



Montana Emergency Support Function #9 – Search and Rescue

Primary Agency:

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services



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Maintained by Department of Military Affairs
Disaster and Emergency Services Division

*This Annex is considered operational and serves as a guide for rendering assistance whenever the **Montana Emergency Response Framework (MERF)** is activated. It supersedes all previous editions*

Record of Changes

All changes to this plan annex are to be dated on the master copy kept by the Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (DES).

Date Posted	Change	Recommending Agency/Individual

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Section I: Agencies

Coordinating Agency:

Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

Primary Agency:

Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

Support Agencies:

Montana Department of Justice

Montana Department of Military Affairs

Montana Department of Transportation

Section II: Purpose & Scope

Purpose:

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 – Search and Rescue (SAR) coordinates state SAR resources to provide lifesaving assistance to local, tribal, and state authorities when there is an actual or anticipated request for state assistance.

Scope:

Search and rescue is a statutory authority granted to the Sheriff of each county and codified in Montana Code Annotated 7 -32-2121. The State can assist the Sheriff with the use of State resources. Search and Rescue activities may include:

- Structural Collapse Urban Search and Rescue.
- Waterborne Search and Rescue.
- Wilderness Search and Rescue.
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue.

Section III: Assumptions & Relationships

Assumptions

For the purpose of designing responses in an all-hazard environment, this annex outlines the following assumptions:

- A major disaster or emergency situation may result in large numbers of displaced, stranded, lost or trapped individuals needing prompt rescue and medical attention.
- The first 72 hours of a search and rescue are the most critical in terms of reducing the mortality rate of an incident and therefore must begin as soon as possible.
- The safety of the rescue personnel is foremost in any operation.
- Search and rescue personnel often need to be trained to deal with extreme or dangerous terrain for operations in remote areas. Similarly, they may need to work in dangerous conditions such as partially collapsed structures or areas with hazardous materials. These situations often require specialized skills that may not be available in a particular community and experts may need to be brought in from other areas.
- Volunteer search and rescue personnel are familiar with the ICS and NIMS organization and have completed the basic training in both.

- Search and rescue operations may continue to increase as population and recreational opportunities continue to grow.
- Operations may be overwhelmed during emergencies and disasters.
- Local search and rescue efforts may require technical assistance from other agencies, counties, and the State.
- Access to impacted locations may be limited due to steep or rocky terrain, water, or structural barriers. Some areas may only be accessible by aircraft or boat.
- Rapid assessment of impacted areas and lost individuals will assist in the determination of response priorities.
- A missing or lost person is always considered to be alive and in need of rescue until such time that a person of authority (such as the Sheriff) concludes that there is no chance of survival or support, including rescue and is no longer required.
- inclement weather may be a factor in any urban/technical search and rescue activity - restricting the types of resources to be used, the length of time they can be used and even the locations to be searched.
- Under some circumstances, the incident scene is also a crime scene and care must be taken to protect evidence.

Relationships

This section describes how this Annex relates to key agencies and stakeholders. Basic concepts that apply to key agencies and stakeholders include:

Local & Tribal Governments

The Sheriff of each county and tribal authorities are responsible for SAR within their respective jurisdictions and typically designates trained deputies or SAR coordinators to act as incident commanders in support of highly skilled volunteer SAR teams/groups and to provide integration and coordination of all search and rescue services. If a Sheriff or tribal official publishes guidance or a plan for conducting unified search and rescue operations, that guidance or plan takes precedence.

Most Sheriff's and tribal authorities in Montana depend on volunteer search and rescue teams/groups for most search and rescue operations across Montana. Volunteer search and rescue teams are auxiliary to the Sheriff or tribal official within their respected jurisdictions. ESF #9 augments the support provided by the volunteer search and rescue teams/groups when requested by sheriff's and tribal authorities.

In a major disaster (e.g., devastating earthquakes), demand for search and rescue resources may exceed local and tribal area capability. Local and tribal mutual aid and assistance networks facilitate the sharing of resources to support response activities. Local and tribal authorities are responsible for obtaining required waivers and clearances related to ESF #9 support and are responsible for requesting state support through the jurisdiction's emergency management agencies when incident exceeds local capabilities.

Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs are ascertained primarily through the local and tribal incident management system. Shortages resources are adjudicated at the lowest jurisdictional level. Local and tribal law enforcement offices coordinate with the local or on-site Incident Commander within the disaster area to determine evacuation areas, roadblocks, and access control points.

Private Sector/Non-Governmental Organizations

Through the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers Association, county Sheriff's Offices will be able to provide the following from either their own resources or implementing Memorandum of Agreements/Understandings with other counties to provide the following:

- Management Team to include Liaison and Search Coordinator/s
- Computer aided programs for mapping purposes
- Manpower for ground searches
- Specialty craft: Watercraft/Snowmobile/ATB/Rotary aviation asset
- Animals: Search canines and Equestrian Teams
- Radio equipment for members or teams of members
- All personnel are uniformed for identification purposes and
- Should be considered as Auxiliary Officers/Deputies during any search mission

In a Memorandum of Understanding with DES, the Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol may conduct SAR Missions to search for, locate and relieve a distress situation (including overdue aircrafts); attempt to locate Emergency Locator Transmitters and persons in distress; and conduct Airborne Photography flight to provide photographs of distress areas.

Upon request the Montana Fire Services Mutual Aid may provide lite Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) resources and other equipment.

State Government

Montana Aeronautics SAR Division accomplishes the requirements of the air search operations by utilizing Montana Volunteer pilots and their aircraft. Air search operations are divided up into 14 Districts comprised of three to eight counties. In each of the 14 Districts are a volunteer coordinator and co-coordinator to assist in the planning and operations of the search.

State departments and agencies are responsible, within their statutory authorities, for providing assistance to local jurisdictions when local capabilities are overwhelmed by a disaster. The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) serves as the principal point for coordinating state, local, tribal, and federal resources as in the delivery of emergency assistance to affected jurisdiction(s).

The SECC will coordinate with the primary agency and support agencies in the use of state resources to support ESF #9 response activities. When activated to respond to an incident, the primary agency and support agencies for ESF #9 develop work priorities in cooperation with local Sheriff's and tribal governments and in coordination with the SECC.

If the Governor has declared an emergency, resources may be requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the nation's state-to-state mutual aid system that is process through the SECC.

Section IV: Core Capabilities

The following table list the core capabilities and their key activities that the coordinating, primary, and supporting agencies collectively support. Though not listed in the table, all ESFs, including ESF #9, support the core capabilities of Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning.

<u>CORE CAPABILITIES</u>	Key Activities – The SECC coordinates with the primary agency and supporting agencies to coordinate resources in support and response for the following key activities during actual or potential incidents:
Mass Search and Rescue Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activates when an incident is anticipated or occurs and may result in a request for a unified SAR response to an affected area. • Meets the specific needs of each incident and is scalable based upon the nature and magnitude of the event, the suddenness of onset, and the capability of local SAR resources. Response resources are drawn from ESF #9 primary and support agencies. • Assesses the specific SAR requirements and coordinates state SAR resources for SAR for that particular incident. Coordination of state SAR resources are dependent upon incident circumstances and the type of response required. • Coordinates planning and operations between primary and support agencies. • Coordinate resolution of conflicting operational demands for SAR response resources.

Section V: Operational Functions

The following table lists the operational functions that both the primary agency and supporting agencies most directly support for ESF # 9:

<u>PRIMARY AGENCY</u>	Operational Functions – Montana Disaster and Emergency Services serves as the primary agency. The operational functions for the primary agency may include the following:
Montana Disaster & Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates contracting, acquisitions, and deployments of SAR personnel, equipment, and supplies in response to requests for State assistance, as appropriate. • Coordinates National Guard assistance, when requested and upon approval by the Governor. • Coordinates and/or deploys personnel to fill positions in operations centers and on emergency response teams and other entities, as necessary. • Coordinates emergency-related response and recovery functions related to SAR. • Coordinates international and domestic offers of SAR-related assistance and support. • Provides assistance in the allocation and prioritization of SAR resources. • Provides equipment and personnel as needed for immediate lifesaving response operations. • Coordinates EMAC, Federal, and International offers of SAR support. • Coordinates and/or provides situational awareness regarding SAR.

SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Operational Functions – The operational functions for the supporting agencies may include the following:
Montana Department of Justice	<p>Montana Analysis & Technical Information (MATIC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated by the Governor as the fusion center in Montana. • A focal point for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of public safety and threat related information for the purposes of decision making for local, state, federal, and tribal partners while ensuring the rights and privacy of citizens. • Provides relevant information on criminal activity and credible threats that could potentially threaten public safety and critical infrastructure security to appropriate partners. <p>Highway Patrol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts evidence collection and analysis of all intentional human-caused related crime scenes. • Supports local death scene investigations and evidence recovery. • Responds to acts of criminal mass victimization (i.e., mass violence or domestic or international terrorism) and coordinates with local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. • Supports special events with a Special Events Support Unit (S.E.S.U) which has up to 30 Troopers. • Supports SAR operations with rotary aviation assets with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR), radio technicians, communications, and Snow Cats. <p>Forensic Science Division: Medical Examiner System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines cause and manner of death, identify bodies, and document injuries. • Provides technical assistance concerning identification of the deceased consistent with cultural sensitivity practices. <p>Office of Victim Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides tools and information to help victims from an intentional human-caused incident recover from their experience and provide them with a range of services as they go through the justice system. <p>Missing Persons Clearinghouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists law enforcement agencies in entering the necessary information into state and national databases, and in identifying missing and unidentified persons.
Montana Department of Military Affairs	<p>Army National Guard <i>Upon approval by the Governor:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides personnel, air support, ground vehicles, liaison to coordinate with other military agencies, and other SAR equipment as appropriate. <p>Air National Guard <i>Upon approval by the Governor:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides aircrafts and USAR team.

Montana Department of Transportation	Aeronautics Division <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for the air search for missing aircraft.• Assists the Flight Service Station with overdue aircraft and is responsible for Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) broadcasts in the state of Montana.• Accomplishes the requirements of the air search operations by utilizing 300 Montana Volunteer pilots and their aircraft, fourteen district coordinators, Becker Direction Finding Receiver, and two fixed wing aircrafts.
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