

# Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 Search and Rescue

## Primary Agency/ESF Coordinator

City of Rolla Fire Department

## Support Agencies:

City of Rolla Public Works Services  
Phelps Health  
City of Rolla Police Department  
Private Sector

### I. PURPOSE

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 Search and Rescue coordinates the rapid deployment of search and rescue resources to provide specialized lifesaving assistance.

### II. SCOPE

Assistance provided by ESF #9 includes, but is not limited to:

- Structural collapse
- Waterborne search and rescue
- Land/Wilderness search and rescue
- High angle rescue

### III. SITUATION AND PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

#### A. Situation

1. Search and rescue for the City of Rolla will be provided by the fire services with support from local and state law enforcement agencies, and other agencies/organizations.
2. Phelps County is served by the following fire departments/districts. They are all dispatched through the Rolla Central Communications Center.
  - a. City of Rolla Fire & Rescue
  - b. St. James Fire Protection District
  - c. Doolittle Fire Protection District
  - d. Rolla Rural Fire Protection District
  - e. Vichy Fire Protection District

f. Edgar Springs Fire Protection District

2. These fire services maintain mutual aid agreements between one another, as well as with surrounding services outside the County. They concur with the Statewide Fire Mutual Aid System.

**B. Planning Assumptions**

1. Major search and rescue operations will require the use of specially trained personnel and specialized equipment. These resources may be severely limited in a major disaster and will have to be assigned on a priority basis.
2. Building collapses and other secondary events may threaten survivors as well as search and rescue personnel.
3. Extensive outside support may be required from adjoining political subdivisions and/or from State and Federal resources to conduct effective search and rescue operations.
4. Surrounding jurisdictions will be available to provide search and rescue assistance. However, if the disaster affects a large area, mutual aid resources may be in use elsewhere.
5. State and Federal search and rescue resources will respond when called upon, but their ability to react quickly may be limited.

**IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

**A. General**

1. The County/City Fire Departments/Districts will be responsible for search and rescue operations during a disaster with assistance from local law enforcement. Law enforcement can assist with perimeter security and communications as required.
2. For search and rescue operations involving criminal incidents, law enforcement has the primary responsibility of providing incident management. If a criminal incident does not exist, the County/City Fire Departments/Districts will be the primary agency for search and rescue operations.
3. The County/City Fire Departments/Districts train their personnel in the Incident Command System (ICS) and the NIMS to help ensure coordination during emergency situations and, if necessary, the integration of State and Federal resources.
4. Specially trained and equipped Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams

are maintained by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). USAR teams may be deployed to assist local jurisdictions with complex search and rescue operations. Missouri has one of these task forces - Missouri Task Force 1 (MO-TF1) based in Columbia, Missouri.

5. In the event of a downed aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for locating the downed aircraft. The County/City Fire Department/District and responding EMS agencies will coordinate ground rescue and/or recovery operations of victims.
6. The County/City Public Works Department may assist when required for structural evaluation and safety of buildings and structures (ESF #3). They can also assist with heavy equipment and staff as needed.
7. Private sector resources may be available to assist with search and rescue operations, such as the heavy equipment and engineering resources.
8. Accurate records must be kept to provide information to various agencies and individuals at the completion of search and rescue activities. The County/City Fire Department/District will work with EMS agencies to document where injured persons were found, treated, and transported (if applicable) for additional medical care.

## **B. Actions by Operational Timeframe**

### **1. Preparedness**

- a. Maintain this ESF as well as supporting operating procedures and guidelines.
- b. Ensure search and rescue personnel receive appropriate emergency operations training.
- c. Ensure mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions are current.
- d. Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements with private area resources that could be useful for search and rescue operations.
- e. Develop and maintain standard operating guides and checklists to support search and rescue operations.
- f. Ensure emergency call-up and resource lists are current.
- g. Ensure the availability of necessary equipment to support search and rescue activities.
- h. Participate in emergency training and exercises.

### **2. Response**

- a. Respond as required on a priority basis.
- b. Activate mutual aid if needed.
- c. Coordinate activities with other responding agencies.

- d. Coordinate outside search and rescue resources.
- e. Alert or activate off-duty and auxiliary personnel as required by the emergency.
- f. Conduct other specific response actions as dictated by the situation.

### **3. Recovery**

- a. Support clean up and restoration activities.
- b. Review plans and procedures with key personnel and make revisions and changes.
- c. Replenish supplies and repair damaged equipment.
- d. Continue all activities in coordination with the EOC based on the requirements of the incident.
- e. Participate in after-action briefings and develop after-action reports.
- f. Make necessary changes in this ESF.

### **4. Mitigation**

- a. Participate in hazard identification process and identify and correct vulnerabilities in the search and rescue function.
- b. Develop search and rescue programs that include disaster situations and present them to the public.

## **V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Primary Agency/ESF #9 Coordinator** City of Rolla Fire Department

- 1. Provide a representative to the EOC to coordinate ESF #9 activities.
- 2. Work with the other members of the EOC team to set priorities and assign resources.
- 3. Coordinate with the field to assess resource requirements.
- 4. Request outside assistance and activate search and rescue mutual aid agreements.

### **B. Support Agencies**

#### 1. County/City Public Works Department

- a. Work with first responders to ensure the safety of buildings and other damaged structures.
- b. Provide heavy equipment and personnel to assist with search and rescue activities.
- c. Use building inspection personnel and contractor assistance to help ensure the safety of buildings and other damaged structures.

#### 2. Emergency Medical Services

Provide critical care and patient transport to support search and rescue operations.

3. City of Rolla Police Department

Provide resources and personnel to assist with traffic control and perimeter security, particularly if the search and rescue site is also a crime scene.

4. Private Sector

Provide resources (heavy equipment), personnel, and technical expertise to support local search and rescue operations.

**VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

Lines of Succession for ESF #9 Search and Rescue:

1. Fire Chief, City of Rolla Fire Department