

2012
Polk County
ESF #9
Search and Rescue

Public Version

DRAFT

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of ESF #9: Search and Rescue

The purpose of the plan is to establish a framework by which Polk County Emergency Management Agency can coordinate the Emergency Support Function #9: Search and Rescue. This response may consist of federal, state, and local government agencies and private industries.

The public version of ESF #9: Search and Rescue 'FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION' is designed to provide the public with the following information regarding the plan:

- **Section 1** provides the introduction and purpose of the emergency support function.
- **Section 2** is a description of the roles and responsibilities of the agencies that will respond.
- **Section 3** contains information you should know and what actions you can take after a disaster
- **Section 4** contains important contact numbers.

Please note that the ESF #9: Search and Rescue is a living document. It may undergo a major revision every three years and can be updated annually from submitted and committee approved changes.

For more general information please contact Polk County Emergency Management Agency at 515-286-2107 or your local emergency manager.

1.2 The role of ESF #9: Search and Rescue

The role of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9: Search and Rescue (SAR) is to coordinate and conduct search and rescue response efforts to locate and aid persons who are lost or trapped due to any hazard. The facilitation of “self rescue” through organized evacuations is also included in Search and Rescue.

Search and Rescue includes:

- Performance of distress monitoring
- Communications
- Location of persons in distress
- Coordination and execution of rescue operations including extrication or evacuation along with the provisioning of medical assistance and civilian services through the use of public and private resources to assist persons in potential or actual distress

1.3 Target Capabilities List

The Target Capabilities List describes the capabilities related to the four homeland security mission areas: Prevent, Protect, Respond, and Recover. It defines and provides the basis for assessing preparedness. It also establishes national guidance for preparing the Nation for major all-hazards events, such as those defined by the National Planning Scenarios. The current version of the TCL contains 37 core capabilities (www.fema.gov).

ESF #9: Search and Rescue includes the following Respond Mission Capabilities:

Search and Rescue

The Search and Rescue Capability includes:

Search and Rescue (Land-Based)

Outcome: The greatest numbers of victims (human and, to the extent that no humans remain endangered, animal) are rescued and transferred to medical or mass care capabilities, in the shortest amount of time, while maintaining rescuer safety.

2. Participating Agencies

ESF COORDINATOR:

Polk County Emergency Management

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Local Fire Departments

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

SUPPORT AGENCIES (Urban Search & Rescue):

Des Moines Fire Department Technical Rescue Team

Des Moines Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team

Local Public Works Departments

Local Building Departments

Story County Search and Technical Rescue (STAR 1)

Iowa Task Force One (IA-TF1) Urban Search and Rescue

FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System (US&R)

National Weather Service

SUPPORT AGENCIES (Waterborne Search and Rescue):

Des Moines Fire Department Water Emergency Team (WET)

Metropolitan Special Tactics and Response Team (Metro STAR)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Central Iowa Underwater Search and Rescue

National Weather Service

SUPPORT AGENCIES (Land Search and Rescue):

Polk County Conservation

Local Law Enforcement K-9 Units capable of tracking/trailing

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

Jeep Outdoor Club of Central Iowa

Iowa Highway Assistance Teams

Story County Search and Technical Rescue (STAR 1)

National Weather Service

SUPPORT AGENCIES (Aeronautical Search and Rescue):

Iowa State Patrol aircraft (generally fixed wing)

Aeromedical (Air Ambulance, generally rotary wing)

Civil Air Patrol (generally fixed wing)

SUPPORT AGENCIES (Evacuation):

Local Ambulance Services

Polk County Health Department

Local Public Works Departments

Polk County Public Works

Iowa Department of Transportation
Link Associates
Des Moines Area Regional Transit
Community School District buses

2.1 Concept of Operations

At the time of a special event, disaster or impending disaster, the ESF #9: Search and Rescue individual in charge, in cooperation with the Incident Commander, who is the individual in overall command of the whole situation and executives of affected areas, will ensure that:

- A. 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 existence of local search and rescue resources in the area. Search and rescue missions may include missing or abducted children, persons with access and functional needs, persons with acute medical care needs, water related incidents, structural collapse incidents and the facilitation of self rescue through organized evacuations.
- B. Local fire service and law enforcement agencies will initiate search and rescue activities for incidents likely to result in a distress situation in Land areas.
- C. Agencies such as the Civil Air Patrol, with aerial response capabilities, can be requested through Polk County Emergency Management.
- D. In the event a jurisdiction's resources are or may become overwhelmed, assistance from local, county, state and federal resources can be requested.
- E. Should there be a need for a coordinated Federal response; FEMA can initiate the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System for incidents likely to result in collapsed structures. Requests of local jurisdictions for this asset must be directed to Polk County Emergency Management.
- F. Preservation of crime scenes, evidence collection and chain of custody issues are functions of ESF #13: Law Enforcement and Security.

2.2 Activities of Polk County Emergency Management Agency and Participating Agencies

Search & Rescue Group Supervisor

Activities:

- Provide overall management and coordination of search and rescue capability, from activation through demobilization

Urban Search and Rescue

Urban Search and Rescue refers to building/structural collapse search and rescue operations for natural disasters as well as other building collapse operations.

1. Planning

Rescue planning involves dispatching or diverting search and rescue resources for rescue of persons in distress. Search and rescue resources at the distress scene should, if able, rescue without delay; if they are unable, rescue planning may be necessary to affect rescue.

2. Survivability Considerations

When evaluating rescue response, survival time of distressed persons is the foremost consideration. Consider injuries or other medical conditions that might require special rescue response, such as the need for quick recovery or specialized rescue equipment.

Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Leader

Activities:

- Provide management and coordination of urban search and rescue capability, from activation through demobilization

Waterborne Search and Rescue

Waterborne Search and Rescue includes search and rescue operations for river flooding, urban flooding, ice rescue, dam/levee failure, and other disasters that primarily require boat operations.

Common casualties include entrapment in capsized, damaged, or sunken vessels and submersibles, crashed aircraft, and swimming and diving mishaps.

Waterborne Search and Rescue Task Force Leader

Activities:

- Provide management and coordination of waterborne search and rescue capability, from activation through demobilization

Land Search and Rescue

Land Search and Rescue includes operations conducted in rural or urban environments. Land search and rescue is implemented for many types of incidents including lost children, mental patients, elderly and lost hunters.

1. Information Gathering

Appeals for information through press and radio, on-scene interrogation, or interviews with local population may lead to discovery of the search object.

2. Search Maps

3. Use of canines in searches

Land Search and Rescue Task Force Leader

Activities:

- Provide management and coordination of Land search and rescue capability, from activation through demobilization.

Aeronautical Search and Rescue

Aeronautical Search and Rescue may supplement Land Search and Rescue operations and/or may include search and rescue operations conducted in aviation related incidents.

1. Terrain

Aircraft searches over land with diverse and often changing terrain usually makes location of search objects more difficult. Repeated searches of an area are almost always necessary to attain an acceptable cumulative probability of success.

2. Hazards

Natural and man-made obstacles and turbulence may make flying more dangerous.

Aeronautical Search and Rescue Task Force Leader

Activities:

- Provide management and coordination of aeronautical search and rescue capability, from activation through demobilization

3. Maintenance

Mandatory Review Requirements

As required in Iowa Administrative Code, Section 605, Chapter 7, this annex will be reviewed and revised if necessary, at a minimum of every 5 years. A draft will be presented to the Polk County Emergency Management Commission for their approval and adoption.

Voluntary Review

The Polk County Emergency Management Commission will attempt to evaluate this annex continuously and revise annually based on input and feedback from support agencies and corrective action plans as recommended by after-action reporting. A draft will be presented to the Polk County Emergency Management Commission for their approval and adoption.

Plan Distribution

This annex and any subsequent revisions of this annex will be distributed to the primary and alternate Commission Members representing Polk County and all city governments within the county. The annex will also be shared with the specific primary and support agencies named at the beginning of this annex

4. Things you need to know and what you can do

4.1 During and After

- Local news media, television or radio
- Code Red Notification if you are signed up via email, test message or phone call
- United Way 211-Call Center (includes multi-lingual)

Provides free information 24/7 to callers on community related resources, including disaster related resources.

- Polk County Emergency Management Agencies official website:

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/>

- Or other social media applications:

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/ya4osdq>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PCEmrgManAgency>

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/PolkCoIaEmergMgt>

Listen for announcements on alerts, notices, instructions, and information:

- What to do and why
- What not to do and why
- Hazardous areas and structures to stay away from.
- Location of first aid stations, food and water distribution points, etc.
- Street and freeway overpass conditions, congested areas to avoid and alternate routes to take
- Location of shelters
- Evacuation routes, instructions and arrangements for persons without transportation or special-needs (non-ambulatory, sight-impaired, etc.)

American Red Cross Safe and Well Registry

If it is possible, access the American Red Cross Safe and Well Registry so that you can list yourself as safe. This ensures that any family members or friends who are concerned for your well-being can access this site and find out news about you.

5. Important contacts and numbers

Nationwide

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

<http://www.fema.org>. 1-800-FEMA (3362)

Polk County

American Red Cross Des Moines:

<http://desmoines-redcross.org/>. (515) 243-7681

United Way 2-1-1 provider:

Dial 2-1-1 or toll-free at 1-866-469-2211.
From a cell phone or pay phone, dial (319) 739-4211.

Provides free information 24/7 to callers on community related resources, including disaster related resources.

Polk County Emergency Management Agency:

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/>. (515) 286-2107

Facebook

<http://tinyurl.com/ya4osdq>

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/PCEmrgManAgency>

YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PolkCoIaEmergMgt>

Summary

It is hoped that this public version plan will provide the reader with an understanding of Polk County Emergency Management Agency and participating agencies' roles in the event of an incident.

The processes and agency roles and responsibilities specified may change without notice contingent upon the magnitude of the emergency or catastrophic event, as well as the actual availability of emergency response and emergency support personnel.

The ESF #9: Search and Rescue Public Version was developed for public distribution and excludes specific information that is protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and similar State and local disclosure laws, and from use in civil litigation and regulatory actions.

Access to the full plan is restricted to ESF #9: Search and Rescue emergency first responders and contains Security Sensitive Information that is For Official Use Only.

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