Emergency Support Function 9 – Urban Search and Rescue

Primary Agency Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

Support Agencies
- Illinois Department of Transportation - Division of Aeronautics (IDOT-A)
- Illinois Department of Transportation - Division of Highways (IDOT-H)
- Illinois Department of Military Affairs (IDMA)
- Illinois State Police (ISP)
- Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

I. Introduction
   A. Purpose
      1. This Annex describes the management function of Search and Rescue within the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). All forms of search and rescue, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR - [post disaster or collapsed structure]) and Rural Search and Rescue (SAR [wide or remote area]) are addressed in this Annex.
      2. It includes information on the procedure to activate local and State SAR assets and organizations, Federal SAR assets through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, and Federal USAR task forces and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Support Teams (ISTs).

   B. Scope
      1. The scope of the Search and Rescue Annex is to establish the parameters for utilization of these skills and the procedures required to obtain these resources for disaster operations.
2. Each type of search and rescue will require different assets, expertise and equipment, with USAR operations conducted in confined areas, while rural SAR operations are conducted over large, wide spread areas.

II. Assumptions

A. The SEOC serves as the State Search and Rescue Coordination Center.

B. Large disasters can result in the need for urban and/or rural Search and Rescue needs for missing persons, vehicles, aircraft and/or boats operating in the affected area.

C. FEMA will be prepared to provide at least one Incident Support Team (IST) for USAR operations in Illinois, if requested.

D. The critical time frame for SAR operation is the first 72 hours after the incident. An estimated 80% of victims will either be able to help themselves or be found by neighbors. The remaining victims will need specialized assistance to be located and extricated.

E. The increased threat of terrorism has made USAR teams an important disaster response element. The special training and resources USAR teams provide will greatly enhance the ability of responders to save lives after a terrorist attack.

F. Any Federal USAR task forces, or SAR assets used in civil SAR in Illinois will remain under the direction of IEMA in accordance with the IDMS.

G. The State has created Illinois USAR teams. These USAR teams have been modeled after the federal teams and mirror federal training and procedures. This will provide Illinois with a quick USAR response without relying completely on the federal teams.

III. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. IEMA will develop agreements, Memoranda of Understanding
and procedures to support the conduct of Search and Rescue.

2. The SEOC will confirm mobilization center locations and develop initial Search and Rescue requirements.

3. USAR information will be provided to the USAR Program Manager at FEMA along with any requests for the appropriate number of task forces and Incident Support Team(s) (IST).

4. IEMA will identify a cadre of qualified personnel to assist in USAR initial situation assessment. In highly populated areas, a systematic damage assessment procedure will assist in determining the USAR requirement.

B. Notification

1. Upon notification of an on-going SAR mission, IEMA will ascertain and verify the exact local jurisdictional needs, and contact the appropriate SAR resource provider.

2. Depending on the nature of the search, IEMA will contact the Region V USAR Program Manager or the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC).

3. Federal assets responding to a SAR or USAR mission in Illinois will notify the SEOC of their assets, capabilities, limitations, special requirements and estimated time of arrival.

C. Operational Structure

1. Initial Search and Rescue operations will be coordinated from the SEOC.

2. The SEOC will identify the organizational structure, assets, mission base(s) and support structure required for each search mission or search operations area.

3. The IST, if activated, will deploy to the location of the UAC Team. Liaisons will be dispatched to the SEOC. Technical support personnel will be sent to the mobilization center, point of arrival and anticipated base of operations.
4. Management of search and rescue assets may transition from SEOC to the UAC once the full supporting structure is operational. (Once search and rescue assets are given mission assignments, the Search Mission Coordinator assumes tactical management of the assets until the mission is complete. When the mission is complete, the Search Mission Coordinator will release the assets, which may be reassigned to another SAR mission, restaged at the mobilization center or released to their parent organization.) Operational control returns to the SEOC, which retains management responsibility for the SAR assets until they are demobilized and returned to their original point of departure.

D. Federal Coordination

1. Under a Presidential Declaration of a major disaster or emergency, State agencies may coordinate with their Federal counterparts when Federal assets are required.

IV. Responsibilities

A. Primary Agency - Illinois Emergency Management Agency

1. serves as the State Search and Rescue Coordinator,

2. estimates, in coordination with local government official(s), the USAR or SAR Task Force(s) needed,

3. coordinates notification, deployment and arrival of the SAR and USAR assets,

4. coordinates with the other states to determine the availability of search and rescue assets,

5. coordinates with the affected areas to ensure technical assistance needs are met,

6. ensures the UAC is adequately staffed to meet the search and rescue mission(s),
7. coordinates the resupplying of forces.

B. Support Agencies

1. Illinois Department of Transportation - Division of Aeronautics
   a. provides a liaison to the SEOC, aircraft to conduct limited SAR operations and USAR assessment missions, qualified personnel to assist in the management of SAR missions and transportation for SAR assets,
   b. assists in the selection of, and provides coordination with, selected airports for use as mobilization centers, assembly or staging areas, or as forward mission airfields.

2. Illinois Department of Transportation - Division of Highways
   a. assists in determining transportation requirements, routes and available assets for movement of SAR assets and USAR Task Forces in the disaster area,
   b. provides heavy equipment and engineers to support heavy rescue, bridge and roadway assessment, and debris removal,
   c. provides for the construction of temporary roads and access routes into an affected area.

3. Illinois Department of Military Affairs
   a. assists in coordinating logistical, transportation and communication requirements of search and rescue forces in the disaster area,
   b. provides aircraft and aircrews to conduct search, rescue and assessment operations,
   c. provides facilities support to disaster search bases, assembly areas and staging areas,
d. provides manpower and equipment to support heavy rescue and debris removal.

4. Illinois State Police

a. provides security to SAR bases and USAR sites,

b. provides aircraft and aircrews to conduct search and assessment operations,

c. provides, through Air Operations, aerial surveillance, photography, forward infrared heat sensing devices or transportation of personnel,

d. provides manpower and K-9's for search and rescue efforts, including rural and urban locations,

e. assists, through the Support Services Bureau, with mapping and analysis of buildings and property and provides real time intelligence information through digital cameras and arc-view software which is compatible with SEOC.

5. Illinois Department of Central Management Services

a. identifies and assists IEMA in obtaining special purpose vehicles and water craft necessary to support the SAR mission(s). All federal special purpose vehicles and water craft available through Federal Surplus Property will be identified and distributed by CMS Property Management,

b. provides maintenance and refueling of State owned equipment used in the SAR or USAR operations,

c. establishes free phone banks for disaster victims’ use in assisting family reunification,

d. assists in providing public information as appropriate.
6. Illinois Department of Natural Resources
   a. provides personnel, 4 wheel drive trucks, boats and special purpose vehicles to support SAR operations,
   b. provides Mine Rescue Station personnel and equipment,
   c. Provides manpower teams to utilize during SAR operations.

7. Illinois Department of Public Health
   a. coordinates the assistance of emergency medical services personnel, equipment and supplies.

8. Office of the State Fire Marshal
   a. coordinates the assistance of special fire service equipment, vehicles, supplies and personnel to assist in SAR and USAR operations.

9. Other State Agencies
   a. In addition to the responsibilities identified above, there are a number of State Agencies such as the Capital Development Board, Colleges and Universities that can be expected to provide personnel and critical resources or expertise to support search and rescue operations. Responsibilities of many of these agencies are identified elsewhere in the IEOP.

V. References

A. National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Description Manual

B. National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Operational Systems Description and Mission Operational Procedures

C. National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Field Operations Guide