

## Annex 9 (ESF-9 -Search and Rescue) to the Darlington County Emergency Operations Plan

Primary: Darlington County Fire District

Support: Darlington County Emergency Management Office, EMS, Specialized Emergency Response Team (SERT), Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Team, Darlington County Sheriff's Office, Hartsville Police Department, Darlington Police Department, Lamar Police Department, Society Hill Police Department, Hartsville Fire Department, Darlington Fire Department, Palmetto Rural Fire Department, Civil Air Patrol, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Highway Patrol, Lake Robinson Rescue Squad, Hartsville Rescue Squad, Lamar Rescue Squad, Darlington Firemen's Rescue Squad and Society Hill Rescue Squad

### I. Introduction:

- A. Search and rescue operations typically consist of two components, urban search and rescue and rural search and rescue. Urban search and rescue is the process of locating, extricating and providing the initial medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harms way by any emergency or hazardous event when the victims cannot remove themselves. Rural search and rescue activities typically include incidents involving missing persons, rescue of stranded boaters on lake, rivers and streams, locating downed aircraft and the initial medical treatment of victims after rescue.
- B. Darlington County has a variety of assets within the county that can be used in both the urban or rural search and rescue component to conduct the actual search and rescue or to begin organizing search and rescue activities until specialized state and federal resources can arrive in the county. In this annex, for purposes of clarity, Search and Rescue will be divided into five (5) areas. Those five areas are; urban search and rescue (activities carried out in the municipalities), rural search and rescue (activities carried out in the rural areas of the county), location of missing or downed aircraft, water rescue on the lakes, rivers, streams and ponds in the county, missing persons (adults and children).

**II. Mission:** To conduct search and rescue operations at any location in Darlington County. Provide support to any agency that requests or initiates search and rescue activities.

### III. Concept of Operations:

- A. The Darlington County Fire District is designated as the lead agency for Search and Rescue activities for administrative purposes. The Fire District is responsible for coordinating all administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness,

response, recovery and mitigation activities) required to support the conduct of operations under this annex. When tasked with the responsibility, each support agency is responsible for developing, coordinating and maintaining the appropriate SOPs necessary to implement this annex. For example, the five (5) Rescue Squads in the county each have water rescue capabilities. Therefore, they could be tasked with serving as the lead agencies and providing all water rescue activities in the county. Missing persons are typically a law enforcement issue with the Rescue Squads and Fire departments supplying manpower for ground searches. Therefore it is reasonable to expect law enforcement agencies to be designated as the lead agencies for search and rescue activities for missing adults and children. The Darlington County Fire Chief will designate specific agencies to serve as lead agencies for certain components of the search and rescue mission.

- B. The Jurisdiction Fire Chiefs will organize their respective jurisdictions to conduct search and rescue operations in all environments in their respective jurisdictions.
- C. Darlington County has two specialized teams with personnel trained to conduct search and rescue operations in specific environments. The Specialized Emergency Response Team (SERT) has personnel trained in high and low angle rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, tower rescue and collapsed structure rescue. The team members can conduct limited operations initially and can be used to begin the initial rescue operations in these environments until state and federal resources can arrive on scene. The Hazardous Materials Team is equipped and trained to conduct defensive operations and begin offensive operations until state assets can arrive in the county.
- D. Urban Search and Rescue: Urban search and rescue will be the responsibility of the municipalities in the county. Municipal and District Fire Chiefs will retain control over their jurisdictions, however can reasonably be expected to request mutual aid from the county. The SERT team can be technical expertise to help begin the initial rescue efforts until state assets can arrive on scene.
- E. Rural search and rescue: The Chief of the County Fire District and Chief of the Palmetto Rural Fire District has responsibility for rural search and rescue activities in their jurisdictions. Rural search and rescue activities typically focus on missing aircraft, missing persons and water rescue. However, large structures (generally industry) are located in the county's areas of responsibility that could include collapsed structure. The Fire Districts has the volunteers and teams available to conduct search and rescue operations in any of these events.
- F. Missing aircraft: A search for a missing aircraft will rapidly become a multi-agency search and rescue effort. Typically, either the County Fire District or Palmetto Rural Fire Department will serve as the lead agency in a missing aircraft search. These searches also involve, the SC Highway Patrol, SC Department of Natural Resources, EMS, the Emergency Management office, local Rescue Squads, the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), the National Transportation Safety

Board (NTSB), and Civil Air Patrol. The Civil Air Patrol can provide valuable technical assistance in addition to aircraft when searching for a missing aircraft.

- G. Water rescue: Lake Robinson Rescue Squad, Hartsville Rescue Squad and Darlington Firemen's Rescue Squad all have water rescue capabilities. These agencies would be expected to assume the lead agency role in this type of rescue. A water search may involve Palmetto Rural Fire Department, SC Department of Natural Resources and other out-of-county agencies that have a water rescue capability. It is essential that local Rescue Squads coordinate with the Fire District Chief and the Municipal Fire Chiefs to insure that the chiefs are aware of each squad's capabilities.
- H. Missing persons (adults and children): Missing persons are typically a law enforcement issue and the law enforcement agencies that request that a search be initiated for a missing person should assume the lead agency role. In addition to the law enforcement agency, the Fire Departments (municipal and county), the volunteer rescue squads and EMS can provide personnel to conduct a ground search. The Department of Natural Resources and Civil Air Patrol can provide aircraft to assist in the search. Law enforcement personnel should be familiar with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and "Team Adam". "Team Adam" can provide the county with both personnel and technical while conducting a search for a missing child.
- I. Training: It is the responsibility of each agency that is tasked with either a primary or support role in this annex to insure that their agency conducts the appropriate training to insure that their personnel are qualified to perform their roles necessary to implement this annex. As a minimum, all response agencies identified in this annex will insure that their personnel meet the current Department of Homeland Security training requirements. All personnel should, as a minimum, complete the following FEMA independent Study course; IS-100, Basic Incident Command; IS-200, Single Incident Command; IS-700, NIMS, An Introduction; and IS-800, An Introduction to the National Response Plan (NRP).

#### **IV. Responsibilities:**

##### **A. Preparedness Phase:**

- 1. Darlington County Fire District:
  - a. Maintain a current inventory of resources, (records that reflect local capability) including trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations.
  - b. Participate in an exercise at least annually to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.

- c. Maintain liaison with state and federal search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets.
- d. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.
- e. Assist agencies in the training of personnel and rescue organizations for search and rescue operations.
- f. Plan for the deployment of the US Army Corps of Engineers structures specialist and system to Locate Survivors (STOLS).
- g. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
- h. Ensure that all Search and Rescue personnel are trained on the NIMS principles and integrate the NIMS principles in all planning. All Search and Rescue personnel will complete FEMA's NIMS Awareness course or an equivalent course.

## 2. Local Rescue Squads:

- a. Maintain a current inventory of resources, (records that reflect local capability) including trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations.
- b. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions.
- c. Participate in an exercise at least annually to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
- d. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
- e. Ensure that all Rescue Squad personnel are trained on the NIMS principles and integrate the NIMS principles in all planning. All Rescue Squad personnel will complete FEMA's NIMS Awareness course or an equivalent course.

## 3. Law Enforcement agencies:

- a. Maintain a current inventory of resources, (records that reflect local capability) including trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations.

- b. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions.
  - c. Participate in an exercise at least annually to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
  - d. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
  - e. Ensure that all law enforcement personnel are trained on the NIMS principles and integrate the NIMS principles in all planning. All law enforcement personnel will complete FEMA's NIMS Awareness course or an equivalent course.
  - f. Insure that K-9 assets are made available to search for missing adults and children.
  - g. Insure that all law enforcement personnel are familiar with the capabilities of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the capabilities that "Team Adam" would bring to the county.
4. Fire Departments:
- a. Maintain a current inventory of resources, (records that reflect local capability) including trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations.
  - b. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions.
  - c. Participate in an exercise at least annually to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
  - d. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
  - e. Ensure that all Fire personnel are trained on the NIMS principles and integrate the NIMS principles in all planning. All Fire Service personnel will complete FEMA's NIMS Awareness course or an equivalent course.

B. Response Phase:

**NOTE: All incidents in Darlington County will be managed using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System/Unified Command System.**

**NOTE: The tasking under this section becomes the responsibility of the agency assuming command of the incident. Therefore all agencies tasked either as the lead or supporting agency in this annex must be prepared to implement these tasks.**

1. Support local agencies with appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment as needed.
2. Insure that an Incident Command System is used and assumes responsibility for coordinating and tracking all resources committed to the incident. This may include establishing an Incident Command Post and staging area as needed.
3. Request deployment of the Mobile Command trailer as needed.
4. Request activation of the EOC if needed.
5. Plan for and establish for relief resources to replace or rotate with all committed resources for extended operations.
6. Coordinate all request for support through the EOC, especially for state and federal support for search and rescue operations to include planning for the reception and deployment of these teams to the area of operations.
7. In collapsed structure operations, request the US Army Corps of Engineers structures specialists and System to Locate Survivors (STOLS) as appropriate.
8. Coordinate with ESF-1 (Transportation) for transportation assets to transport rescue teams and equipment to the incident location.
9. Coordinate with ESF-8 (Health and Medical) for providing medical treatment and transportation of injured victims to the appropriate medical facilities.
10. Coordinate with ESF-1 (Transportation) and ESF-6 (Mass Care) for the transportation of evacuated victims to emergency shelters as necessary.

C. Recovery Phase:

1. Continue to support local operations and plan for reduction of operations.
2. Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
3. Insure that all teams and agencies maintain records of costs incurred during the event.

D. Mitigation Phase:

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Document all matters that may be needed for inclusion in briefings, situation reports and action plans.

#### **V. Administration and Logistics:**

- A. Administration: Situations reports will be provided to EOC daily, at the beginning of each shift. Situation reports will include as a minimum:
1. Type of incident (missing person, aircraft, etc).
  2. Time incident began.
  3. Number of personnel involved in the rescue by agency.
  4. Number of victims found alive, injured and deceased.
  5. Medical facilities that the victims have been transported to.
  6. Additional resources required.
- B. Logistics: Initial operations will be conducted using organic supplies that agencies already have on hand. As supplies are depleted agencies will use the purchasing and procurement procedures for their organization. As the incident expands and the EOC is activated all requests for supplies will be forwarded through the EOC.
- C. Provide a laptop computer for use in the ESF for WEBEOC access.

#### **VI. State and Federal Interface:**

- A. State Interface: The State of South Carolina has an Urban Search and Rescue team (SC Task Force 1 (SCTF-1)) that falls under the supervision of the SC Fire Academy. The state team can be requested to deploy to the county once it is determined that search and rescue needs have exceeded the capabilities of the county. Requests for the state US&R team will be forward through the County EOC to the State EOC. Once the tasking is issued to SCTF-1, the team will not have all its assets in the county for approximately eight (8) hours. Advance elements that will function in a liaison role should arrive in the county within six (6) hours of the request. The Incident Commander must have locations identified for SCTF-1 base camp and a staging area.
- B. Federal Interface:

1. This annex is supported by the National Response Plan ESF-9 (Urban Search and Rescue). The Regional Director of FEMA is authorized to provide federal assistance as emergency protective measures under the emergency and major disaster provision of the National Response Plan. ESF-9 will generally be a part of the Emergency response Team (ERT) and may be represented on the advance element of that team (ERT-A).
2. ESF-9 rapidly deploys components of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System to provide specialized lifesaving assistance. Operational activities include locating, extricating and providing on-site medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures. ESF-9 addresses only urban search and rescue and does not include any other form of search and rescue (e.g., water, wilderness, subterranean).
3. The National US&R Response System is an integrated system of US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams (ISTs) and technical specialists.
  - a. The system is built around a core of task forces primarily staffed by local emergency services personnel who are prepared to deploy immediately and initiate US&R operations. These teams are organized in seven functional teams (management, search, rescue, planning, logistics, medical and hazmat), with each team staffed to permit 24-hour operations. On activation, US&R task forces become federal assets.
  - b. ISTs provide coordination and logistical support to US&R task forces during emergency operations. They also provide needs assessments and provide technical advice.
  - c. Technical specialists provide expertise in various US&R disciplines to supplement task force and IST resources.
4. Requests for federal assistance forwarded to the State EOC will be tasked to State ESF-9, who is tasked with the responsibility to coordinate with Federal ESF-9 and obtain federal assistance as required.

**VII. Annex review and maintenance:** This annex (ESF) will be reviewed annually by the primary action agency, department or individual with changes submitted to the Emergency Services Department by November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year for inclusion into the EOP. Following exercises or actual events the annex will be reviewed to determine if changes are required. If no changes are required, the primary action agency, department or individual will certify to the Emergency Services Director that the annex has been reviewed and changes are not required.

**VIII. Coordinating Instructions:** This annex is effective for planning upon receipt and execution upon order.

Appendices:

Appendix 1. Search and rescue resource list

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Appendix 1 (Search and Rescue Resource List) to Annex 9 (ESF-9 -Search and Rescue) to the Darlington County Emergency Operations Plan

Search and Rescue Resource List  
(To be developed)