

MISSISSIPPI COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP)

ESF #9 Search and Rescue Annex

Coordinating Agency

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS)/Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS)
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWF&P)

Primary Agencies

Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS)/Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS)/Mississippi Search and Rescue Task Force
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWF&P)

Support Agencies

Mississippi Military Department (MMD)/Mississippi National Guard (MSNG)
Mississippi State Fire Academy (MSFA)
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)
Mississippi Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)
Mississippi Insurance Department (MID)
Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC)
Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Mississippi Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Federal Coordinating Agency

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Federal Primary Agencies

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/United States Coast Guard (USCG)
Department of the Interior (DOI)/National Park Service (NPS)
Department of Defense (DOD)/United States Air Forces (USAF)/Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)

Federal Support Agencies

Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Department of Commerce (DOC)
Department of Defense (DOD)
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Department of the Interior (DOI)
Department of Justice (DOJ)
Department of Labor (DOL)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

1. INTRODUCTION. Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 Search and Rescue (SAR) supports local, state, and tribal entities, voluntary organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in managing search and rescue during domestic threats or in response to actual or potential incidents.

For the purpose of this Annex, the acronym "SAR" will be utilized when referring to search and rescue assets in general. Other specific SAR assets will be referred to using varying acronyms, as appropriate and outlined herein.

a. Purpose. The purpose of this ESF #9 Annex is to frame organizational responsibilities and concepts for conducting 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. The success of this effort requires the coordination, pooling, and networking of both available and obtainable search and rescue resources provided by state agencies, local government entities, voluntary organizations, or other providers.

The term "obtainable" means other necessary resources that must be acquired through contract, lease, purchase, mutual aid agreements, or otherwise from outside the inventory or control of participating agencies. These resources may be in such forms as facilities, personnel, equipment, materials, supplies, consulting services, technical assistance, or others.

b. 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. If federal ESF #9 is activated to assist local, state, tribal governments, the primary agency for overall coordination of federal resources is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

State SAR response operational environments are classified as Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Overland Search and Rescue (OSAR), Maritime/Coastal/Waterborne Search and Rescue, Aeronautical Search and Rescue, and Swift-Water Rescue.

(1) 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 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.

(2) Overland Search and Rescue. OSAR may consist of searching vacant structures, non-urban and wilderness search and rescue activities, including emergency incidents that involve locating downed aircraft and missing persons, extraction, and treating any victims upon rescue. Local resources handle the vast majority of these incidents without the need for state assistance.

(3) Maritime/Coastal/Waterborne Search and Rescue. Waterborne search and rescue consist of searching navigable waters, lakes, rivers, and swamps for overdue boats, ships, personal watercraft, swimmers, kayakers, etc. Waterborne Search and Rescue is primarily conducted by watercraft and aircraft.

(4) Aeronautical Search and Rescue. Aeronautical search and rescue consist 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 state agency Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) assets, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), Civil Air Patrol (CAP), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

(5) Swift-Water Rescue. Swift-water rescue is a technical rescue specialty that consists of rescuing stranded and/or trapped victims from water moving at speeds more than 1.5 knots. Swift-water operations can be conducted from the ground, with boats and/or aerial assets. Mississippi SAR Teams are trained and equipped to perform swift-water rescue.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. This section describes how ESF #9 relates to other elements of the whole community. Local, state, and tribal authorities are responsible for SAR within their respective jurisdictions and typically designate a SAR Coordinator to integrate and coordinate all SAR services. If an affected local, state, or tribal government publishes guidance or a plan for conducting unified SAR operations, that guidance or plan takes precedence.

3. CORE CAPABILITIES AND ACTIONS. This section outlines the 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 action. Though not listed in the table, all ESFs, including ESF #9, support the Core Capabilities of Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning:

Core Capability	ESF #9 – Search and Rescue
<p>Mass Search and Rescue Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Federal SAR responders assist and support local, state, tribal 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. • 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. • ESF #9 SAR coordination will be conducted following the National Response Framework (NRF). • For every incident, the ESF #9 Primary Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) assesses the specific SAR requirements and assigns one of the primary agencies as the overall primary agency for SAR for that particular incident. The designation is dependent upon incident circumstances, and the type of response required. • When assigned as the overall primary agency for a particular incident, that organization conducts the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Coordinates planning and operations between primary and support agencies. o Coordinates resolution of conflicting operational demands for SAR response resources. o Provides representation to appropriate incident facilities Joint Field Office (JFO), Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). • All ESF #9 primary agencies provide support to the designated overall primary agency as required.

4. POLICIES.

a. Through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will maintain overall direction, control, and coordination of the response and recovery efforts through coordination with all participating agencies to include federal agencies tasked by the FEMA.

b. Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWF&P) will appoint ECOs to work in conjunction with MEMA, other state agencies, and federal agencies in an emergency search and rescue capacity.

c. The ESF #9 ECO will coordinate from the SEOC or virtually, incident-dependent. However, a catastrophic event may require establishing an additional forward coordination element near the impacted area.

d. SAR planning and operations will be consistent with the Incident Action Plan (IAP) established by the Incident Commander (IC).

e. All agencies will operate within the identified Incident Command System (ICS) structure established by the local IC and/or the SAR Leader. Each supporting agency will maintain administrative command and control of its resources and any others assigned to them.

f. The local IC will maintain overall command and control of the incident within their respective jurisdiction(s). The ESF #9 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 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.

g. The state ESF #9 SAR program assists and augments county and municipal search and rescue capabilities. 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 SEOC to assign the request to the ESF #9 ECOs.

h. At no point will state or local assets be considered federal assets. Under the 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.

i. 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 stake), Soldiers or Airmen must be already in a duty status before Immediate Response Authority may be used. If not already on some duty status, they must be put on State Active Duty (SAD) by the Governor's Executive Order.

j. 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 happens, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) will approve civilian agency requests for DSCA, and the 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 Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) command and control. Title 10 (active component) 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 the Department of Defense (DOD) to lead the federal response.

k. All state and federal agencies responsible for supporting ESF #9 will communicate resource capability to the ESF #9 ECO at the SEOC. The ESF #9 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 prior to the onset of tropical storm forced winds on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

l. 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.

m. State search and rescue planning considers county and municipal search and rescue policies and plans used to control the movement of relief personnel, equipment, and supplies, as well as locally established priorities for determining precedence of movement.

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.

a. Assumptions.

(1) Existing state telecommunications infrastructure will provide the primary means for state government communications.

(2) Primary agencies (including MEMA) and support agencies will perform tasks under their authority, as applicable, in addition to missions received under the authority of MEMA.

(3) Before requesting EMAC or federal assets, all available local, private, semi-private, and state resources will be deployed through SMAC to the maximum extent possible.

(4) State or federal assistance may be required to identify and deploy resources from outside the affected area to ensure a timely, efficient, and effective response and recovery.

(5) Local governments will organize, train, and adequately equip SAR teams and personnel for all SAR operations within their identified jurisdictions.

(6) Local governments will conduct periodic evaluations of SAR capabilities and identify trigger points when SAR assistance from the state will be requested.

(7) 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.

(8) The local IC will identify the most qualified SAR team leader during the local incident. The local SAR Team leader will assimilate state SAR resources into the incident action plan after a request for assistance has been made to the state.

(9) Numerous volunteering entities, both governmental and non-governmental, may mobilize personnel, supplies, and equipment to affected areas with neither coordination nor communication with the SEOC or deployed elements.

(10) The ability of the State of Mississippi to effectively provide the requested assistance is contingent upon the ESF #9 ECOs 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.

(11) National Guard (NG) 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.

b. General.

(1) MEMA will keep all responsible agencies informed of impending conditions (SAR developments, weather, hazardous materials, or other events) that would cause them to assume a readiness posture for activating the SEOC for possible deployment to a forward area of operation or other activity.

(2) When ESF #9 is activated, ESF #5 and other appropriate support ESFs will be activated to support the event. ESF #9 will continually assess and develop action plans for ESF #5 to ensure all supporting agencies function appropriately and in a coordinated manner.

(3) Through their county EOCs, local officials should be encouraged to be self-sufficient during the first 2–3 days of a disaster.

(4) Local officials and managers should channel their requests for assistance where possible through county EOCs.

(5) MEMA will provide public information to evacuees through the SEOC Joint Information Center (JIC), Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB), and commercial broadcast media.

(6) MEMA is responsible for the overall coordination of all state SAR operations. ESF #9 ECO is responsible for tactical deployment and providing support based upon local jurisdictional needs. Local authorities will conduct initial SAR requirements and responses for unanticipated events.

(7) The Sheriff's Office in each county is responsible for conducting missing person's searches within the state. MEMA and the ESF #9 ECO will assist in coordinating searches with the AFRCC, county sheriffs, other law enforcement agencies, and private and public search and rescue groups as requested by local officials.

(8) Local IC will have jurisdiction over SAR in accordance with local plans.

(9) If a state or federal emergency/disaster is declared, the ESF #9 ECO will coordinate support with the local IC. Each participating agency will coordinate its support with the ESF #9 ECO at the SEOC.

(10) Primary Agencies will designate an ESF #9 ECO at the SEOC and an Assistant ESF #9 ECO at the Forward Command Post. The ESF #9 ECO and the ESF #9 Assistant 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 completing and distributing all NIMS compliant paperwork.

(11) All state and/or federal SAR assets shall be credentialed and receive mission assignments via the SAR 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.

(12) If state emergency search and rescue resources have either been exhausted or are expected to be exhausted prior to meeting the demand, the 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 FEMA. Such requests to FEMA for assistance would prompt the implementation of the NRF.

(13) Working in coordination with the SEOC and SWP, the JIC will release special weather statements and warnings provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) to emergency workers and the general population. These releases will be made through the normal ESF #15 release networks, SWP AtHoc mass notifications, and additionally provided to emergency work sites, staging areas, and other incident support sites as needed.

6. ORGANIZATION.

a. State Emergency Operations Center. In an incident or a major declared state emergency, the ESF #9 ECO or the ESF #9 emergency coordination staff will support the SEOC virtually or take up positions at the SEOC, situationally dependent. A current list of agency emergency notifications is maintained at this facility. ESF #9 is part of the SEOC Operations Section, Emergency Services Branch.

b. SEOC Emergency Point of Contact. The MEMA State Warning Point (SWP) within the SEOC operates 24/7/365. The SWP is manned by Emergency Telecommunicators and an Operations Section Watch Officer. Emergency contact info is as follows:

(1) SWP Emergency Telecommunicator(s):

(a) Phone: (601) 933-6876, 6877, 6878 or (800) 222-6362

(b) E-mail: commo1@mema.ms.gov, commo2@mema.ms.gov, or commo3@mema.ms.gov

(2) Operations Section Watch Officer:

(a) **Phone:** (601) 933-6671 or (800) 222-6362

(b) **E-mail:** watchdesk@mema.ms.gov

c. **SEOC Sections.** The SEOC maintains the standard four ICS sections:

(1) Operations Section. The Operations Section establishes strategy (approach methodology, etc.) and specific tactics/actions to accomplish the goals and objectives set by Command. Operations coordinates and executes strategy and tactics to achieve response objectives.

(2) Planning Section. The Planning Section coordinates support activities for incident planning and contingency, long-range, and demobilization planning. Planning supports Command and Operations in processing incident information and coordinates information activities across the response system.

(3) Logistics Section. The Logistics Section supports Command and Operations in their use of personnel, supplies, and equipment. Performs technical activities required to maintain the function of operational facilities and processes.

(4) Finance and Administration Section. The Finance and Administration Section supports Command and Operations with administrative issues and tracks and processes incident expenses. This includes such issues as licensure requirements, regulatory compliance, and financial accounting.

See the SEOC Operations Section Chief (OSC), Watch Officer, or a SEOC Branch Director for a roster of incident-assigned Section Chiefs.

d. SEOC Emergency Services Branch. The SEOC maintains three branches within the Operations Section, Infrastructure, Emergency Services, and Human Services, each led by a Branch Director. The Emergency Services Branch Director position is a full-time MEMA Emergency Management Specialist. The Branch Director coordinates the activities of ESF #4 (Firefighting), ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services), ESF #9 (Search and Rescue), ESF #10 (Oil and Hazardous Material Response), ESF #13 (Public Safety and Security), and ESF #16 (Military Support to Civil Authorities) and is the first line of support for assigned ECOs. The Emergency Services Branch Director monitors and oversees branch administrative and incident activities, WebEOC actions, SITRoom updates, branch adherence to timelines and requirements, supports ECOs with incident coordinations, and conducts SEOC staff briefings, as needed.

Emergency Services Branch Director desk contact information: Phone (601) 933-6754, e-mail: emergencyservices@mema.ms.gov.

e. SEOC Situation Rooms. MEMA developed the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Situation Rooms (SITRooms) to provide stakeholders with a virtual EOC platform to utilize during normal operations or an incident. The SITRooms provide excellent situational awareness for both SEOC and non-SEOC participants. The SITRooms have individual pods with attendee lists, chat capability, current incident priorities and objectives, current operational schedule and meeting times (battle rhythm), downloadable documents and maps, useful links, and video capability.

The event SITRooms utilized by the SEOC for a given event will use one of the following URLs:

<https://share.dhs.gov/msema> (Daily SITRoom: Level IV Normal Operations)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident> (General Incident SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident1> (Severe Weather/Flooding SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident2> (Hurricane/Tropical Storm SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident3> (Other Emergency/Earthquake SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-uas> (Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mrp> (Radiological SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/jicroom> (JIC SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/ms-emas> (EMAC SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/msbeoc/> (MSBEOC SITRoom)

Many of the above-listed SITRoom may not be active during "blue-sky" or non-event periods. The active SITRooms will be published via mass notification before or during an event/incident.

f. Administrative and Logistical Support. All participating ESF #9 agencies are expected to:

- (1) Coordinate their support with the ESF #9 coordinator;

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(2) ESF #1 coordinator will coordinate efforts with the SEOC, through the Emergency Services Branch Director;

(3) Locate, identify, and set up their operational work areas and maintain logistical support for them;

(4) Receive administrative support from their parent organizations; MEMA will coordinate additional assistance as needed.

(5) Each ESF #9 agency with 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 associated costs for reporting and potential reimbursement.

(6) All ESF #9 agencies will ensure that their financial management system, automated or otherwise, is used to capture incurred costs during an emergency, major disaster, or exercise complies with the applicable agency, state, tribal, and federal guidelines, rules, standards, and laws. This understanding is based on the knowledge that any reimbursement of incurred costs is subject to audit.

(7) Attend and support briefings and other coordination meetings, whether at the SEOC or elsewhere.

(8) Maintain active accounts and have a working knowledge of WebEOC, the SEOC HSIN SITRoom, and Crisis Track.

(9) Attend and support briefings and other coordination meetings, whether at the SEOC, via telecommunications (HSIN SITRoom, ZOOM, or Microsoft Teams), or elsewhere.

(10) Maintain operational logs, messages, requests, and other appropriate documentation for future reference.

(11) Maintain maps, displays, status reports, and other information not included in the ESF #5 operations.

(12) Update the SEOC Emergency Services Branch Director on changes to the ESF #9 ECO Roster.

g. State SAR Assets.

(1) Mississippi USAR Task Force. Mississippi USAR Teams, comprised of statewide search and rescue specialists, are specifically organized, trained, equipped, and postured to conduct full-spectrum personnel recovery, including conventional and unconventional rescue operations. Mississippi USAR Teams provide a highly specialized, all-hazards response capability to provide services to local jurisdictions overwhelmed by natural and man-made disasters and increase civilian survivability during these disasters.

(2) MDWF&P Special Response Team. The Special Response Team (SRT) is comprised of certified law enforcement officers assigned various enforcement duties across the state and are called to duty at the request of other agencies to provide assistance in potential manhunts, tracking, lost or missing persons, traffic control points, or search and rescue operations. SRT members maintain multiple land, water, and UAS capabilities.

(3) MDPS Special Operations Group. The Special Operations Group (SOG) is comprised of Troopers who are assigned various enforcement duties across the state and are called to duty at the request of other agencies to provide assistance in potential civil unrest, crowd control, manhunts, tracking, lost or missing persons, search and rescue, and security for the Mississippi Department of Corrections or other agency making a request for jail searches.

(4) Mississippi Army National Guard Composite Teams, Aviation, and High-Water Assets. The Mississippi Army National Guard (MSNG) provides a wide variety of assets for SAR operations. MSNG Composite Teams can be comprised of a variety of military specialties to include Military Police and Engineer units, both with high-water rescue vehicles. Rotor-winged aviation assets can provide air-land, command and control (C2), and hoist platforms.

(5) Local SAR Capability. Municipal, county, and volunteer entities statewide provide the first line of search and rescue capability. Many of these personnel are comprised of firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency medical technicians and support the Mississippi USAR Task Forces.

h. State SAR Support.

(1) ESF #9 Coordinator Support. Local governments have the primary responsibility for search and rescue operations within their legally established jurisdictions. When additional SAR capabilities are necessary, the local government can request additional assistance from the state. When a request has been made, the ESF #9 ECO will coordinate all state SAR resources. The ESF #9 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.

(2) 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 ESF #9 ECO, maintaining 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 ECO and assigned to an incident and operational area. Parent agencies will retain administrative responsibilities for their assets, even when employed in SAR operations. All agencies will support the established operational goals and objectives.

(3) 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 may request additional SAR resources through the EMAC system. This may include 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 ECO, assistant ESF #9 ECO, and the SAR Leader.

i. Federal SAR Support.

(1) Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency. 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 ten 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 JFO. 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.

(2) Department of Defense. DOD is a support agency for ESF #9. It is the primary source of fixed-wing and/or rotary-wing transportation for USAR Incident Support Teams (ISTs). USNORTHCOM was established on October 1, 2002, to provide command and control of DOD homeland defense efforts and coordinate military assistance to civil authorities.

USNORTHCOM's civil support mission includes domestic disaster relief operations 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.

(3) United States Coast Guard. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) develops, maintains, and operates rescue facilities to promote 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 National Search and Rescue Plan (NSP). USCG personnel are highly trained and experienced in waterborne search and rescue operations and possess specialized expertise, facilities, and equipment to respond 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 required. For all SAR operations, which are none maritime (over U.S. waters), the USCG will generally require a mission assignment number from FEMA.

j. Non-Governmental Support. There are a wide variety of NGOs that provide various services in support of disaster operations. Those NGOs supporting SAR operations can/will provide individuals and resources to assist with disaster victims' search and subsequent rescue. 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) provide trained and equipped personnel capable of rescuing and controlling household pets, including difficult-to-access, aggressive, 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.

k. Staffing Requirements. Based on the disaster response requirements, all primary and supporting agencies are expected to provide the appropriate staffing level 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.

l. 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 appropriately and timely. Whenever possible, participating agencies should enable their SAR personnel to attend joint training with the Mississippi SAR Teams across the state.

m. Exercises. Periodically and whenever appropriate, supporting agencies to the SAR plan should exercise the plan's elements within their agency and with other supporting agencies. This may include tabletop exercises (TTX) designed to work through the specific activities encountered during SAR operations. Whenever possible, participating agencies should have their trained SAR personnel/teams participate in a Mississippi SAR Team full-scale exercises (FSE) annually.

n. Pre-Incident Deployment. For potential impending threats of a 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 can sustain SAR operations for a minimum of three days (72 hours) after the incident.

o. 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 National Incident Management System (NIMS) and 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 ECO that reports directly to the Operations Section Chief (OSC) at the SEOC. The on-scene direction of state SAR operations will be directed by the Mississippi SAR Team Member, who the local IC has

designated as the SAR Leader. The ESF #9 ECO and Assistant ESF #9 ECO will develop the organizational support and deploy the resources necessary to meet the local IC's operational search and rescue objectives.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIONS.

a. Coordinating Agency. As the Coordinating Agencies for ESF #9, MEMA, MOHS, and MDWF&P are responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Preparedness.

(a) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide a list of ESF #9 emergency coordination staff that will carry out the CEMP virtually or at the SEOC.

(b) (All) In conjunction with other support agencies, develop and maintain a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for this ESF #9 Search and Rescue Annex.

(c) (All) Maintain access to all SEOC personnel, systems, and documentation, including but not limited to the Emergency Services Branch Director, WebEOC, HSIN SITRooms, CEMP and associated Annexes and Appendices, the MEMA Response Framework, and all SEOC policies and procedures.

(d) (All) Ensure all agencies with ESF #9 responsibility have SOPs in place to perform appropriate levels of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to the event. Agencies will have completed mitigation and preparedness activities before the initiating event.

(e) (All) Ensure ESF #9 elements are familiar with and operate in concert with the ICS.

(f) (MEMA) Assist with SMAC requests and coordinate all state EMAC requests as needed.

(g) (MEMA) Process mission assignments (MAs) as requested from ESF #9 ECO.

(h) (MEMA) Provide Mutual Aid support efforts to include managing Mission Ready Packets (MRP).

(i) (All) Coordinate UAS support to SAR efforts as needed.

(j) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide a primary or co-primary ECO.

(k) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide SAR trained personnel and their assigned equipment in wildland SAR and urban environments as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

(l) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Assist with SMAC and EMAC requests as needed.

(m)(MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide ESF #9 ECO with a comprehensive database of SAR assets and contact information.

(n) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide MEMA Mutual Aid Coordinator with MRPs for deployable agency assets.

(o) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide and coordinate all sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment;

(p) (All) Train and exercise ESF #9 personnel.

(q) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Designate an ECO, alternate ECO, and Public Information Officer (PIO) to report to the SEOC or support virtually.

(2) Pre-Incident.

(a) ESF #9 will develop and maintain alert and notification procedures for key transportation officials supporting ESF #9. MEMA will assist MOHS and MDWF&P in maintaining the alert and notification list for other agencies supporting ESF #9.

(b) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Provide an ECO (and alternate if 24-hour coverage is necessary) and ESF #9 liaison to the SEOC.

(c) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Notify support agency and partners on activation as needed and minimal staffing requirements.

(d) (MOHS, MDWF&P) Conduct preliminary staff meeting with complete ESF #9 team assigned to establish strategies for approaching incident(s).

(3) Incident.

(a) Upon activation of ESF #9, ECO will communicate pertinent information to all ESF #9 members. Such information will be a complete orientation of the ESF #9 mission, purpose, and scope of work.

(b) Ensure adequate communications are established and maintained.

(c) Obtain an initial situation assessment through established intelligence procedures.

(d) Coordinate the distribution of assets as needed.

(e) 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 their designee to establish lines of authority, operational objectives, and reporting requirements.

(f) The ESF #9 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 ECO will begin coordination of SAR operations from the SEOC. In an unforeseen incident, the first state SAR representatives on the 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.

(g) 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.

(h) If Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Timely (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 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.

(i) 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.

(j) 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.

(k) 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 local officials give authority. An appropriate search marking system will be left at the obvious entrance to the structure, indicating entry has been made and the search results.

(l) Based upon the operational objectives established by the IC, the resources available, and the orders were 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 completing 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 to locate and extricate victims needing and/or requesting assistance. This may include the rescue/removal of the victim's household pets if requested by the victims. SAR personnel will immediately begin the process of accounting for and tracking 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, type of rescue performed, victim's name, age, next of kin emergency contact information, pet's name, and identifying features.

(m) 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 internal communications to ensure the safety of all personnel assigned to them and meet the reporting requirements established by the SAR Leader.

(n) 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 give 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 ECO & State SAR Coordinator.

(o) Once a rescue is completed, the SAR Team Leader will immediately contact the local SAR Team Liaison or the EOC and request Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Rescue personnel will note the date, time, intended destination of a victim, and agency & individual victim turned over on ICS forms. 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.

(p) If the initial reports indicate a need to activate Federal and/or EMAC SAR resources, the ESF #9 ECO, the Assistant ESF #9 ECO, and the SAR Team Leader will begin preparing to support and manage incoming SAR resources through the SEOC.

(q) If SAR operations require more than one operational period, a regular planning cycle will establish objectives, identify and acquire necessary resources, and deploy SAR resources in an organized and systematic manner. The planning cycle with meeting and briefing times will be established by the ESF #9 ECO (SEOC) and the Assistant ESF #9 ECO (Forward) in coordination with local, state, tribal, and federal officials. The meeting and briefing times will be communicated to all concerned entities and personnel.

(r) After the SAR objectives established by the local IC have been accomplished, the ESF #9 ECO, the Assistant ESF #9 ECO, in coordination with the SAR Team Leader, will begin to demobilize SAR resources. Before demobilizing SAR resources, a debriefing will be conducted to maintain operations and/or after-action concerns.

(s) Maintain a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records, and reports.

(t) Provide SITREP and IAP input, via WebEOC and appropriate ICS Forms, according to the established operational timeline, event-specific.

(u) Coordinate the efforts through a liaison to ESF #5.

(v) Assist in gathering and providing information to ESF #5 for establishing priorities.

(w) Assist in compiling and providing information to ESF #15/JIC for press releases.

(x) Participate in post-incident assessments of public works and infrastructure to help determine critical needs and potential workloads.

(y) ESF #9 may be asked by MEMA to provide personnel to a JFO to work closely with their federal counterparts at the established JFO(s) and in the field.

(4) Post-Incident.

(a) Prepare an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP). The AAR/IP identifies key problems, indicates how they will be/were solved, and makes recommendations for improving ESF response operations.

(b) All ESF #9 organizations assist in the preparation of the AAR/IP.

- (c) Submit AAR/IP to infrastructure@mema.ms.gov and planning@mema.ms.gov.
- (d) Review and recommend revision to plans and procedures as determined necessary;
- (e) Copy, catalog, and properly file all records and documents on the incident.
- (f) Compare ESF #3 staff records with MEMA network tasking and tracking system to assure accuracy.

b. Supporting Agencies. All ESF #9 supporting agencies are expected to:

- (1) Coordinate their support with ESF #9.
- (2) Maintain access to all SEOC personnel, systems, and documentation, including but not limited to the Infrastructure Branch Director, WebEOC, HSIN SITRooms, Crisis Track, CEMP, and associated Annexes and Appendices, the MEMA Response Framework, and all SEOC policies and procedures.
- (3) Ensure supporting the agency's administrative, supervisory, and technical personnel remain aware of the agency's role with MEMA and ESF #9.
- (4) Locate, identify, and set up their operational work areas and maintain logistical support for them.
- (5) Attend and support briefings and other coordination meetings, whether virtually, at the SEOC, or elsewhere.
- (6) Participate in training and exercises when scheduled.
- (7) Support development and maintenance of SOPs to enable them to perform appropriate levels of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to public works and engineering.
- (8) Maintain operational logs, messages, requests, and other appropriate documentation for future reference.
- (9) Maintain their maps, displays, status reports, and other information not included in the ESF #5 operations.
- (10) Provide SITREP and IAP input, via WebEOC and appropriate ICS Forms, according to the established operational timeline, event-specific.

CEMP – ESF #9 Search and Rescue Annex

The chart below shows the responsibilities of the individual ESF #9 support agencies. The list contains, but is not limited to, the core functions required:

Agency	Functions
Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 deployable agency 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 (MMD)/Mississippi National Guard (MSNG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 deployable agency 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. • All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.
Mississippi State Fire Academy (MSFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 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 deployable agency assets. • All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Primary ECO.

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Agency	Functions
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 deployable agency 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 (MFCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 deployable agency assets. • All other duties as requested by the ESF #9 Lead Primary ECO.
Mississippi Insurance Department (MID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specially trained personnel and equipment. • Provide additional personnel and equipment for SAR. • All other duties as requested by ESF #9.
Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialized equipment and personnel to assist in wildland SAR operations. • Utilize and coordinate federal resources through the National Forest Service (NFS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). • All other duties as requested by ESF #9.
Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specially trained personnel and equipment. • Provide sworn officers to assist in the protection of SAR teams and equipment. • All other duties as requested by ESF #9.

Agency	Functions
Mississippi Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide air support during rescue operations. • Provide additional personnel and equipment for SAR. • All other duties as requested by ESF #9.

8. AUTHORITIES and REFERENCES. The procedures in this ESF #9 Search and Rescue Annex are built on the core coordinating structures of the CEMP and references listed below. The specific responsibilities of each department and agency are described in the respective ESF, Support, and Incident Annexes, internal agency plans, policies, and procedures. See the CEMP Base Plan or the SEOC Operations Section for a comprehensive list of Authorities and References.

- a. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288.
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act_2019.pdf
- b. Public Law 104-321, October 1996 (EMAC)
[Public Law 104-321, October 1996](#)
- c. MS Code, Ann. Â§ 33-15(1972): Mississippi Emergency Management Act of 1995, Title 33-15, et al. [Successor to Mississippi Emergency Management Law of 1980]
[MS Code 33-15](#)
- d. MS Code, Title 45, Chapter 18 Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
[Mississippi Code of 2018, Title 45, Chapter 18](#)
- e. National Incident Management System, Third Edition, October 2017
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/148019>
- f. National Response Framework, Fourth Edition, October 2019
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/NRF_FINALApproved_2011028.pdf
- g. National Disaster Recovery Framework, Second Edition, June 2016
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/national_disaster_recovery_framework_2nd.pdf
- h. FEMA National Incident Support Manual, Change 1, January 2013
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/FEMA_National_Incident_Support_Manual-change1.pdf

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- i. FEMA Incident Action Planning Guide, July 2015
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/Incident_Action_Planning_Guide_Revision1_august2015.pdf
- j. FEMA Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plan, Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, Version 3.0, September 2021
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_cpg-101-v3-developing-maintaining-eops.pdf
- k. State of Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, January 2022
[MEMA Downloads/CEMP](#)
- l. State of Mississippi New Madrid Seismic Zone OPLAN, January 2018
[MEMA Downloads/State Plans](#)
- m. State of Mississippi Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan (MREPP), October 2020
[MEMA Downloads/State Plans](#)
- n. State of Mississippi Hurricane Plan, January 2022
[MEMA Downloads/State Plans](#)
- o. State of Mississippi Evacuation Plan, January 2022
[MEMA Downloads/State Plans](#)
- p. MEMA Response Framework, March 2021
[MEMA Downloads/MEMA Publications](#)

The MEMA reference repository, containing the CEMP base plan, associated annexes, appendices, and other supporting documents, can be found at [MEMA Downloads](#).

Most Mississippi emergency management stakeholders have access to the MEMA Downloads site. However, non-registered stakeholders may gain access to the repository by submitting an e-mail request to preparedness@mema.ms.gov.

9. REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE. At a minimum, the ESF #9 Search and Rescue Annex Coordinating Agencies will conduct an annual review of this Annex with all support agencies. Additional assessments may be performed if the experience with an incident or regulatory changes indicates a need. Recommended changes will be submitted to MEMA for approval and distribution. Submit recommendations via e-mail to preparedness@mema.ms.gov.