

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION – 9

Search and Rescue

PRIMARY AGENCY:	Police Department
SUPPORT AGENCIES:	Fire Department
	King County Sherriff’s Office

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

To provide for the effective utilization of Search and Rescue resources and operations. For the purposes of this ESF only, SAR refers to non-Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Operations.

B. SCOPE

State law encompasses both wilderness and disaster search and rescue. The federal government separates the two and covers wilderness search and rescue in the National Search and Rescue Plan and disaster search and rescue, specifically urban search and rescue, in the Federal Response Plan. Search and rescue in this ESF is defined as land and/or water search and rescue. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) will be coordinated by the City of Redmond Fire Department and is covered in more detail in ESF 4, Fire.

Air search and rescue is defined by RCW Chapter 47.68 and WAC Chapter 468.200.

II. POLICIES

- a. Land SAR operates in accordance with State and local jurisdiction plans. Requests for additional SAR resources, should one political subdivision be unable to provide the necessary or sufficient equipment, are coordinated with King County Sheriff’s Office.
- b. Air SAR for missing or downed civil aircraft is the responsibility of Department of Transportation (WSDOT) (Chapter 47.68 RCW) and WAC (Chapter 468.200).
- c. An Underground (Mine) SAR Plan is required by RCW 38.52.037.

- d. The Incident Command System (ICS) is the method for on-scene incident management for SAR operations within the State. In accordance with RCW 38.52.400 (1), ICS shall be used for multi-agency/multi-jurisdiction SAR operations.
- e. Redmond adheres to State law (Section 38.52.010 (7) RCW) to encompass both wilderness and disaster Search and Rescue (SAR).

III. SITUATION

A. INCIDENT CONDITIONS AND HAZARDS

See the City of Redmond's Hazards Identification and Vulnerability Assessment (HIVA) and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) for a description of potential emergency conditions and vulnerable populations.

B. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. No guarantee of a perfect response system is expressed or implied by this ESF. The City of Redmond will make every reasonable effort to respond based on the situation, information, and resources available at the time of the incident.
2. Available resources may become limited due to high demand in a large-scale incident.
3. All departments are required to support this ESF as necessary.
4. Roads providing access to SAR points may be obstructed or impassable.
5. SAR teams are trained to handle multiple rescue types and scenarios.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

ESF 9, Search and Rescue, manages and coordinates the response of local non-Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) resources in response to any incident involving search and rescue operations. These include, but are not limited to, aircraft, urban water, and woodlands incidents. This ESF utilizes established emergency service and search and rescue procedures. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs rests with local incident commanders.

B. PROCEDURES

1. The ESF 9 Coordinator is responsible for coordinating SAR resources and operations within the City.
2. Coordination with all supporting and other appropriate departments, agencies, and organizations will be performed to ensure continual operational readiness.
3. Applicable plans for appropriate use of personnel and equipment tasked for SAR missions will be activated upon initial coordination of rescue mission.
4. The staffing pattern and level will be dependent upon the nature and magnitude of the incident, the suddenness of onset, and the existence of SAR resources in the area.

C. PREVENTION AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

1. Review the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as a department and discuss implementation strategies.
2. Review proposed non-USAR legislation to assure it is supportive of the State's emergency management mission.
3. Support preventive SAR programs.

D. PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

1. Appoint a coordinator of SAR operations.
2. Establish systems to coordinate requests for SAR resources.
3. Support law enforcement personnel and volunteer organizations and individuals with SAR related training.
4. Assist in the organization of SAR units.
5. Coordinate and maintain liaison with local and regional SAR agencies.

E. RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

1. Initiate, coordinate, and direct land, air and/or water search and rescue operations within the City of Redmond.
2. Request water and urban search and rescue assistance through the Fire Department.
3. Request land search and rescue resource assistance through mutual aid agreements.

F. RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct a post-incident review to evaluate the incident.
2. Create After-Action Reports and Lessons Learned Reports.
3. Provide documentation of costs incurred by the incident to the City ECC.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Direct land and/or water search and rescue operations.
- b. Ensure staff is adequately trained to handle SAR operations.
- c. Establish mutual aid agreements and other plans for the sharing of resources during a SAR operation.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The City will provide resources necessary for conducting search and rescue operations until resources are expended at which time a request for assistance will be sent to the County EOC via the City ECC.

VII. REFERENCES

- a. Chapter 38.52 RCW.
- b. Redmond Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Assessment (HIVA)
- c. National Search and Rescue Plan
- d. Refer to primary and supporting departments' plans for further information supporting this ESF.