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**ANNEX I**  
**STATE EMERGENCY FUNCTION #9**  
**SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**LEAD AGENCY:** Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Colorado Search & Rescue Board (CSRB)

**SUPPORTING AGENCIES:** Military Affairs, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Higher Education, Local Affairs, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Personnel & Administration

**1. PURPOSE**

This annex defines procedures for the use of state and other personnel, equipment, services and facilities to aid in searching, rescuing and recovering lost persons. This state annex includes all Search and Rescue (SAR) activities, not only Urban Search and Rescue as provided in the federal ESF 9.

**2. SCOPE**

Search and rescue responsibility is given by statute to the Sheriff of each county in Colorado. The state can assist the Sheriff with the use of state resources or by coordination, through CSRB, of other local resources. SAR activities may include:

- a. Searches in the mountains or plains for lost or missing persons.
- b. Dragging of or underwater searches in lakes, ponds, or rivers.
- c. Searching for downed aircraft
- d. Urban search and rescue for persons trapped in debris in a city or town.

**3. SITUATION**

- a. People may become lost, trapped or otherwise isolated; Government must be prepared to seek out, locate and rescue such persons.
- b. Lost persons may be injured. Search and rescue activities must be prepared to provide aid to injured persons.
- c. The Colorado Search and Rescue Fund can provide reimbursements to local governments for some expenses incurred in some searches.
- d. Federal resources may be requested through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), directly by the Sheriff.
- e. Civil Air Patrol may be requested through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, directly by the Sheriff.

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- f. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams are a Federal resource. The Governor/OEM will request these teams through FEMA.

#### 4. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- a. A missing or lost person is always considered to be alive and needing rescue until such time that a person of authority (such as the Sheriff) concludes that there is no chance of survival.
- b. Each county, and some cities, will operate a local rescue organization.. Local rescue organizations may specialize in one form of rescue and may need assistance to handle some situations.
- c. The safety of the rescue personnel is foremost in any operation.
- d. Inclement weather may be a factor in any search and rescue activity - restricting the types of resources to be used, the length of time they can be used and even the locations to be searched.
- e. In a Terrorist or WMD event, the incident scene is also a crime scene and care must be taken to protect evidence.

#### 2. **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- a. The CSRB, through it's authority as associated with OEM, will provide assistance in coordinating search and rescue efforts.
- b. All state assistance will be provided to the local sheriff and will operate under the local incident commander.
- c. The CSRB may provide a Search Coordinator, if requested by the county Sheriff.
- d. OEM will be notified if any air assets are used in a search and rescue mission.

#### 3. **ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. The County sheriff is responsible for search and rescue within their county. All SAR operations will be managed under the Incident Command System.
- b. The Civil Air Patrol is responsible for all lost aircraft searches and Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) searches.
- c. The Department of Local Affairs will manage the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund.
- d. CSRB is responsible:
  - i. For maintaining accurate contact lists for SAR organizations throughout the state.

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- ii. To provide an annual report of SAR activities in the state to OEM.
  
  - b. The Department of Military Affairs - Colorado National Guard is responsible for providing assistance to civilian authority to protect life and property. Requests for the CONG will be made through OEM.
  
  - c. All other state departments will provide assistance as requested/tasked by OEM.

#### OEM Search and Rescue Procedures:

1. When notified of a search in progress, or a request for assistance, if the call does not come from the Sheriff (or his designee) - call the county Sheriff to verify search status and that the request is authorized by him.
  
2. All requests for SAR assistance, other than National Guard, should be coordinated by the CSRB.
  
3. All requests for National Guard support must be approved by the Governor or his designee (currently the Chief of Staff).
  
4. Requests for Civil Air Patrol and National Guard chopper assistance should be routed by the Sheriff through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC).

*December 1, 2002*