

**OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #9**

**SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Adjutant General's Department,  
Ohio National Guard (ONG)  
Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)  
Ohio Highway Patrol (OSHP)  
Ohio Task Force One (OHTF-1)

**I INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose

ESF-9 provides for the guidance and organization of state agencies that may be employed during Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. SAR operations include, but are not limited to, the location, recovery, and extrication of victims who become lost or entrapped as the result of a major disaster or life-threatening emergency.

**II SITUATION**

- A. Every day in Ohio, agencies and/or departments may be tasked to initiate a SAR mission that may require the utilization of air, ground, and water rescue operations to preserve life.
- B. Agencies that conduct preplanning for SAR mission(s) must consider hazards such as fire, confined space rescue, high-rise structures, forested areas, recreational areas/facilities, waterways, chemical/nuclear/biological locations.
- C. Responders may face added difficulties or hindrances after a disaster because of extensive damage to the local infrastructure. Such damage then may create environmental safety and health hazards such as downed power lines, unstable foundations or structures, exposure to biohazards, toxins, and blood-borne pathogens.
- D. Responders must also take into consideration when their safety and the safety of the victims are being impacted by severe weather conditions such as temperature extremes, snow, rain, and high winds.

#### E. Assumptions

1. Every community experiences the need for search and rescue operations.
2. Many of these experiences only necessitate the need for local resources or responders.
3. Especially in the case of a localized incident, community volunteers often freely want to offer assistance with the mission. Extreme caution must be exercised with untrained and often unorganized volunteers to prevent either their personal injury or contamination of the search area.
4. Access to the areas impacted by the disaster may be limited or restricted. Initially some areas may only be accessible to aviation or maritime assets.

### III CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

#### A. General

1. When it is determined that the scope of the incident will or has overwhelmed local and state resources, ODNR is the primary agency for Search and Rescue operations in Ohio.
2. A concentrated effort will be directed towards locations where there exists the greatest potential for finding survivors.

#### B. Overview

1. A staging area for all incoming agencies to be involved in the SAR mission(s) will be established.
2. If the need exists, additional communications resources or redundant systems will be established.
3. Emergency operations will acquire the resources necessary to sustain the mission(s) and to meet the needs of the responders. Examples of such resources may include shelter, food supplies, fuel, and sanitation facilities. ESF-7 will coordinate the provision of resources in support of ESF-9 operations.
4. Emergency Operations will determine the best location for media to set up their operations and will assign a person to serve as the PIO and will establish a media briefing schedule.
5. Emergency Operations will ensure that the completion of all incident/damage assessment reports occurs in a timely manner.
6. Emergency Operations will account for all equipment utilized during the mission(s).

7. Emergency Operations will order an operations/mission(s) stand-down, and schedule an after-action critique and/or review.
8. The State SAR Coordinator will go to the Ohio EOC when requested by the OEMA Duty Officer. They will brief Ohio EOC representatives and coordinate between local, state and federal resources involved in ESF-9.
9. Each agency involved in the SAR mission(s) will maintain authority with its jurisdiction and relay regular to the State SAR Coordinator.
10. All mutual-aid/support requests, including OHTF-1 activation will be submitted through established channels. When mutual-aid is activated, the Incident Commander will insure that resources at the scene are integrated into the established ICS.
11. EMAC requests will be processed by Ohio EMA in cooperation with a designated lead agency.
12. Mission and activity reports and documentation will be generated at the agency level and submitted to the Primary Agency for presentation in the EOC.
13. Expenditure reports and documentation will be generated at the agency level and will be submitted to both the OH EMA SAR Coordinator and OH EMA R&R Branch for inclusion in possible reimbursement requests.

<b>Comparison Chart for ESF-9 Organizations</b>		
<b><u>State Organizations</u></b>	<b><u>Federal Organizations</u></b>	<b><u>Local Organizations</u></b>
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service U.S. Coast Guard Department of Homeland Security Department of the Interior Department of Labor	*
Adjutant General's Department, Ohio National Guard	U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	*
Ohio Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation	County Engineers
Ohio EMA	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response, FEMA	County EMAs
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	*	Local Hazmat teams
Ohio State Highway Patrol	U.S. Department of Justice	County Sheriffs, Local Law Enforcement

Ohio Task Force One (OH TF-1)	FEMA	Local Fire/Police
*	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	*
*	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Border and Transportation Security	*
*	Federal Communications Commission	*
*	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	*

#### **IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**

##### **A. Ohio Department of Natural Resources**

As ESF-9 Primary Agency, ODNR will provide the following resources:

1. Upon activation of ESF-9, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be the Primary Agency and, as needed, will coordinate the assignment of search and rescue (SAR) missions to the appropriate lead agencies.
2. Heavy equipment ( i.e. bulldozers, back hoes, dump trucks) to assist with SAR.
3. Law enforcement personnel.
4. Air assets, including fixed wing and rotary aircraft.
5. A mobile command and communication vehicle with self-contained trailer.
6. Water vessels to provide search and rescue operations upon any waters of the state.
7. Side-scan sonar, underwater video capabilities, night vision and thermal imaging equipment.
8. A wide range of vehicles to support operations, including 4x4 vehicles and all-terrain vehicles.
9. Canine units to assist in searches.

## B. Adjutant General's Department, Ohio National Guard

1. When a Governor's declaration has been issued, ONG can provide general and unique engineering services such as debris hauling, emergency road repairs, and emergency erosion control and demolitions.
2. ONG will augment civilian law enforcement agencies to prevent looting, prevention of unauthorized scene access, or maintaining the continuance of routine services to the communities.
3. ONG will provide emergency medical services such as vaccinating humans and provide emergency transportation to medical providers.
4. ONG will provide ground or air transportation services for food, water, and medical supplies to stranded areas.
5. Where potable water is not available to the civilian populous, ONG can provide emergency water purification equipment.
6. ONG aviation has the ability to provide reconnaissance/survey platforms, global positioning systems for accurate pin-pointing of locations, the establishment of SAR grids, transportation of victims and rescuers and serve as a communications link (UHF, VHF, and AM). ONG aviation resources include both fixed and rotary winged aircraft.
7. ONG can deploy "Crisis Action Response Vehicles" (CARV). These mobile communications packages provide multi-means communications in the area(s) of operations or to other CARVs. Included is the ability for the CARVs to communicate with Ohio EMA, ODNR, ODOT, and OSHP.

## C. Ohio Department of Transportation

1. Provide vehicles to assist in debris removal and access to SAR mission(s) area(s).
2. Provide for the transportation of supplies and equipment to the effected area(s).
3. Provide both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.
4. Coordinate all aviation assets for the State.
5. If necessary, ODOT will intercede with the Federal Aviation Administration to limit or restrict the air space near the scene of the mission(s).

#### D. Ohio Emergency Management Agency

1. Upon activation of ESF-9, the Ohio Emergency Operations Center will be the central coordinating location for all state and federal agencies/resources involved in the SAR mission(s).
2. The State EOC Staff Duty Officer or the Ohio EMA SAR Coordinator will serve as the liaison between the SAR Command Center(s) and the Ohio EOC.
3. The Ohio EMA PIO will coordinate with other PIOs for the dissemination of information to the media and the general public.

#### E. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

1. The Ohio EPA Right to Know Unit may provide information regarding chemical inventory risks associated with the SAR mission at facilities using, producing or storing hazardous and extremely dangerous hazardous substances in excess of the threshold planning quantities set forth in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3750.
2. DERR personnel, assigned to districts throughout the state, are available for on scene, at the EOC, or via telephone consultation regarding potential chemical exposure during SAR mission (s).

#### F. Ohio State Highway Patrol

1. Provide aviation support to a mission. OSHP has both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft equipped with special features such as “night-sun” and “FLIR” – Forward Looking Infrared.
2. Within 2.5 – 3 hours after activation, a 9-person self contained team can arrive on scene to assist with searches and rescues.
3. Like ODOT, OSHP can obtain air space restrictions from the FAA.
4. OSHP can provide site security and access restrictions to areas upon request.
5. OSHP can assist in establishing communications webs and command centers.

#### G. Ohio Task Force One

1. Available contingent of 62 SAR trained, FEMA recognized, personnel throughout the state.

2. For the first 72 hours after deployment, the team is totally self-sufficient, including but not limited to, food, fuel, repair/replacement equipment, and communications resources.

**V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF-9**

- A. Each agency, department or jurisdiction shall be responsible for the maintenance of all agreements, SOPs, SOGs, MOUs, and ESFs.
- B. Agencies who are involved in the SAR mission(s) will be expected to provide the necessary support for their own personnel (food, water, lodging, fuel, and equipment).