

Illinois Emergency Operations Plan

Annex 12 – Search and Rescue

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

August 2021





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Annex 12, Search and Rescue (SAR)

Primary Agency: Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

Support Agencies: Illinois Department of Transportation - Highway (IDOT-H)
Illinois Department of Transportation – Aviation (IDOT-A)
Illinois National Guard (ILNG)
Illinois State Police (ISP)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Support Organizations: Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)
Illinois Emergency Services Management Agency (IESMA)

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. Provide strategic and operational guidance on a coordinated state supported Search and Rescue (SAR) operations for air, surface, below-grade, elevated, water, urban, confined space, mass transportation and contaminated environments.

B. Scope

1. This annex addresses parameters for utilization of SAR capabilities and processes required to obtain resources in support of disaster operations.
2. State supported operations are scalable and modular based on the scope and magnitude of event, and ability of an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to conduct SAR operations.
3. For the purposes of this annex, the following definitions will apply for operations required:
 - a) Air: Utilization of fixed wing, rotary wing or unmanned aerial system (UAS) assets to conduct coordinated SAR operations;
 - b) Surface: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in wide-area, wilderness and urban environments;
 - c) Below-grade: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in trenches, caves, mines, tunnels, excavations or sub-surface collapsed structures;



- d) Elevated: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in high-angle or above-grade environments;
- e) Water: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in surface, sub-surface, ice and swift water environments;
- f) Urban: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in damaged and collapsed structures;
- g) Confined space: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in permit-required, non-mine and non-cave spaces;
- h) Mass transportation: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR in mass transportation resources including subway, rail, bus, etc., and
- i) Contaminated environment: Utilization of resources to conduct coordinated SAR operations in impact areas having releases or potential releases of hazardous substances for the purpose of control, stabilization and effective rescue.

- 4. This annex does not address tactics, techniques or procedures, formal and informal lines of communication and local integration of SAR resources.
- 5. This annex does not address priority of agency utilization.

C. Policy

- 1. Procedures for utilization, control and use of SAR resources will incorporate and/or consider operational priorities that include but are not limited to:
 - a) Protection of life;
 - b) Public health and safety;
 - c) Property protection;
 - d) Environmental protection;
 - e) Restoration of essential utilities;
 - f) Restoration of essential program functions, and
 - g) Coordination as appropriate.



2. SAR personnel will be trained to assigned missions and made aware of potential risks involved.
3. Upon notification of the potential need for SAR operations, the SEOC will consult SAR subject matter experts on mission requirements and resources.
4. The SEOC Manager or designee will authorize proactive deployment of SAR liaisons from recognized mobile support teams (MST) appropriate to the event to designated state field locations and Areas of Operation (AO).

D. Situation Overview

1. A human-caused, technological or natural disaster has occurred requiring SAR resources.
2. State supported SAR resources have been requested.

E. Assumptions

1. Survivors will need specialized assistance to be located and extricated.
2. Time to notify, activate, deploy, coordinate and implement SAR operations is critical to survivor viability.
3. Rapid damage assessment of the disaster area will be required to enable implementation of SAR operations.
4. Local jurisdiction SAR resources are fully engaged, and capability is exceeded.
5. Local and regional mutual aid SAR resources are fully engaged, and capability is exceeded.
6. State mutual aid SAR resource capabilities will be exceeded in catastrophic events, requiring assistance through emergency assistance compacts or agreements.
7. Federal SAR resources will be available for operations in the state and operate under the direction of the SEOC and/or AHJ.
8. Impacts to critical infrastructure will directly affect overall SAR capabilities.
9. State SAR resources will be activated in advance of county and municipal requests for life safety missions and staging.



II. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. IEMA will develop agreements, memorandums of understanding and procedures to support the conduct of search and rescue.
2. The SEOC will confirm mobilization center locations and develop initial SAR requirements.
3. MABAS will maintain a cadre of qualified personnel to assist in SAR operations.
4. IESMA will maintain a cadre of qualified personnel to assist in SAR operations.
5. Select state agencies will maintain a cadre of qualified personnel to assist in SAR operations.

B. Notification, Alert and Warning (NAW)

1. SEOC NAW of SEOC liaisons will be handled in accordance with IEOP Annex 3, Appendix 1, Notification, Alert and Warning.
2. Primary and support agencies are responsible for internal and external partner NAW.
3. Upon notification of an on-going SAR mission, the SEOC Manager will verify the exact needs of the requesting local jurisdiction and contact the appropriate SEOC Liaison for the SAR operation.
4. Depending on the nature of the search, IEMA will contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region V, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 9 representative or the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC).
5. Federal assets responding to a SAR mission in the state will notify the SEOC of their assets, capabilities, limitations, special requirements and estimated time of arrival.

C. Activation

1. The SEOC will provide support for SAR coordination and management efforts through activation of state agency personnel and Mobile Support Teams (MST).



- a) Upon activation of the State Unified Area Command (SUAC), the SEOC Manager may assign coordination and management of SAR resources to the state unified area commander for implementation of SAR requirements.
 2. SEOC SOP Management and Coordination will be used to determine staffing levels necessary for SAR coordination.
- D. Communications
1. Communications will be conducted in accordance with standard operating procedures and managed using established procedures, processes and policy outlined in IEOP Annex 3, Communications.
 2. Communications will be conducted in a National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant manner utilizing clear-text and frequencies coordinated with the SEOC.
- E. Resource Management and Logistics
1. Resource management and logistics will be carried out in accordance with IEOP Annex 9, Resource Management and Logistics.
 2. Resource management includes mutual aid and assistance agreements, the use of federal and state teams and resource mobilization protocols.
- F. Reporting Requirements
1. SEOC information, intelligence and situation reporting will be conducted in accordance with SEOC Situation and Rapid Needs Assessment Standard Operating Guidelines.
 2. Upon activation to the SEOC, all agency liaisons (LNO) having a role in SAR activities will compile and disseminate situational reports on SAR capabilities and services.
- G. Implementation Requirements
1. Notification, activation, deployment, coordination, implementation and sustainment of state resources in support of SAR operations will be approved and coordinated through the SEOC.
 2. Implementation of SAR operations is predicated on approval of a request from a local government or private sector organization by the SEOC Manager.



3. Coordination and sustainment requirements of SAR operations must be fully addressed prior to implementation.

H. Organization

1. Direction and Control

- a) State agencies and activated resources retain operational control of their resources.
- b) The SEOC is the single point of coordination for state support of SAR operations.
- c) The SEOC Manager or designee may coordinate the use of county or local jurisdiction resources assigned missions and tasking for SAR operations when so authorized or requested.
- d) The SEOC will support the organizational structures, and support assets and mission bases for SAR missions or operations approved by the SEOC manager.

2. Coordinating Elements

- a) State-deployed SAR resources will coordinate with the SEOC and on-scene incident commander.
 - i) In support of local and state SAR operations, liaisons (LNOs) may be assigned under the direct coordination and management of state-activated resources.
- b) State Unified Area Command (SUAC) and State Area Command (SAC) elements may be deployed by the SEOC to coordinate information and resource requirements for SAR operations.
 - i) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Incident Support Teams (IST) may be deployed to support SUAC operations.
- c) One or more Lines of Effort (LOE) maybe implemented by the SEOC for specific strategic action planning for SAR operations.
 - i) Strategic and operational guidance on LOE operations can be found in IEOP Base Plan, Appendix 4, Lines of Effort (LOE).
- d) Coordination between private sector organizations and state-activated SAR organizations will be maintained through the SEOC



and Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC).

3. Federal Coordination

- a) The SEOC will coordinate inclusion of federal assets into state SAR operations.
- b) SEOC LNOs, state agencies, boards and commissions will coordinate with federal counterparts in accordance with enabling authority to collect, receive, compile and develop situational reports on SAR operations.
- c) The SEOC will coordinate with and provide information to the US&R Program Manager at FEMA, including requests for the required number of Federally Sponsored US&R Task Forces and ISTs.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

1. SEOC Manager

- a) Serve as coordination point for state activated SAR resources.
- b) Coordinate with local jurisdictions and SEOC liaisons on SAR requests.
- c) Coordinate notification and activation of SAR resources for approved operations.
- d) Identify availability of external SAR resources.
- e) Assist in providing technical SAR assistance and expertise to local jurisdictions.
- f) Coordinate and manage SUAC/SAC staffing necessary to meet SAR operations.
- g) Coordinate sustainment of state activated SAR operations.

B. Illinois Department of Transportation – Highway (IDOT-H)

- 1. Assist in determining transportation requirements, routes and available assets for movement of SAR assets and US&R Task Forces in the impacted area.



2. Provide transportation for SAR operations and assessment missions.
 3. Provide for construction of temporary roads and access routes into an affected area.
- C. Illinois Department of Transportation – Aviation (IDOT-A)
1. Provide air assets and personnel to conduct limited SAR operations and assessment missions.
 2. Assist in selection and coordination of identified airports for mobilization centers, assembly or staging areas.
 3. Assist in determining transportation requirements, routes and available assets for movement of SAR assets and USAR Task Forces in the impacted area.
 4. Provide transportation for SAR operations and assessment missions.
- D. Illinois National Guard (ILNG)
1. Assist in coordinating logistical, transportation and communication requirements of SAR forces in the impacted area.
 2. Support air assets and personnel to conduct search, rescue, assessment and transportation operations.
 3. Support facilities to support disaster search bases, assembly areas and staging areas.
 4. Support manpower and equipment to support heavy rescue and debris removal.
 5. Support security and coordination of efforts to areas of SAR operations.
- E. Illinois State Police (ISP)
1. Coordinate with applicable SEOC LNO's to identify the need for and, if needed, provide security to areas of SAR operations.
 2. If available, provide aircraft and aircrews to conduct search and assessment operations and transport officials involved in SAR operations.
 3. If available, provide aircraft and/or unmanned aerial systems (UAS), in accordance with the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act, for aerial surveillance, video, photography, video downlink, forward infrared heat



sensing devices.

4. Coordinate with applicable SEOC LNO's to provide law enforcement support for SAR efforts, including rural and urban locations.
5. Assist with mapping and analysis of buildings and property.

F. Illinois Emergency Services Management Agency (IESMA)

1. Provide manpower and resources for SAR efforts, including rural and urban locations.
2. Assist with mapping and analysis of buildings and property.

G. Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

1. Provide manpower and resources for USAR operations.
2. Assist in the coordination of SAR efforts.
3. Coordinate the use of MABAS and/or fire agency UAS to support SAR operations.
4. Coordinate and manage SAR mobile support teams.
5. Maintain and coordinate Illinois Task Force 1 in support of state SAR operations.

H. Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

1. Provide personnel, four-wheel drive trucks, boats and special purpose vehicles to support SAR operations.
2. Provide Mine Rescue Station personnel and equipment.
3. Provide manpower teams to utilize during SAR operations.

IV. Authorities and References

A. Authorities

1. IEMA Act, 20 ILCS 3305, as amended
2. State of Illinois MST Agreements, as amended
3. State of Illinois and MABAS Memorandum of Understanding, as amended.



B. References

1. EMAP USAR Standard, as amended.
2. National Urban SAR Response System Description Manual, as amended.
3. MABAS Staff Reference Field Operations Guide, as amended.
4. Urban SAR Response System Field Operations Guide, as amended.
5. National Urban SAR Response System Operational Systems Description and Mission Operational Procedures, as amended.
6. NIMS Resource Typing, SAR, as amended.
7. NFPA 1670 Standard on Operations and Training for Technical SAR Incidents, as amended.
8. NFPA 1006 Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, as amended.
9. International SAR Advisory Group (INSARAG), as amended