

Wilson County Emergency Operations Plan

Search and Rescue (SAR)

(ESF-9)

Purpose

This section provides for the responsibility of managing a search for a lost person within the County of Wilson.

Situation and Assumptions

Situation

Presently, in Wilson County, the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction will be the agency Responsible for managing a search for a lost person.

Wilson County Emergency Management will provide specialized resources for search.

Presently, within the county, properly trained resources for search are minimal, although Wilson County Mounted Search Team has formed and is in the process of taking the necessary training. The team is marginally operational at this time.

Wilson County has available for response on a mutual aid basis, (with a minimum of two hours response time) NC Canine Emergency Response Team, NC Search and Rescue Dog Association, Souther Pride search Dogs.

Wilson County, having many special needs facilities, is at risk for a search to develop.

Assumptions

1. Assistance for search will be available from other jurisdictions.
2. The missing person is at risk from the elements and needs to be located as soon as possible.

Concept of Operations

General

When a report of a lost/missing person is received by the Emergency Communications Center, a call for service will be initiated to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

The law enforcement agency will determine if a search needs to be organized to assist in locating the missing person.

Once the determination to organize a search has been made Wilson County Emergency Management will assist in contacting available resources and act as operations chief.

Law enforcement will remain in command of the search and will be responsible for investigation.

Only properly trained, clue conscious personnel will be allowed to actively search in hostile environments. (Areas where wilderness experience and land navigation skills are required.)

Non-trained individuals will be utilized in a passive search mode. (Visual and sound attraction methods.)

Incident command procedures will be followed in all search operations.

1. All searches will be considered a crime scene until proven otherwise.
2. EMS and Rescue personnel will provide emergency medical care at all search operations.
3. Fire department, EMS, and Rescue personnel will assist with incident command procedures and will provide manpower for passive search methods., or active search methods providing personnel are properly trained in search techniques.
4. When possible, fire stations will be used as incident command post and staging areas.
5. All efforts will be made to locate the missing person as soon as possible, however, after a thorough search has been made, responsible agency heads will decide, based on all available information, whether or not to discontinue the active search.