

| Concept of Operations | Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 9 Search and Rescue |
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| Lead Agency | Franklin County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) |
| Support Agencies | Apalachicola Police Department (APD) Carrabelle Police Department (CPD) Franklin County Emergency Management Department (FCEMD) Franklin County United Firefighters Association (FCUFA) |

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1.0 – Introduction

1.1 – Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to provide guidance to agencies involved in SAR¹ operations in the county. As a result of the rural nature of the county and the intensive nature of the process, SAR operations will involve the efforts of responders from a variety of government agencies and volunteer organizations.

1.2 – Scope

SAR operations after an emergency / disaster consist of locating survivors and / or bodies and removing them from hazardous situations. Injured survivors must be provided with medical treatment and then transported to a medical facility.

¹ Search and Rescue



The scope for SAR operations will vary, depending on the magnitude of the disaster. For minor or localized disasters, the most severely impacted areas will receive priority. However, for catastrophic disasters, areas of high population concentration must receive the highest priority.

1.3 – Assumptions

The county's capabilities to conduct SAR operations are limited.

In the event of a disaster requiring a sustained and / or large SAR the county will request outside assistance.

2.0 – Concept of Operations

2.1 – General

SAR operations in the county can involve several different scenarios. These scenarios include:

- Rescuing survivors or recovering bodies from debris following a tornado, hurricane or other severe weather event.
- Rescuing survivors or recovering the bodies of lost hunters or hikers in remote portions of the county.
- Rescuing survivors or recovering bodies of plane crashes.
- Rescuing survivors or recovering bodies involved in accidents on waterways.

Regardless of the situation, SAR operations in the county will be a multi-agency event involving responders from a number of local emergency response agencies, local volunteer organizations and possibly state agencies. Given the resource intensive nature of these operations, the SWO² will be notified that a SAR is in progress.

2.2 – Organization

This ESF is part of the Operations Section of the county's EOC³. The county's EOC utilizes the ICS⁴ structure during all activations.

2.3 – Primary Activities

2.3.1 – Rescue and Recovery Operations

² State Watch Office

³ Emergency Operations Center

⁴ Incident Command System



A representative from the FCSO will serve as the on-scene IC⁵ for SAR operations, unless this responsibility is delegated to a more qualified individual from another agency / organization.

Equipment and resources for SAR operations will come from several sources. The FCEMD's Resource Directory provides a comprehensive listing of agencies and organizations and the resources available within the county. These should be the first resource consulted to determine if SAR equipment and resources are available locally.

Operational procedures for SAR incidents will be determined by the specifics of each event and the capabilities of the responding agencies / organizations.

The on-scene IC is responsible for ensuring coordination with FCEMD and all appropriate agencies / organizations.

The FCEMD will coordinate with the SWO to ensure that support required from agencies / organizations outside the county is promptly obtained.

3.0 – Responsibilities – Lead and Support Agencies

3.1 – Lead Agency

Franklin County Sheriff's Office – Is responsible for coordinating all aspects of SAR in the county.

3.2 – Support Agencies

Apalachicola Police Department – Will provide assistance with all aspects of SAR operations in their respective jurisdiction.

Carrabelle Police Department – Will provide assistance with all aspects of SAR operations in their respective jurisdiction.

Franklin County Emergency Management Department – Is responsible for coordinating with the on-scene IC during SAR operations to ensure that the FCEMD can quickly obtain needed resources from the SWO.

Franklin County United Firefighters Association – Will assist with all aspects of SAR operations by mobilizing the equipment and manpower from the appropriate VFD⁶.

⁵ Incident Commander

⁶ Volunteer Fire Department

