

Rescue Functional Annex

Updated: August 5, 2024

I. PURPOSE

To provide a method for coordinating the activities of the agencies responding to an emergency involving searches for lost or missing people. This includes structural collapse, missing persons, boaters, or planes. This section outlines the coordinated operations necessary for a successful search, including providing medical assistance to victims upon rescue.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Rescue operations are daily problems faced by rescue personnel. Several hazards become more significant during emergencies including nuclear incidents and hazardous materials accidents.
2. Search and Rescue can vary in complexity. The incident command system should be expanded as necessary to conduct a safe and efficient search.
3. Several resources are available within the county that can be utilized in any type of search. These resources are listed in the Resources Tracker of WebEOC.
4. North Carolina Emergency Management has various specialized teams throughout North Carolina that can supplement search and rescue efforts and provide subject matter expertise.

B. Assumptions

1. Existing rescue personnel and equipment will be able to cope with most emergencies through the use of existing mutual aid agreements. When additional support is required, assistance can be obtained from State and Federal agencies.
2. SAR incidents may be crime scenes and all precautions to protect evidence must be used. Immediate and hourly communications between searchers and law enforcement are necessary for an effective search.
3. A command post will normally be established to coordinate the efforts of all agencies involved in a search. Representatives of all agencies should participate in Unified Command from the Command Post.
4. Resources requested from outside the county may be delayed in arriving at the scene in a timely manner, due to weather, road conditions or the availability of personnel with the required expertise.
5. SAR personnel may be subjected to primary and secondary hazards while engaged in search activities.
6. To the extent possible searches will be managed per guidelines produced by the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR).
7. Alexander County has limited resources in the search and recovery of a drowning victim. Coordination with Alexander County Emergency Management may be required if an underwater recovery is necessary through an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) or dive team.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. During emergencies, the rescue service must be prepared to support each other by utilizing available expertise, equipment, and manpower.
2. In an emergency that requires several emergency services (i.e., fire, rescue, law enforcement, etc.) to respond, all units, regardless of service, will be coordinated by an incident commander or unified command.
3. Regardless of the situation, the National Incident Management System will be followed. This would involve both emergency and non-emergency situations.
4. Once notification of an emergency involving searches, including structural collapse, missing persons, boaters or planes, is received within the County, the pre-designated individuals trained in directing and coordinating SAR operations will ensure effective use of local resources.
5. Resources needed from outside the County will be identified by rescuers and coordinated with the Alexander County Emergency Management Coordinator.
6. The PIO may release information about the search and handle inquiries from media representatives on a timely basis after coordination with local law enforcement agencies.
7. Family members will be kept apprised of the progress of the search.
8. Unified Command will be utilized to coordinate the activities of all the agencies involved in a search.
9. Counseling for SAR Team Members may be available through the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. **Alexander Rescue Squad**
 - a. Alexander Rescue Squad in Alexander County is made up of organized and trained units utilizing volunteer personnel, which serves within the boundaries of Alexander County, providing service to local governments. The primary concern of these departments is to provide rescue and backup EMS services to the entire county. These services may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Vehicle Rescue
 - ii. Machinery Rescue
 - iii. Structural Collapse Rescue
 - iv. Trench Rescue
 - v. Confined Space Rescue
 - vi. High Angle Rope Rescue
 - vii. Surface and Swift Water Rescue
 - viii. Wilderness and Search Rescue
 - b. Alexander Rescue Squad maintains a North Carolina Type III Swiftwater Rescue Team that has the potential to deploy statewide and through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact if requested.
2. **Volunteer Fire Departments**
 - a. Alexander County Volunteer Fire Departments have various equipment and personnel trained in rescue services. Each Fire Department should function in the level they are trained and/or equipped to provide rescue services.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. Rescue Squad Captain

- a. Prepare SOPs for coordination of rescue operations during emergencies.
- b. Develop mutual aid agreements.
- c. Prepare inventories of all equipment and personnel resources.
- d. Report to EOC and or command post upon activation, and direct and control rescue operations
- e. Assist in warning and notifying the affected population of an existing or impending emergency.
- f. Deploy rescue personnel and equipment during emergencies.
- g. Provide protective equipment, instruments, antidotes, and clothing to perform assigned tasks in a hazardous chemical or radiological environment.
- h. ~~Provide fire equipment and personnel to supplement reception areas' fire services.~~
- i. Direct and dispatch rescue aid from other locations (if applicable) and other counties to the disaster site.
- j. Designate staging areas for mutual aid and volunteer forces responding from other areas.
- k. Alert all emergency support services to the dangers associated with technological hazards and fire during emergency operations.
- l. Advise decision makers on the hazards associated with hazardous materials.
- m. Support rescue operations.
- n. Provide radiological and hazardous material decontamination and monitoring support.
- o. ~~Provide fire protection for emergency shelters.~~
- p. Provide for maintaining exposure records and ensure that dosimeters are read and reported at appropriate frequencies.
- q. Assist in handling inquiries and informing families on the status of individuals injured or missing due to a disaster event.
- r. Coordinate support personnel to assist in traffic control and damage assessment operations.
- s. ~~Conduct fire inspections during recovery.~~



V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. Direction and control of the local rescue squad is exercised by the Executive Branch of government under the supervision of the Rescue Captain or his/her designee.
- B. Coordination of rescue services in an emergency is accomplished by the EMS Director utilizing mutual aid agreements developed with local units; and statewide, through the State Emergency Response Team.
- C. When the EOC is activated, the EMS Director and Rescue Captain or their designee will normally be located in the EOC.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. The line of succession for fire is:
 1. Rescue Captain
 2. 1st Lieutenant
 3. Ranking officer on scene

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. A listing of personnel, equipment, and supplies for rescue services located in the County will be found in the County Resource Manual. (Also, see resources in WebEOC)
- B. Reports and records of rescue services and activities during an emergency/disaster will be collected by the EMS Director and compiled for Emergency Management to maintain records of response.
- C. Agreements between ~~fire and~~ rescue services organizations and related organizations will be collected by the EMS Director and compiled for Emergency Management to maintain records of response.
- D. Rescue services will maintain current maps, charts, and current notification/recall rosters.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. Alexander Rescue Squad will maintain procedures that reflect their operational capabilities.
- B. These SOPs will be reviewed on an annual basis

IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- A. Authorities
 - 1. NC General Statue 166-A
 - 2. Alexander County Emergency Management Ordinance