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## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #9 – Search and Rescue**

### **ESF #9 Coordinator**

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
and Parks  
Mississippi Office of Homeland Security

### **Primary Agencies**

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
and Parks (Primary ECO)  
Mississippi Office of Homeland Security  
(Primary ECO)  
Mississippi Department of Public Safety  
Mississippi Military Department  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
Mississippi State Fire Academy  
Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

### **Supporting Agencies**

Mississippi Insurance Department  
Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Mississippi Department of Transportation  
Civil Air Patrol

### **Federal ESF Coordinator**

Department of Homeland Security / Federal  
Emergency Management Agency

### **Federal Primary Agency**

Department of Homeland Security / United  
States Coast Guard  
Department of Interior / National Park Service &  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Department of Defense /United States Air  
Force/Air Force Rescue Coordination Center

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## **Introduction**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to frame organizational responsibilities and concepts for conducting search and rescue (SAR) operations that have overwhelmed local resources. The key to any SAR effort is timely response, organization, flexibility, and cooperation among the various agencies involved. It also clarifies the roles and responsibilities of state agencies in coordinating personnel, equipment, and other resources to assist local governments in their search and rescue efforts.

This state plan will address several forms of search and rescue, which require varying levels of technical expertise and equipment.

### **Scope**

- If an emergency or major disaster occurs that overwhelms local resources, ESF #9 of the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) will be activated to provide assistance in accordance with the Emergency Management Law, MS Code Ann. § 33-15 (1972). Additional support, as needed, will be obtained through the Statewide Mutual Aid Compact (SMAC) or the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). In extreme events, the state may request the activation of one or more federal assets for missions within Mississippi.
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) includes, but is not limited to, locating, extracting, and providing immediate emergency medical assistance to victims trapped in a collapsed structure. USAR is a highly technical field, requiring specialized equipment and training to such a degree that an event

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requiring USAR will almost automatically exceed local response capabilities and trigger deployment of one or more of Mississippi's SAR assets and/or federal assistance.

- Overland Search and Rescue (OSAR) may consist of a search of vacant structures, non-urban, and wilderness search and rescue activities which include, but are not limited to emergency incidents that involve locating downed aircraft and missing persons, extraction, and treating any victims upon rescue. The vast majority of these incidents are handled by local resources without the need for state assistance.
- Waterborne Search and Rescue consist of searching navigable waters ways, lakes, rivers, and swamps for overdue boats, ships, personal water craft, swimmers, kayakers, etc. Waterborne Search and Rescue is primarily conducted by water craft and aircraft.
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue consists of searches of non-urban and wilderness areas that involve locating downed aircraft, extraction, and treatment of victims. Searches are conducted with ground and air assets with alerts and data provided by the Air Force Rescue & Coordination Center and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- Swift-water Rescue is a technical rescue specialty that consists of rescuing stranded and/or trapped victims from water that is moving at speeds in excess of 1.5 kts. Swift-water operations can be conducted from the ground, with boats, and/or aerial assets. Mississippi SAR Teams are trained and equipped to conduct swift-water rescue.

### **Relationship to Whole Community**

#### **Local, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Insular Area Governments**

- Local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area authorities are responsible for SAR within their respective jurisdictions and typically designate a SAR Coordinator to provide integration and coordination of all SAR services.
- If an affected local, state, tribal, territorial, or insular area government publishes guidance or a plan for conducting unified SAR operations, that guidance or plan takes precedence.
- State-to-state SAR assistance is requested by the affected state through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Other local SAR resources are requested by the affected locality through other mutual aid and assistance agreements. Non-Federal SAR resources are, as appropriate, incorporated into any coordinated SAR operations.
- Federal SAR responders assist and support local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area SAR capabilities in incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.

### **Core Capabilities and Actions**

#### **ESF Roles Aligned to Core Capabilities**

The following table lists the Response core capability that ESF #9 most directly supports along with the related ESF #9 actions. Though not listed in the table, all ESFs, including ESF #9, support the core capabilities of Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning.

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<p><b>Mass Search and Rescue Operations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESF #9 is activated when an incident is anticipated or occurs that may result in a request for a unified SAR response to an affected area.</li> <li>• Federal SAR responders assist and support local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area SAR capabilities in incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response. No provision of this annex is to be construed as an obstruction to prompt and effective action by any agency to assist persons in distress.</li> <li>• The ESF #9 response is scalable to meet the specific needs of each incident, based upon the nature and magnitude of the event, the suddenness of onset, and the capability of local SAR resources. Response resources are drawn from ESF #9 primary and support agencies.</li> <li>• ESF #9 SAR coordination will be conducted following the National Response Framework (NRF) and the Mississippi</li> <li>• For every incident, the ESF #9 Primary ECO assesses the specific SAR requirements and assigns one of the primary agencies as the overall primary agency for SAR for that particular incident. Designation is dependent upon incident circumstances and the type of response required.</li> <li>• When assigned as the overall primary agency for a particular incident, that organization conducts the following actions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordinates planning and operations between primary and support agencies.</li> <li>○ Coordinates resolution of conflicting operational demands for SAR response resources.</li> <li>○ Provides representation to appropriate incident facilities Joint Field Office (JFO), emergency operations centers (EOCs).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All ESF #9 primary agencies provide support to the designated overall primary agency as required.</li> </ul>

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### Policies

- If SAR operations overextend the resources and capabilities of the state, then search and rescue resources from other states may be requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). All requests for EMAC assistance will be processed and tracked through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Any SAR assets brought into Mississippi under an EMAC shall fall under the operational control of the Mississippi ESF #9 to augment state SAR assets.
- SAR planning and operations will be consistent with the Incident Action Plan (IAP) established by the IC.
- All agencies will operate within the identified ICS structure established by the local IC and/or the SAR Leader. Each supporting agency will maintain administrative command and control of their own resources and any others assigned to them.
- The local Incident Commander (IC) will maintain overall command and control of the incident within their respective jurisdiction(s). The ESF #9 Primary ECO will establish a SAR Leader and Group Supervisors as needed dependent upon the mission assigned. These personnel will operate within the Operations Section of the recognized and established Incident Command System (ICS) within the jurisdiction of operation. All state and federal SAR agencies will operate under the operational control of the ESF #9 coordinators appointed by MEMA, unless a delegation of authority is given during an incident.
- The search for, and recovery of, human bodies will be conducted only after the rescue of survivors has been completed and the environment will allow for safe operation by SAR personnel.

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### Concept of Operations

#### Assumptions

- The state ESF # 9 SAR program assists and augments county and municipal search and rescue capabilities. Statewide Mutual Aid Compact (SMAC) may be utilized if SAR operations overextend the resources and capabilities of local government officials. Requests can be made to participant counties for personnel, search and rescue dogs/teams, equipment etc. Requests for assistance from one of Mississippi's SAR Teams must be made through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) who will assign the request to the ESF #9 Primary ECO.
- At no point, will state or local assets be considered federal assets. Under the National Response Framework (NRF), federal USAR task forces are federal assets in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and other applicable authorities. Federal SAR assets deployed within Mississippi shall fall under the operational control of Mississippi ESF #9 to augment state SAR assets.
- Mississippi Military Department (MMD) personnel can assist with SAR. However, before they can assist under the Immediate Response Authority (which allows them to be utilized if life, limb or eyesight is at state), Soldiers or Airmen must be already in a duty status before Immediate Response Authority may be used. If not already on some type of duty status, they must be put on State Active Duty (SAD) by Executive Order of the Governor.

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- The ability of the State of Mississippi to effectively provide the requested assistance is contingent upon the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) ESF #9 Primary ECO capability to identify and request the appropriate state and/or federal agencies to support the search and rescue efforts. It is also contingent upon the effective planning, coordination and management of those search and rescue resources.
- All state and federal agencies responsible for supporting ESF #9 will communicate resource capability to the ESF #9 Primary ECO at the SEOC. The ESF #9 Primary ECO will direct needed assets to proceed to the forward SAR Base of Operations to check-in with the SAR Leader. The location of the initial forward SAR Base of Operations and initial staging area for all incoming SAR assets will be established by the ESF #9 coordinators and communicated via the deployment order. When possible, state SAR response assets will be pre-deployed to a designated area(s) or a staging area within 60 minutes of the Mississippi Gulf Coast 24 hours prior to an expected hurricane landfall.
- It is assumed that an incident severe enough to trigger a Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) response may occur with little (notice) to no warning (no notice). If/when this occurs the Secretary of Defense will approve civilian agency requests for DSCA and Department of Defense (DOD) will respond under the current policies and procedures. At the request of civil authorities, DOD forces may respond to the DSCA incident under immediate response authority. If those forces remain at the incident site, they will fall under US NORTHCOM command and control. Title 10 military personnel shall not be employed to enforce or execute civil law in violation of United States Code, Title 18, Section 1385 (Posse Comitatus Act), except as otherwise provided by law. Under extraordinary circumstances, the President may direct DOD to lead the federal response.
- National Guard forces will be involved in nearly all DSCA operations. Normally, National Guard forces deployed to the affected state or in response to an EMAC request will operate under the control of state authorities.

### General

- MEMA is responsible for overall coordination of all state SAR operations. ESF #9 Primary ECO is responsible for tactical deployment and providing support based upon local jurisdictional needs. Initial SAR requirements and response will be conducted by local authorities for unanticipated events.
- The Sheriff's Office in each county is responsible for conducting missing person's searches within the state. MEMA and the ESF #9 Primary ECO will assist in the coordination of searches with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), county sheriffs, other law enforcement agencies, as well as private and public search and rescue groups as requested by local officials.
- Local IC will have jurisdiction over SAR in accordance with local plans.
- If a state or federal emergency/disaster is declared, then the Primary ECO will coordinate support with the local IC. Each participating agency will coordinate its support with the ESF #9 Primary ECO at the SEOC.
- Primary Agencies will designate an ESF #9 SAR Primary ECO at the SEOC and an Assistant ESF #9 SAR ECO at the Forward Command Post. The ESF #9 SAR Primary ECO and the ESF #9 Assistant SAR ECO are responsible for assembling and distributing SAR personnel and equipment to the SAR Leader for mission assignments to support local SAR operations. The SAR Leader (which can be at the Forward Command Post or any other location as needed) is also responsible for the completion and distribution of all NIMS compliant paper work.

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- All state and/or federal SAR assets shall be credentialed and receive mission assignments via the SAR Primary ECO at the SEOC. Once units are credentialed and receive a mission assignment, they will check-in with the SAR Leader at the SAR base of operations.
- If state emergency search and rescue resources have either been exhausted or are expected to be exhausted prior to meeting the demand, the Primary ECO or any IC may recommend to MEMA that further assistance is required. MEMA may recommend that assistance be requested from other states through the EMAC, or from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Such requests to FEMA for assistance would prompt the implementation of the National Response Framework (NRF).

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### **Organization**

#### **State Emergency Operations Center**

ESF #9 will manage and coordinate all SAR requests from the SEOC when activated. The SEOC is located at 1 MEMA Drive, Pearl, MS 39288. ESF #9 operations will be accomplished by mobilizing state SAR resources in support of the affected local jurisdiction (upon request by local government).

#### **Field Units**

- MSTF USAR/OSAR
- MDWF&P
- MHP SOG
- MSNG
- MSFA
- MDMR
- MS Fire Chief's Association
- ESF #9 will provide personnel or liaison to the Joint Field Office (JFO) to work closely with their federal counterparts.
- SAR field personnel will be supported by their parent organization and logistical support may be provided by one or all of the following options:
  - Base camp
  - Mobile kitchen trailer
  - Local contracts
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for housing

#### **Mutual Aid Agreements**

##### **Statewide Mutual Aid Compact (SMAC)**

- SAR assets will be available for other participating local governments through the SMAC.

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### Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

- SAR assets from member states are available for other member states in need of assistance. It will be implemented in the event of a major disaster or any emergency that overwhelms the identified SAR assets of Mississippi.
- Mutual assistance in this compact may include use of the states' National Guard forces, either in accordance with the National Guard Mutual Assistance Compact or by states' agreements.
- MEMA coordinates the continued development and implementation procedures of EMAC with adjacent states for augmentation of resources.

### Administrative and Logistical Support

- All participating agencies will receive administrative support from their parent organizations; MEMA will coordinate additional assistance as needed.
- All participating agencies are expected to attend and support briefings and other coordination meetings, whether at the SEOC or elsewhere.
- Operational logs, messages, requests, and other appropriate documentation will be maintained for future reference and historical perspective.
- Each agency will maintain its own maps, displays, status reports, and other information not included in the ESF #5 operations.
- Each ESF #9 agency that has an automated financial management system will utilize that system to capture the incurred costs of all available, acquired, and contracted resources used during the support activities related to emergency or major disaster operations. Those agencies not having access to an automated system will utilize their existing system to capture all related costs for reporting and potential reimbursement.
- All ESF #9 agencies will ensure that their financial management system, automated or otherwise, used to capture their incurred costs during an emergency, major disaster, or exercise is in compliance with applicable agency, state, and federal guidelines, rules, standards, and laws. This understanding is based on the knowledge that any reimbursement of incurred costs is subject to audit.
- All participating agencies are responsible for locating and setting up their own operational work areas and for maintaining the logistical support for them.

### Direction, Control, and Coordination

- MEMA is the agency responsible for overall coordination of state SAR. The ESF #9 Primary ECO and affiliated agency has overall lead **responsibility for the program development and tactical deployment.**
- During incidents involving primary participants within the SAR community or during periods of non-activation, coordination may be limited to the ESF #9 Primary ECO agency through coordination with the SEOC.

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- The ESF #9 Primary ECO will normally coordinate from the SEOC, but a catastrophic situation may require the establishment of an additional forward coordination element near the impacted area. Each participating agency will coordinate its support with ESF #9. This coordination is essential whether from the SEOC, the forward State Hurricane Support Center (SHSC), the State Earthquake Support Center (SESC), or MEMA's Multi Agency Coordination Team (MACT).

### **Expectations**

- Local governments should organize, train and properly equip SAR teams and personnel for all SAR operations within their identified jurisdictions.
- Local governments should conduct periodic evaluations of SAR capabilities and identify trigger points at which time SAR assistance from the state will be requested.
- Local governments will respond to and manage SAR incidents within their capability and call for assistance from the state when the incident overwhelms local capabilities.
- The local IC should identify the most qualified SAR team leader during the local incident. The local SAR Team leader should coordinate state SAR resources into the incident action plan after a request for assistance has been made to the state.

### **State Search and Rescue Support**

#### **ESF #9 Coordinator Support**

Local governments have the primary responsibility for search and rescue operations within their legally established jurisdictions. If and when additional SAR capability is necessary, the local government can request additional assistance from the state. When a request has been made, the ESF #9 Primary ECO will coordinate all state SAR resources. The ESF #9 Primary ECO will work closely with local officials to ensure the most appropriate use of SAR resources to meet the operational objectives established by the local IC.

#### **State Agency Support**

Several state agencies have been identified and designated as primary and supporting agencies to ESF #9 during state declared disasters. These agencies will communicate directly with the SEOC ESF #9 Primary ECO who will maintain a continuously updated list of available resources to support the SAR efforts. Resources will remain assigned to their home agencies until called up by the ESF #9 Primary ECO and assigned to an incident and operational area. Parent agencies will retain administrative responsibilities for their assets, even when those assets are employed in SAR operations. All agencies will support the established operational goals and objectives.

#### **EMAC Support**

Currently all 50 states belong to the EMAC system. These state-to-state agreements provide resources to the requesting state for support of disaster operations. If a disaster overwhelms the State's SAR resources, MEMA, through the SEOC, may request additional SAR resources through the EMAC system. This may include Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from participating states and/or other ESF #9 Supporting Agencies. EMAC resources will be coordinated through the SEOC and assigned appropriately. State EMAC USAR teams will be assigned under the coordination of the ESF #9 Primary ECO, assistant ESF #9 ECO, and the SAR Leader.

#### **Federal Agency Support**



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### **United States Department of Homeland Security/FEMA**

FEMA provides various support resources to states requesting assistance. FEMA is the primary agency responsible for ESF #9. When local and state SAR resources have been exhausted, the state is expected to call for federal assistance.

There are currently 28 USAR teams within the National USAR System. The National USAR System also provides Incident Support Teams (IST) to support the local and State SAR objectives and manages the assigned USAR teams. USAR teams are typed in two different configurations with similar but different capabilities. A Type III USAR team is staffed by 30 persons and a support staff of 5. The primary capability of a Type III USAR team is conducting wide area search and rescue operations in light frame construction such as residential units. A Type I USAR team consists of 70 members and 10 support personnel with appropriate resources to conduct search and rescue operations in heavy floor and heavy wall type structures. The primary mission of these USAR teams is to locate, extricate, and provide initial medical care to victims of collapsed structures.

For incidents, such as hurricanes, the National USAR Response Systems has pre-scripted mission assignments for deploying and staging USAR teams and IST(s). These stated resources will be immediately available to the state, through the Federal Emergency Response Team (ERT-A), located at the FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO). If and when the State SAR Coordinator determines that a request for Federal SAR assistance is needed, the request will be made through SEOC and the ERT. Once the request has been approved, the ERT will direct FEMA ESF #9 leader to move USAR teams into the assigned operational theater. The IST Leader will work directly with the Local SAR Leader.

### **United States Department of Defense (DOD)**

DOD is a support agency for ESF #9. It serves as primary source of fixed-wing and/or rotary-wing transportation for USAR Incident Support Team(s). U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) was established Oct. 1, 2002 to provide command and control of Department of Defense (DOD) homeland defense efforts and to coordinate military assistance to civil authorities.

US NORTHCOM's civil support mission includes domestic disaster relief operations that occur during fires, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes. Support also includes counter-drug operations and managing the consequences of a terrorist event employing a weapon of mass destruction. The command provides assistance to a primary agency when tasked by DOD. Per the Posse Comitatus Act, military forces can provide civil support but cannot become directly involved in law enforcement.

In providing civil support, USNORTHCOM generally operates through established joint task forces subordinate to the command. An emergency must exceed the capabilities of local, state, and federal agencies before USNORTHCOM becomes involved. In most cases, support will be limited, localized and specific. When the scope of the disaster is reduced to the point that the primary agency can again assume full control and management without military assistance, USNORTHCOM will exit, leaving the on-scene experts to finish the job.

### **United States Coast Guard (USCG)**

The USCG develops, maintains, and operates rescue facilities for the promotion of safety on, under, and over waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction and has been designated as the lead agency for waterborne (i.e. maritime) SAR under the NSP. USCG personnel are highly trained and experienced in waterborne search and rescue operations and possess specialized expertise, facilities, and equipment for carrying out responses to maritime distress situations. Additionally, USCG staffing at Area/District/Sector Command Centers promotes effective localized interaction, coordination, and communications with state, local, and tribal emergency managers during Incidents of National Significance in which waterborne search and rescue resource allocation is

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required. For all SAR operations, which are none maritime (over U.S. waters) the USCG will generally require a mission assignment number from FEMA.

### **Non-Government Organization (NGO) Support**

There are a wide variety of NGOs that provide various services in support of disaster operations. Those NGOs in support of SAR operations can/will provide individuals and resources to assist with the search and subsequent rescue of disaster victims. Properly trained and equipped Technical Rescue Teams (TRT) may be available for assisting the SAR Leader. There are currently a few groups that specialize in technical animal rescue. Technical Animal Rescue Teams (TART) provides trained and equipped personnel capable for the rescue and control of household pets, including difficult to access animals, aggressive animals, and non-typical pets such as snakes. In most cases these individuals and non- government organizations will need logistics support to sustain multi-day operations.

### **Staffing Requirements**

Based on the requirements of the disaster response all primary and supporting agencies are expected to provide the appropriate level of staffing to meet the needs of the incident. This may require agencies to deploy personnel to the SEOC and/or forward command post(s) near the operational theater. Agency representatives must be knowledgeable about the resource capability of their agency procedures for acquiring those resources, and have the authority to commit those resources.

### **Pre-incident Operations**

Pre-incident operations include a wide variety of functions to ensure safe and efficient SAR operations after a disaster occurs.

### **Planning Functions**

- Each state agency identified as either a primary or support agency to the ESF #9 function, should develop agency plans to cope with extended disaster operations. This includes the development of policies and procedures to ensure appropriate staffing and logistical support from their agencies throughout disaster response operations.
- Specific staffing requirements will be based on the scope of the disaster, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the agency. Agencies should plan to provide personnel on a 24 hour, seven-day-a week basis for up to three weeks.

### **Training**

Based on the roles and responsibilities of agencies supporting SAR operations, agency managers are expected to ensure that deployed personnel are properly trained to perform their assigned functions. It is expected that those agencies will maintain training records of those deployed personnel and provide the appropriate continuing education requirements to maintain the knowledge, skills, and abilities of their assigned and deployed personnel. If technical skills based training is required to maintain proficiency at the assigned position, agency managers will ensure that training is provided in an appropriate and timely manner. Whenever possible, participating agencies should enable their SAR personnel to attend joint training with the Mississippi SAR Teams across the state.

### **Exercises**

Periodically, and whenever appropriate, supporting agencies to the SAR plan should exercise the elements of

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the plan within their own agency and with other supporting agencies. This may include tabletop exercises (TTX) designed to work through the specific activities that may be encountered during SAR operations. Whenever possible participating agencies should have their trained SAR personnel/teams participate in a Mississippi SAR Team full field SAR exercises (FFX) annually.

### **Pre-incident Deployment**

For potential impending threats of disaster such as incoming hurricanes, primary and supporting agencies of the SAR plan should be prepared to pre-deploy assets 24 hours prior to projected landfall. The level of pre-deployed assets will be based upon the potential threat. Agencies should ensure that their equipment and personnel are prepared to pre-deploy and are capable of sustaining SAR operations for a minimum of three days (72 hours) after the incident.

### **Incident Operations**

Once the local IC has requested SAR assistance from the state through the SEOC, MEMA officials will be activated for response coordination. ESF #9 Primary ECO will coordinate with MEMA to scale assets based upon the type of assistance requested and the scope of the disaster. All response will be scaled to meet the needs of the incident.

### **Incident Management System**

- As required by state and federal directives, incidents, which result in either a declared State of Emergency or Federal Disaster, will be managed using the NIMS and the ICS. NIMS and ICS provide flexibility to incident commanders in the structure and implementation of the management system.
- In most cases the state activated SAR operations will be coordinated by the ESF #9 Primary ECO that reports directly to the Operations Section Chief at the SEOC. On scene direction of state SAR operations will be directed by the Mississippi SAR Team Member who has been designated by the local IC as the SAR Leader. The ESF #9 Primary ECO and Assistant ESF #9 SAR ECO, will develop the organizational support and deploy the resources necessary to meet the operational search and rescue objectives of the local IC.

### **Search and Rescue Operations**

- SAR operations should begin as soon as possible after state activated resources have been assembled. The initial state SAR representative on the scene will coordinate with the local IC and/or his/her designee to establish lines of authority, operational objectives, and reporting requirements.
- The ESF #9 Primary ECO will coordinate with the Local IC to establish a SAR Base of Operations prior to the arrival of state SAR resources into the affected area. Simultaneously, the ESF #9 Primary ECO will begin coordination of SAR operations from the SEOC. In the event of an unanticipated incident, the first state SAR representatives on scene shall perform an immediate needs assessment and immediately report critical needs to the SEOC. Activation of supporting agencies will depend on the type and scope of the disaster.
- Generally speaking, the following will be used as a guide to determine the “trigger points” to determine if federal and/or EMAC SAR resources will be required.
- If SMART searches cannot be completed within the first 24 hours after the disaster strikes with the on scene or responding SAR resources. SMART searches are defined as a search involving a specific

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facility or location, such as a nursing home or hospital, which is known to contain persons that did not evacuate prior to the disaster occurring.

- If HASTY searches of the entire impacted area cannot be completed within the first 24 hours after the disaster strikes with the on scene or responding SAR resources. HASTY searches are defined as a fast-paced visual inspection of the area to be searched accompanied by vocal or audio hailing.
- If a PRIMARY search of the entire impacted area cannot be completed within 48 hours after the disaster strikes with the on scene or responding SAR resources. A PRIMARY search is defined as a search that involves walking completely around every building in the impacted area and looking into windows and doors accompanied by hailing for victims. Primary searches may include entry into buildings if approved by local authorities.
- If a SECONDARY search of the entire impacted area cannot be completed within 72 hours after the disaster strikes with the on scene or responding SAR resources. A SECONDARY search is defined as the highest standard of search and involves a thorough and systematic search of every room of every building within the impacted area. Forced entry of structures will be done only after authority is given by local officials. An appropriate search marking system will be left at the obvious entrance to the structure indicating entry has been made and the results of the search.
- Based upon the operational objectives established by the IC, the resources available, and the orders given by the local ESF #9 Coordinator (in the local EOC), the SAR Team Leader on the scene may begin conducting SAR operations. The initial SAR plan should include completion of DELIBERATE, SMART, and HASTY searches as soon as possible. This may include the use of rescue aircraft, rescue boats, and ground SAR resources. While conducting searches, SAR personnel will make every attempt possible to locate and extricate victims needing and/or requesting assistance. This may include the rescue/removal of victim's household pets if requested by the victims. SAR personnel will immediately begin the process of accounting for and the tracking of victims and pets. The location of pets that cannot be removed with the victims will be documented for follow up extrication/evacuation and tracking. Rescue personnel shall utilize FEMA ICS forms to document location, date, time, and type of rescue performed, as well as victims name, age, next of kin emergency contact information, pet's name and identifying features.

Once a rescue is completed, the SAR Team Leader will immediately contact the local SAR Team Liaison or the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will immediately request Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Rescue personnel will note on ICS forms date, time, intended destination of victim, and agency & individual victim turned over too. A copy of all FEMA ICS forms shall be turned into the appropriate local SAR Team Liaison at the local EOC at the end of the operational period. Original ICS forms shall be turned into the planning section chief at the SAR base of operations.

- If the initial reports indicate a need to activate Federal and/or EMAC SAR resources, the ESF #9 Primary ECO, the Assistant ESF #9 ECO, and the SAR Team Leader will begin making preparations to support and manage incoming SAR resources through the SEOC.
- If SAR operations will require more than one operational period, a regular planning cycle will be established for the purpose of establishing objectives, identifying and acquiring necessary resources, and the deployment of SAR resources in an organized and methodical manner. The planning cycle with meeting and briefing times will be established by the ESF #9 Primary ECO (SEOC) and the Assistant ESF #9 ECO (FEOC) in coordination with local, state and federal officials. The meeting and briefing times will be communicated to all concerned entities and personnel.

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- After the SAR objectives established by the local IC have been accomplished, the ESF #9 Primary ECO, the Assistant ESF #9 ECO, in coordination with the SAR Team Leader, will begin to demobilize SAR resources. Prior to demobilizing SAR resources, a debriefing will be conducted for the purpose of continuity of operations and/or after-action concerns.

### **Reporting Requirements**

- To facilitate overall search and rescue command and control and situational awareness, SAR groups should maintain communications with the SAR Leader. The SAR Leader will coordinate reporting items with the Assistant ESF #9 SAR ECO (at the forward EOC) to provide regular situation reports (SITREP) to the SEOC and the JFO Operations Section. Individual units within the SAR Teams will be responsible for maintaining their own internal communications to ensure the safety of all personnel assigned to them and meet the reporting requirements established by the SAR Leader.
- Per the reporting requirements established by the Operations Section Chief and ESF #9 SAR Primary ECO, SITREPs must be provided to the forward EOC and SEOC in a timely manner. Doing so will provide necessary information for logistics and planning of the next operational period. All SAR personnel will be required to immediately report any exceptions, such as serious injury or death to the SAR Leader, Assistant ESF #9 ECO, ESF #9 Primary ECO & State SAR Coordinator.
- All units assigned to the SAR Branch will be required to document all expenditures and other pertinent records to ensure reimbursement of expenses by the State and/or Federal government.

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### **Responsibilities**

#### **Mississippi Emergency Management Agency**

- Coordinate with Primary ECO to assist and maintain overall State SAR resources.
- Assist with SMAC requests and coordinate all state EMAC requests as needed.
- Process mission assignments (MAs) as requested from ESF #9 Primary ECO.
- Provide Mutual Aid support efforts to include managing Mission Ready Packets (MRP).
- Coordinate UAS support to SAR efforts as needed.
- All other duties as requested by ESF #9 Primary ECO.

#### **Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (Primary Agency)**

- Provide a co-Primary ECO
- Provide up to forty (40) SAR trained personnel and their assigned equipment in both wild land SAR and urban environments as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.
- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.

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## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #9 – Search and Rescue**

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- Provide UAS support to SAR efforts as needed.
- Provide sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment.
- All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

### **Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (Primary Agency)**

- Provide a co-Primary ECO
- Coordinate Mississippi Task Force (TF) SAR efforts.
- Provide UAS support to SAR efforts as needed.
- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of TF SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.
- Provide sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment.
- All other duties as requested by ESF #9 Primary ECO.

### **Mississippi Department of Public Safety**

- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.
- Provide sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment.
- All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

### **Mississippi Military Department**

- Provide and coordinate personnel and equipment to support search and rescue as requested by ESF #9 Primary ECO.
- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.
- Provide high-water vehicle support and rescue missions as requested by ESF #9 Primary ECO.
- Provide air support during search and rescue missions as requested by ESF #9 Primary ECO.

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## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #9 – Search and Rescue**

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- All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

### **Mississippi State Fire Academy**

- Provide ten Rescue Specialists who hold technician level NFPA certifications in all of the following specialties: Collapsed structure, trench, high-angle rope, and confined space as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.
- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.
- All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

### **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

- Provide specially trained watercraft operators and watercraft equipment during SAR operations.
- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.
- Provide sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment.
- All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

### **Mississippi Fire Chief's Association**

- Provide and coordinate personnel and equipment from statewide local entities to support search and rescue as requested by ESF #9 Lead Primary ECO.
- Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.
- Provide ESF #9 Primary ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.
- Provide MEMA Operations, Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for agency deployable assets.
- All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Lead Primary ECO.

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## Mississippi Emergency Support Function #9 – Search and Rescue

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### Support Agencies

Agency	Functions
Mississippi Insurance Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide specially trained personnel and equipment.</li><li>• Provide additional personnel and equipment for SAR.</li><li>• All other duties as requested by ESF #9.</li></ul>
Mississippi Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide specialized equipment and personnel to assist in wildland search and rescue (SAR) operations.</li><li>• Utilize and coordinate federal resources through National Forest Services and USDA.</li><li>• All other duties as requested by ESF #9.</li></ul>
Mississippi Department of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide specially trained personnel and equipment.</li><li>• Provide sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment.</li><li>• All other duties as requested by ESF #9.</li></ul>
Civil Air Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide air support during rescue operations.</li><li>• Provide additional personnel and equipment for SAR.</li><li>• All other duties as requested by ESF #9.</li></ul>

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### ESF #9 Review and Maintenance

As a minimum, the ESF #9 Primary ECO will coordinate with MEMA and Primary Agencies to conduct an annual review of this annex with all support agencies. Additional reviews may be conducted if experience with an incident or regulatory changes indicate a need. Recommendations for change should be submitted to MEMA for approval, publication, and distribution.