



# EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #16 SEARCH AND RESCUE ANNEX

## PRIMARY AGENCIES:

State: Division of Emergency Management  
Department of Public Safety

## SUPPORT AGENCIES

State: Game and Fish Department  
National Guard  
State Parks  
Department of Transportation

Federal: U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordinating Center

Volunteer: Civil Air Patrol

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose:

1. Describe procedures for the use of state and other political subdivisions' personnel, equipment, services and facilities to aid in search and/or rescue operations.
2. Maintain a contact list of public and private organizations and an inventory of available facilities, equipment and supplies within each county.

### B. Scope:

Search and rescue responsibility is delegated to each county. The county emergency management director may support the search and rescue efforts of the county sheriff.

## II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Persons may become lost, entrapped or isolated. Government must be prepared to seek out, locate and rescue such persons.
- B. Search and rescue operations are an essential element of emergency/disaster response. State government has a coordinated search and rescue program.
- C. State law provides for search and rescue liabilities and expenses to be incurred. These expenses may be reimbursed to local government.
- D. The state can support local government and request federal assistance in locating or rescuing persons during emergencies/disasters.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The ADEM Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator will commit personnel, supplies, equipment and other resources.
- B. Federal resources are available through the United State Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). Requests for assistance must come from ADEM SAR Coordinator.

### IV. ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### A. Local Government

- 1. Incorporated Community Governments
  - a. Each incorporated community has their own method of conducting SAR operations.
  - b. Law enforcement generally conducts searches while the fire department responds to rescue calls.
  - c. When search or rescue requirements exceed local capabilities, officials should request assistance from the county sheriff.
- 2. County Governments
  - a. The county sheriff is responsible for search and rescue within their county. They will appoint SAR coordinators. The county SAR coordinator will respond to requests from federal/state/county/local agencies for SAR missions.
  - b. The county sheriff may request assistance from the ADEM SAR Coordinator for missions.
  - c. The county sheriff may request reimbursement for eligible expenses from ADEM.
  - d. Local volunteer organizations provide resources such as personnel, horse patrols, search teams, divers and trackers. Volunteer organizations respond to mission requests from the incident commander.

#### B. State Government

- 1. **ADEM** will coordinate:
  - a. State SAR activities;
  - b. Air SAR missions; and
  - c. Federal/state/local resources.

2. **Department of Public Safety (DPS)** will provide facilities, equipment, supplies and other resources.
3. **Game and Fish Department** will provide personnel, facilities and equipment.
4. **National Guard** will provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources for assisting in search or rescue operations.
5. **State Parks** will provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources to incidents in/near their facilities.
6. **Department of Transportation (ADOT)** will provide personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies and other resources.

**C. Volunteer Agencies**

The **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)** will:

1. Support ADEM with lost or overdue aircraft searches and the investigation of Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) signals;
2. Supply light aircraft and ground resources; and
3. Provide communications support (see ESF #2).

**D. Federal Government**

The **United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)** will supply federal resources and may task the local wing of the CAP.

**V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

**State Government**

1. **ADEM** will:
  - a. Designate a SAR Coordinator;
  - b. Develop plans and procedures for SAR activities; and
  - c. Develop IOPS, to include:
    - (1) Documenting requests for assistance, actions taken and reimbursement for eligible expenditures;
    - (2) Coordinating the use of SAR resources of political subdivisions; and
    - (3) Coordinating CAP and all other aircraft for SAR missions or overdue aircraft.

2. Support agencies will develop plans and IOPS, to include:
  - a. Identifying resource personnel, equipment and materials;
  - b. Documenting expenditures;
  - c. Alerting agency officials in the agency; and
  - d. Providing an operational checklist.

## **VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

ADEM is responsible for the development and maintenance of this ESF.