

SEDGWICK COUNTY
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
2025-2030



ESF 9 – Search & Rescue

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ESF 9 - Search & Rescue

Coordinating Agency:

Sedgwick County Fire District #1

Primary Agency:

City of Bentley Volunteer Fire Department

City of Cheney Fire Department

City of Clearwater Fire Department

City of Colwich Fire Department

City of Derby Fire Department

City of Mulvane Fire Services

City of Sedgwick Fire Department

City of Valley Center Fire Department

City of Viola Volunteer Fire Department

City of Wichita Fire Department

Support Agencies:

Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

KS Search & Rescue Dog Association

SAR Working Group

Sedgwick County Emergency Management

Sedgwick County Geographic Information Services

Sedgwick County Emergency Management K9 Search and Rescue Team

I. Purpose and Scope

Purpose

The purpose of the ESF-9 Search and Rescue Annex is to establish how search and rescue activities will be coordinated to meet the needs generated by disasters affecting Sedgwick County.

Scope

This annex identifies the key policies, concepts of operations, roles and responsibilities, and capabilities associated with ESF-9 Search and Rescue in Sedgwick County. It applies to all individuals and organizations and search and rescue services that may be required to support disaster response and recovery operations.

Wichita Fire Department and Sedgwick County Fire District #1 and other primary and supporting agencies have existing emergency plans and procedures. ESF 9 is not designed to take the place of these plans or procedures.

Specifically, ESF 9 addresses:

- Concept of Operations including command, control and notification
- Activation of ESF 9 and implementation of the County Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP)
- Incident management
- Coordination
- Search and rescue capabilities, including:

- Victim recovery
- Considerations of those with functional and access needs and children
- Roles of the Coordinating, Primary and Support Agencies

II. Policies, References and Authorities

State

- Executive Order 05-03, Use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS);
- Kansas Statutes and Annotated (K.S.A.) 48-950, Kansas Mutual Aid System;
- Kansas Statutes Annotated (KSA), 48-9a01, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC);
- KSA 48-904 through 48-958: as amended, State and County Emergency Management Responsibilities;
- Kansas Response Plan

Federal

- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- National Response Framework;
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive – 5: Management of Domestic Incidents;
- Presidential Policy Directive – 8: National Preparedness; • Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG) 101;
- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

III. Concept of Operations

General (Command, Control, and Notifications.)

The Incident, Unified or Area Commander will keep Emergency Management informed of Search and Rescue situations that escalate beyond normal capabilities through Sedgwick County Emergency Communication Center or by contacting the Emergency Management Duty Officer line. Activation of ESF 9 may result from either, 1) a Search and Rescue incident originating from Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Center that has escalated beyond normal capabilities, or 2) another primary event resulting in EOC activation that requires search and rescue capabilities.

If at any time during response to a Search and Rescue event, the Incident, Unified or Area Commander determines that additional assistance beyond normal operations is needed; they will request that the Emergency Management Department activate the EOC and the Sedgwick County Emergency Operations Plan.

Technical Search and Rescue operations will be controlled by the Incident, Unified or Area Commander(s) at the scene(s) within the Incident Command System (ICS) structure. The Incident, Unified or Area Commander(s) will assess the need for additional resources and request that the EOC deploy assets to support field operations.

The Incident, Unified, or Area Commander(s) will provide information on pertinent activities at the

scene in order to maintain situational awareness to the EOC. Information may be relayed from the field to the EOC via the Sedgwick County Public Safety Communications Center or directly from field personnel by radio, email, text or telephone.

When the Emergency Management Department Duty Officer (DO) is notified of an event that requires the activation of the EOC, emergency management staff will determine which part, parts or if a full activation is required. This process is detailed in the ESF-5 "Information and Planning" annex. If ESF 9 made the initial request for EOC activation, it will automatically be activated. If a disaster or major incident resulted in activation of the EOC and it is determined that ESF 9 will be activated, the Emergency Management Department will notify the designated Coordinating Agency, as appropriate, and request representatives to report to the EOC to attend an initial briefing regarding the situation.

Sedgwick County Fire District #1 is the Coordinating Agency for ESF 9. Depending on the location and complexity of the event, one or more representatives of Primary Agencies may be requested to report to the EOC. A representative from the coordinating agency will automatically report to the EOC for all incidents involving ESF 9 activation in Sedgwick County. If operations are within the legal jurisdictional boundaries of any other municipality within Sedgwick County, the respective Fire Department may also choose to send a representative to the EOC.

Depending on the complexity or severity of the event, the Emergency Management Director, or designee, may advise that the Board of County Commissioner the need to declare a local disaster declaration. See- Local Disaster Declaration for more details.

Once activated, the ESF 9 Coordinating Agency is responsible for contacting primary and support agencies with liaison roles, collecting, processing and disseminating information to and from the EOC and for initiation of search and rescue activities in support of emergency operations.

ESF 9 operations will be controlled through the incident command post with coordination from the EOC for resources. In some instances, operations may be coordinated from a fire department's Department Operations Center (DOC). If a Fire Department DOC is activated, when requested, the ESF 9 liaison will report to the Sedgwick County EOC to ensure close coordination and joint decision-making. If needed, other support agencies may be asked to report to the EOC to assist with ESF 9 activities.

The ESF 9 Coordinating Agency will:

- Work with the EOC to rapidly assess the situation and take appropriate actions to support search and rescue operations at the scene(s);
- Assess the need to request specialized search and rescue resources from outside Sedgwick County;
- Serve as the liaison with search and rescue resources from outside the county, including State and Federal agencies;
- Work with ESF 3, Public Works and Engineering, to ensure heavy equipment support is available to support search and rescue operations;
- Coordinate with the ESF 8, Public Health and Medical Services, to ensure coordination of emergency medical assistance and victim transport;
- Manage the collection, processing and dissemination of information to and from the EOC;

- Work with the Incident, Area, or Unified Commander(s) and the EOC to ensure search and rescue personnel deployed to the disaster scene are appropriately outfitted with, and trained to use, personal protective equipment required by the presence of any potentially hazardous materials/substances; and
- Will work with the EOC and other partners to formulate and request a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) if requested.

Emergency medical services will automatically be dispatched to search and rescue scenes. They provide medical monitoring of rescue personnel and provide emergency medical care to injured victims. In addition, the American Red Cross has the ability to set up rehabilitation stations. In lengthy or complex events other Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters are available to assist at rehabilitation stations.

Search and Rescue Capabilities

Sedgwick County

Both Wichita Fire Department and Sedgwick County Fire District #1 have the following specialized search and rescue capabilities:

- Rope Rescue – Low and High Angle
- Confined Space Rescue
- Water Rescue – Surface and Sub-surface, flood, swiftwater, ice
- Trench and/or Excavation Rescue
- Structural Collapse Search and/or Rescue
- Elevator Rescue
- Grain Elevator Rescue/Engulfment
- Tower Rescue

In addition to the above, Wichita Fire Department maintains a FEMA Type 1 Live Find Canine Search Team and two Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) equipped with PTZ and thermal imaging cameras.

Sedgwick County Emergency Management also houses a volunteer K9 Search and Rescue Team that provides air scent, trailing/tracking, and human remains detection services that can be requested to assist.

All fire departments within Sedgwick County maintain mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions with various search and rescue capabilities. Mutual aid resources are usually activated through the Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Center but may be activated through ESF 9.

Decisions regarding whether or not to call for mutual aid are made by the Incident, Unified, or Area Commander and are based on the following criteria:

- Type and scale of event, and potential to escalate,
- Size of area to be searched, • Time of day, and
- Weather.

The Incident, Unified or Area Commander, in coordination with Search and Rescue Operations will make the decision to change from a “Search and Rescue operation” to a “recovery operation”. Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire District #1 are participating agencies for the Kansas Fire

Marshal's Office Search and Rescue Program and as such are able to self-sustain search and rescue activities for up to 72 hours.

In the event heavy equipment or engineering resources are needed for search and rescue activities, ESF 9 will coordinate with ESF 3.

State

The State of Kansas is divided geographically into seven (7) Homeland Security regions. A Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force and a Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team are typed according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) "Resource Typing Definitions for Mass Search and Rescue Operations", and are available based upon request.

Each US&R Task Force and/or Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resource is deployable 24/7 in one of the following deployment options:

- **Advance Deployment:** Select members of the US&R Task Force and/or Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resource can be requested as an Advance Team that can respond quickly within their respective region, specifically for the purpose of providing technical assistance to the Incident Commander or affected jurisdiction regarding search and rescue operations.
- **Regional Deployment:** Any Technical Rescue resource can be requested directly by an Incident Commander or jurisdiction within their respective region to provide an immediate mutual aid response with on-duty personnel and equipment.
- **State Deployment:** Each US&R Task Force and/or Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resource can be requested to provide assistance outside of their respective region or outside the state. The US&R Task Force and/or Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resource is expected to be mobilized and en-route within two (2) hours of notification and be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours. Request for a state deployment must be made through the SEOC or the Emergency Response Division of the OSFM.

The structure and organization of each US&R Task Force and Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resource is modeled after other state and federal US&R Task Forces and Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resources to maintain consistency throughout the country. Each US&R Task Force and Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team resource is deployable 24/7 through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) or the Emergency Response Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The following fire departments within the south-central Kansas region comprise Kansas Search and Rescue Task Force #5, a NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force which serves south-central Kansas.

- Arkansas City Fire and EMS
- Derby Fire and Rescue
- Great Bend Fire Department
- McPherson Fire Department
- Newton Fire and EMS
- Sedgwick County Fire District #1
- Wichita Fire Department
- Winfield Fire Department

Depending on the type of search and rescue operations required, the appropriate Regional Technical Search and Rescue System resources will be deployed at the request of the Incident Commander (IC).

Federal

In the event of a large-scale disaster and/or incident, a request could be made for a Federal Emergency Management Agency US&R team from the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System. This request must be made to the EOC and once approved; the EOC would make the request from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The closest teams to Sedgwick County in the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System are based out of Columbia, Missouri and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Victim Rescue and Recovery

The process for handling victims with no injuries will be determined and managed by the law enforcement agencies in Sedgwick County. Law Enforcement partners will work with the EOC to access transportation resources as needed by the event. After initial triage, Emergency Medical Services will provide additional care to injured victims and transport to the appropriate medical facility. If the event is a Mass Casualty Incident, EMS will activate and operate under their MCI protocol/procedures and work with response partners on-scene to triage, treat and transport victims in a timely manner.

The Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center is responsible for fatality and remains management, it will coordinate the process and procedures for recovery of fatality victims and partial remains. The Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center will coordinate the transport of fatality victims and partial remains as dictated by needs of the incident.

When it comes to entering private property. Departments will seek permission from the property owner and will also stick to their policies and procedures regarding entering property.