

ESF 9: Search and Rescue

Primary Agency

Pacific County Sheriff's Office (PCSO)

Support Agencies

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA)

Fire Agencies

Washington State Emergency Management

U.S. Coast Guard

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. To provide for the effective utilization of search and rescue resources and for the control and coordination of various types of search and rescue operations involving persons in distress, as the result of an emergency/disaster.

B. Scope

1. This ESF includes search and rescue on the ground, from the air, or in the water.

C. Policies

1. *Search and Rescue (SAR) means the act 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 or manmade disaster, including instances involving searches for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used (RCW 38.52.010[7]).*
2. *The chief law enforcement officers within the County shall be responsible for SAR activities within their jurisdiction (RCW 38.52.400[1]).* The Pacific County Sheriff is responsible for SAR operations in Pacific County. The Sheriff will appoint one or more deputies within the department as SAR Coordinator(s).
3. Operations of Search and Rescue activities shall be per state and local operation plans adopted by the Pacific County Sheriff (RCW 38.52.400).

II. Situations and Assumptions

B. Situations

1. People will become lost, injured, or killed requiring search and rescue activities in Pacific County.
2. An emergency or disaster can cause buildings to collapse, or leave people stranded due to rising water, threatening lives and requiring prompt search, rescue, or medical care.
Search and Rescue volunteers may be mobilized to support law enforcement functions.

C. Assumptions

1. Large numbers of local residents and volunteers will initiate activities to assist in SAR operations and may require coordination and direction.
2. Rescue operations may be a team effort of law enforcement, fire service, Search and Rescue personnel, trained and/or spontaneous volunteers, and other agencies as appropriate under the Incident Command of the appropriate response agency.
Some disasters will exceed Pacific County's ability to respond to Search and Rescue needs.

III. Concept of Operations

- A. The Pacific County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated to provide coordination, technical, and administrative support to SAR operations. Similar provisions may be made from the State EOC to support local efforts.
- B. Coordination from the incident scene or from the local EOC to the State EOC will be through the normal radio and telephone capabilities, augmented by back-up direction and control systems. Local SAR field operations will utilize whatever communication means necessary to carry out effective SAR operations.
- C. The Pacific County Communications Division, or the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency, upon request from the SAR coordinator, will obtain a mission number from State Emergency Management for SAR missions.
- D. Local jurisdictions have the responsibility to establish criteria and standards for emergency workers whom they register. This may include the demonstrated proficiency of the worker to perform emergency activities as indicated by assignment and personnel class. (WAC 118-04)
- E. An adequate number of volunteers can be recruited for general SAR purposes from within the SAR organization. However, neither the County nor the Search and Rescue organization can provide all necessary equipment or manpower to cope with all types of SAR missions. Mobile support units must be requested through the Washington State Emergency Operations Officer.

F. Ground Search and Rescue

1. State Emergency Management, upon receiving requests for assistance from appropriate local authorities, will coordinate the resources of other political subdivisions and/or state and federal agencies in support of the requesting agency.
2. Air support or reconnaissance may be requested through State Emergency Management to assist the ground teams, as needed.
3. State Emergency Management will issue mission numbers to local authorities in response to downed or missing aircraft for ground search only, and will coordinate these missions with the Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics.

G. The United States Coast Guard directs all SAR operations on or above navigable waters (waters where the Coast Guard maintains navigational aids and/or where there is commercial shipping and navigation).

H. Upon notification of a possible boating accident or possible drowning, PACCOM will initially notify:

1. Appropriate Law Enforcement Agency
2. Local Fire Agency
3. EMS - if appropriate
4. U. S. Coast Guard

I. The United States Air Force directs search operations for downed or missing military aircraft, aircraft carrying people or things of national significance, or aircraft of international origin.

J. Upon notification of the possibility of a downed and missing aircraft in Pacific County, PACCOM will notify the SAR Coordinator who will:

1. Request SAR Mission Number from State Emergency Management using proper procedures.
2. Notify the Sheriff.
Notify Pacific County Emergency Management.
3. Request logistical and resource support as appropriate.
Upon notification of a Project Lifesaver client, PACCOM will make notifications according to Project Lifesaver standard operating procedures.

IV. Organization

The Sheriff's Office will fill the position of Incident Commander for all search and rescue operations.

SAR volunteer units with varying capabilities are organized under the Pacific County Sheriff's Office according to the principles of the Incident Command System.

Volunteers are registered as emergency workers in accordance with 38.52 RCW and chapter 118.04 WAC.

Pacific County Emergency Management may provide administrative support.

V. Actions

A. Initial

1. If requested, the Pacific County EOC Logistics and Operations Sections will activate in support of search and rescue operations.
2. The Pacific County Logistics Section will coordinate resource requests from the Incident Command Post or other Sections of the Pacific County EOC and/or other Command locations or Coordination Centers as required.
3. PCSO will coordinate direction and control with the EOC or other entities as appropriate.
4. PCSO will monitor and direct resources to include pre-positioning resources conditional to the geographic area of the emergency situation.
5. Response agencies will participate in/contribute to EOC briefings, development of Incident Action Plans, Situation Reports, and meetings.
6. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support SAR related activities.
7. Assist to obtain other resources through state or regional Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreements.
8. Upon request, coordinate all resources into the affected areas.

B. Continuing

1. Additional resources may be requested through Washington State Emergency Management as needed.
2. Pacific County Sheriff's Office will fill the position of SAR Coordinator ensure volunteer training and organization will comply with WAC 118-04-120.
3. Coordinate information with all other EOC Sections regarding resource requests, orders and costs.

4. Continue to provide direction and coordination as required until response activities are concluded.
5. Prepare and maintain resource procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters, and mobilization information necessary to respond.
6. Maintain a catalog of mutual aid agreements, memorandums of understanding, and other related agreements that can be implemented during an emergency.
7. Assign and schedule personnel to the Pacific County EOC as appropriate.
8. Ensure SAR paid and volunteer personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.
9. Maintain liaison with other EOC sections, participate in training and exercises involving the EOC Logistics Section.

VI. Responsibilities

A. Primary Agency

1. Sheriff

- a. Provides direction to and is responsible for search and rescue operations.
- b. Identifies the emergency needs for equipment and supplies and ensures that it is available in convenient locations.
- c. Maintains a list of SAR Personnel.
- d. Informs Emergency Management of needed resources to be requested from State Emergency Management.
- e. Coordinates search and rescue activities and training with Pacific County Search and Rescue organization.
- f. Maintains SAR mission and training records, and forwards appropriate records reimbursement requests and claims to State Emergency Management.
- g. Provides manpower as available for search and rescue activities. Provides other assistance as requested.

B. Support Agencies

1. Pacific County Emergency Management

- a. Secures SAR mission numbers from State Emergency Management upon request from the SAR Coordinator.

- b. Provides administration support to Search and Rescue volunteers.
 - c. Request state and federal assistance when requested by the Sheriff's Office.
2. Fire Agencies
 - a. Conduct rescue operations, commensurate with the availability of equipment and the degree of specialized training to include:
 - Extricating trapped person(s).
 - Rendering essential medical aid at time of release and/or prior to removal.
 - Accomplish other tasks commensurate with the situation and capabilities.
 - b. Other County Organizations assist and support SAR operations when requested and as feasible.
 3. Washington State Emergency Management
 - a. Coordinate state and regional SAR resources.
 - b. Request federal SAR assistance when requested by the county.
 4. U.S. Coast Guard

May support local jurisdictional search and rescue operations upon notice.

VII. References

- A. RCW 38.52 and WAC 118.04
- B. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- C. National Search and Rescue Plan
- D. PCFD1 Project Lifesaver Standard Operating Procedures

VIII. Attachments

