ANNEX R

SEARCH & RESCUE

June 2012

Brazos County
Interjurisdictional Emergency Management

Ver. 2.0
03/06
APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

Annex R

Search & Rescue

City of College Station Fire Chief

City of Bryan Fire Chief

South Brazos County Fire Chief

Brazos County District 2 Fire Chief

Brazos County Precinct 3 Fire Chief

Brazos County Precinct 4 Fire Chief

EMC, Texas A & M University

6/20/12

6-18-12

6/18/12

6-20-12

6-18-12

6-18-12

Ver. 2.0
03/06
# RECORD OF CHANGES

Annex R

Search & Rescue

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<th>Entered By</th>
<th>Date Entered</th>
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ANNEX R

SEARCH & RESCUE

I. AUTHORITY

See Basic Plan, Section 1.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to outline operational concepts and organizational arrangements for SAR operations during emergency situations in our community. This annex is applicable to all agencies, organizations and personnel assigned SAR functional responsibilities.

III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

A. Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DDC</td>
<td>Disaster District Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMC</td>
<td>Emergency Management Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>EOC</td>
<td>Emergency Operations Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>IC</td>
<td>Incident Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICP</td>
<td>Incident Command Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICS</td>
<td>Incident Command System</td>
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<tr>
<td>JP</td>
<td>Justice of the Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Medical Examiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIMS</td>
<td>National Incident Management System</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAR</td>
<td>Search and Rescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEEX</td>
<td>Texas Engineering Extension Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>TX-TF1</td>
<td>Texas Task Force 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>US&amp;R</td>
<td>Urban Search and Rescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFD</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Department</td>
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</table>

B. Definitions

1. **Hazmat.** Hazardous materials.

2. **Secondary Hazard.** A situation that occurs as a result of an initial hazard. For example, a chemical release from a tank car involved in a train derailment or a gas leak within a collapsed building.

3. **Terrorist Incident.** A violent act, or an act dangerous to human life, in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state, to intimidate or coerce a
government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political and social objectives.

4. **Texas Task Force 1.** Also known as TX-TF1, this task force is the state’s urban search and rescue team, headquartered at the Texas Engineering Extension Service’s Emergency Response facility in the College Station Business Park in College Station, Texas. Its members are from city and county agencies throughout the state. They respond to mass casualty disasters anywhere in the state. Their assistance is not limited to heavy US&R. They also have a Flood Rescue Strike Team to assist during flooding situations.

### IV. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### A. Situations

1. The jurisdictions who are party to this plan depend on municipal fire department(s) and/or volunteer fire department(s) for SAR.

2. Local buildings are subject to severe structural damage from hurricane, tornado, flood, earthquake, explosion, and acts of terrorism, which could result in injured people trapped in the damaged and collapsed structures.

3. In emergency situations involving structural collapse, large numbers of people may require rescue.

4. The mortality rate among trapped victims rises dramatically after 72 hours; therefore, search and rescue operations must be initiated without delay.

5. Secondary hazards may compound problems and threaten both disaster victims and rescue personnel.

6. Weather conditions such as rain, temperature extremes, and high winds, may pose additional hazards to disaster victims and rescue personnel.

7. Large-scale emergencies, disasters, and acts of terrorism may adversely impact SAR personnel, equipment, and facilities as well as communications systems.

#### B. Assumptions

1. A trained, equipped, organized rescue service will provide the capability to conduct methodical SAR operations, shore up and stabilize weakened structures, release trapped persons, and locate the missing and dead.

2. Access to disaster areas may be limited because of damaged infrastructure.

3. If our resources and those obtained pursuant to inter-local agreements are insufficient and additional support is required, we will request assistance from the State.
4. During major emergency situations, our SAR resources may be damaged and specialized supplies depleted.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The fire service has the primary responsibility of providing our communities with SAR operations. Initial SAR duties will likely be performed by the local fire department with jurisdiction. For larger scale events, all departments are encouraged to request assistance from the Bryan Fire Department Technical Rescue Team which has the responsibility of providing SAR assistance to the Interjurisdictional partners. Our SAR resources include:

a. Bryan Fire Department Technical Rescue Team which provides high angle rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, swift water rescue, wilderness rescue and building collapse rescue.

b. College Station Fire Department Search and Rescue Team which provides hazardous materials response, trench rescue and confined space rescue.

c. Texas Task Force 1 Search and Rescue Team, a State resource located in our County which could be requested through the DDC in Bryan, TX.

d. Search Dog Network, which provides the following capabilities:
   1) Search Management
   2) Air Scent (Wilderness) Search
   3) Human Remains Search
   4) Water Search

e. CenTex Canine Search and Rescue Team, which provides the following capabilities:
   1) Area Search-Air Scent
   2) Cadaver Search
   3) Water Search
   4) Urban Search
   5) Disaster/Collapse Structural
   6) Fire Scene
   7) Wilderness Search

f. South Brazos County VFD

g. Brazos County District 2 VFD

h. Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD

i. Brazos County Precinct 4 VFD

2. The responsibilities of our SAR team will be extensive during some types of emergency situations. These responsibilities include the search for and extrication of victims during events such as structural collapse, hazmat accidents, flooding incidents, radiological incidents, and major fires or explosions.

B. Implementation of ICS

The first responder on the scene of an emergency situation should initiate the ICS and establish an Incident Command Post (ICP). As other responders arrive, this jurisdiction will
expand the Incident Command System (ICS) as needed. The IC will implement ICS to
direct and control responding resources and designate emergency operating areas.

C. Terrorist Incident Response

During terrorist incident response it is essential that the incident command team establish
operating areas and formulate a plan of action that will allow SAR personnel to conduct
operations in such a way as to minimize the impact to the crime scene. Emergency
responders should be especially watchful for any signs of secondary devices usually set off
for the purpose of injuring responders. Refer to Annex V, Terrorist Incident Response, for
more information on the response to terrorist threats and activities.

D. Requesting External Assistance

1. If our local SAR resources are inadequate to deal with an emergency situation, SAR
resources covered by mutual aid agreements will be requested by the Fire Chief(s), IC
or other individuals who are specifically authorized to do so (such as a MACC in the
event of a regional response to a catastrophic event). Assistance may also be
requested from industries and businesses with SAR resources that have agreed to
assist us during emergencies.

2. If our SAR resources and those obtained pursuant to inter-local agreements are
insufficient to deal with an emergency situation, statewide mutual aid will be requested in
accordance with the Texas Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan during an emergency

3. If the foregoing resources are inadequate to deal with an emergency situation, the
County Judge and/or Mayor(s) may request SAR assistance from the State through the
Disaster District in Bryan, Texas.

E. Activities by Phases of Emergency Management

1. Prevention
   a. Maintain up-to-date information on known hazards present in facilities such as
      refineries, factories, power plants, and other commercial businesses.
   b. Maintain up-to-date information on type and quantities of hazardous material present
      in local businesses and industrial facilities.

2. Preparedness
   a. Maintain a schedule for testing, maintenance, and repair of rescue equipment.
   b. Maintain a list of all SAR resources (see Annex M) and stock specialized supplies.
   c. Make arrangements for responders to obtain building plans during emergencies.
   d. Identify sources of dogs that can be used for SAR operations.
e. Develop communications procedures to ensure adequate communications between SAR units, fire units, law enforcement units and other emergency responders.

f. Plan and execute training exercises for all SAR personnel on a regular basis.

g. Revise and update response plans at regular intervals.

3. Response

a. Initiate rescue missions, as necessary.

b. Mobilize support resources.

4. Recovery

a. Perform or assist in decontamination and cleanup.

b. Assess damage to SAR equipment and facilities, if necessary.

c. Inventory and replace depleted supplies.

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VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

1. Our normal emergency organization, described in Section VI.A of the Basic Plan and depicted in Attachment 3 to the Basic Plan, shall carry out the function of providing SAR services in emergency situations. Routine SAR operations can be handled by our SAR team, with limited support from one or two other emergency services, operating under an IC. The EOC will normally be activated for major emergencies and disasters that require extensive SAR operations and a commitment of all emergency services as well as external assistance.

2. The Fire Chief(s) or his/her designee shall serve as the Chief Rescue Officer and coordinate emergency SAR operations.

B. Task Assignments

1. The Bryan Fire Department SAR Team will:

   a. Coordinate all SAR operations using City/Regional resources or those obtained pursuant to inter-local agreements.

   b. Provide assistance during evacuations (see Annex E).

   c. Prepare and execute inter-local agreements for SAR support.

   d. Provide support for other public safety operations, as necessary.
2. The IC will:
   a. Establish an ICP and control and direct emergency response resources.
   b. Assess the incident, request any additional resources needed, and provide periodic
      updates to the EOC, if activated.
   c. Determine and implement initial protective actions for emergency responders and the
      public in the vicinity of the incident site.
   d. Establish a specific division of responsibilities between the incident command
      operation and the EOC, if activated.

3. Law Enforcement will:
   Upon request of the IC, provide control access to and control traffic around incident
   sites.

4. The Public Works and Utilities Department will:
   a. Upon request of the IC, provide heavy equipment support for SAR operations.
   b. Upon request of the IC, shut off gas and/or power to collapsed structures.

5. EMS, both public and private, will:
   Provide trained personnel and equipment to administer emergency medical support, if
   necessary.

6. Fire Department(s) will:
   Coordinate body recovery activities with the JP's office, if needed.

VII. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

A. General

1. For most emergency situations, an IC will establish an ICP and direct and control
   emergency operations at the scene from that ICP. All SAR resources will carry out
   missions assigned by the IC. The IC will be assisted by a staff with the expertise and of
   a size required for the tasks to be performed. The IC will usually be the highest ranking
   person on the scene, but could be of lower ranking if more qualified or if by policy of the
   responding jurisdiction.

2. In some situations, the EOC may be activated without an incident command operation.
   This type of organizational arrangement is most likely when: (a) a hazard threatens, but
   has not yet impacted the local area (such as the predicted landfall of a hurricane), or (b)
   when a generalized threat exists and there is no identifiable incident site (as may be the
   case for a terrorist threat). During these situations, a senior SAR officer will normally
   report to the EOC to coordinate any response by SAR personnel.
SAR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Community EOC and/or City/County Communications Center(s)

Incident Command

City/VFD SAR Team & Volunteer SAR Team(s)

LEGEND:

Phone/Cell Phone

700/800 MHZ/VHF Radios