide resources for SAR mission(s) could be responding to SAR missions that involve hazards such as fire, confined spaces, high-rise structures, forested areas, recreational areas/facilities, open and flowing water, and chemical, nuclear or biological contamination.

- D. Responders could face added difficulties or hindrances after a disaster because of extensive damage to the local infrastructure. Such damage would create environmental safety and health hazards such as downed power lines, unstable foundations or structures, exposure to biohazards, toxins, and blood-borne pathogens.
- E. Responders will need to take into consideration operating in severe weather conditions such as temperature extremes, snow, rain, and high winds.
- F. Access to areas impacted by a disaster could be limited or restricted.
- G. It is possible that initially some areas could only be accessible to aviation or maritime assets.
- H. Some State SAR responders have experience responding to both human-made and natural large disasters outside of Ohio. These responders can be made available by the State to local incident commanders to support and give advice on SAR operations for their disaster.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Most SAR missions will be able to be adequately addressed by local resources and responders.
- B. When mutual-aid or State-provided resources are activated, the Incident Commander will insure that those resources are integrated into established ICS-based structures and operations.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. General Considerations
 - 1. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is the Primary Agency for this Plan and will coordinate and report on state-level SAR missions and operations.
 - 2. If it is determined that local response resources are or will not be able to adequately respond to a SAR mission, local and state officials will decide how to augment local response operations with appropriate regional, state- and/or federal-level resources through the State EOC.
 - 3. If it is determined that state-, federal, or out-of-state SAR resources will be necessary to adequately carry out SAR missions within the State, the State's Search and Rescue Management Task Force (SMTF) will be activated to assist in the acquisition and application of those resources.
 - 4. SAR missions will be prioritized and directed to address missions and operations that have the greatest potential for saving lives.

B. Activation of the SAR Management Task Force

1. The SAR Management Task Force (SMTF) will normally consist of representatives from the following agencies: Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Highway Patrol, Ohio Task Force One, and the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. Other state and federal agencies may participate as it is appropriate.
2. The purposes of the SMTF will be to coordinate:
 - a. With the Ohio EOC Executive Group
 - b. With local authorities and state and federal agencies
 - c. SAR mission assignments
 - d. SAR resource acquisitions
 - e. SAR resource allocations
 - f. Resource assignments.
3. An additional purpose of the SMTF will be to determine the most appropriate SAR resources to address SAR missions.
4. The activation of the SMTF will be incident-dependent. Generally, incidents that call for the application of SAR resources from outside an impacted jurisdiction and/or will require higher levels of SAR oversight and technical assistance will trigger the activation of the SMTF.
5. Other factors that may lead to the activation of the SMTF could include, but not be limited to: number of SAR missions, widespread impacts, the need for extensive coordination, and the request for and deployment of federal SAR teams and task forces.

C. Ohio Technical Advisory Committees (TAC)

1. The state of Ohio maintains three TACs that provide capability development input to Ohio EMA as well as their corresponding regional response teams. These TACs are the Ohio Canine TAC, the Ohio Urban Search and Rescue TAC, and the Ohio Water TAC.

D. Ohio Search and Rescue Response Teams

1. Ohio's Search and Rescue Response Teams are dispatched through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association's Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response Plan.

2. Ohio Canine Response Teams

- a. The Ohio Canine Regional Response Teams train and maintain canine-based resources (handlers and canines) to address land/water cadaver searches, live area searches, tracking, trailing and disaster searches.
- b. The Ohio K-9 TAC's response resources are located within eight Ohio counties - Lake County, Geauga County, Portage County, Wayne County, Franklin County, Montgomery County, Warren County and Hamilton County.

3. Ohio Urban Search and Rescue Response Teams

- a. Ohio has a single Type I Urban Search and Rescue Team – Ohio Task Force I (OH-TFI). OH-TFI is available for deployment throughout the State. Ohio's four Type II Regional Collapse Search and Rescue Strike Teams are located in Ohio Homeland Security Regions 2, 4, 5, and 6. Ohio's four Type III Teams are located in Ohio Homeland Security Regions 1, 3, 7, and 8. (Please see Homeland Security Regions map, attached.)
- b. OH-TFI's response capabilities include providing response personnel and resources for: structural collapse, wide-area searches in urban, wilderness, and water environments; response to searches and rescues in CBRNE environments; K-9s for both live and cadaver searches, and communications and incident management support.

4. Ohio Water-Based Search and Rescue Teams

- a. A number of local jurisdiction-based water-based search and rescue teams exist throughout the State, and are available to respond to water-based and swift-water-based search and rescue operations.

E. Ohio Responds – Special Response Team

1. Ohio Responds' Special Response Team trains and maintains personnel and resources for water-based SAR, rope rescue SAR, canine-based SAR and wilderness SAR.
2. The Special Response Team also maintains resources for security and amateur radio support.

F. Ohio Volunteer SAR Teams

1. The Ohio Special Response Team (OSRT) and the Ohio Search and Rescue Association (OSARA) is able to assist in larger-scale search and rescue efforts. OSARA is an “umbrella agency” for a number K-9 and horse-mounted SAR teams. The OSRT consists of mostly human-based search assets, although they also can field K-9 units.

G. Ohio Emergency Operations Center – WebEOC-Defined SAR Teams

1. A number of SAR Teams have been defined within the State EOC mission management software – WebEOC. They include:
 - a. Six collapse SAR Teams
 - b. Two Mine SAR Teams
 - c. Eleven Swiftwater SAR Teams
 - d. Three general SAR Teams

H. Additional Considerations

1. Staging areas will be established, as needed, to receive and support SAR resources of responding agencies that are involved in SAR mission(s) response.
2. Communications resources and/or redundant systems will be established, as needed, to provide SAR mission support and coordination.
3. ESF-9 agencies and Incident Commanders will work cooperatively with ESF-7 (Resource Support and Logistics) and other state-level resources (shelter, food supplies, fuel, and sanitation facilities) to support and sustain SAR mission(s) and to meet responder needs,
4. ESF-15 (Emergency Public information and External Communications) will determine the best locations for, and will establish and support local- and state-level PIO (Public Information Officer and Joint Information Center (JIC) operations.
5. State-level agencies that are involved in SAR mission(s) response will maintain their jurisdictional authorities.
6. State-level SAR mutual-aid/support requests will be submitted and managed through the State EOC.
7. SAR resource requests that are made through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) will be processed through the Ohio EOC in cooperation with appropriate agencies.

V. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

A. Local

1. A number of local jurisdictions maintain SAR staffing and material resources and provide these resources to regional SAR teams.

B. State

1. The State of Ohio, through the Ohio Emergency Operations Center, facilitates and coordinates the activation and assignment of SAR rescue resources and teams.

C. Federal

1. The federal government, via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and via the National Response Framework, provides SAR resources when SAR resources that are available within the State are unable to adequately address SAR needs.

D. ESF-9

1. The chart, below, lists ESF-9 participating agencies by level of government.

Comparison Chart for ESF-9 Agencies		
<u>State Organizations</u>	<u>Federal Organizations</u>	<u>Local Organizations</u>
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response, FEMA	County EMAs
Adjutant General's Department, Ohio National Guard	U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	*
*	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	*
*	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Border and Transportation Security	*
Ohio State Highway Patrol	U.S. Department of Justice	County Sheriffs, Local Fire Departments, Local Law Enforcement Agencies
*	U.S. Task Force One	*
Ohio Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation	County Engineers
*	Federal Communications Commission	*
*	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	*
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service U.S. Coast Guard Department of Homeland Security Department of the Interior/National Park Service Department of Labor	*
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Local Hazmat teams

- No agency is a partner to this document at this jurisdictional level.

VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

A. Organization

1. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is the Coordinating Agency for ESF-9, and will be responsible for working with this ESF's Support Agencies to ensure that there is a seamless integration of, and transition between preparedness, response, and recovery activities. The Coordinating Agency's primary responsibility will be to focus on engaging Support Agencies in pre-incident planning and coordination opportunities.
2. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is the Primary Agency for ESF-9, and will take the lead in coordinating and reporting on ESF-9-related missions and operations.
3. ESF-9 agencies will be activated through the State EOC for assessment, response, and recovery operations based on the needs of the emergency. Primary and Support Agencies will coordinate with one another to ensure the most effective use of personnel and equipment, to avoid redundant activities, and to cooperate on emergency response missions.
4. All agency-based resources will be provided as they are needed, as they are available, and as agencies are able to provide them.

B. Assignments of Responsibility

1. Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
 - a. Upon activation of ESF-9, coordinate and report on the assignment and status of SAR missions through the State EOC.
 - b. Coordinate SAR resources, including: law enforcement and SAR-specialist personnel; fixed and rotary wing air assets; mobile command and communications equipment; water-based response equipment and vessels; side-scan sonar; underwater video equipment; night vision and thermal imaging equipment; land-based vehicles to support operations, including 4x4 vehicles and all-terrain vehicles; and canine units to assist in searches.
2. Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)
 - a. Upon activation of ESF-9, the Ohio EOC will be the central coordinating facility for local, state and federal agency SAR information and resources that are responding to state-level SAR missions.
 - b. Activate ESF # 15 and JIC(s)/JIS(s) ensure that necessary information is produced and disseminated to the media and the general public.

- c. Activate ESF # 7 to locate and facilitate the acquisition of SAR resources that are not organic to the primary or support agencies to this plan.
 - d. Facilitate the request and receipt of SAR resources from other states and territories via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.
 - e. Activate ESF-5 to establish and maintain complete situational awareness and develop a common operating picture of the situation.
 - f. Activate ESF-4 to support SAR operations and responders for the treatment and transport of rescued victims.
 - g. Activate ESF-10 to support SAR responders for encountered Haz-Mat environments; to establish permissible exposure values during operations, provide specialized equipment to function in contaminated environments, and to provide critical and on-going monitoring of and prediction of environmental contamination to assist SAR personnel with planning and conducting SAR operations.
3. Adjutant General's Department, Ohio National Guard (ONG)
- a. If needed, a Governor's declaration allows ONG SAR-related response and/or support resources, including, but not limited to: debris removal, emergency road repairs, and emergency erosion control, demolition, and decontamination.
 - b. Provide ground or air transportation services for food, water, and medical supplies to support SAR operations in stranded areas.
 - c. Provide and/or transport emergency potable water resources to support SAR operations.
 - d. Provide air reconnaissance/survey platforms, global positioning systems for accurate pin-pointing of locations, the establishment of SAR grids, air transportation of victims and rescuers and serve as a communications link (MARCS, UHF, VHF, and AM). ONG aviation resources include both fixed and rotary-winged aircraft.
 - e. Provide the resources of the Homeland Response Force (HRF), a joint service team of service members trained to assist and support civil authorities after a major catastrophic event. HRF capabilities include command and control, security, search and extraction, decontamination and medical triage.
 - f. Provide the resources of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), a team of 203 service members trained to assist and support civil authorities after a CBRN incident. CERFP capabilities include mass casualty

decontamination, emergency medical services and casualty search and extraction.

- g. Provide both land and water-based helicopter rescue hoist capability.
 - h. Provide back-up helicopter medical evacuation and casualty evacuation beyond the capability of civil helicopter EMS providers.
 - i. Upon approval of the Federal Aviation Administration and Secretary of Defense, provide RQ-11B Raven unmanned aerial system (UAS) to support SAR operations with electro-optical and infrared aerial video imagery.
 - j. Facilitate communication and coordination between Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) and the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRC) as required.
4. Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- a. Provide for the transportation of supplies and equipment to impacted area(s).
 - b. Provide vehicles to assist in establishing access to SAR mission(s) area(s).
 - c. Provide both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.
 - d. Coordinate all aviation assets for the State.
 - e. If necessary, ODOT will intercede with the Federal Aviation Administration to limit or restrict the air space near the scene of the mission(s).
5. Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)
- a. Provide aviation support via fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft equipped with special features such as “night-sun” and “FLIR” – Forward Looking Infrared.
 - b. When needed and with proper authority, provide personnel and material resources to support local jurisdictions with site security and access restrictions in impacted areas.
 - c. If local communication resources are insufficient, provide communications resources to support local SAR operations.

6. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
 - a. Provide consultation and recommendations on environmental factors that could impact the application of SAR resources and operations, including hazardous and/or extremely dangerous substances.
 - b. Provide Division of Environmental Response & Revitalization (DERR) personnel, which are assigned to districts throughout the state) for on-scene assessment of potential chemical exposures during SAR missions.
7. Ohio Responds - Special Response Team (SRT)
 - a. Provide support resources for water rescue, rope rescue, canine-assisted search, and wilderness search and Rescue
8. Ohio Task Force One (OH-TF1)
 - a. Provide Type I SAR Team-level personnel and resources to respond to structural collapse, wide-area land, K-9, urban, water and air searches.
 - b. Provide Type I SAR Team-level personnel and resources to respond to searches and rescues in CBRNE environments.
 - c. Provide communications and search and rescue operations incident management support resources.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF-9

- A. Each agency, department or jurisdiction shall be responsible for the maintenance of their agency-based agreements, SOPs, SOGs, MOUs, and ESFs.
- B. Responding agencies will provide onsite support for their own personnel.

Attachment 1 – Homeland Security Planning Regions Map

Homeland Security Planning Regions

