
SEARCH AND RESCUE

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 9 (ESF 9)

PRIMARY AGENCY: Lake County Public Safety Department, Fire Rescue Division

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Florida Fire Service
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Lake County Sheriff's Office
Lake EMS
Municipal Fire Departments
Municipal Police Departments

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this function is to address the procedures for conducting and coordinating search and rescue actions following disasters.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The Lake County Fire Rescue Division is the overall coordinator for search and rescue operations in the County. Assistance is provided by Federal, State, and/or volunteer organizations, depending on the requirements of the situation.

Conceptually, the Fire Rescue Division acts as the monitoring and coordinating agency for all search and rescue operations in the County. In the event that, (1) local government requests State coordination of search and rescue operations; (2) search and rescue requirements are multi-county in nature; (3) search and rescue operations are in conjunction with other State emergency efforts, or (4) the Governor so directs, the Division of Emergency Management may assume the responsibility for coordination.

- A. The Lake County Fire Rescue Division may meet the majority of County search and rescue requirements with some assistance from regional mutual aid partners.
- B. When it appears that their resources are inadequate, or likely to become inadequate, the Lake County Fire Rescue Division should request aid from support agencies.
- C. When it becomes apparent that a search and rescue operation is beyond the combined capabilities of local and State resources, or that specific

requirements so warrant, Federal agencies with search and rescue capabilities may be requested to provide supplementary assistance in close coordination with the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Search and Rescue Operations shall be directed as follows:
 - 1. Air Operations Commander by: Civil Air Patrol.
 - 2. Land and Water Operations by: Lake County Fire Rescue Division.
- B. Primary and alternate operations centers from which search and rescue activities will be conducted are: the Lake County Fire Rescue Division, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Maintenance and communications will be from these operations centers.
- C. The Lake County Emergency Management Division will maintain files of, and develop agreements with, volunteer and other agencies with search and rescue capabilities. These include the Civil Air Patrol and the Florida National Guard.
- D. Lake County Public Safety Department, Fire Rescue Division administration will be responsible for developing and maintaining mutual aid agreements with adjacent jurisdictions.
- E. Lake County Public Safety Department, Fire Rescue Division administration will be responsible for recruiting and training search and rescue volunteers as needed.
- F. The Emergency Management Division Manager will notify the State Watch Office of search and rescue operations and request assistance as necessary when the resources available are expended.
- G. Search and Rescue operations shall be conducted in accordance with the established procedures of the responding agency.
- H. Lake EMS will be responsible for the identification of suitable medical facilities for injured survivors as the situation dictates.
- I. Placement of personnel and equipment for conducting emergency operations is the responsibility of the designated operations chief of the particular search and rescue operation.
- J. Equipment lists are maintained by each responding agency. The Fire Rescue Division equipment available for disaster operations should be

requested through the Florida Fire Chiefs' State Emergency Response Plan (SERP).

- K. The lead agency for the search and rescue operation is responsible for maintaining the personnel accountability system for the tracking of all personnel involved in the search effort. Accountability should include initial check-in procedures, periodic checks of rescue personnel, and check-out procedures. All accountability actions should be documented on forms approved by the lead agency for this purpose.

IV. LISTING OF AGENCIES AND VOLUNTEERS WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES

<u>Agency/Group</u>	<u>Capabilities</u>
Fire Rescue	Air Land Water Underwater
Civil Air Patrol	Air Land
Army National Guard	Land
U.S. Forest Service	Air Land
U.S. Park Service	Land
Florida Division of Forestry	Land
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Land Water
Municipal Police Departments	Land Water
Lake County Sheriff's Office	Land Water Underwater
Municipal Fire Departments	Land Water
Special Skills Volunteers	

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Identify the local lead agency for conducting search and rescue operations.
- B. Provide a listing of support agencies and volunteers with search and rescue capabilities.
- C. Describe the various operational roles for the most likely types of search and rescue operations.
- D. Identify and make provision for:
 - 1. Organization of rescue squads;
 - 2. Placement of personnel and equipment for conducting emergency activities;
 - 3. Communications;
 - 4. Identification of medical facilities for the injured and ailing survivors; and
 - 5. Accountability of search and rescue personnel.

Provide the reference location of an inventory of personnel, vehicles, and equipment, other than law enforcement resources, that will be available for search and rescue operations, including the date of last revision.