



## **Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9**

# **Search & Rescue**

**Primary Agencies**

**Albuquerque Fire Rescue**

**Albuquerque Police Department**



**City of Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9**  
**SEARCH & RESCUE**

**Purpose:**

1. Search and Rescue ESF #9 coordinates search and rescue operations and resources during emergency response and recovery. It describes the resources available, establishes organizational responsibilities and coordination procedures for the conduct of urban and non-urban Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in response to actual or anticipated disaster conditions.

**Primary:**

- Co-Leads
- Albuquerque Fire Rescue
  - Albuquerque Police Department

**Support:**

- Albuquerque Department of Municipal Development
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service / Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- American Red Cross
- New Mexico Wing Civil Air Patrol

**Likely Tasks:**

- Staff Search and Rescue Group in the EOC Operations Section.
- Identify incident sites or situations requiring search and rescue services to include:
  - Search and rescue activities following flood, weather related or high wind, and/or building collapses .
  - Surface /swift water rescue recovery operations
- Determine condition, status of Albuquerque Fire Department search and rescue resources.
- Determine present and future need for search and rescue and other on-scene resources.
- Obtain, coordinate search and rescue resources as requested by field incident commanders.
- Provide mutual aid to other jurisdictions if requested:
  - Do not dispatch mutual aid until it is determined no threat exists in Albuquerque.

**Likely Tasks Continued:**

- Determine need for a USAR Task Force.
  - Coordinate response with State USAR Coordinator through the EOC Manager.
  - Assist with implementation of an appropriate mobilization plan in coordination with the assigned Task Force Leader and/or Incident Commander.
- Sources for resources can include:
  - Mutual aid.
  - State EOC.
  - State, and federal agencies (State SAR Teams per the NM Department of Public Safety Response Plan).
  - Volunteer groups.
  - Federal USAR Response Teams.
- Establish, maintain contact with State EOC through the Albuquerque EOC.
  - Provide information on damages, status of Albuquerque Fire Department and Albuquerque Police Department search and rescue systems.
  - Request additional search and rescue resources, as needed.



**State of New Mexico**

**Primary:**

- Department of Public Safety, New Mexico State Police

**Support:**

- Department of Public Safety, Motor Transportation Division
- National Guard
- Auxiliary Communications
- Civil Air Patrol

**Likely Actions:**

- Life-saving assistance
- Search and rescue operations



**Federal Government**

**Primary:**

- Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness & Response/Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Support:**

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Transportation
- Agency for International Development
- National Aeronautics & Space Administration

**Likely Actions:**

- Equipment, personnel to search for, extricate, and provide medical treatment of victims trapped in collapsed structures. (Urban Search/Rescue Task Forces)
- Conduct needs assessment and provide technical advice.
- Provide technical specialists and expertise in various urban SAR disciplines.

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## EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #9

# SEARCH & RESCUE

**Primary Agencies:** Albuquerque Fire Rescue  
Albuquerque Police Department

**Primary Coordinator:** AFR Technical Rescue Program Coordinator  
APD Special Operations Division Lieutenant

**Support Organizations:**

- Albuquerque Department of Municipal Development
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service / Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- American Red Cross
- New Mexico Wing Civil Air Patrol

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### ***I. Introduction.***

#### **A. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of the Albuquerque Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) ESF #9 Annex is to provide coordinated Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities and specialized lifesaving assistance during emergency operations within the City of Albuquerque.

#### **B. SCOPE.**

1. The search and rescue responsibilities include locating, extricating, and providing medical assistance to persons trapped in damaged/destroyed structures or other untenable environmental circumstances such as water, ice, trench, and high angle entrapment. Coordinate allocation of resources including personnel, materials, and goods and services within affected areas.
2. The SAR response system is composed of the primary agencies that provide specialized SAR operations during incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated local response. This includes:

• Structural Collapse.	Lead Agency	AFR
• Swift Water Rescue.	Lead Agency	AFR
• Wilderness Search and Rescue.	Lead Agency	APD
• Water-based Search and Rescue	Lead Agency	APD
• Aeronautical Search and Rescue.	Lead Agency	APD

3. The four SAR response system component definitions consist of the following:
- a. **Structural Collapse Urban Search and Rescue (USAR):** The process of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by any emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves. This includes building/structural collapse SAR operations for natural disasters as well as other building collapse operations that primarily require USAR task force operations. The system is built around a core of task forces prepared to deploy immediately and initiate operations in support of ESF #9. These task forces are staffed by highly trained and experienced personnel in collapsed structure SAR operations and possess specialized expertise and equipment.
  - b. **Water-based Search and Rescue:** water-based SAR operations for river flooding, dam/levee failure, and other disasters that primarily require watercraft operations.
  - c. **Wilderness Search and Rescue:** Are SAR operations conducted in backcountry, remote, undeveloped 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. The personnel needed for these operations may be supplemented by local civilian search and rescue volunteer groups and by equine search and rescue organizations.
  - d. **Aeronautical Search and Rescue:** Are SAR operations conducted in aviation-related incidents and aeronautical search and rescue. This may require specialized SAR operations in both open and wilderness areas and in the vicinity of airports requiring the coordinated deployment of personnel and equipment.

The United States Air Force (USAF) maintains a Rescue Coordination Center that coordinates a cooperative network to respond to aviation-related incidents. This network is made up of Department of Defense components, facilities, and other resources that are used in civil SAR operations to the fullest extent practicable on a non-interference basis with their primary military duties in accordance with national directives, plans, guidelines, and agreements

**C. SITUATION.**

1. Disasters may cause conditions that vary widely in scope, urgency, and degree of devastation. Substantial numbers of persons could be in life threatening situations requiring prompt rescue and medical care.
2. Rescue personnel will encounter widespread and extensive damage to buildings and be called on to rescue people trapped in them and other untenable environmental circumstances.
3. Because the mortality rate for structural collapse entrapment dramatically increases beyond 72 hours, search and rescue must begin immediately.

**D. POLICIES.**

The National Incident Management System, in conjunction with the Incident Management System principles, is the on-scene method for SAR operations in the City of Albuquerque.

## ***II. Concept Of Operations.***

**A. GENERAL.**

The Albuquerque Fire Rescue (AFR) and the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) will co-lead as primary agencies for response to incidents requiring search and rescue. The goal of search and rescue operations is to save the lives of victims who are unable to ensure their own survival without assistance. This includes, but is not limited to locating persons lost in urban areas, and assisting injured people in unsafe areas to reach safety.

The search for and recovery of bodies will be conducted only after the rescue of survivors has been completed and the environment will allow for safe operations by search and recovery personnel.

1. The Albuquerque Fire Rescue:
  - (a) AFR will have the responsibility for search and rescue within damaged or collapsed structures or confined spaces, and for swift water rescues.
  - (b) AFR has special response vehicles and mission specific equipment to support search and rescue efforts as well as other local fire department units that carry search and rescue equipment.

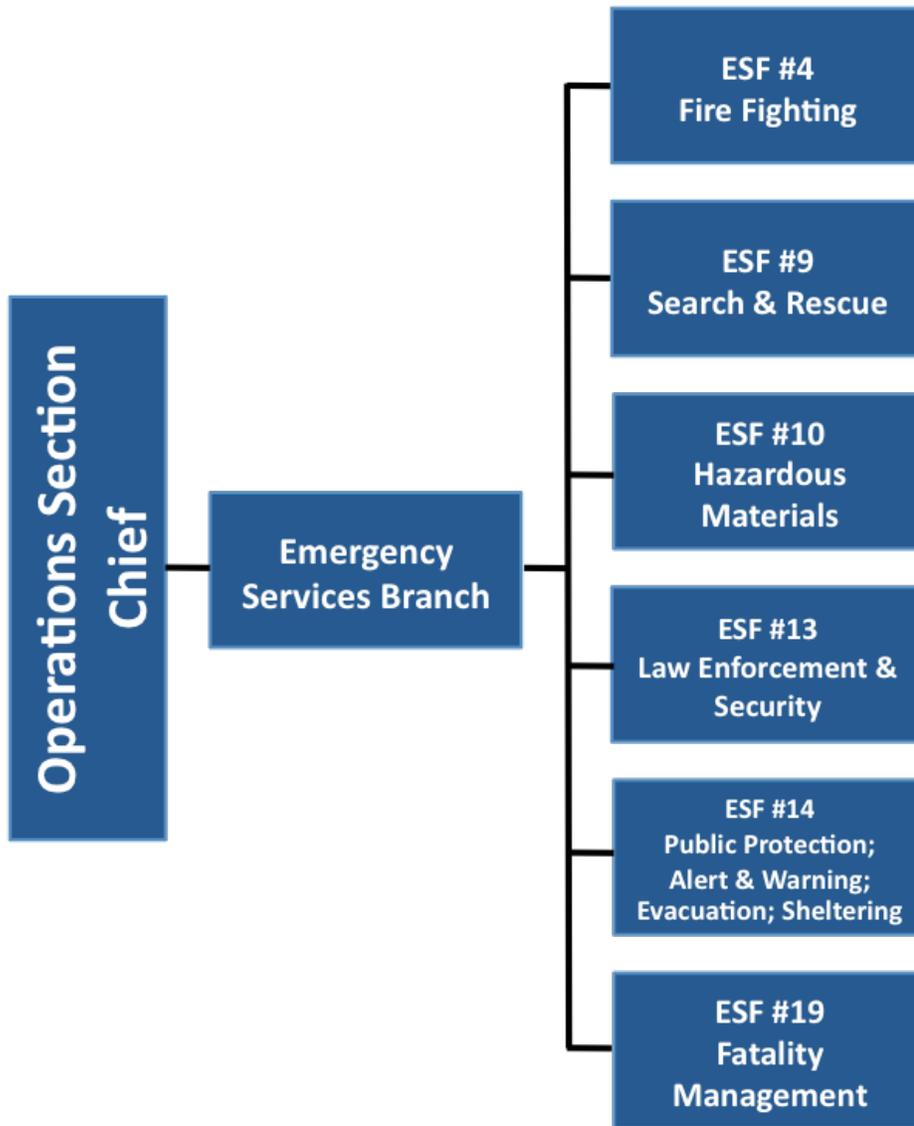
- (c) When local search resources are exhausted, or if needed resources are not locally available, assistance can be requested through normal mutual aid from other local law enforcement agencies. Requests for resources outside of normal regional mutual aid should be made through the City of Albuquerque Emergency Management Duty Officer or EOC Manager if EOC is activated
  - (d) In large-scale incidents, assistance may be requested through the federal Urban Search and Rescue teams (USAR).
2. The Albuquerque Police Department:
- (a) APD has responsibility for ground search operations for Wilderness Search and Rescue, Underwater Search and Rescue, and Aeronautical Search and Rescue. When local search resources are exhausted, or if needed resources are not locally available, assistance can be requested through normal mutual aid from other local law enforcement agencies. Requests for resources outside of normal regional mutual aid should be made through the City of Albuquerque Emergency Management Duty Officer or EOC Manager if EOC is activated.
  - (b) APD has specialized SAR teams and equipment for open and wilderness areas, and in the vicinity of airports requiring the coordinated deployment of personnel and equipment

**B. RESPONSE ORGANIZATION & STRUCTURE.**

## 1. Organizational Chart.

- ESF #9 is positioned within the Emergency Services Branch during an EOC activation. Each ESF under Emergency Services Branch will be led by a CABQ representative carrying out their ESF role.

The Organizational Structure Of The Emergency Services Branch.



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C. PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE	
Co-leads ALBUQUERQUE FIRE RESCUE AND ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT	
<b>Pre-Emergency</b>	<p>Coordinate with the Office of Emergency Management to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain this Emergency Support Function.</li> <li>• Develop a system to quickly identify and establish city-wide search and rescue grids.</li> <li>• Identify high occupancy structures, critical facilities and other places of public assembly having potential for mass casualty.</li> <li>• Prepare and maintain standard operating guidelines, inventories of resources and equipment.</li> <li>• Coordinate and participate in sponsored training and exercises.</li> <li>• Develop emergency action checklists.</li> <li>• Maintain mutual aid agreements, as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When requested for an emergency situation, report to the Albuquerque EOC.</li> <li>• Initiate search for victims throughout the impacted area.</li> <li>• Coordinate search and rescue activities with the appropriate tasked organizations.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Operations Center (EOC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff ESF #9 position in the EOC.</li> <li>• Identify incident sites or situations requiring search and rescue services to include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Search and rescue activities following flood, severe weather, and/or building collapses (i.e., Technical Rescue Teams and Hazardous Materials.</li> <li>– Coordinate Surface/Swift water rescue and recovery operations</li> <li>– Coordinate Wilderness SAR, Water-based SAR and Aeronautical SAR, and Searches for missing persons.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Determine condition, status of CABQ search and rescue resources.</li> <li>• Determine present and future need for search and rescue and other on-scene resources.</li> <li>• Obtain, coordinate search and rescue resources as requested by field incident commanders.</li> <li>• Provide strategic command and control of search and rescue teams not assigned to specific incidents. (Mobilize and manage search and rescue teams by pre-designated city grids.</li> <li>• Determine need for the USAR Task Forces.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Coordinate response with USAR Coordinator.</li> <li>– Assist with implementation of an appropriate mobilization plan in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE</b>	
<b>Co-leads ALBUQUERQUE FIRE RESCUE AND ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	
	<p>coordination with the assigned Task Force Leader and/or Incident Commander.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct SAR activities according to the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System, and team policies and procedures.</li> <li>• Provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources necessary to locate, extricate and treat the injured/trapped victims.</li> <li>• Coordinate the acquisition of personnel, supplies and administrative support necessary to conduct search and rescue operations.</li> <li>• Sources for search and rescue resources can include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mutual aid.</li> <li>– State EOC (Federal USAR Task Forces.).</li> <li>– State, and federal agencies (State SAR Teams).</li> <li>– NGOs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Establish, maintain contact with State EOC:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide information on damages, status of CABQ search and rescue systems.</li> <li>– Request additional Search &amp; Rescue resources, as requested.</li> <li>– Provide mutual aid to other jurisdictions if requested.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Recovery Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in after-action briefings and assist with after-action reviews.</li> <li>• Return SAR organization and personnel to a state of operational preparedness.</li> <li>• Support personnel with Critical Incident Stress Management as necessary.</li> </ul>

**D. SUPPORT ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS.**

<b>SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS</b>	
<b>Albuquerque Department of Municipal Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources necessary to aid the search and rescue personnel with information regarding structural issues related to any involved bridges, overpasses, culverts or other public infrastructure components as needed.</li> <li>• Provide heavy equipment, operators, and structural shoring as needed.</li> <li>• Provide expertise in building or structural issues related to infrastructure components.</li> <li>• Provide assistance to coordinate debris clearing and removal as it relates to the search &amp; rescue mission presented.</li> <li>• Record costs and expenditures and forward them to the ESF #9 Group.</li> <li>• Provide Structural Damage Assessment including engineering, building</li> </ul>

<b>SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS</b>	
	inspection services coordinated in a way that maximizes the use of resources, aids emergency response, and recovery operations.
<b>Amateur Radio Emergency Service / Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides primary and/or supplemental local area, point-to-point, and long distance communications.</li> <li>• Provides staff, resources, and equipment as needed to support EOC and emergency operations.</li> <li>• Record costs and expenditures and forward them to the ESF #9 Group Supervisor.</li> </ul>
<b>American Red Cross</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide personnel, operators, supplies and other resources necessary to aid the search and rescue personnel and victims as needed.</li> <li>• Provides shelter, feeding, and individual assistance for mass care efforts.</li> <li>• Provides disaster welfare inquiry communications.</li> <li>• Provides support for medical and mental health services.</li> <li>• Provide emergency and financial assistance.</li> <li>• Provide staff support for Family Assistance Center.</li> </ul>
<b>New Mexico Wing Civil Air Patrol</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves as support agency to ESF #9 (Search and Rescue).</li> <li>• Provide airborne search assistance.</li> <li>• Provide airborne disaster assessment.</li> <li>• Provide airborne and ground Electronic Locator Transmitter (ELT) tracking.</li> <li>• Provide transportation of officials.</li> </ul>

**E. LIFE SAFETY ASSESSMENT.**

An initial EOC priority is to gather as much intelligence about the extent of damage as soon as possible. The primary source for this will be the field response units providing information to the 911 communications center. As soon as possible, Search and Rescue personnel will report the need for rescue, the number injured and fatalities, damage to buildings, public facilities such as roads and bridges, and utilities. These reports will be compiled and immediately communicated to the EOC duty officer or EOC Manager if activated.

**F. EVACUATION.**

1. Search and Rescue officials will implement evacuation warnings due to unsafe buildings, fire danger, hazardous materials, or any other reason identified by competent authority. Officials will take all lawful actions necessary to save lives and property.
2. Evacuation warnings will be coordinated with the EOC to ensure the evacuees are moved to an appropriate shelter and the needs of special populations and individuals are provided for.

## **G. FIELD OPERATIONS.**

1. Emergency actions may include:
  - Once notified of an emergency situation, sending response teams/personnel, equipment, and vehicles to the emergency site, staging areas, or other location, as appropriate.
  - Identifying an Incident Commander and establishing an Incident Command Post. Assign appropriate personnel to IC staff.
  - Performing IC duties at the emergency scene.
  - When requested, send a senior representative to the EOC, when the EOC has been activated during an emergency.
  - Notifying the EOC of the situation if the original notification did not come from the EOC.
  - Assisting, as appropriate, in the evacuation of people at risk in the immediate area in and around the emergency scene.
  - Alerting all emergency response organizations of the dangers associated with technological hazards and fire during emergency operations.
2. Search and Rescue personnel will establish inner and outer perimeters to secure an emergency scene. A strict policy of limited access to the emergency area will be rigidly enforced to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. All movement into and out of the secured area(s) will be requested and approved through the established command post(s).
3. Security will be provided for essential facilities if required, and law enforcement officers will assist the Search and Rescue personnel in restricting access to unsafe buildings or areas.
4. Hazardous Materials Response.
  - a. Search and Rescue personnel responding to a potentially hazardous material environment will ensure that they have a full understanding of the Incident Commander's assessment of the situation and that they take full and proper precautions to protect themselves.
  - b. Only personnel having proper training should be deployed to a hazardous material incident.

## **H. MUTUAL AID.**

Mutual aid requests for large or extended incidents, with the possibility of multiple operational periods, should be communicated and coordinated through the EOC Duty Officer

or EOC Manager.

### ***III. Response Actions.***

#### **A. NOTIFICATION.**

Upon notification by CABQ OEM Director or designee of an incident, the ESF coordinator will notify support departments and organizations of potential need for ESF #9 response in accordance with ESF #9 procedures and checklists. Notification may occur via landline, cell phones, electronic means, and/or two-way radios.

#### **B. ACTIVATION.**

Activation of ESF #9 will be determined by the OEM Duty officer, by the OEM Director or by request of the ESF responding agency based on the needs of the incident.

#### **C. ONGOING ACTIVITIES.**

1. ESF #9 departments and organizations participate in activities throughout the emergency management cycle:
  - Implement Search and Rescue by filling the position of ESF #9 Supervisor within the Albuquerque EOC Operations Section.
2. Identify incident sites or situations requiring search and rescue services to include:
  - Search and rescue activities following flood, severe weather, and/or building collapses (i.e., Heavy Technical Rescue Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Teams and Hazardous Materials Response.
  - Surface/Swift water rescue Wilderness Search and Rescue, Water-based Search and Rescue and Aeronautical Search and Rescue search and recovery operations
3. Coordinate searches for missing persons.
4. Determine condition, status of the Albuquerque area search and rescue resources.
5. Determine present and future need for search and rescue and other on-scene resources.
6. Obtain, coordinate search and rescue resources as requested by field incident commanders.
7. Provide strategic command and control of search and rescue teams not assigned to

specific incidents.

8. Mobilize and manage search and rescue teams by pre-designated City grids.

**D. DEACTIVATION.**

1. The EOC will be deactivated or the response level will be lowered when the event needs have decreased. Deactivation or change in response level may also occur as a result of a transition of the EOC mission from response to recovery. EOC activation status may be changed when determined appropriate by the EOC Manager.
2. Upon EOC deactivation, ESF #9 responsibilities will either be deactivated or assumed by an appropriate department. Once the decision to deactivate the EOC has been reached, the following activities may be necessary:
  - Complete or transfer remaining coordinating activities to the appropriate department operation center or ESF(s).
  - Coordinate the physical closing of the EOC, to include staff release, equipment pack up, return and inventory.
  - Coordinate the release of a public deactivation announcement with the JIC.
  - Provide deactivation information and a final status report to all involved response departments and/or coordinating and supporting ESF departments.

***IV. Attachments And References.***

**A. ATTACHMENTS.**

National Urban Search & Rescue Response System.

**B. REFERENCES.**

1. National Search and Rescue Plan of the United States (2007).
2. National Response Framework, ESF #9 Search and Rescue annex (2008).
3. City of Albuquerque Joint Information System Plan.
4. City of Albuquerque Emergency Operations Center Operating Manual.

**C. PROVISIO.**

1. This support annex has been prepared in accordance with the standards of the National Incident Management System and other Federal and State requirements and standards for emergency plans applicable of the plan's preparation date.
2. The plan provides a broad planned framework for response and recovery; it is intended for use in further development for response capabilities, implementation of training and exercises, and defining the general approach to incident response. The actual response to an incident is dependent on:
  - a. The specific conditions of the incident, including incident type, geographic extent, severity, timing, and duration;
  - b. The availability of resources for response at the time of the incident;
  - c. Decisions of incident command staff and political leadership;
  - d. Actions taken by neighboring jurisdictions, the State, and the Federal Government.
  - e. These and other factors may result in unforeseen circumstances, prevent the implementation of plan components, or require actions that are significantly different from those described in the plan.

Attachment 1

**NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE (US&R) RESPONSE SYSTEM**

The National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System is a framework for organizing federal, state and local partner emergency response teams as integrated federal search and rescue task forces. The 28 National US&R Task Forces, complete with the necessary tools, equipment, skills and techniques, can be deployed by FEMA to assist state and local governments in rescuing victims of structural collapse incidents or to assist in other search and rescue missions.

The 28 task forces are located throughout the continental United States. Any task force can be activated and deployed by FEMA to a disaster area to provide assistance in structural collapse rescue, or, they may be prepositioned when a major disaster threatens a community. Each task force must have all its personnel and equipment at the embarkation point within six hours of activation so that it can be dispatched and en route to its destination.

A FEMA Type I Task Force is made up of 70 multi-faceted, cross-trained personnel who serve in six major functional areas, including search, rescue, medical, hazardous materials, logistics and planning. These elements are supported by canines that are trained and able to conduct physical search and heavy rescue operations in damaged or collapsed reinforced concrete buildings. Each task force can be divided into two 35-member, Type III, Light Task Force. What the task force can do:

- Conduct physical search and rescue in collapsed buildings
- Emergency medical care to trapped victims
- Search-and-rescue dogs
- Assessment and control of gas, electric service and hazardous materials
- Evaluation and stabilization of damaged structures



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