

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #9

SEARCH AND RESCUE ANNEX

ESF LEAD

Vail Mountain Rescue Group

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Ambulance Providers
Eagle County Emergency Management
Law Enforcement Agencies
Civil Air Patrol
Fire Agencies
HAATS

PURPOSE

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 integrates the Search and Rescue (“SAR”) system around a core of task forces prepared to deploy immediately and initiate operations in support of ESF #9. These task forces are staffed primarily by local volunteers who are highly trained and experienced in search and rescue operations and possess specialized expertise and equipment.

This annex does not include urban search and rescue (USAR) as defined in ESF 9 of the National Response Plan. USAR involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. Structural collapse is most often the cause of victims being trapped, but victims may also be trapped in transportation accidents, mines, and collapsed trenches. For this function see ESF #4.

SCOPE

The Colorado Revised Statutes task the Sheriff to “be the official responsible for coordination of all search and rescue operations within the sheriff’s jurisdiction” and to “make use of the search and rescue capability and resources available within the county and request assistance from the office of emergency management only when and if the sheriff determines such additional assistance is required.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-707. For the purpose of this plan SAR activities may include but are not limited to:

- Searches and rescues in the wilderness areas for lost, missing, or endangered persons.
- Surface or underwater searches of lakes, ponds, or rivers.
- Searching for downed or missing aircraft.

The State of Colorado has signed an agreement with the Air Force SAR Coordinator for the Inland Region in support of the National Search and Rescue Plan. This agreement provides the Sheriff with the ability to contact Air Force air assets directly or via the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) or the Colorado Search and Rescue Board (CSRB).

INITIAL ACTIONS

- Responsible for situation assessment using the EOC situation worksheet and determination of resource needs of the local incident(s).

- ESF #9 is responsible for coordination of search and rescue missions within their assigned areas.
- All SAR operations will be managed under the Incident Command System.
- The Civil Air Patrol is responsible for conducting and coordinating all lost, missing and overdue aircraft searches in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office.
- Upon activation of the EOC, a member of a SAR organization or the Eagle County Sheriff's Office will respond to the Eagle County EOC as a SAR representative under ESF#9.