

## ESF-9 Search and Rescue

<b>ESF Coordinator</b>	Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO)
<b>Primary Agencies</b>	Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Snohomish County Municipal Fire Departments and Districts
<b>Supporting Agencies</b>	Law Enforcement Agencies Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Snohomish County Public Works (GIS) United States Navy United States Coast Guard United States Air Force Civil Air Patrol

*List Federal or State responsibilities and restate in responsibilities section if doing so lends clarity to the ESF*

Federal and State primary and supporting agency responsibilities for this ESF are outlined in the National Planning Frameworks (Federal) and Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

To provide for the effective utilization of search and rescue resources and provide for the control and coordination of various types of search and rescue operations involving persons in distress, resulting from an emergency, disaster, or catastrophic event.

### Scope

This ESF details the roles and responsibilities of agencies responding to Search and Rescue operations, either wild land or urban. State law encompasses both wild land and disaster (urban) SAR.

## II. POLICIES

Land SAR activities are initiated, coordination and directed by the local law enforcement agency responsible for the jurisdiction.

Air SAR for missing or downed civil aircraft is the responsibility of the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and appropriate Federal agencies.

### III. SITUATION

#### Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Refer to the Snohomish County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA) (published separately) for the natural and manmade events that may affect Snohomish County.

#### Planning Assumptions

Disasters may cause conditions that vary widely in scope, urgency and degree of devastation.

Substantial numbers of persons could be in life-threatening situations requiring prompt rescue and medical care.

Rescue personnel will encounter extensive damage to buildings, roadways, public works, communications and utilities.

Fires, landslides, flooding and hazardous materials releases will compound problems.

Weather conditions such as temperature extremes, snow, rain, and high winds may pose additional hazards for disaster victims and rescue personnel.

In some circumstances, rescue personnel may be at risk from terrorism, civil disorder, or crime.

Access to damaged areas may be restricted. Some sites may only be accessible by air or on foot.

The effects of earthquakes, aftershocks, secondary and cascading events, and other disasters will threaten survivors and search and rescue personnel.

### IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

#### General

Everyday in the county, agencies and departments may be asked to initiate a SAR mission that may require utilization of specific equipment and personnel for a life-safety situation.

Agencies must carry out pre-planning and training for such missions and include the possibilities for fire, confined spaces, high-rise structures, forested areas, swamps, water-ways, chemical and biological sites.

Responders may face different hardships or hindrances after a disaster because of extensive damage to infrastructure, environmental issues, downed power lines, unstable foundations, and exposure to various hazardous chemicals or blood-borne pathogens.

Search & Rescue operations will normally be controlled from a field command post location.

Large scale Search & Rescue may utilize the EOC for coordination of resources.

In the event of a search and rescue emergency, all necessary equipment and personnel, including organized volunteer services, will be mobilized and dispatched to the scene. Control of all emergency search and rescue functions will remain the responsibility of the law enforcement agency concerned.

The United States Coast Guard directs all SAR operations on or above navigable waters (waters where the Coast Guard maintains navigational aids and/or where there is commercial shipping and navigation).

The United States Air Force directs search operations for downed or missing military aircraft, scheduled carriers, aircraft carrying people or things of national significance, or aircraft of international origin and management of resource for inland SAR missions.

The radio frequency 155.160 MHz has been dedicated state wide for search and rescue communications purposes.

## Organization

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SCSO-SAR) Unit is the lead agency for all wilderness SAR operations and respective training events in Snohomish County. The SCSO-SAR Unit coordinates the operations of the SCSO Air Support Unit and assigned aircraft as well as the Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue (SCVSAR) Units.

Municipal Fire Departments and Districts are the lead agencies for urban search and rescue operations and will conduct rescue operations commensurate with the availability of equipment and trained personnel.

## Procedures

Upon receiving information of a possible SAR operation, the responsible law enforcement agency will initiate their SAR procedures.

When personnel from outside the law enforcement agency are used, the responsible agency will contact Emergency Management for a State Mission Number.

Direction and Control of the SAR operations will follow the concepts of the Incident Command System (ICS), with the responsible law enforcement agency being the Incident Command agency.

## Mitigation Activities

- Provide ongoing public education to recreational users
- Maintain an active SAR program.

## Preparedness Activities

Primary Agency

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- Provide SAR training to responsible personnel and appoint a SAR coordinator. SAR training shall include response to Urban SAR as well as wild land SAR.
- Develop and maintain support procedures for response to SAR operations.
- Develop and maintain a training program for personnel and volunteers for SAR operations.

#### Support Agencies

- Establish coordination with primary agency.
- Develop and maintain procedures for responding to SAR operations, which are coordinated with primary agency's procedures.
- Develop and maintain training for SAR operations.

### Response Activities

#### Primary Agency

- Initiate all SAR operations within their jurisdiction, except those operations tasked to State DOT, Aeronautics Division.
- Establish ICS for SAR operations and become Incident Command for all SAR operations, this includes Urban Search and Rescue.
- Provide trained personnel for SAR operations.
- Request additional resources, as appropriate.

#### Support agencies

- Provide resources for SAR operations, as appropriate.
- Respond following the concepts of the Incident Command System.

### Recovery Activities

- Assist in the return of all SAR resources in an organized fashion, so as to be able to respond to future SAR missions

## V. RESPONSIBILITIES

### General

All primary and supporting ESF agencies must have established disaster related policies, systems, and procedures for:

- Personnel accountability, safety, lines of authority and succession
- Providing logistical support to their personnel and equipment
- Facility / infrastructure damage assessment and reporting
- Continuity of operations to maintain essential services

- Facility / infrastructure repair and restoration

## Primary

### **Snohomish County Sheriff's Office**

- Provide direction and control to SAR operations in the unincorporated portion of Snohomish County in accordance with RCW 38.52 depending on the nature of the incident, the training resources and equipment available.
- May choose to delegate some or all of the SAR tasks depending on the nature of the incident under the Unified Command System.
- Assist in recruiting and training volunteers in SAR skills.
- Appoint a SAR Coordinator who will control SAR field operations and serve as advisor to local SAR units.
- Maintain SAR equipment and assess training needs.
- Develop and maintain a roster of personnel with SAR skills and training.
- Develop and maintain SAR training requirements and standards for Snohomish County
- Develop and maintain SAR suggested operating procedures

### **Police Chiefs of Municipalities within Snohomish County**

- Provide direction and control to SAR operations within their political subdivisions (municipalities) in accordance with RCW 38.52 depending on the nature of the incident, the training resources and equipment available.
- The police chief may request the Sheriff to perform this duty on behalf of his political subdivision.

### **Fire Departments/Districts**

- Fire services conduct rescue operations, commensurate with the training and availability of appropriate equipment.
- Assist with lost person searches when resources are available.
- Provide medical aid and medical transport.
- Provide technical rescue support commensurate with training and equipment.
- Provide incident command and staff for rescue operations or searches when requested.

## Supporting

### **Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management**

- Promotes survival and emergency preparedness education programs in consultation with local officials, volunteer and civic service organizations, to help minimize SAR incidents.
- Ensures all SAR personnel are appropriately registered as Emergency Workers as required by RCW 38.52.
- Secures SAR mission numbers from the State Emergency Management Division upon request from the SAR Coordinator, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

- Coordinates direct support to SAR operations at the request of the SAR Coordinator, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.
- Develop and maintain matrix of all additional and specific SAR resources to meet needs of Incident Commander including confined space rescue, trench and excavation rescue, high angle rescue, low angle rescue, urban search and rescue, underwater rescue, swift water rescue, marine rescue, ice rescue, wilderness search and rescue and hazardous materials rescue.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

## **VII. TABS**