

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION - NINE **SEARCH & RESCUE**

PRIMARY AGENCY: Chelan County Sheriff's Office
Volunteer Organizations: (to include but not limited to)
Steven's Pass
Chelan County Mountain Rescue
Swiftwater Rescue
Chelan County Sheriff Volunteer Services
WA State Emergency Management Division

May need to advise: Chelan County Fire Agencies
Chelan County Emergency Management
Chelan County EMS Agencies
RiverCom Communications Center

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the effective utilization of search and rescue resources and for the coordination of search and rescue efforts within Chelan County. According to the Revised Code of Washington: "*Search and Rescue*" means the acts of searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground, marine, or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as a result of a natural, technological, or human caused disaster, including instances involving searches for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used.....RCW 38.52.010(7)

SCOPE

1. This ESF details the roles and responsibilities of agencies responding to Search and Rescue operations, either wildland or urban. State law encompasses both wild land and disaster (urban) SAR (Section 38.52.010(7) RCW).
2. Wildland and disaster SAR are terms used by the federal government, however are covered under two separate plans, (i.e. the National Search and Rescue Plan and the National Response Plan). In the State of WA, Disaster SAR is generally called urban SAR, which is not specifically defined.
3. Air SAR is defined by RCW Chapter 47.68 and WAC Chapter 468.200.
4. A separate Underground (Mine) Rescue Plan is maintained by the State EMD SAR Coordinator.
5. SAR can also be used at the discretion of the Chelan County Sheriff for various incidents or occurrences as deemed appropriate by the sheriff.

POLICIES

1. Land SAR activities are initiated, coordinated and directed by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office in accordance with state and local jurisdiction plans. If the Sheriff's Office is not able to provide the necessary equipment or resources to successfully carry out a SAR mission, the State EMD office will be contacted for assistance.
2. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the required method of on-scene incident management for all SAR operations.
3. Air SAR for missing or downed civil aircraft is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation (WSDOT) (RCW 47.68)
4. Urban SAR will normally be the responsibility of the law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction it takes place.
5. Underground/mine rescue, after deployment of local resources, may require outside assistance which will be obtained through WA State EMD.

SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Hazards and Conditions

1. Chelan County is threatened by major events such as avalanches, earthquakes or aircraft accidents. Such disasters have the potential of resulting in large SAR operations that could be multi-jurisdictional. Chelan County is an extremely mountainous county. The wide range of and easy access to outdoor recreation in Chelan County and the increasing number of people recreating in the outdoors will result in a possible increase in SAR operations.
2. The Chelan County Sheriff is responsible for all Search and Rescue efforts within Chelan County. As the lead agency they responsible for training and the equipping of personnel that respond to the Search and Rescue calls for service.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Local resources are capable of handling day to day Search and Rescue activities.

2. The military will respond to most requested Rescue situations for air support. The military usually requires the situation to be “life-threatening”.
3. Law Enforcement Agencies, by RCW, are the responsible agency for Search and Rescue activities.
4. Searches for overdue / lost aircraft are coordinated by the Aeronautics Division of the Department of Transportation.
5. SAR missions will continue to increase as the population, recreational opportunities, and the wildland/urban interface continue to grow.
6. The widely differing terrain and climatic conditions in the county mandate a locally based SAR first response system.
7. Natural and technological disasters will greatly increase the scope of SAR operations.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. All Search and Rescue operations will be managed by the concept of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), with the responsible Law Enforcement Agency as the Command Agency.
2. Search and Rescue operations will normally be controlled from a field command post location. Large scale Search and Rescue may utilize the EOC for coordination of resources.
3. In the event of a search and rescue emergency, all necessary equipment and personnel, including organized volunteer services, will be mobilized and dispatched to the scene. Control of all emergency search and rescue functions will remain the responsibility of the law enforcement agency concerned.
4. In Chelan County, SAR operations are initiated, coordinated, and directed by the Chelan County Sheriff in accordance with state and local jurisdiction plans using local resources registered pursuant to Chapter 118-04 WAC.
5. Upon notification of a search and rescue emergency, Chelan County Emergency Management will advise the state Division of Emergency Management of any search and rescue mission which

utilizes volunteers and request a mission number. This extends liability coverage to participating, registered personnel and equipment. Chelan County must keep the State EMD Duty Officer advised of progress until the mission is completed. Mission numbers need to be closed at the completion of the SAR mission.

6. Whenever local resources are exhausted, unavailable, or unqualified for a particular search and rescue mission, Chelan County Emergency Management may request assistance through the state Division of Emergency Management. The state office will authorize state and federal search and rescue volunteer organization resources and initiate the access of personnel, equipment, air support, and other specialized or requested supplies.
7. The radio frequency 155.160 MHz has been dedicated statewide for search and rescue communications purposes.

B. Organization

The Chelan County Sheriff or designee is responsible for SAR operations within his/her jurisdiction. Chelan County Emergency Management will maintain the Chelan County Volunteer Services and register Emergency Workers in support of the Chelan County SAR program. Local programs provide training and education for volunteer SAR units as well as for the organization and deployment of SAR resources.

C. Procedures

1. Land SAR
 - a. Upon receiving information of possible SAR operations, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office will initiate their SAR procedures. Direction and Control of the SAR operations will follow the concepts of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), with the responsible law enforcement agency being the Incident Command agency.
 - b. When personnel from outside the law enforcement agency are used, Chelan County Emergency Management or the Incident Commander of the SAR will contact WA State EMD for a Mission Number. The issuance of this mission number authorizes the deployment of volunteers under the provisions and protection of Chapter 38.52 RCW.
 - c. The WA State EMD, upon receiving a request for assistance from an authorized official, will coordinate the resources of other political subdivisions, as well as state, out-of-state, federal, and international agencies in support of the

requesting jurisdiction. The state SAR Coordinator may be deployed to the scene to provide this coordination.

- d. Multi-jurisdictional SAR operations may be coordinated by the state EMD when requested. Major multi-jurisdictional SAR operations resulting from a natural or technological disaster may require the activation of the state RCC. The state RCC may either be co-located with the state EOC or at a location in proximity to the incident site. The director of the state RCC is the state SAR Coordinator.
2. Air SAR
 - a. Air SAR for missing or downed civil aviation aircraft is the responsibility of WSDOT Aviation Division (Chapter 47.68 RCW).
 3. Underground (Mine) SAR
 - a. A separate plan for Underground SAR is maintained by the State EMD office. The state EOC Duty Officer uses the procedures to respond to local jurisdiction requests for SAR resources in the event of an underground rescue incident.

D. Mitigation Activities

1. The Chelan County Sheriff's Office will identify hazards and risks in their jurisdiction. Actions to reduce the likelihood of these events occurring, and/or reducing the impact if they were to occur can be identified and implemented. The Sheriff's Office can also implement safety and SAR prevention programs so that citizens are better prepared.
2. Support preventative search and rescue, aviation safety, and survival programs with available resources, when requested.
3. Develop and present preventative SAR programs through public awareness and school education programs.

E. Preparedness Activities

1. The Chelan County Sheriff's Office can help prepare for SAR situations by keeping their policies and procedures current and associated with identified potential hazards and risk analysis.
2. The Chelan County Sheriff's Office will train personnel, try out and test equipment and communications, and evaluate this emergency plan by reviewing/critiquing missions upon completion and making adjustments in plans as needs are identified.

3. Develop and maintain resource lists of personnel/groups/agencies that could assist during SAR incidents.

F. Response Activities

Based on the type and size of the incident, a variety of resources may be needed. It is critical for the Sheriff's Office or any other emergency service provider first on the scene to provide an accurate and timely size up. An Incident Commander must be identified, as well as a staging area. The IC will assign personnel to specific areas or tasks, and coordinate and assign resources.

G. Recovery Activities

1. Each department, agency, and individual shall maintain accurate records of the incident. They will be responsible for maintaining SAR and recovery expense records for future possible reimbursement. Financial issues such as supplies used, equipment lost or damaged, wages for hours worked including overtime, and other costs require documentation before reimbursement is issued. During the recovery phase, it is imperative to maintain communication and coordination with the EOC, if activated. Public Information Officers may provide information regarding safety issues as people return to their homes and businesses. Departments, districts, and individuals involved in the emergency or disaster should participate in post event reviews and critiques and contribute to written reports regarding observations and recommendations.
2. Chelan County Sheriff's Office will assist the return of all SAR organizations and personnel to a high state of preparedness, so as to be able to respond to future SAR missions with available resources, when requested.
3. Support for Sheriff's Office and SAR personnel is also part of recovery and returning to normal operations. This support may include counseling or Critical Incident Stress Management.
4. During the Recovery phase, it is imperative that the Incident Commander maintains communication and coordination with the EOC.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Chelan County Sheriff's Office
 - a. In accordance with RCW 38.52.400, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office is responsible for local search and rescue activities.
 - b. Initiate SAR operations
 - c. Maintain Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for conducting searches. Review at least annually for possible revisions. Plans must specify the use of ICS for SAR operations.
 - d. Operate SAR activities in accordance with state and local operations plans.
 - e. Request a mission number from WA State EMD when volunteers or non-Sheriff's Office personnel are utilized. A mission number is also needed when aircraft is requested.
 - f. Call out volunteers as needed.
 - g. Recruit and train volunteers for SAR operations.
 - h. Promote emergency survival preparedness programs for all who may participate in SAR operations.
 - i. May restrict access to a specific search and rescue area to personnel authorized by the Chelan County Sheriff. Access shall be restricted only for the period of time necessary to accomplish the SAR mission. No unauthorized person shall interfere with a SAR mission.
 - j. Chelan County Emergency Management is part of the Chelan County Sheriff's Office and will support the SAR mission of the Sheriff's Office in whatever capacity is needed.
 - (1) When requested, will notify State EMD to obtain a state mission number. This number is necessary for liability coverage and possible compensation but must be obtained before volunteers are utilized in a SAR operation.
 - (2) Register volunteers and emergency workers
 - (3) Coordinate any requests for state, federal or out of county SAR resources that are needed or are being used.
 - (4) Provide State EMD with periodic status reports if needed.
 - (5) Assist emergency workers with submission of any claims that might be appropriate.
 - (6) Make final reports to State EMD to close out missions.
 - (7) Review and revise this ESF, if needed, after any major SAR operation or at least every four years.

- (8) Maintain resource lists
2. Volunteer Organizations
 - a. Provide personnel and equipment as requested by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office.
 - b. Ensure that their personnel being utilized have the proper SAR identification, training and/or experience and are registered as an Emergency Worker.
 - c. Perform tasks as assigned by the Incident Commander.
 - d. Account for and maintain equipment used in the operations.
 - e. Participate in the mission critique.
 - f. Ensure that claims for any compensation are submitted to Chelan County Emergency Management within two (2) weeks after the mission has been terminated.
 - g. Provide EMD with information so that SAR resource records may be maintained in a current status.
 - h. Provide Chelan County Emergency Management with list of names and telephone numbers of persons authorized to commit their organization's resources.
 3. Washington State Emergency Management Division
 - a. Issue mission numbers for training exercises and actual events.
 - b. Provide the coordination with other state agencies and with FEMA for any state and federal resources that may be requested.
 - c. Assist local jurisdiction with the processing of any claims that may result from a county exercise or mission.
 - d. Participate, if requested, in the mission critique if state or federal resources were utilized.
 - e. Assist local jurisdictions in the organization and training for SAR personnel.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Search and Rescue resources are obtained and kept, for the most part, by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. They have obtained a pool of active volunteers and equipment.

REFERENCES

1. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.52
2. RCW 47.68
3. RCW 78.12
4. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 118.04

5. WAC 468.200
6. National Response Plan
7. National Search and Rescue Plan
8. Underground (Mine) Rescue Plan, State of WA, Dept. of the Military, Emergency Management Division

Appendix A State Underground (Mine) Rescue Plan S/D 5

State Underground (Mine) Rescue

PURPOSE

To provide procedures for the State Emergency Operations Officer (SEOO) to use in responding to a local jurisdiction's request for SAR resources in the event of an underground rescue incident.

GENERAL INFORMATION

RCW 38.52.037 requires that WA State EMD have a comprehensive state mine rescue plan. That plan is outlined in ESF 9 of the State CEMP and contained in the state SAR Coordinator's Plan. The following information is extracted from that plan.

A. Caves

There are natural caves throughout WA State where cavers or spelunkers go for recreation. Most are not very extensive, and subsequently cave rescue situations have been rare in WA State. In a cave rescue situation, the chief law enforcement official of the local political subdivision would have responsibility.

B. Abandoned Mines

There are numerous abandoned mines in WA State making this hazard a Statewide liability. The Puget Sound area has numerous abandoned coal mines and the Cascades and mountains of Eastern WA have many abandoned mineral or hard-metal mines. Under state law, the owner of the mine is responsible for sealing or fencing it so it will not be a hazard. If no owner can be found, the Chelan County Board of Commissioners is responsible for sealing or fencing the opening if they find it to be a danger to people or animals (RCW 78.12.060).

An emergency in an abandoned mine would be a search and rescue responsibility of the chief law enforcement official of the local political subdivision. As abandoned mines offer unique and dangerous problems, it is best if trained mine rescue personnel undertake the mission if possible. Some of the professional mine rescue experts in the state and Northwest have offered their assistance in life saving emergencies. They would be registered by the local political subdivision requesting the assistance and would be provided the same coverage as search and rescue volunteers.

C. Active Mines

Rescue operations at a commercial mining operation are the responsibility of the mine operator. This is monitored by the US Dept. of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) which sets regulations for required rescue equipment, personnel

and training. MSHA is aware of two active mine operations in WA State at this time; one in Wenatchee and one in Republic.

Each of these mine operations conforms to MSHA regulations. These regulations include call out, local notification, and notification to MSHA. The Emergency Management Division may be requested to support a rescue operation by the local jurisdiction or mine operator. This would be coordinated as a SAR mission through the local emergency management office or sheriff.

D. Underground Works

Other than some work to build highway tunnels, the one underground facility we are aware of is the Near Surface Test Facility at Hanford. This is where testing is being done for the potential disposal of nuclear waste. The Hanford Fire Department has received some mine rescue training to handle its own problems. If a problem develops beyond its capability, additional resources may be requested. This should be coordinated with Benton County Department of Emergency Management and treated as any emergency. *This may entail activation of the state Fire Mobilization Plan.*

PROCEDURES

Upon receiving a call concerning a mine, cave, abandoned mine, or underground emergency, the SEOO will do the following:

- A. If this is an initial request complete DEM form 076 Search and Rescue mission worksheet. If it is a request involving an ongoing mission, refer to the worksheet for that mission. Get as much information as possible to avoid having to go back to the requesting jurisdiction for further information that responding agencies may require.

Answer the basic questions:

- a. **WHY?** (the mission) Search? Rescue? Recovery? Cave, Mine, Abandoned Mine or Underground Works?
- b. **WHAT** resource(s) is/are required? What special equipment do they need? BE SPECIFIC.
- c. **HOW** many (dog teams, cave rescue teams) are required?
- d. **WHEN** are they to report?
- e. **WHERE** do they report?
- f. **WHO** do they report to? (Include contact radio frequencies)

Also, get a weather and mission update if this request is not in conjunction with the initial mission request.

- B. Refer to the SAR Resource database in TEL-11 thru 16.
- C. Resources are sorted by function and by county. Locate the type resource you need and then contact the one nearest to the requesting jurisdiction. If it is an abandoned mine emergency, be sure to specify that you need volunteer assistance. If it is a mine emergency or underground works emergency, coordinate requests with MSHA (206) 553-7037. Coordinate requests for professional contract services with requestor who will pay for the services.
- D. The first point of contact for any volunteer resource is the local SAR coordinator or DEM from the county in which the unit is registered. TEL-11 fully explains the procedures for each county. If these procedures fail, then as a last resort, contact the unit directly (TEL-13, 15).
- E. Contact the requesting jurisdiction and advise them of the status of their request.