



* Parameters on search and rescue lead agency for Incident Command set at Annex F (Fire & EMS), Section V (Concept of Operations), Subsection E (Searches).

I. PURPOSE

To locate and aid persons who are lost or trapped as a result of disaster.

II. SITUATION

Conditions for which search and rescue operations would be needed are flooding, fires, confined space rescues, HAZMAT incidents, aviation disasters, or terrorist incidents. The county has available through its various departments, manpower, equipment, supplies and facilities that may be used to assist with search and rescue operations.

III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

- A. Outside assistance will be available from adjacent governmental jurisdictions, volunteers, private entities, and from the State and/or Federal governments.
- B. Technical rescue capabilities in Pottawattamie County are limited and the need for mutual aid is probable.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

Search and Rescue operations will be an operational responsibility of the Incident Commander. Incident Command designation will be dependant on the reason/need for search operations.

B. Conduct of Operations

- 1. The Incident Commander will develop the search and rescue organization to meet requirements of the search operation to be conducted. Search and Rescue functions will be part of the established Incident Command Structure (Operations Division).
- 2. The Incident Commander will notify, through the 9-1-1 Communications Center, the local organizations needed to assist in the conduct of search and rescue operations.
- 3. The Incident Commander or designee (Division, Section, Branch Chief) will provide detailed instructions and assign specific areas to search and rescue units.

4. The Incident Commander will establish communications for direction and control of operations and reporting requirements, and may request the activation of the Pottawattamie County EOC.
5. The Incident Commander or designee will identify specialized equipment or operational needs (technical rescue). The logistics section (Resource Management Coordinator – EOC, if activated) will ensure procurement and distribution of this equipment or personnel.
6. The Incident Commander will identify a media briefing area and designate a Public Information Officer.
7. Use of local mutual aid resources will be coordinated by the Incident Commander or designee, assisted by the Emergency Management Agency.

V. ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Fire/EMS Agencies:

1. Are the most likely lead agency for search and rescue operations.
2. Perform only those search and rescue duties that personnel have been trained to perform.
3. Each agency is responsible for ensuring that technical rescue programs undertaken within their agency conform to applicable National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards governing rescue operations and training.
4. Operate under an Incident Command or Unified Command structure as a lead or support agency for search and rescue, dependant on the situation.
5. Operate under the principles of existing mutual aid compacts, protocols, and disaster/emergency guidelines of the Pottawattamie County Emergency Operations Plan and make available any specialized (technical rescue) skills, personnel, and equipment.
6. Exercise search and rescue techniques along with established disaster/emergency protocols and guidelines.

B. Law Enforcement Agencies

1. Law enforcement agencies may be needed to assist with standard searches of areas affected by disaster or other emergency.
2. Rescue operations, to include technical rescue, will be the responsibility of Fire/EMS agencies or specialized resources.
3. Law enforcement may be the lead agency responsible for search operations dependant on the situation (e.g., search operations for fugitives or explosive devices).
4. Law enforcement officials assigned to search operations will fall under direct command of the Search and Rescue Division of Incident Command Operations until reassigned or dismissed.

C. Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

1. When requested by the IC, the EMA will activate the EOC and aid Incident Commanders in acquiring additional or specialized search and rescue resources.
2. Perform as the sole county agency authorized to request federal and state resources to augment search and rescue operations.
3. Assist in acquiring and managing the use of volunteer or private sector services.

D. County Engineer and City Public Works Departments

1. Provide equipment and equipment operators, as requested, to support rescue operations.
2. Advise the IC on the operational capabilities of county or city owned public works equipment.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. All volunteers will be logged in and out of service at a designated processing point.
- B. All participating organizations will be responsible for accountability of their respective personnel and to the Incident Commander.
- C. The Incident Commander will ensure that appropriate shelter areas are provided for search and rescue personnel as conditions dictate.

- D. The Incident Commander will ensure that arrangements are made for feeding and providing water to search and rescue personnel on extended tours of duty, coordinated with Emergency Management (EOC Staff).
- E. Funding for conduct of disaster operations will be determined per Annex M (Resource Management), and appropriate financial records of expenditures will be kept by all agencies involved.

VII. LIST OF ADDENDA FOR ANNEX O

ITEM	TITLE	PAGE
Attachment 1	Emergency Response Checklist	O6
Attachment 2	County Technical Rescue resources	O7
Attachment 3	External resources	O8

**SEARCH AND RESCUE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST**

**Annex O
Attachment 1**

PREPAREDNESS PHASE

- _____ Review mutual aid agreements, emergency operations plans, department specific capabilities.
- _____ Identify available resources (personnel, volunteers, technical rescue, equipment, etc.).
- _____ Alert personnel to be on stand-by status.

RESPONSE PHASE

- _____ Alert personnel and agencies.
- _____ Request mutual aid and other resources as necessary.
- _____ Establish incident command, on-site command post and communication.
- _____ Establish media briefing area.
- _____ Advise Executive Staff of situation.
- _____ Maintain log of activities and financial records.
- _____ Maintain status records on manpower, vehicles, and equipment provided by agencies assisting in the search and rescue operations.
- _____ Define and assign areas of operation and concern.

RECOVERY PHASE

- _____ Provide financial information for reports.
- _____ Replace equipment lost, destroyed, or expended during operations.
- _____ Return borrowed equipment and acknowledge assistance.
- _____ Repair equipment damaged during operations.
- _____ Critique and revise plans, SOG's, protocols and mutual aid compacts as needed.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE
COUNTY TECHNICAL RESCUE RESOURCES**

**Annex O
Attachment 2**

DEPARTMENT	CAPABILITY	EXTENT	CONTACT
Avoca V.F.D.	Extrication Confined Spaces Rope Rescue	Full Minimal Minimal	9-1-1 Center
Carson V.F.D.	Extrication	Full	9-1-1 Center
Carter Lake V.F.D.	Water Rescue Dive Rescue Dive Recovery Ice Rescue	Full Full Full Full	9-1-1 Center
Council Bluffs F.D.	Extrication Confined Spaces Rope Rescue Water Rescue Ice Rescue	Full (multiple sets) Full Moderate Full Full	9-1-1 Center
Crescent V.F.D.	Extrication	Full	9-1-1 Center
Hancock V.F.D.	Extrication	Minimal	9-1-1 Center
Lewis Twp. V.F.D.	Extrication Rope Rescue Water Rescue Dive Rescue Dive Recovery Ice Rescue	Full Minimal Full Full Full Full	9-1-1 Center
Macedonia V.F.D.	Extrication	Minimal	9-1-1 Center
McClelland V.F.D.	none		9-1-1 Center
Minden V.F.D.	Extrication	Full	9-1-1 Center
Neola V.F.D.	Extrication Confined Spaces	Full Minimal	9-1-1 Center
Oakland V.F.D.	Extrication	Full	9-1-1 Center
Underwood V.F.D.	Extrication Rope Rescue	Full Minimal	9-1-1 Center
Walnut V.F.D.	Extrication	Full	9-1-1 Center

**SEARCH AND RESCUE
EXTERNAL RESOURCES (Search and Rescue Specific)**

**Annex O
Attachment 3**

AGENCY	LOCATION	SERVICES	CONTACT
Iowa Search & Rescue	Marion, IA	K-9 Search	319-685-4115
US Coast Guard Aux.	Omaha, NE	Water rescue	402-422-9561
Iowa Civil Air Patrol			through County EMA
Omaha Fire	Omaha, NE	Extrication Water Rescue Confined Spaces Rope Rescue	402-444-5802
Atlantic V.F.D.	Atlantic, IA	Rope Rescue Extrication	712-243-2204
Urban Search & Rescue (FEMA)	NE-TF1, Lincoln, NE MO-TF1, Boone County, MO	Full Search and Technical Rescue Full Search and Technical Rescue	through County EMA through County EMA
STAR1	Story County, IA	Full Search and Technical Rescue	Story County EMA
All-County K9 Search Team of Iowa	Des Moines, IA	K9 assisted search	515-266-1268
Iowa National Guard	various	personnel	through County EMA
Red Cross Disaster Assistance	Omaha, NE	personnel responder rehab	402-422-9789
Salvation Army Disaster 1	Omaha, NE	personnel responder rehab	402-271-2711