

RICHLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) 9

SEARCH AND RESCUE

LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY: Richland County Sheriff's Department
Richland County Emergency Management
Local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: WI DNR, Local EMS Agencies, Local Fire Departments, ARES/RACES, Wisconsin Emergency Management Air Coordination Group and Civil Air Patrol

STATE ESF COORDINATING AGENCY: Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The Purpose of ESF 9 is to:

1. Provide support to local governments in both urban and non-urban search and rescue operations prior to and following an emergency or disaster situation.
2. Provide assistance in all activities associated with Search, Rescue and Recovery operations beyond the capabilities of local governments.
3. Coordinate the integration of personnel and equipment resources.

II. POLICIES

Search and rescue, or SAR, is a local government responsibility dependent upon the mechanism for the search and rescue operation. County government assistance in this area will normally be initiated at the request of local unit government.

County and/or local government requests for Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol, Department of Natural Resources or State Patrol assistance must be processed through Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM). WEM's policy is the request for these services should be made by the County Emergency Management Director, utilizing the WEM Duty Officer and/or WebEOC.

Requests for assistance from a SAR K-9 organization are normally submitted by local law enforcement authorities directly to K-9 SAR organization. However, a

local agency wanting help in requesting K-9 SAR teams may contact the Richland County Emergency Management Director who will either contact the teams listed in their directory or WEM's Duty Officer.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. **General**

This ESF coordinates state assistance in locating persons missing as a result of any one or more of the following reasons: natural phenomena, man-made (terrorism) or technological failure. This ESF also coordinates local resources which include search and rescue missions for persons lost in wooded or other environments, the search for downed aircraft, the extrication of accident victims, collapsed structures, river searches, etc.

The initial search and rescue response will be a local effort, with priorities set by the local/county government.

FEMA's US&R assets and needs are outlined in National Response Plan. In the event FEMA-US&R teams are not available, WEM will coordinate an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request for US&R teams. There are 28 FEMA US&R Task Forces spread throughout the continental United States trained and equipped by FEMA to handle structural collapse. A list of the US&R Task Forces is in **Section VII. References**.

B. **Organization**

US&R technical assistance expertise will be provided by representatives, first, from the Wisconsin Regional Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Team, as available, and if the need exceeds Wisconsin's capability (note: Wisconsin does not currently have state-supported US&R teams) then FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Teams will be requested. FEMA US&R is a federal asset, and activation may occur upon activation of the National Response Plan. The representatives from the Federal Task Force will coordinate with WEM at the State EOC and with local officials requesting urban search and rescue assistance.

Local US&R teams are available for dispatch upon mutual aid agreement between the requesting county/jurisdiction and the responding US&R team. Compensation will be provided as per agreement.

Non-urban search and rescue assistance will be provided by local AHJ as well as support from organizations such as: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin DNR, National Search and Rescue (NSAR) and local volunteers. Coordination of resources will be the responsibility of the local AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) with support from the County Emergency Management and County EOC (if activated). The WEM Fire

Services Coordinator or Emergency Police Services Coordinator may be deployed to the scene to assist regarding resource management, as available.

C. Procedures

1. The activation of ESF 9 will be managed through Richland County Emergency Management and its standard notification procedures.
2. WEM maintains a 24-hour State Duty Officer System which responds to incidents when notified. Activation of ESF 9 resources will be through the Duty Officer unless EOC operations are active.

The telephone/hotline number for the WEM-Duty Officer is 1-800-943-0003.

IV. GENERAL ACTIVITIES (Note: These are State and or Federal resources and are dependent on the AHJ and /or County having prior agreement with Wisconsin Regional Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Team. Requests for these types of resources must include a very specific mission and demonstration that local resources are exhausted).

A. Mitigation/Preparedness Activities

1. Coordinate with local AHJ, WEM Administrator, DMA and FEMA to identify potential staging areas.
2. Coordinate with Task Force Teams to determine transportation routes of travel for Task Force Teams. The Task Forces Teams will be self sufficient regarding transportation of personnel and supporting equipment.
3. Assist in identifying and providing resources necessary to support FEMA US&R Teams in conjunction with local AHJ.
4. Identify, develop and incorporate, as necessary
 - a. Private sector capabilities and resources
 - b. Backup response and recovery processes

B. Response Activities

1. The local AHJ determines what additional resources will be necessary to mitigate or resolve the situation.
2. Should local capabilities be exceeded, local units of government may contact Richland County Emergency Management for assistance in locating additional resources.

3. Richland County will request and assist with search and rescue within the county utilizing the available assets and capabilities.
4. If requested and under agreements, The Task Force Team will deploy a reconnaissance team to the stricken community. The full team will arrive on location within 4-hours of notification of the event.
5. Through WEM, request FEMA's US&R Teams to assist in search and rescue.
6. In the event FEMA resources are not available the Senior Duty Officer (in consultation with the WEM-Administrator) will activate the EMAC system and request urban search and rescue assets from other states.

C. Recovery Activities

1. The local AHJ will be responsible for demobilization and returning its municipality/community to normalcy
2. The protocol for demobilization will be as follows:
 - a. Federal assets first released
 - b. State assets second released
 - c. Regional assets released third
 - d. Release of "mutual aid" assets
 - e. Local assets released upon termination of the event.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Richland County Sheriff's Department/Local AHJ

1. Develop and maintain county search and rescue activation processes.
2. Alert local jurisdiction(s) departments on the type of rescue operation to include resource type and staging area.
3. Establish ICS to effectively manage search efforts.
4. Contact County Emergency Manager for resource management and logistical support.
5. Develop an IAP (Incident Action Plan) for the search and rescue operation.

B. Richland County Emergency Management

1. Determine County responsibility in acquiring and deploying search and rescue assets for local AHJ.
2. Inform local jurisdiction(s) on the type and availability of additional search and rescue assets outside of Richland County.
3. Deploy Command Post if requested.
4. Contact WEM Duty Officer and Regional Director.
5. Coordinate out of County resource requests such as DNR, WEM, State Patrol, ARES/RACES, K-9 SAR Teams, etc.
6. Provide Planning and Logistics Section support to the ICS structure.

C. Support Agencies

Local EMS, Local Fire, ARES/RACES, Wisconsin Emergency Management Air Coordination Group and Civil Air Patrol, State Patrol and WI DNR

1. Secure the required mutual aid agreements with regional WIUSRN authority, if desired
2. Develop search and rescue activation processes for their resources.
3. Deploy only the resources requested by the Incident Commander.
4. Should send crews prepared to work 12 hour operational shifts.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Joint primary and support agencies will provide the required personnel, facilities, and equipment to support their activities utilizing the National Incident Management System Classification System and ICS.

VII. REFERENCES

FEMA Urban Search and Rescue
FEMA Task Force Locations
 U.S. Army's 911th Engineer Company

VIII. ACRONYMS

See: Richland County Emergency Response Plan, Basic Plan.

IX. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Agency Approval Signature Sheet

Attachment 1 (Agency Approval Signature Sheet)

The undersigned have hereby reviewed and approved the Emergency Support Function 9 of the Richland County Emergency Response Plan.



Richland County Sheriff

1/3/23

Date



County Administrator

31 Jan 23

Date



Emergency Management Director

01/31/2023

Date

