

ANNEX R

**SEARCH
&
RESCUE**



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

Annex R

Search & Rescue

This emergency management plan is hereby approved. This plan is effective immediately and supersedes all previous editions.

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ANNEX R

SEARCH & RESCUE

I. AUTHORITY

See Section 1 of the Basic Plan for general authorities.
City of Arlington Fire Department (AFD), Basic Plan, Section 1.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to outline operational concepts and organizational arrangements for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations during emergency situations for University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington). The primary responsibility of this Annex and Best Practice Guidelines are assigned to the AFD.

III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

A. Acronyms

AFD	City of Arlington Fire Department
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
HazMat	Hazardous Material
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
SAR	Search and Rescue
TX-TFI	Texas Task Force 1
US&R	Urban Search and Rescue
UT Arlington	University of Texas at Arlington

B. Definitions

1. Hazardous Material (HazMat). Any substance or material could adversely affect the safety of the public, handlers, or carriers during transportation.
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 (TX-TF1). This task force is the state's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team, headquartered at the Texas Engineering Extension Service's Emergency Response and Rescue Training Field in Bryan, 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 on campus

1. UT Arlington depends on AFD for SAR.
2. Buildings on campus are subject to severe structural damage from tornado, flood, 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 to include students, staff and faculty may require rescue.
4. The mortality rate among trapped victims rises dramatically after 72 hours; therefore, SAR 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 on campus

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 on campus may be limited because of damaged infrastructure. Therefore, a structural Engineering firm may have to be contracted to help determine if structure is safe to enter.
3. If the AFD resources and those obtained pursuant to inter-local agreements are insufficient and additional support is required, AFD will request assistance from the state.
4. During major emergency situations, AFD SAR resources may be damaged and specialized supplies depleted.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The AFD has the primary responsibility of providing the UT Arlington campus with SAR operations. AFD SAR resources include:
 - a. AFD
 - b. AFD Special Operations Teams
 - c. TX-TF1 Canine SAR Team, which provides the following capabilities:
 1. Area search-air scent
 2. Tracking/trailing
 3. Evidence search
 4. Cadaver search
 5. Water search
 6. Urban search
 7. Disaster/collapse structural
 - d. AFD Dive Rescue Unit
 - e. AFD Swiftwater Rescue Team
 - f. Citizen Air Patrol Air Search Team
2. The responsibilities of the AFD SAR team will be extensive during some types of emergency situations on campus. 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 Incident Command System (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, UT Arlington will implement ICS. The individual present, most qualified to deal with the specific situation will be designated as the Incident Commanders (IC). The IC will implement ICS to direct and control responding resources and designate emergency operating areas. If the city is requested, a unified command will be established.

C. Terrorist incident response

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

D. Requesting external assistance

1. If the AFD SAR resources are inadequate to deal with an emergency situation on campus, AFD SAR resources covered by inter local agreements will be requested by the AFD fire chief.
2. If the foregoing resources are inadequate to deal with an emergency situation on campus, the city of Arlington mayor may request SAR assistance from the state through the Disaster District Committee.

E. Activities by phases of emergency management

1. Mitigation

Should an event occur on campus, UT Arlington Environmental Health & Safety can be a resource to AFD in determining what HazMat exists and its location.

2. Preparedness

- a. AFD maintains a schedule for testing, maintenance, and repair of rescue equipment.
- b. AFD maintains a list of all SAR resources and stock specialized supplies.
- c. AFD and UT Arlington Office of Facilities Management will work with responders regarding campus building plans during emergency situations.
- d. AFD will identify sources of dogs that can be used for SAR operations.
- e. AFD and UT Arlington Police Communications Department will develop communications procedures to ensure adequate communications between SAR units, fire units, law enforcement units, and other emergency responders.
- f. AFD will plan and execute training exercises for all SAR personnel on a regular basis.
- g. AFD will revise and update response plans at regular intervals.

3. Response

- a. AFD will initiate rescue missions in collaboration UT Arlington Police Department, as necessary.
- b. AFD will mobilize support resources.

4. Recovery

- a. UT Arlington will provide support in decontamination and cleanup.
- b. AFD will assess damage to SAR equipment and facilities, if necessary.
- c. AFD and UT Arlington will inventory and replace depleted supplies.

VI. ORGANIZATION & ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

1. UT Arlington 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. UT Arlington has no SAR capabilities and will rely on AFD for assistance with SAR operations. The Emergency Operations Center (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. A unified command would be established.
2. The AFD special operations chief shall serve as the chief rescue officer and coordinate emergency SAR operations on campus.

B. Task assignments

1. The AFD SAR team will:
 - a. Coordinate all SAR operations using city resources or those obtained pursuant to inter-local agreements.
 - b. Provide assistance during evacuations.
 - c. Prepare and execute inter-local agreements for SAR support, if appropriate.
 - d. Provide support for other public safety operations, as necessary.
2. The IC or unified command 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 students, staff and faculty in the vicinity of the incident site.
 - d. Establish a specific division of responsibilities between the IC operation and the EOC, if activated.
3. UT Arlington Police Department will:

Upon request of the IC, provide control access to and control traffic around incident sites. If the incident is large, UT Arlington Police Department may need to ask for assistance from Arlington Police Department or other University of Texas System institutions.
4. The Office of Facilities Management will:
 - a. Upon request of the IC, provide heavy equipment support for SAR operations.
 - b. Upon request of the IC, shut off gas or power to collapsed structures.
 - c. Upon request of the IC, provide building plans and original construction documents.
 - d. Upon request of the IC, contract for other professional services such as structural engineering services.

VII. DIRECTION & CONTROL

A. General

1. For most emergency situations, an IC or unified command and ICP will be established to direct and control emergency operations at the scene. All AFD SAR resources will carry out missions assigned by the IC or unified command. The IC or unified command will be assisted by a staff of UT Arlington with the expertise and of a size required for the tasks to be performed. The individual most qualified to deal with the specific type of emergency situation present should serve as the IC.
2. In some situations, the EOC may be activated without an IC operation. This type of organizational arrangement is most likely when: (a) a hazard threatens, but has not yet impacted the university, 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.
3. External response agencies are expected to conform to the general guidance provided by our senior decision-makers and carry out mission assignments directed by the IC or the EOC. However, organized response units will normally work under the immediate control of their own supervisors.

B. ICS EOC interface

If both the EOC and an ICP are operating, the IC or unified command and the EOC must agree upon a specific division of responsibilities to ensure proper response to the incident without duplication of efforts. A general division of responsibilities between the ICP and the EOC that can be used as a basis for more specific agreement is provided in UT Arlington Section V of Annex N, Direction and Control.

C. Line of succession

Line of succession for the chief rescue officer is:

1. AFD special operations chief
2. AFD training captain

VIII. READINESS LEVELS

A. Readiness Level IV – Normal Conditions

See the mitigation and preparedness activities in paragraphs V.E.1 and V.E.2 above.

B. Readiness Level III – Increased Readiness

1. UT Arlington and AFD will monitor situation.
2. AFD will alert key personnel.
3. AFD will check readiness of all equipment and supply status and correct deficiencies.
4. AFD will review inter-local agreements for use of SAR resources operated by other agencies.
5. AFD will review plans and procedures and update them, if necessary.

C. Readiness Level II – High Readiness

1. AFD will alert personnel of possible emergency duty.
2. AFD will place selected personnel and equipment on standby.
3. Identify personnel to staff the EOC and ICP if those facilities are activated.
4. AFD will prepare to implement inter-local agreements.

D. Readiness Level I – Maximum Readiness

1. AFD will mobilize selected AFD SAR team members.
2. Consider precautionary deployment of personnel and equipment, if appropriate.
3. AFD dispatch SAR representative(s) to the EOC when activated.

IX. ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

A. Reporting

The IC or unified command will forward periodic reports to the EOC. Pertinent information will be incorporated into the Initial Emergency Report and periodic Situation Reports. The essential elements of information for the Initial Emergency Report and the Situation Report are outlined in Support Documents 15 and 17 to UT Arlington Annex N Direction and Control.

B. Records

Activity logs. The IC or unified command and, if activated, the EOC, shall maintain accurate logs recording significant operational activities, the commitment of resources, and other information relating to emergency response and recovery operations. See Section UT Arlington IX.B of Annex N, Direction and Control, for more information on the types of information that should be recorded in activity logs.

EOC info/action logs. The log is a chronological record of events pertaining to a particular incident or period of time. The log is not intended to record each detail of an incident(s), but only to summarize the occurrence(s) and make reference to supporting documents. Accurate data with sufficient data to fix the time, and place and describe important events will characterize all entries in the log. Events will be recorded as they occur. If supporting documents are used to describe the incident(s), the time used will be the same as used on the support document to provide an accurate audit trail. See UT Arlington Annex N, Direction and Control Support Document 14.

C. Resources

A listing of local fire department resources is found in Appendix 2 and 3 of the AFD Annex M, Resource Management. AFD will implement a firefighting equipment acquisition program to ensure our equipment complies with the relevant National Incident Management System performance and interoperability standards.

D. Communications

The AFD will operate within the city of Arlington 800 MHz system, see Support Document 1. AFD, city of Arlington Police Department, and American Medical Response Ambulance service will operate the communications center located at 620 West Division, Arlington, Texas. The center is staffed 24 hours by dispatcher services personnel. Equipment will be available to provide communications necessary for emergency operations. An internal recall roster will be maintained. Notification will be available by communications.

E. Post incident review

For large-scale emergency operations, the AFD emergency management coordinator and UT Arlington emergency management coordinator shall organize and conduct a review of emergency operations. The purpose of this review is to identify needed improvements in this annex, procedures, facilities, and

equipment. AFD SAR personnel who participated in the operations should participate in the review; once completed AFD annex should be updated.

X. ANNEX DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE

- A.** The AFD special operations chief is responsible for developing and maintaining this annex. Recommended changes to this annex should be forwarded as needs become apparent, with regards to actions, functions, and processes to AFD.
- B.** This annex will be revised annually.
- C.** AFD is responsible for developing and maintaining standard operating procedures/standard operating guidelines covering those responsibilities.

XI. REFERENCES

- A.** Annex R (Search and Rescue) to the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*.
- B.** Annex U (Terrorist Incident Response) to the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*.
- C.** *Texas Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan*, May 1998.