

# Massachusetts Emergency Support Function 9

## *SEARCH AND RESCUE*

### Responsible Agencies

#### Primary State Agency

Department of Fire Services

#### Supporting State Agencies

Massachusetts State Police

Massachusetts Environmental Police

Massachusetts Task Force 1

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Massachusetts National Guard

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

#### Supporting Federal Agencies

United States Coast Guard

United States Air Force

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Civil Air Patrol - Massachusetts Wing

# 1.0. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Purpose

The Emergency Support Function 9 (ESF-9) *Search and Rescue* Annex provides a framework for coordination and cooperation across state agencies and response partner organizations to support and assist local jurisdictions in technical and non-technical search and rescue operations before, during, and after a disaster or emergency in the Commonwealth when needs exceed available local resources or capabilities. Operations may include searches for missing persons, aircraft and/or marine vessels, extrication of victims from confined spaces, and immediate medical support of located victims.

## 1.2. Scope

This annex is applicable to agencies and departments of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as affiliated response partners with a role in supporting search and rescue response activities.

The following are the objectives of ESF-9:

- Establish a framework for coordinating state-level assistance to local communities related to emergency search and rescue preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue operations at the state level to protect life and maximize the efficient use of the available resources.
- Share information and coordinate response activities across pertinent state-level agencies and response partner organizations regarding search and rescue related requests for assistance in a manner that ensures consistency with established state search and rescue policies and procedures.
- Provide state-level situational awareness and expertise on the status of pertinent search and rescue operations.
- Coordinate personnel and equipment resources to support and assist local communities in search and rescue operations.

## 1.3. Policies

- This annex supports and does not supplant existing local, state, or federal search and rescue plans or policies.
- As an incident requires, or at the direction of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director, ESF-9 will be activated to coordinate resources to support search and rescue response.

- ESF-9 will operate from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The SEOC will provide overall direction and control for coordination of resources in support of the incident.
- Local search and rescue assets will remain the control of the respective jurisdiction.
- ESF-9 will coordinate search and rescue assistance to cities and towns through resource support including personnel, equipment, facilities, materials, supplies, and technical support/subject matter expertise as needed and available.
- Responsible agencies under ESF-9 will coordinate to make available search and rescue resources wherever possible to perform mission assignments.
- The life safety of victims and rescuers is the priority for state assistance.
- Search and rescue operations will be conducted using the principles of National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS).
- All agencies assigned responsibilities within ESF-9 will develop and maintain any necessary search and rescue plans, standard operating procedures, mutual aid agreements and model contracts to successfully accomplish their tasks.
- Requests for state or federal search and rescue assets will be made through the SEOC or MEMA Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs).
- In accordance with current agreements, MEMA has the authority to activate the Massachusetts Task Force 1 (MA-TF 1) as a state resource, as needed.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will activate the National Search and Rescue Response System, as needed.

## 2.0 SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

### 2.1. Situation

A major emergency or disaster may result in large numbers of displaced, stranded, lost, or trapped individuals needing prompt rescue and medical attention. Because the first 72 hours of an incident that may require search and rescue operations are crucial to the survivability of victims, search and rescue must begin as soon as possible. In addition, secondary events or disasters may threaten survivors as well as search and rescue personnel.

Search and rescue personnel may deal with extensive damage to buildings, roadways, bridges, and public works or other utility structures. Fires, explosions, flooding, and hazardous materials spills or releases may compound problems and threaten both survivors of the disaster and rescue personnel alike. In the event of an act of terrorism, search and rescue operations may need to be conducted in close coordination with law enforcement crime scene investigation procedures.

In addition, search and rescue missions may be required when an Emergency Landing Transmitter (ELT) signals and/or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reports of an overdue aircraft is received, a request is made by local government officials for assistance in locating a missing person, or to locate survivors of natural or man-made emergencies.

## 2.2. Planning Assumptions

- Local cities and towns have resources, plans and procedures in place to support emergency management response.
- Many search and rescue related incidents will be local in scope and can be addressed by local or state agencies as part of normal day to day operations using resources readily available to them.
- When an incident occurs, local governments will use all available resources, including those available through mutual aid or private sector assets, before making a request for state or federal resources.
- The state has resources and expertise that can be used to supplement local efforts. Federal assistance may be requested to support state and local efforts if an incident exceeds state and local capabilities.
- Local governments will request state assistance only when an incident exceeds local resources and capabilities.
- When the SEOC is activated in anticipation of or response to an emergency/disaster with impacts to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ESFs needed to support response are activated.
- Agencies and organizations with roles and responsibilities under ESF-9 will designate and deploy appropriate representatives to the SEOC to coordinate the functions of ESF-9.
- ESF-9 will coordinate with local government, state agencies, and other ESFs to address emergency search and rescue needs.
- Individuals representing agencies that are staffing the SEOC should have extensive knowledge of the resources and capabilities of their respective agency and have access to the appropriate authority for committing such resources.
- Local, state, and federal government, private sector and volunteer agencies assigned responsibilities involving emergency/disaster search and rescue operations have established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) specifying their emergency support service actions and will be able to communicate and coordinate these actions in an emergency to best utilize available capabilities.
- Coordination and direction of volunteers that may support a search and rescue operation will be required.

## 3.0. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### 3.1. General

This annex will be activated at the direction of the MEMA/SEOC Director or his/her designee when there is potential for or an actual disaster situation involving search and rescue operations in Massachusetts. MEMA will notify the primary agency at the time of the SEOC activation to provide overall coordination for ESF-9. All other agencies with responsibilities under ESF-9 will serve as support agencies. The primary agency will provide direction and work in conjunction with the support agencies to cohesively coordinate the activities of ESF-9.

During an emergency or disaster, ESF-9 will coordinate search and rescue support to local operations through coordination of State personnel and equipment from support organizations and volunteer agencies. Supporting agencies will provide additional staff support for the ESF-9 in the SEOC as needed.

Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs rests with the local jurisdiction in coordination with ESF-9 and the SEOC. State assets will assist and augment local jurisdictions on search and rescue responsibilities and efforts.

ESF-9 reports to the SEOC Operations Section, with an indirect report to the Planning Section. Depending on the size, scope, and complexity of the incident, the SEOC organizational structure may be expanded, to ensure Span of Control is maintained. To accommodate this, the ESFs may be aligned in appropriate operational Branches, with similar ESFs grouped together. In this scenario, ESF-9 will be organized under the Operations Emergency Services Branch, together with ESF- 4 *Firefighting* and ESF-13 *Public Safety and Security*.

### 3.2. Organization

- All personnel and activities associated with ESF-9 will operate under ICS.
- The Department of Fire Services (DFS) has been designated as the primary agency for ESF-9.
- The primary agency will staff the ESF-9 workstation, identify which support agencies for ESF-9 are needed, activate support agencies, or place them on standby. The lead coordination agency will ensure all agencies assigned to ESF-9 respond to requests for local search and rescue assistance.
- Each agency shall designate a minimum of two people who can serve as representatives for their agency at the SEOC to support ESF-9 activities. The designated agency representatives should have extensive knowledge of the resources and capabilities of their respective agency and have access to the appropriate authority for committing such resources to support the response to the incident.

### 3.3. Notification

MEMA will notify the ESF-9 points of contact for each activated organization or agency to report to the SEOC for coordination and implementation of search and rescue related requests for assistance and maintain situational awareness on the status of search and rescue operations.

- The designated agencies notified will report to the SEOC if so advised or requested and notify agency personnel of the impending or actual event. Each ESF-9 organization or agency is responsible for securing sufficient staff on a continuous basis to support and carry out activities tasked to their agency.
- Determining who is to be notified will be based on the incident type and demands or potential demands of the event.
- Responsible agencies activated for the incident under ESF-9 will notify their pertinent contacts to identify available resources and, if needed, place them on standby.

### **3.4. Activities**

Responsible agencies for ESF-9 should conduct the following actions:

#### **a. Prevention Actions**

- Communicate and share information across agencies with search and rescue responsibilities.
- Collaborate and coordinate on search and rescue related prevention and security initiatives.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate on search and rescue related training and operations in the Commonwealth.
- Identify potential search and rescue issues and collaborate to develop or recommend protocols, procedures, and policies to prevent or mitigate their effects.

#### **b. Preparedness Actions**

- MEMA will convene regular meetings of ESF-9 stakeholders and/or ESF Team.
- Develop and maintain internal agency search and rescue plans, procedures, resource directories, and emergency contact lists to support ESF-9 activities.
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place to access directory information and quickly notify personnel in support of this plan.
- Develop and maintain a system for receipt and dissemination of information, data, and directives pertaining to search and rescue operations to agencies and organizations supporting this plan.
- Maintain current inventories of search and rescue facilities, equipment, and materials and supplies by agency and type to ensure a timely response.
- Pre-plan for distribution and allocation of available state resources to support the overall search and rescue mission.

- Ensure that all responsible agencies have pre-designated staff available to support SEOC operations during activations.
- Ensure that ESF-9 stakeholders notify MEMA of staff changes.
- Maintain liaison with federal search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets.
- Regularly review and revise this annex.
- Participate in appropriate training and exercise opportunities to test and validate this plan.

## **c. Response Actions**

### **Pre-Impact**

Upon receiving notification to report to the SEOC in preparation of an incident, ESF-9 agencies and organizations will complete the following actions commensurate with emergency priorities within the state and based on the availability of resources. Activities will be coordinated through the SEOC which will serve as the source of all direction and control.

- Provide appropriate representative(s) to the SEOC to support ESF-9 pre-incident planning activities.
- Maintain communications within the SEOC, obtain status reports, and keep the SEOC informed of the progress of assigned tasks.
- Notify the appropriate points of contact at each respective agency and organization to pre-position resources and response personnel as needed.
- Review existing plans and procedures.
- Ensure respective agency decision makers are kept informed of the situation.
- Test communications systems.
- Coordinate information to verify search and rescue activities, capabilities, and inventories of available resources and report this information on a regular basis via a summary listing to the SEOC Operations Section Chief.
- Coordinate the mobilization and pre-positioning of search and rescue response resources pre-incident, once it is apparent that state search and rescue resources will be required, or as requested by the SEOC Director.
- Provide situational awareness information to the SEOC Planning Section as needed.
- Coordinate with other ESFs as needed.

### **Initial Response**

- If agency has not already done so, provide appropriate representatives to the SEOC to support ESF-9.
- Verify inventories of available resources and personnel and provide a summary listing to the SEOC Operations Section Chief.

- Identify and coordinate the pre-positioning of needed resources to the nearest staging area(s) as needed.
- Establish communications with appropriate field personnel to coordinate resources to support response efforts and gain situational awareness.
- Obtain a general description of the situation as it pertains to ESF-9 and analyze any operational support requirements.
- Implement predetermined cost accounting measures for tracking overall costs, to include personnel, equipment, materials, and other costs incurred during emergency search and rescue support activities.
- Coordinate with ESF-1 *Transportation* regarding any needed assets to transport search and rescue personnel and equipment to affected areas.
- Coordinate with other ESFs to coordinate equipment and supplies needed for both non-technical and technical search and rescue missions.
- Collect and disseminate information and intelligence related to search and rescue operations for disasters or emergencies, either existing or pending.
- Initiate notification of personnel and support organizations required to support emergency operations.
- Gather and provide information for the SEOC Incident Action Plan/Staff Roster and Situational Awareness Statements (SAS) to the SEOC Planning Section as needed. In addition, use information provided by the SEOC Planning Section to plan effective response actions.
- Coordinate with Federal ESF counterparts as needed.

### **Continuing Response**

- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue mission requests, response operations, and related service/resource requests.
- Coordinate with state, local, volunteer, and federal search, and rescue personnel as necessary.
- Track committed resources for possible redeployment and other purposes and provide regular updates on the status of all missions assigned to SEOC Operations Section Chief.
- Conduct ongoing assessments of search and rescue priorities and strategies to ensure adequate resources to support critical search and rescue operational needs with a priority on life safety.
- Coordinate state-level technical assistance and resources for search and rescue missions.
- Continue to monitor, gather, and provide search and rescue situational awareness information for reports and/or statements to the SEOC Planning Section, as needed.
- Use information provided by the SEOC Planning Section and Operations Section to plan effective response actions.

- Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate resources committed for extended periods.
- Ensure briefings are conducted during ESF-9 shift changes and at designated times throughout the event.
- Coordinate with ESF-8 *Public Health and Medical Services*, to coordinate assets to provide mental health, crisis counseling, and medical care as part of search and rescue operations.

#### **d. Recovery Actions**

- Continue to provide search and rescue support on an as needed basis during the recovery phase.
- Coordinate resources to assist and provide technical support and expertise to MEMA damage assessment teams.
- Identify anticipated recovery needs for ESF-9 resources, manpower and equipment.
- Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
- Participate in after action meetings and review after-action reports.
- Coordinate with support agencies to ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets and adequate cost accounting measures are being used. Generate summary reports and share with the SEOC.
- Draft recommendations for after-action reports and other reports.

#### **e. Mitigation Actions**

- Provide ESF-9 agency representatives to planning meetings.
- Identify potential search and rescue issues and collaborate to develop or recommend plans, protocols, procedures, and policies to prevent or mitigate their effects.
- Conduct assessments of ESF-9 capabilities to identify potential shortfalls.
- As needed, develop plans to mitigate identified shortfalls of resources.

## 4.0. RESPONSIBILITIES

### 4.1. ESF-9 Primary Agency Responsibilities

MEMA and ESF-9 responsible agencies shall develop an organizational structure for coordinating, planning, implementing, and monitoring mission assignments according to the ESF concept.

- Regularly meet and coordinate with ESF-9 supporting agencies, to:
  - Maintain a list of critical contacts, noting any changes to MEMA.
  - Maintain a list of ESF-specific assets which could be deployed during an emergency.
  - Report any unmet needs to MEMA.
- Staff the ESF-9 workstation at the SEOC.
- Maintain Situational Awareness, monitor weather conditions, and ensure a state of readiness for the ESF.
- As needed, pre-stage resources to support ESF-9 requirements.
- Identify additional agencies required to support ESF-9 at the SEOC. Develop and maintain a roster of personnel to staff the ESF-9 desk at the SEOC with sufficient staffing for 24-hour operations.
- Serve as the lead for all ESF-9 activities, maintaining situational awareness of all ESF-9 agency activities and serving as the primary point of contact in the SEOC for ESF-9.
- Coordinate with all ESF agencies and MEMA to manage search and rescue resources and prioritize search and rescue needs, prioritizing the protection of life and property.
- Determine initial and ongoing activities through established information gathering procedures and provide this information to SEOC for dissemination.
- Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies and other support ESFs as needed.
- Regularly update the SEOC Resource Unit via WebEOC on the status of resource requests assigned to ESF-9, and the status of deployed assets.
- Determine needs and resolve issues regarding resource requirements and shortages.
- Ensure complete logs of actions taken, resources used, and other activities are created and maintained.
- Ensure that necessary cost accounting measures are being used by all ESF-9 agencies and that summary reports are generated as needed and shared with the SEOC command staff.
- Ensure the overall coordination and provision of situational awareness by ESF-9.
- Ensure that agencies assigned to ESF-9, in coordination with MEMA, are responding to assigned requests for assistance.

- Coordinate with ESF-8 *Public Health and Medical Services* to assist with medical needs and transportation of victims beyond initial collection points.
- Serve as a liaison between and the SEOC and support agencies that have been activated to support search and rescue missions.
- Maintain ESF-9 plans and procedures to be implemented during emergency operations.

*ESF primary agencies are designated in advance, however this may be subject to change during an SEOC Activation. The agency most appropriate to take the primary assignment may depend on the specific circumstances and needs of the incident.*

#### **a. Department of Fire Services**

- Technical search and rescue expertise will be provided by a representative of DFS or Fire Chiefs' Association of MA. The DFS Coordinator at the SEOC will coordinate with support agencies in tasking search and rescue missions based upon local requests for assistance.
- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- Coordinate resources to provide assistance for technical search and rescue operations.
- Provide situational awareness on pertinent search and rescue operations to the SEOC, to include committed and available resources and deployment plans.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Coordinate resources to support ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in firefighting operations and technical search and rescue operations.
- Coordinate resources to provide technical assistance and support for technical, rural, and aerial search and rescue missions.
- As necessary, coordinate assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Task Force if activated.
- Coordinate resources to support the supervision of search and rescue operations requiring state-level assistance.
- Ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets.

## **4.2. ESF-9 Supporting Agency Responsibilities**

### **a. Massachusetts State Police**

- Non-technical search and rescue expertise will be provided by a representative of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP). The MSP Coordinator at the SEOC will coordinate with support agencies in tasking search and rescue missions based upon local requests for assistance.
- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- As detailed in the Air Operations Plan, when needed, provide personnel to support air operations to coordinate multiple agency aircraft operations.
- Coordinate resources to provide assistance in non-technical search and rescue operations.
- Provide situational awareness pertinent search and rescue operations to the SEOC, to include committed and available resources and deployment plans.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Provide guidance on wilderness-based search and rescue performance standards.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue incidents under the following criteria:
  - Any incident at the request of the local jurisdiction.
  - All declared overdue/missing aircraft events that result in a ground search effort.
  - Any incident that involves on-scene, multi-state jurisdictional coordination.
  - Any viable intra-state lost or missing person search that cannot be assigned local responsibility due to lack of initial geographical specific incident assignment.
  - Any high-profile incidents involving state coordinated assets as determined by the MEMA Director or his/her designee.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue operations in the woodlands of the State and provide security at the sites.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue of lost persons.
- As needed, coordinate resources suitable for use in rough terrain and remote areas.
- Coordinate resources to support crowd control, security measures, roadways assessments and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in search and rescue operations.
- Coordinate resources to provide technical assistance and support for technical, rural, and aerial search and rescue missions.
- Coordinate resources to support or direct rural search and rescue operations.
- Maintain alert procedures to ensure rapid response during search and rescue operations.
- Serve as a liaison for other states' operations involving search and rescues, as needed.
- Maintain and update the Massachusetts Search and Rescue Plan.
- Coordinate resources to coordinate and supervise civilian search and rescue teams.

- Provide reach-in capability for civilian K9 search and rescue assets.
- Ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets.

## **b. Massachusetts Task Force 1**

- Urban search and rescue expertise will be provided by a representative from MA-TF 1.
- MA-TF 1 is organized in a modular fashion - enabling requests for specific needs in lieu of a full task force activation.
- Support requests for rapid needs assessment pre- and post-incident.
- Support requests for technical assistance teams.
- Support requests for canine search and rescue support and cadaver recovery.
- Support requests for structural collapse search and rescue.
- Support requests for specialized urban, wide-area, and water search and rescue.
- Specialized and technical assistance i.e., incident aviators, logistics, medical specialist, structural engineers, and technical information/GIS.
- MA-TF 1 will coordinate with the lead coordination agency at the SEOC and with local officials requesting urban search and rescue assistance.
- MA-TF1 will assist in advising and coordinating the need and use of additional National US&R (Urban Search and Rescue) Response System task force resources. MA-TF 1 additionally staffs an ESF-9 liaison at the FEMA Region 1 Regional Resource Coordination Center (RRCC) when activated.
- Support additional requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

## **c. Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

- If needed, activate MA-TF 1 as a state or federal asset.
- Coordinate requests for interstate mutual aid through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and other state agreements.
- Assist with the coordination of search and rescue assets for national or international search incidents upon request.
- Serve as the coordinating agency at the State level for incidents involving civil aircraft presumed lost over the Commonwealth's air space.
- Ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets.
- Maintain alert procedures to ensure rapid response during search and rescue operations
- Coordinate with other ESF-9 agencies to address outstanding resource needs.

- Coordinate with ESF-8 *Public Health and Medical Services* to identify and provide mental health staff to assist in crisis counseling efforts for emergency responders and for people who are affected by the disaster.
- Develop and maintain this annex.

#### **d. Massachusetts Environmental Police**

- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- As necessary, coordinate the provision of resources such as search and rescue watercraft, equipment, and personnel.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Provide resources to augment security related to search and rescue operations.
- Coordinate resources to provide technical assistance and support for technical, rural, and aerial search and rescue missions.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue incidents under the following criteria:
  - Any incident at the request of the local jurisdiction.
  - All declared overdue/missing aircraft events that result in a ground search effort.
  - Any incident that involves on-scene, multi-state jurisdictional coordination.
  - Any viable intra-state lost or missing person search that cannot be assigned local responsibility due to lack of initial geographical specific incident assignment.
  - Any high-profile incidents involving state coordinated assets as determined by the MEMA Director or his/her designee.
- Coordinate with other ESF-9 agencies to address outstanding resource needs.
- Maintain alert procedures to ensure rapid response during search and rescue operations.
- As needed, coordinate resources suitable for use in rough terrain, remote areas and inland waterways.
- Coordinate resources to assist coastal search and rescue activities.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue operations in the woodlands of the State and provide security at the sites.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue of lost persons.
- Ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets.

#### **e. Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- Coordinate resources such as watercraft, equipment, and personnel to assist in search and rescue operations.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Provide knowledge of remote areas of the state.
- Coordinate resources to provide technical assistance and support for technical, rural and aerial search and rescue missions.
- Coordinate with other ESF-9 agencies to address outstanding resource needs.
- Maintain alert procedures to ensure rapid response during search and rescue operations.
- As needed, coordinate the provision of temporary accommodations for field operations teams operating in state parks and forests within DCR jurisdiction.
- Ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets.

#### **f. Massachusetts National Guard**

- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- Coordinate resources to support searches for lost persons and/or aircraft.
- Coordinate resources to provide technical assistance and support for technical, rural, and aerial search and rescue missions.
- As detailed in the Air Operations Plan, when needed provide personnel to support air operations to coordinate multiple agency aircraft operations.
- Coordinate pertinent federal resources to support response for search and rescue.
- Provide resources to support crowd control, security measures, roadways assessments and ingress/egress actions to protect the public and property in, near and around areas involved in search and rescue operations.
- Coordinate with other ESF-9 agencies to address outstanding resource needs.
- Maintain alert procedures to ensure rapid response during search and rescue operations.
- Provide resources to assist with mass fatality response if needed, which may include transportation, armed security for the incident site, incident morgue, holding facility and the Family Assistance Center.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets.

### **g. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

- Coordinate with the representative at the ESF-8 *Public Health and Medical Services* desk.
- Obtain situational awareness from the scene to ascertain the number and conditions of human remains, the accessibility of the scene and any challenges associated with the recovery of the human remains.
- Work with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) through ESF-8 *Public Health and Medical Services* to coordinate resources for the recovery of remains, if needed.
- Ensure accurate information is relayed to the SEOC and Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS).

### **h. United States Coast Guard**

- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- Coordinate resources to support search and rescue in and along U.S. coastal waters.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

### **i. Federal Emergency Management Agency**

- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- Activate the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, as needed.
- Coordinate federal resources to provide technical assistance and support for technical search and rescue missions.
- Support requests for search and rescue assets within the capabilities and parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Representative from the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force will coordinate with Task Force members in obtaining support assistance and needed equipment and supplies.
- Coordinate with other ESF-9 agencies to address outstanding resource needs.

### **j. Civil Air Patrol - Massachusetts Wing**

- Provide an adequate number of representatives to support ESF-9 at the SEOC when requested.
- Coordinate resources such as emergency communication, air transport of personnel, and personnel trained in ground and air search to support search and rescue operational needs.

- As detailed in the Air Operations Plan, when needed provide personnel to support air operations to coordinate multiple agency aircraft operations.
- Coordinate resources such as personnel, ground search crews and aircraft to support the search and rescue of missing/downed aircraft or missing individuals.
- Coordinate resources to support aerial photography and visual searches, as needed.
- Coordinate resources for communications support, as needed.
- Support requests for additional search and rescue assets within capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.
- Coordinate resources to support technical assistance and support for aerial rescue missions.
- Coordinate with other ESF-9 agencies to address outstanding resource needs.
- Maintain alert procedures to ensure rapid response during search and rescue operations.

### **4.3. Other Agencies**

Other agencies not explicitly covered in this annex may have authorities, resources, capabilities, or expertise required to support ESF-9 activities. These agencies may be requested to support ESF-9 activities as needed.

## **5.0. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

### **5.1. Staffing**

As required by Massachusetts Executive Order 144, all Executive Branch state agencies that are part of ESF-9 must designate at least two personnel to act as SEOC liaisons. These liaisons should be knowledgeable about the resources and capabilities of their respective agencies and have access to the appropriate authorities for committing said resources and capabilities.

### **5.2. Mutual Aid**

The process for requesting mutual aid from entities either within or outside of Massachusetts is described in the “Mutual Aid” section of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

### **5.3. Annex Review and Maintenance**

This annex will be reviewed and revised by participating agencies and organizations on a regular basis in accordance with the Emergency Management Program Administrative Policy.

MEMA's Planning Unit will provide administrative support for the review process, including coordinating and facilitating stakeholder meetings, compiling, and distributing meeting notes, and updating the plan.

## **6.0. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES**

### **6.1. Authorities**

#### **a. State**

- Joint Agreement between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Commander, Massachusetts Wing, Civil Air Patrol
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 231, Section 85AA, Liability of registered rescue volunteers
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, Section 4J; Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement
- Massachusetts Executive Order 144
- Massachusetts Executive Order 242
- Massachusetts Executive Order 469
- Massachusetts Executive Order 475

#### **b. Federal**

- Statement of Understanding between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States Coast Guard
- The Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288, as amended
- Public Law 100-707, (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act)

### **6.2. References**

- Massachusetts Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- National Search and Rescue Plan
- Massachusetts Fire Service and EMS Mobilization Plan
- State Police Incident Management Assistance Team
- Massachusetts Air Operations Plan
- Radiological Emergency Response Plan
- National Response Framework
- Massachusetts State Police Plan for Civilian Search and Rescue Operations
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan

### 6.3. Terms

**Emergency Support Function**– ESFs are the grouping of government and certain private-sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide the support, resources, program implementation and services that are most likely to be needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal, when feasible, following emergency events.

**Incident Command System**– ICS is a systematic tool used for the command, control, and coordination of emergency response. It is a set of personnel, policies, procedures, facilities, and equipment, integrated into a common organizational structure designed to improve emergency response operations of all types and complexities.

**National Incident Management System** – NIMS is an emergency management doctrine used to coordinate emergency preparedness and incident management and response among the public (Federal, Tribal, State, and local government agencies) and private sectors. NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. NIMS enables emergency responders to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

**Rescue** – All activities directed towards and requiring the utilization of trained personnel to extricate persons trapped in damaged buildings, vehicles, woodlands, and waterways; and to provide emergency medical treatment of such persons.

**Search** – All activities associated with the discovery of an individual or individuals lost or reported lost.

**Support Agency** – An organization or agency identified in a ESF annex designated to assist with available resources, capabilities, or expertise to accomplish the mission of the ESF.

**Technical Search and Rescue** – Also known as urban search and rescue (abbreviated as USAR), involves the location, extrication, and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces due to natural disasters, structural collapse, transportation accidents, mines and collapsed trenches.

- **Waterborne Search and Rescue:** Includes waterborne search and rescue operations for hurricanes, dam/levee failures and other disasters that primarily require ship or boat forces.
- **Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue:** Includes search and rescue operations conducted in remote or rural areas that primarily require operations necessitating the use of specialized equipment to access these areas and may require responders traveling over land by alternate methods or by aircraft.
- **Technical Search and Rescue:** Includes search and rescue operations involving incidents such as structural collapse, excavation emergencies, technical rope rescues, high angle, confined space rescues, swift water rescues and other specialized rescues.

- **Aeronautical Search and Rescue:** Includes search and rescue operations conducted in aviation-related incidents and aeronautical search and rescue. These may require specialized search and rescue operations in both open and wilderness areas and in the vicinity of airports requiring the coordinated deployment of personnel and equipment.

## 6.4 Common Acronyms

DFS	Department of Fire Services
ELT	Emergency Landing Transmitter
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EOPSS	Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
ICS	Incident Command System
MA-TF1	Massachusetts Task Force
MEMA	Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
MSP	Massachusetts State Police
NIMS	National Incident Management System
OCME	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
REOC	Regional Emergency Operations Centers
RRCC	Reginal Resource Coordination Center
SAS	Situational Awareness Statement
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
US&R	Urban Search and Rescue

