

# 9

## ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

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# ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

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ESF 9 Search and Rescue Tasked Agencies	
<b>Primary Agencies</b>	Klamath County Sheriff's Office Oregon State Fire Marshal (Urban Search and Rescue) Klamath County Fire District(s)
<b>Supporting Agencies</b>	Klamath County Emergency Management Klamath County Public Works Department
<b>Adjunct Agencies</b>	City Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts City Police Departments City departments/organizations Oregon Emergency Management Oregon National Guard Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Oregon State Police Oregon Department of Transportation Civil Air Patrol Federal Emergency Management Agency U.S. Coast Guard Volunteer Organizations

## 1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 9 is to coordinate Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and resources during emergency response and recovery. ESF 9 describes the use of resources in support of both Urban SAR and Wilderness SAR during actual or potential emergencies, and also addresses mass casualty and mass fatality incidents. The scope of this function includes challenges generated as the result of an earthquake or building collapse, the search for persons lost in wilderness or other recreational or natural environments, the search for escaped prisoners and detainees, the search for downed aircraft, and the extrication of accident victims.

## 2 Policies and Agreements

### 2.1 Policies

- Assets from all city and Klamath County law enforcement agencies and Fire Districts are either available directly or via 911;
- Klamath County Sheriff's office has a SAR Coordinator to provide oversight to SAR-related activities;
- Other counties, including neighboring counties or resources from other counties throughout the State, may provide assistance via existing mutual aid agreements;
- Air Link of Oregon, available directly or through 911;

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- State and/or Federal resources may be available, which are usually requested through Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) via the county Emergency Manager/Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

### 3 Situation and Assumptions

#### 3.1 Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

See Chapter 2, Basic Plan for a review of the emergency/disaster conditions and hazards.

#### 3.2 Assumptions

- People will become lost, injured, or killed while outdoors, requiring SAR actions. An emergency or disaster can cause buildings to collapse or leave people stranded due to rising water, threatening lives and requiring search and rescue.
- Urban SAR efforts may include removing trapped and injured people from fires, flooded areas, areas isolated by landslides, collapsed structures.
- Professional SAR personnel will administer triage and first aid as necessary and assist in transporting the seriously injured to medical facilities.
- SAR activities may depend upon the use of both professional and volunteer search teams including the use of trained dogs.
- Klamath County cannot necessarily provide all necessary equipment and manpower to cope with all types of SAR missions. Mobile units that are organized, trained, and deployed by the state and federal government may be needed for support (e.g., U.S. Coast Guard, Oregon National Guard).
- Large numbers of local residents and volunteers may self-initiate activities to assist in SAR operations and will require coordination and direction.

### 4 Roles and Responsibilities

#### 4.1 Local

- **Klamath County Sheriff's Office**
  - Provide direction for and management of SAR operations in cooperation with County Emergency Management.

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- Identify the emergency needs for equipment and supplies and ensure that they are available in convenient locations.
  - Maintain a list of SAR personnel.
  - Activate mutual aid with neighboring counties for assistance.
  - Inform the KCEM of needed resources to be requested from Oregon Emergency Management.
  - Provide staffing for SAR activities.
  - Train and prepare for SAR activities through the SAR Coordinator.
  - Register volunteers involved in SAR through the SAR Coordinator.
- **County Sheriff's Office/Dispatch/Emergency Management**
- Secure SAR mission numbers from OEM upon request from the SAR Coordinator, responding deputy, and Emergency Management (unless assisting another county, in which case their SAR number is used).
  - Maintain SAR mission and training records and forward records of reimbursement requests and claims to OEM.
  - Support SAR operations with resource coordination and activation of the County EOC, if required by the scope of the event.
- **Klamath County Public Works Department**
- Provide heavy equipment to support SAR operations.
  - Assist with traffic and crowd control.
- **Fire Departments and Rural Fire Protection Districts**
- Provide direction for and management of SAR operations in cooperation with county Emergency Management.
  - Conduct rescue operations commensurate with the availability of equipment and the degree of specialized training to include:
    - Extricating trapped persons.
    - Rendering essential medical aid at time of release and/or prior to removal.

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- Accomplishing other tasks commensurate with the situation and capabilities.

- **Public Safety Answering Point**

- Support SAR operations with prompt dispatch activities.

- **Volunteer Organizations (Klamath County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES))**

- Establish membership standards in accordance with County and national standards and keep Emergency Management informed of the latest active membership lists and call-out procedures.

## 4.2 State

- **Oregon Emergency Management**

- Coordinate state and regional SAR resources.
  - Request Federal Search and Rescue assistance when requested by the County.

## 4.3 Federal

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

- Tasks federal agencies to perform SAR activities under Declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster Declaration by the President.

- **Air Force Rescue Coordination Center**

- Coordinates Federal resources providing SAR assistance to states during non-disaster times (reference National Search and Rescue Plan). Contact with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center should be through OEM.

## 4.4 Responsibilities by Emergency Management Phase

### 4.4.1 Preparedness

- **Klamath County Sheriff's Office**

- Recruiting and training volunteers in SAR skills.
  - Appoints a SAR Coordinator who will control SAR field operations and serve as advisor to local SAR units.
  - Assesses equipment and training needs.



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- Maintains and distributes call-out list.
- Maintains emergency operating procedures.
- Maintains personnel and equipment resource lists.
- Maintains procedures for implementation of SAR plan.
- Ensures that equipment is in proper working order and response personnel attain and retain proper certification to meet State and local requirements.

**■ Klamath County Fire Districts (Fire Defense Board)**

- Training personnel with rescue skills.
- Assesses equipment and training needs.
- Maintains and distributes call-out list.
- Maintains emergency operating procedures.
- Maintains personnel and equipment resource lists.
- Maintains procedures for implementation of SAR plan (Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)).
- Ensures that equipment is in proper working order and response personnel attain and retain proper certification to meet state and local requirements.

**■ Klamath County Emergency Management**

- Maintains an operational EOC and EOC operating procedures.
- Maintains a SAR personnel list.
- Promotes survival and emergency preparedness education programs in consultation with local officials, volunteers, and civic service organizations to help minimize SAR incidents.

**■ All Agencies/Organizations**

- Maintain appropriate emergency operating plans and procedures.

**4.4.2 Response****■ SAR Coordinator**

- Reports to incident site and takes control of field operations or sets up an Incident Command, as appropriate.

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- Obtains a mission number from OEM or requests that the Sheriff's Office or Emergency Management office obtains the mission number.
- Notifies appropriate SAR units of activation. May request the Emergency Management office to assist with this function. Monitors manpower and communication needs and rescue activities.
- Requests additional resources as needed locally, then through mutual aid, and then through the State if necessary. Resource requests will be made through the normal emergency management channels.
- Keeps a log of SAR activities during the mission.
- Advises Sheriff and County Public Works Department when situation warrants notification.
- Makes feeding arrangements when necessary for field units.
- Provides rescue, first aid, and self-help information to population, as necessary.
- Provides Public Information status reports for press releases to appropriate PIO.
- Prepares for recovery operations, with actions to include estimating capabilities and limitations and directing the organization and training of volunteers.
- Klamath County, including the Sheriff's Office has adopted NIMS Incident Command System and utilizes ICS for SAR operations.

■ **Klamath County Emergency Management**

- Obtains SAR Mission Number from OEM upon request of the SAR Coordinator.
- Activates the EOC, if appropriate, and/or establishes necessary communications support.
- Coordinates the relocation and allocation of emergency equipment and supplies to key locations.
- Submits requests to OEM for additional resources when local capabilities are exceeded.
- Supports SAR operations as requested by the Sheriff and/or SAR Coordinator.

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**■ SAR Units**

Respond as requested by the SAR Coordinator, Emergency Management Office, or Klamath County Sheriff's Office Dispatch.

**■ Other Departments/Agencies**

Support SAR operations as identified in emergency operating procedures or as requested by the Incident Commander, Emergency Management office and/or EOC Staff.

**4.4.3 Recovery****■ SAR Coordinator**

- Continues SAR operations until the mission number is terminated.
- Submits appropriate forms and reports to Emergency Management office within a reasonable amount of time after the operation/mission is terminated.
- Arranges for a critique of the mission, as appropriate, for the purpose of determining strengths and weaknesses in mission response and ways of improving future effectiveness for responders.
- Maintain liaison with appropriate emergency services staff to determine post-disaster environment and requirements for search and rescue assistance.

**■ SAR Units**

- Continue SAR mission until subject(s) has been located or the SAR Coordinator terminates the search.
- Submit appropriate forms and reports to the SAR Coordinator within 5 working days of operation/mission termination.
- Restore equipment, vehicles, forms, etc. to a state of operational readiness.
- Attend critique of SAR mission, as requested by the SAR Coordinator.

**■ Emergency Management Office**

- When receiving notification from the SAR Coordinator that the mission is terminated, notifies OEM to terminate the mission number.

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- Files SAR Reports with OEM within a reasonable amount of time after operation/mission termination if SAR Coordinator does not.
- Processes compensation claims for emergency workers (volunteers) resulting from SAR missions, as necessary.

## 5 Concept of Operations

- The Klamath County Sheriff's Office is responsible for SAR operations in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county and will support SAR operations in cities and towns within the county. The Sheriff's Office takes the lead for SAR operations in remote (wilderness) areas. The Sheriff's Office SAR program is made up of a limited number of regular officers, reserve officers, and trained SAR volunteers. Fire services take the lead for Urban Search and Rescue e.g., building collapse due to natural disaster.
- If additional Urban Search and Rescue capabilities are needed beyond those of Klamath County and the cities within the county, the county can request support via the mutual aid agreement with other county Sheriff's Offices. For further support, Klamath County can request the use of FEMA's National Urban Search and Rescue Response System via a request to Oregon Emergency Management.
  - Klamath County Urban Search and Rescue response is limited primarily to the fire services, but Law Enforcement and Public Works may assist as able.
  - SAR members are activated via a paging system.
  - The primary staffing for Search and Rescue activities in Klamath County is the general volunteer membership of Klamath County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue.
- A number of specialty teams exist within the general SAR membership to address venues such as high-angle rescue, water operations, etc. Klamath County Sheriff's Search and Rescue is an "*all hazards, 24/7/365*" organization.
- Air support or reconnaissance may be requested through OEM to assist ground teams, as needed.
- The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) directs SAR operations on or above navigable waters (waters where they maintain navigational aids and/or where there is commercial shipping and navigation). They may be contacted directly for such situations. Upon notification of a possible boating accident or possible drowning, they will notify the appropriate

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law enforcement agency and the local fire agency. The USCG has boat, helicopter and fixed wing assets which may be requested for any search and rescue and can be provided if resources permit if requested via the EOC.

- SAR for aircraft and passengers has special requirements. The U.S. Air Force typically assumes control for SAR operations for downed or missing aircraft. OEM may issue mission numbers, for ground search only, to local Sheriff's Offices in response to downed or missing aircraft and will coordinate those missions with the Oregon Department of Aviation.

**6 Direction and Control**

- SAR operations will be a team effort of law enforcement, fire service, trained SAR personnel, and other agencies as appropriate under the Incident Command System of the Sheriff's Office. Klamath County Sheriff's Office will command and coordinate Wilderness SAR, while Fire Services will assume the lead for Urban Search and Rescue.
- The County EOC may be activated to provide coordination and technical and administrative support to SAR operations. Similar provisions may be made from the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to support local efforts.
- The SAR Coordinator or IC will obtain a mission number from OEM Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS): (800-452-0311) for SAR missions. Local jurisdictions have the responsibility to establish criteria and standards for emergency workers whom they register. This may include the demonstrated proficiency of the worker to perform emergency activities as indicated by assignment and personnel class.
- Coordination from the incident scene or from the local EOC to the State ECC will be through the normal radio and telephone capabilities, augmented by back-up direction and control systems. Local SAR field operations will use whatever communication means necessary to carry out effective SAR operations.
- Each agency/organization will perform their duties in accordance with their own plans and procedures, but within the ICS structure.

**7 Supporting Plans and Procedures**

- National Response Framework, ESF 9 – Search and Rescue
- State of Oregon Emergency Operations Plan, ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

- National Search and Rescue Plan

## **8 Appendices**

None at this time.