

Emergency Support Function #9 – Search & Rescue

ESF Coordinator:

Tucson Fire Department
Metropolitan Medical
Response System (MMRS)
Tucson Police Department

Support Agencies:

Planning & Development Services Dept.
Building Inspectors
Environmental Services Department
Finance Department
Central Safety/Risk Management
General Services Department
Architecture & Engineering Division
Facilities Management
Housing & Community Development
Department of Transportation
Tucson Water Department
Area Fire Departments
Area Law Enforcement
GIS Cooperative
Southwest Gas
Tucson Electric Power
Pima County Health Department
Office of the Medical Examiner
Pima County Sheriff's Department
Southern Arizona Rescue Association

Primary Agency:

Tucson Fire Department
Tucson Police Department

Purpose

The purpose of ESF #9 is to identify search, rescue, and recovery roles and responsibilities within the City of Tucson during a disaster.

Scope

ESF 9 discusses search, rescue, and recovery operations within the urban environments of the City of Tucson during disasters.

City of Tucson Fire Department resources may be utilized to provide support for incidents occurring outside the City limits utilizing TFD's Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid agreements or when directed by the City Manager or Mayor.

Tucson Police Department search resources may be utilized to provide support for incidents occurring outside the City limits, when directed by the City Manager or Mayor.

Situation

Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

The City of Tucson will periodically experience emergency situations, which may overwhelm current search and rescue capabilities. Equipment and personnel may be damaged or unavailable at times when they are most needed. The Pima County Hazard Mitigation Plan (draft form October 2005) describes situations that affect our area and may impact search and rescue capabilities. Urban areas, mixed with desert terrain and conditions, occasional flooding of washes, arroyos, and rivers all provide for the periodic use and testing of existing search and rescue services.

“Search and Rescue” means the acts of searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as a result of a natural or technological disaster. This includes:

- Instances involving search for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used
- The search for, and rescue of people in damaged or collapsed structures, or confined spaces
- Evidence searches of crime scenes that may be so vast or complex that they require search resources.

Planning Assumptions

In a large scale disaster or any situation where needs exceed ability to cope, any of the following may occur:

- There may be multiple physical casualties with a variety and range of urgency and disability
- Search and rescue operations in a disaster will require the use of existing trained search and rescue personnel and specialized equipment
- During normal circumstances, an adequate number of volunteers can be recruited for general search and rescue purposes from within the City
- Natural and technological disasters will greatly increase the scope of search and rescue operations
- The City recognizes that it cannot provide all necessary equipment or personnel to cope with every search and rescue mission during a major emergency or disaster
- Support such as helicopters, tracking dogs, and outside search and rescue groups may be required from adjoining political subdivisions or from state or federal resources to ensure maximum search and rescue effectiveness
- When search and rescue activities result in the discovery of a deceased person or search and rescue workers assist in the recovery of human remains, the procedures established by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner will be followed

Concept of Operations

General

The City of Tucson Fire Department will have complete responsibility for search and rescue within damaged or collapsed structures or confined spaces, and for swift water rescues. When local search and rescue resources are exhausted or not available, assistance will be requested through other area fire departments. In large scale incidents, assistance may be requested through the federal Urban Search and Rescue teams (USAR).

The Tucson Police Department has complete responsibility for ground search operations using local resources as available. When local search resources are exhausted, or if needed resources are not locally available, assistance will be requested from other area law enforcement agencies (municipal, county, or state).

The goal of search and rescue operations is to save the lives of victims who are unable to ensure their own survival without assistance. This includes, but is not limited to locating persons lost in urban areas, and assisting injured people in unsafe areas to reach safety.

The search for and recovery of bodies will be conducted only after the rescue of survivors has been completed and the environment will allow for safe operation by search and recovery personnel.

Comprehensive Emergency Management

Preparedness

ESF #9 primary and support agencies are responsible for ensuring that the following preparedness items are fully addressed:

- Review and revise their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)/Field Operating Guides (FOGs) annually
- Establish procedures for alerting their own personnel and other key employees in an Incident of Local or Regional Significance
- Update equipment and resource listings on an annual or more frequent basis, and distribute them appropriately
- Revise mutual aid agreements as needed
- Train employees on specific ESF functions
- Regularly attend scheduled tabletop exercises and all other applicable training events
- Review and analyze lessons learned in emergency/disaster incidents that have occurred elsewhere, and make appropriate corrections/additions to their respective SOPs/SOGs and this ESF

Response

ESF #9 primary and support agencies are responsible for ensuring that the following response items are fully addressed:

- Establish and maintain contact with the Incident Commander and/or appropriate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for instructions
- Maintain ongoing information exchange with ESF #5 – Emergency Management
- Maintain complete and accurate documentation of all related costs, actions, and communications

Recovery

ESF #9 primary and support agencies are responsible for ensuring that the following recovery items are fully addressed:

- Consult with ESF #5 and ESF #14 – Long-term Community Recovery & Mitigation regarding needed recovery strategy
- Assess losses of equipment and personnel, develop estimates of monetary loss, and identify possible funding sources
- Assess the need for critical incident stress management for personnel

Mitigation/Prevention

ESF #9 primary and support agencies are responsible for ensuring that the following mitigation/prevention items are fully addressed:

- Conduct threat, risk, and vulnerability assessments of key ESF infrastructure
 - Review and analyze lessons learned in emergency/disaster incidents that have occurred elsewhere, and make changes where applicable
 - Replace equipment, vehicles and/or personnel
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Responsibilities

Coordinating and Primary Agency: Tucson Fire Department

The City of Tucson Fire Department is responsible for search, rescue, and recovery of injured or dead persons from damaged or collapsed structures or confined spaces, and for swift water rescues in an Incident of Local or Regional Significance. Other specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Pre-incident planning and coordination
- Determine priorities for delivery of on scene search and rescue functions
- Manage the financial aspects of the ESF #9 response, including the funding of mission assignments and/or reimbursable agreements
- Maintain ongoing contact with ESF primary and support agencies
- Conduct periodic ESF meetings and/or conference calls

- Coordinate ESF activities relating to Incidents of Local or Regional Significance, catastrophic incident planning, and critical infrastructure preparedness, as appropriate.
- Coordinate appropriate training and strategies with the Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT)

Coordinating and Primary Agency: Tucson Police Department

The Tucson Police Department is responsible for ground search, and where appropriate, the rescue and/or recovery of injured or dead persons in an Incident of Local or Regional Significance. Other specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Pre-incident planning and coordination
- Determine priorities for delivery of on scene search functions
- Manage the financial aspects of the ESF #9 response, including the funding of mission assignments and/or reimbursable agreements
- Maintain ongoing contact with ESF primary and support agencies
- Conduct periodic ESF meetings and/or conference calls
- Coordinate ESF activities relating to Incidents of Local or Regional Significance, catastrophic incident planning, and critical infrastructure preparedness, as appropriate.

Support Agencies

Agency	Functions
Planning & Development Services Department	Building Inspectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide inspection assistance at damaged or collapsed structures
Environmental Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with debris clearance at the scene of damaged or collapsed structures
Finance Department	Central Safety Services/Risk Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance related to worker safety and health issues
General Services Department	Architecture and Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide engineering assistance at damaged or collapsed structures, including confined space environments
	Facilities Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide construction assistance at damaged or collapsed structures
Housing & Community Development Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide inspection assistance at damaged or collapsed structures
Department of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide heavy equipment as necessary at the site of damaged or collapsed structures Provide vehicles and personnel for ground search operations
Tucson Water Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide personnel and heavy equipment for debris management, and/or infrastructure repair/rebuilding Coordinate the reconstruction/repair/shutoff of water facilities
Area Fire Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in urban search and rescue operations of damaged or collapsed structures (including confined space environments) as needed
Area Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide personnel to assist in urban ground search and rescue operations as needed Assist by providing other ground search assets (e.g., canines, helicopters, etc.) as needed
GIS Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide data mining assets in furtherance of search, rescue, and recovery operations, as available
Southwest Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the reconstruction/repair/shutoff of natural gas facilities
Tucson Electric Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the reconstruction/repair/shutoff of electrical power facilities

Pima County Health Department	<p>Office of the Medical Examiner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and provide laboratory services for identification required to support emergency health and emergency medical services • Investigate and determine the cause of sudden, unexpected, violent, and non-natural deaths • Provide emergency information to the news media, via the Joint Information Center (JIC) on mass deaths, body identification, and morgue operations
Pima County Sheriff's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide personnel to assist in urban ground search and rescue operations as needed • Assist by providing other ground search assets (<i>e.g.</i>, canines, fixed wing aircraft, <i>etc.</i>) as needed
Southern Arizona Search and Rescue Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide personnel and other assets to assist in urban ground search and rescue operations as needed