

Spokane Emergency Management
Emergency Support Function #9
[Search & Rescue](#)

Emergency Coordination Center	
<p>Primary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Agencies • Fire Service Agencies <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Air Patrol (CAP). • National Guard (Air Guard). • Public Works. • Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). • Search and Rescue Volunteer Units. • Volunteer Agencies. • Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) • Greater Spokane Emergency Management (GSEM) • American Red Cross • The Salvation Army 	<p>Likely Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a system to quickly identify and establish County-wide search and rescue grids. • Identify high occupancy structures, critical facilities and other places of public assembly having potential for mass casualty. • Maintain inventories of resources and equipment. • Identify incident sites or situations requiring Search & Rescue services to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Urban search and rescue activities following flood, building collapses. ➤ High/low angle rescue ➤ Collapse or confined space rescue ➤ Water recovery searches for persons presumed to be deceased. ➤ Searches for missing persons. • Determine present and future need for Search & Rescue and other on-scene resources. • Obtain and coordinate Search & Rescue resources as requested by field incident commanders. • Coordinate search and rescue activities with the appropriate tasked organizations.

INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose:
 - a. To provide for the deployment, control and coordination of various types of search and rescue resources including personnel, equipment and supplies for victim retrieval incidents resulting from an emergency or disaster.
2. Scope:
 - a. Search and rescue (SAR) activities include incidents that involve Urban SAR (USAR), water, ground or air search activities for lost persons, rescuing or recovering by means of ground, water rescue, or other activities any person who becomes lost, injured, or killed.

POLICIES

1. The chief law enforcement officer shall be responsible for SAR activities within their jurisdiction (RCW 38.52).
2. The chief law enforcement officer shall coordinate with local Fire Service Agencies, who have primary responsibilities for Urban SAR (USAR) and specified SAR operations.
3. The Sheriff will appoint one or more deputies as Sheriff Emergency Operations Team (**SEOT**) Deputies to work with GSEM and the Search and Rescue Volunteer Units for responses throughout Spokane County.
4. Volunteers will be recruited for general SAR purposes from within the SAR Units.
5. Fire Service Agencies will be responsible for surface water rescue within the city limits of Spokane and Spokane Valley, USAR incidents, trench, high angle rescue, extrication and industrial rescue, confined space rescue throughout Spokane County.

SITUATION

1. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards
 - i. See Potential Disasters to Spokane (Basic CEMP, HIVA)
2. Planning Assumptions:
 - a. People will become lost, injured, or killed while outdoors, requiring search and rescue activities in Spokane County.
 - b. The wildland-urban interface situation, which has greatly affected the fire service, has also impacted SAR. People become lost in wildland and suburban areas only a few minutes travel from their homes.
 - c. Due to changing demographics, such as the aging of the population, there is an increasing incidence of citizens with some form of dementia wandering away from their caregivers in urban settings requiring SAR missions in residential environments. Residential SAR is distinct from wilderness SAR in that the victims with some form of dementia do not typically adhere to typical “lost person behavior” patterns which complicate search algorithms.
 - d. An emergency or disaster may cause building collapses, leaving persons in life- threatening situations requiring Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and medical care.
 - e. Large numbers of individuals may volunteer to assist USAR and their involvement will be governed by the Volunteer Management Plan.
 - f. Request for additional resources through the Washington State Emergency Manage-

ment Division may be needed for incidents that exceed local capabilities.

- g. Law Enforcement or Fire Service Agencies may not be able to provide all necessary equipment or manpower to cope with all types of SAR missions.
- h. DEM will provide a 24- hour on-call duty officer for notification and requests for SAR volunteers and request additional state or local resources.
- i. Fire Service Agencies may have to call upon mutual aid or fire mobilization to deal with USAR or designated SAR responsibilities.
- j. The need for heavy equipment or materials to support USAR activities may be requested from Public Works, Engineering Services or private contractors.
- k. DEM will assist in coordinating local resources and augment SAR resource personnel through requests to the Washington EMD.
- l. Due to the limited number of volunteers in the surrounding counties, and the potential for major incidents in other parts of the state, our volunteers also need to be prepared to assist in localities outside of Spokane County.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. General:

- a. The Spokane Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) may be activated to provide coordination, technical, and administrative support to SAR or USAR operations.
- b. The Spokane SAR Coordinator and Spokane County Risk Manager have the responsibility to establish criteria and standards for emergency worker volunteers based on local, state and federal requirements. Washington Administrative Code 118-04 Emergency Worker Program establishes the State's basic emergency worker standards.
- c. Search & Rescue volunteers will be trained to the WA. State SAR standards, as adopted, so as to be deployable throughout the state.
- d. For those SAR or USAR activities for which fire service agencies have primary responsibility, local Fire District operating procedures shall be the standard.
- e. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army may provide support to SAR or USAR operations by providing food and water.
- f. The Department of Defense directs search operations for downed or missing military aircraft of national significance as determined by DOD representatives.
- g. Military support for SAR activities for military aircraft may be requested through local authorities.
- h. Missing or overdue civilian aircraft are the responsibility of the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division. Once a location of the aircraft is known to be in the jurisdiction, the responsibility for SAR rests with the chief local law enforcement official.

2. Organization:

- a. The Incident Command System will be used. Unified Command will be used when multiple agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities are involved.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Federal Agencies:
 - a. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) tasks federal agencies to perform SAR or USAR activities under the Stafford Act.
 - b. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) coordinates federal resources providing SAR assistance to states during non-disaster incidents (reference National Search and Rescue Plan).”
2. State EMD:
 - a. Serves as the coordinating agency to provide additional non-jurisdictional resources for SAR and USAR incidents.
 - b. Provides state SAR mission numbers for missions and authorized training when requested by authorized local personnel. The issuance of this mission number authorizes the employment of volunteers under the provisions and protection of Chapter 38.52 RCW.
3. Local law enforcement:
 - a. Chief local law enforcement official(s):
 - i. Provides direction to SAR operations except those identified as fire service responsibilities.
 - ii. Support agency for SAR or USAR fire service incidents.
 - iii. Tasks the DEM to coordinate with Washington EMD for needed resources
 - iv. Notifies the Spokane DEM duty officer to coordinate resources in support of emergency workers.
 - v. Provide trained SEOT Deputies to assist in command and control of responding SAR resources.
 1. Ensures notification to EMD for mission numbers.
 2. Maintains SAR mission records, and forwards appropriate records and reimbursement requests through DEM to Washington State Emergency Management Division.
4. Greater Spokane Emergency Management:
 - a. Identifies, obtains, and maintains resource equipment in support of SAR missions.
 - b. Maintains a list of volunteers in support of SAR activities.
 - c. Monitors SAR volunteers to ensure compliance with minimum SAR standards.
 - d. 24-hour availability through a duty officer system to activate and respond to emergency SAR and support of SAR incidents.
 - e. Verifies notification to Washington EMD for mission numbers and requests additional state support when needed.
 - f. Provides support to USAR missions.
5. Search and Rescue Volunteer Units:
 - a. Provide qualified personnel for search and rescue activities.
 - b. Develops and implements local SAR programs in coordination with Greater Spokane EM, Spokane Sheriff’s Office and the Washington EMD.
 - c. Develops and reviews specific group operating procedures to ensure compliance with state and local requirements.
 - d. Trains and prepares for search and rescue activities within their specific area of expertise.
 - e. Ensures the Spokane SAR Coordinator is briefed on all known SAR response defi-

- ciencies.
 - f. Each unit notifies the SEOT Deputy or GSEM duty officer on their status, when requested to respond and return from other jurisdictional requests.
 - g. Develops and presents preventive SAR programs through public awareness and school education programs.
6. Fire Service Agencies:
- a. Local fire service agencies shall have primary responsibility for search and rescue operations at:
 - i. Structural fire incidents
 - ii. Structural collapse (USAR), with or without fire involvement and may take either primary jurisdiction responsibility or provide operations support, depending on the extent of its special operations capability and capacity, for:
 - 1. Technical rope rescue
 - 2. Confined space
 - 3. Trench rescue
 - 4. Structural collapse rescue
 - iii. High and low Angle Rescue. Depending on training and equipment, fire service agencies will conduct or assist with rope rescue.
 - iv. Water rescue for City of Spokane and Spokane Valley. Provide assistance, when requested, in other municipalities and unincorporated county.
 - b. Depending on training and equipment, fire service agencies may elect to respond solely on EMS support for SAR incidents.
 - c. Fire Services will utilize mutual aid, fire resources, or fire mobilization to support
 - i. USAR or identified SAR operations.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

See Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

REFERENCES

- A. Revised Code of Washington (RCW 38.52)
- B. Washington Administrative Code (WAC 118.04)
- C. Fire Mutual Aid Agreements
- D. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- E. SAR Council individual unit Operating Procedures
- F. Fire Mobilization Plan
- G. Spokane County Fire Resource Plan
- H. Spokane County-Field Operations Guide

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

See **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan**