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ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

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ESF 9. Search and Rescue

ESF 9 Tasked Agencies	
Primary Agencies	Clackamas Fire District #1 (Urban Search and Rescue) Clackamas County Sheriff's Office/Law Enforcement (Search and Rescue)
Supporting Agencies	Emergency Management Human Services Public Information Transportation and Development/Public Works American Red Cross

1 Purpose and Scope

Clackamas County has two categories of search and rescue operations:

- Search and Rescue (SAR) includes searching for, rescuing, or recovering persons lost, injured, or killed outdoors, including ground and marine locations; this activity is coordinated by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) in accordance with the Clackamas County Search and Rescue Plan (Oregon Revised Statutes [ORS] 401.560).
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) includes searching for, rescuing, or recovering victims trapped in collapsed structures, in natural or human-caused disasters, in operations that require specialized personnel and/or equipment; this activity is coordinated by the Local Fire Chief/State Fire Marshal/ Office of Emergency Management (ORS 401.638; 401.639 and Oregon USAR Operations Manual, June 2007).

2 Policies and Authorities

Provisions in Oregon State law for SAR can be found in ORS 404 and include the following key provisions:

- ORS 404.110. Delegation of SAR authority to the CCSO.
- ORS 404.115. Restriction of access to the SAR area.
- ORS 404.120. Requirement to adopt an SAR Plan for the County.
- ORS 404.125. Provisions for critique of an SAR incident.
- ORS 404.130. Assignment of an SAR incident number.
- ORS 404.300–404.325. Provisions regarding equipment and signaling devices.
- ORS 404.350. Rescue of companion animals.

3 Situation and Assumptions

- The Chief of Clackamas Fire District #1 plans, trains, and conducts USAR operations in Clackamas County.
- On-Scene Command manages all SAR/USAR operations according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS).
- USAR responders may need to provide rapid extrication and medical treatment for trapped victims at risk from their injuries, the entrapment itself, or other hazards.
- Rescue workers may encounter extensive damage to buildings, roadways, communications systems, and utilities. Earthquake aftershocks, secondary events, and hazardous material releases may threaten survivors and rescue personnel.
- Well-meaning but ill-equipped and inadequately trained volunteers may initiate rescue activities that put their own lives at risk.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

All agencies tasked under this annex will develop and maintain written internal operating plans and implementing procedures, and train employees in their use.

4.1 Primary Agencies

4.1.1 Clackamas Fire District #1

- Develop and publish a USAR operations plan and provide a copy to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) library.
- Coordinate USAR support with the Fire Defense Board Chief/Clackamas County Emergency Management (CCEM)/EOC Command.
- Coordinate access to the USAR equipment cache with the State Fire Marshal.
- Establish unified On-Scene Command for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incidents.

4.1.2 Sheriff's Office/Law Enforcement

- Develop and publish an SAR operations plan and provide a copy to the EOC library.
- Coordinate SAR support with CCEM/EOC Command.

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- Establish unified On-Scene Command for incidents involving multiple agencies or jurisdictions.
- Provide traffic and crowd control at rescue scenes.
- Participate in Joint Information Center (JIC)/Joint Information System (JIS) activities.

4.2 Supporting Agencies

4.2.1 Emergency Management

- Assist On-Scene Command and activate the EOC if requested.
- Assist with multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction coordination.
- Advise the County Administrator and Board of County Commissioners.
- Coordinate with city, regional, and State agency counterparts.

4.2.2 Medical Examiners

- Provide death investigation for all unattended and suspicious deaths.

4.2.3 Health, Housing and Human Services

- Coordinate with first responders, hospitals, and other facilities and providers.
- Coordinate requests for additional medical resources.
- Provide Critical Incident Stress Debriefing to emergency workers.

4.2.4 Public Information

- Provide the Public Information Officer and participate in JIC/JIS operations.
- Coordinate incident information with participating organizations.

4.2.5 Transportation and Development/Public Works

- Provide heavy equipment and operators to assist in rescue operations.
- Provide signs, barriers, equipment, and personnel to assist in traffic and crowd control.
- Provide technical engineering advice to on-scene personnel.

4.3 Other Resources

4.3.1 American Red Cross

- Provide and manage shelter and mass care operations for victims and feeding and support services for emergency responders.
- Provide a liaison to On-Scene/EOC Command to coordinate support activities.

4.3.2 Clackamas Amateur Radio Services

- Provide emergency HAM radio communications to the EOC and field units through amateur radio, as requested.

5 Concept of Operations

Individuals at the incident scene may have initiated rescue operations prior to SAR or USAR team arrival.

On-Scene Command manages the incident situation to minimize risk of injury to volunteer rescuers and victims.

On-Scene Command requests that C-COM activate the SAR/USAR team as soon as the need for their services is recognized:

- USAR – C-COM dispatches the USAR team and notifies the Fire Defense Board Chief and the C-CSO on-duty Watch Officer. The Fire Defense Board Chief coordinates with On-Scene Command to determine whether the USAR cache is to be accessed and, if necessary, coordinates approval from the State Fire Marshal.
- SAR – C-COM dispatches the SAR team and notifies the CCSO on-duty and Watch Officer.

On-Scene Command at SAR/USAR incidents creates a Unified Command structure when USAR operations are part of CBRNE incident response or when SAR operations involve multiple agencies/jurisdictions (such as joint water rescue operations).

6 Direction and Control

6.1 Cities

Cities have primary responsibility for the safety and well-being of their citizens and for resource allocation and emergency rescue operations within their jurisdictions. Cities normally delegate authority to On-Scene Command to conduct response operations, but retain ultimate responsibility for incident outcome. Fire districts or departments normally provide On-Scene Command for

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incidents involving USAR operations. Law enforcement normally provides On-Scene Command for incidents involving SAR operations.

Cities are encouraged to develop an EOP and to work closely with law enforcement and fire agencies and CCEM to integrate preparedness, response, and recovery activities. Cities should periodically review potential incident operations, including SAR and USAR, with their law enforcement and fire service providers.

An intergovernmental mutual aid agreement between the County and cities that establishes procedures for requesting and providing mutual aid in an emergency is available to all jurisdictions that choose to participate. A copy of the agreement and list of participants is available in the EOC library.

Cities may request County assistance through mutual aid or by including their request for assistance in an Emergency Declaration to the County.

6.2 County

The CCSO participates in unified On-Scene Command during joint water rescue operations and CBRNE incidents involving USAR. The CCSO also supports city rescue operations as requested.

CCEM provides support for On-Scene Command and activates the EOC if requested. CCEM also coordinates with local, regional, and State agencies.

Public Affairs staffs Public Information Officer and JIC operations and coordinates incident information with On-Scene Command and other stakeholder agencies.

The Department of Transportation and Development/public works coordinates requirements for heavy equipment and operators.

6.3 Regional

Clackamas County is a participant in the Inter-County Omnibus Mutual Aid Agreement that provides a framework for counties to request mutual aid from each other in emergencies. A copy of the agreement and updated information regarding current participants is available in the EOC library.

The Intra-State Mutual Assistance Compact provides for non-reimbursable assistance among local governments. To receive reimbursement for resource assistance provided under this statute, participants must agree to a reimbursement request in writing before resources are dispatched.

6.4 State and Federal Assistance

If rescue operations require resources beyond those available to the County, EOC staff will forward the request for additional resources to the State. Oregon Emergency Management will coordinate State resources and request Federal assistance if necessary.

ESF 9. Search and Rescue**6.4.1 State**

The [Oregon USAR Program](#) provides skilled personnel and special equipment for urban rescue operations. USAR equipment trailers are strategically located throughout the region and can be utilized by local technical rescue teams upon approval of the State Fire Marshal.

6.4.2 Federal

The Federal Emergency Management Agency coordinates 28 USAR Task Forces that can be deployed when authorized by the president.

The resources of the 304th Rescue Squadron may be available for medical rescue, treatment, and transport under the authority of the Commanding Officer. This request will be coordinated through the EOC if time permits but may be directed to the 304th directly by any public safety or medical official, with EOC notification as soon as circumstances allow.

The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for marine search and rescue operations on federal waterways. Requests for assistance in dealing with water SAR may be made to the Portland Coast Guard Station directly by the Sheriff's Office or through the EOC.

7 Emergency Support Function Development and Maintenance

The Chief, Clackamas County Fire District #1, and the Sheriff will review/revise this annex and supporting plans every two years or when changes occur, such as lessons learned from exercises or actual events. Emergency Management staff is available to assist.

8 Supporting Plans and Procedures

The following plans and procedures are currently in place:

- EOC Library
 - Clackamas County Search and Rescue Plan (CCSO)
 - Clackamas County Fire District #1 Urban Search and Rescue Plan
 - Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Urban Search and Rescue Plan
 - Oregon USAR Operations Manual
- State of Oregon Emergency Operations Plan, ESF 9 – Search and Rescue
- National Response Framework, ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

9 Appendices

None at this time.

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