



Law Enforcement Mutual Aid  
Search and Rescue Annex



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# State of California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Search and Rescue Annex

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2021 Edition

**STATE of CALIFORNIA**  
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## **Forward from the Director**

California's Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan derives its authority from the California Emergency Services Act and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement. We are justifiably proud of our mutual aid system, which serves as a model program for our nation.

California has had more than its share of man-made and natural disasters, civil disturbances, and other significant events requiring large numbers of law enforcement personnel and equipment. Our ability to respond professionally and efficiently has proven not only cost effective, but also has saved lives and protected property.

Our system works because of the commitment of state and local law enforcement professionals who serve as the backbone for the mutual aid plan. Through your support we will continue to improve this plan to reflect the changing needs and capabilities of California's law enforcement agencies.

Mark Ghilarducci, Director  
Governor's Office of Emergency Services



## Preface

As you read this, somewhere in California one law enforcement agency is providing mutual aid to another such agency. Mutual aid is an everyday occurrence in a state as large and diverse as California. This is the continuation of the decades-long process of “neighbor helping neighbor”. The law enforcement mutual aid system is an ongoing cooperative effort among law enforcement agencies to ensure an effective and organized response to a wide range of emergencies. There is a misconception that mutual aid is something used only during a riot or disaster. The mutual aid system has been used successfully for many other situations, including large criminal investigations, and deployment of special teams such as Special Weapons and Tactics, Bomb Squads, and others.

How will your agency use the mutual aid system? Planning, preparations, and operational activities of law enforcement agencies in support of the mutual aid system must be consistent with each department’s policies and procedures and must also comply with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

All law enforcement executives, administrators, managers, and field supervisors should familiarize themselves with this plan and its application. The personnel of the Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch are career peace officers and are available to assist you with planning, training and when necessary, emergency response coordination. It is important to note however, that Cal OES does not “own” the mutual aid system. It is a part of California law enforcement, and those that participate also benefit – and bear part of the burden – of “neighbor helping neighbor”.

Mark Pazin, Chief  
Law Enforcement Branch  
State Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Coordinator



## Introduction

### The Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan

This document delineates the current state policy concerning law enforcement mutual aid. It is consistent with and describes state law concerning application of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) in law enforcement mutual aid situations.

It describes the standard procedures used to acquire law enforcement mutual aid resources and the method to ensure coordination of law enforcement mutual aid planning and readiness at the local, state and federal levels.

The law enforcement mutual aid system works best when there is expeditious receipt and dissemination of law enforcement incident information and situational intelligence related to unusual occurrences.

The plan document includes information to enable an understanding of the statutory protections afforded responders under the Emergency Services Act and provides legal background for law enforcement mutual aid.

### New in this Revision

This edition takes the basic information included in prior versions and formats it into a more current layout. No changes have been made to the system, organizational relationships, or the process.

This revision provides each of the 13 SAR Mutual Aid Guidelines. It also includes a new Distress Alert Policy section and important updates to the Selected Legal Information section.

### The Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch

The Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch functions behind the scenes to maintain the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System in California. Our peace officers can assist any California law enforcement organization in developing related plans, training, and exercises for their agency. The Branch welcomes input on the Mutual Aid System and suggestions for improvement of this plan, or emergency operations in general.



## History and Authority

The Law Enforcement Mutual Aid system has been used successfully for many years. Notable events involving use of this system include:

- Northern California Floods
- California Brush and Forest Fires
- Transportation accidents, air crashes
- Watts Riots
- People's Park – Berkeley Disturbances
- Huntington Beach "Surf" Riot
- Loma Prieta Earthquake
- East Bay Hills (Oakland) Fire
- Several Environmental Protests
- Los Angeles Civil Unrest
- Polly Klaas and other large searches
- Elem Indian Reservation SWAT Incident
- Hollister "Wild Bunch" Motorcycle Events
- Sund-Peloso Yosemite Murders
- Regional SWAT Mutual Aid Callout for Fresno Deputy's Killer
- Mendocino Murders (Aaron Basler) Search
- Mehserle Trial, Verdict, and Sentencing
- Occupy Oakland (and other 'Occupy' events)
- Montecito Mudslides
- Camp Fire (2018)
- North Complex West Fire (2020)

The statewide mutual aid system today is an outgrowth of the California Disaster and Civil Defense and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement (1950), the Emergency Services Act, Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code (GC), Governor's Executive Order W-9-91 and is supported by the California Emergency Plan and by extension, the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan.

The State of California, Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan is issued and revised under the authority of Sections 8550, 8569, 8615 through 8619, and 8668 of the California Government Code, the California Emergency Plan, and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement.





## Liability Issues

The Emergency Services Act (the Act) provides law enforcement agencies limited immunity from liability when responding in support of a mutual aid request.<sup>1</sup> Albeit "limited," when interpreting the immunity protections provided by the Act, the courts have regularly found that if the "state must take the steps necessary to quell an emergency, it must be able to act with speed and confidence without fear of incurring tort liability".<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, the Act's immunities are broader than the general immunities provided for discretionary governmental actions, i.e., for decisions made by the high ranking officers, the City Council, or Board of Supervisors regarding policy matters.<sup>3</sup> Also, the protections afforded by the Act generally supplement the other statutory liability protections that may apply to the routine law enforcement role, such as immunities for failure to enforce the law.<sup>4,5</sup> The liability protections of the Act extend to mutual aid provided during declared states' of emergency<sup>6</sup> and non-emergency periods.<sup>7</sup>

The best way that a law enforcement agency can ensure that their actions are protected by the Act is to:

- Act in accordance with this plan,
- Respond based upon a request by the Operational Area, Regional, or State Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Coordinator,
- Act in accordance with your local emergency plan approved by the local disaster council in accordance with local ordinance, and
- Verify that your department's plans and procedures are consistent with this plan.<sup>8</sup>

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1 California Government Code § 8655.

2 Farmers Ins. Exchange v. State of California (App. 6 Dist. 1985) 221 Cal.Rptr. 225, Cal.App. 6 Dist.,1985

3 Labadie v. State of California(App. 6 Dist. 1989) 256 Cal.Rptr. 604, 208 Cal.App.3d 1366

4 California Government Code § 8656.

5 California Penal Code §§ 818, 821.

6 California Government Code § 8616

7 California Government Code § 8617 also see Soto v. State of California (App. 2 Dist. 1997) 65 Cal.Rptr.2d 11,56 Cal.App.4th 196

8 California Government Code §§ 8560, 8568, 8569



## Purpose of this Annex

1. To provide the legal authorities as the basis for search and rescue operations within the State of California.
2. To describe state policies and procedures for search and rescue within the existing framework of the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System.
3. To define and outline the state's organization for the conduct of mutual aid in search and rescue operations.
4. To provide a system for alerting, call-out, and deployment of trained search and rescue personnel, and for the dispatch of special purpose or other unique teams and equipment for search and rescue operations.
5. To describe the State of California Workers' Compensation Insurance Program and its application to search and rescue volunteers both during authorized training and in actual search operations.
6. To facilitate the dissemination of search and rescue information, data and circumstances related to unique search missions or incidents; to provide training programs, training guidance, and training experiences for local agency teams and individuals in emerging search and rescue strategy and tactics, as well as search and rescue equipment development.



## Acronyms Used in Search and Rescue

<b>AFB</b>	<b>Air Force Base</b>
<b>AFC</b>	<b>Air Force Command</b>
<b>AFM</b>	<b>Air Force Manual</b>
<b>AFRCC</b>	<b>Air Force Rescue Coordination Center</b>
<b>ACFT</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>
<b>ALNOT</b>	<b>Alert Notification</b>
<b>ARS</b>	<b>Air Rescue Service</b>
<b>AT</b>	<b>Annual Training</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>Base Camp</b>
<b>Cal OES</b>	<b>California Governor's Office of Emergency Services</b>
<b>CALTRANS</b>	<b>California Department of Transportation</b>
<b>CALESAR</b>	<b>California Explorer Search and Rescue Team</b>
<b>CAP</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol</b>
<b>CAPM</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol Manual</b>
<b>CARDA</b>	<b>California Rescue Dog Association</b>
<b>CASSDA</b>	<b>California Swiss Search Dog Association</b>
<b>CCC</b>	<b>California Conservation Corps</b>
<b>CDC</b>	<b>California Department of Corrections</b>
<b>CDF</b>	<b>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection</b>
<b>CMDR</b>	<b>Commander</b>
<b>CHP</b>	<b>California Highway Patrol</b>
<b>CLEMARS</b>	<b>California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Radio System</b>
<b>CLETS</b>	<b>California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System</b>
<b>CNG</b>	<b>California National Guard</b>
<b>COMPCAREA</b>	<b>Commander Pacific Area Coast Guard</b>
<b>CPR</b>	<b>Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation</b>
<b>CYA</b>	<b>California Youth Authority</b>
<b>DART</b>	<b>Drowning Accident Rescue Team</b>
<b>DBW</b>	<b>California Department of Boating and Waterways</b>
<b>DF</b>	<b>Direction Finding</b>
<b>DFG</b>	<b>California Department of Fish and Game</b>
<b>DOD</b>	<b>Department of Defense</b>
<b>DPR</b>	<b>California Department of Parks and Recreation</b>
<b>ELT</b>	<b>Emergency Locator Transmitter</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>
<b>EOC</b>	<b>Emergency Operation Center</b>
<b>EPIRB</b>	<b>Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon</b>
<b>EMT</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Technician</b>



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<b>FAA</b>	<b>Federal Aviation Administration</b>
<b>FCC</b>	<b>Federal Communications Commission</b>
<b>FEMA</b>	<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency</b>
<b>FLT</b>	<b>Flight</b>
<b>HQUSASIX</b>	<b>Headquarters United States Sixth Army</b>
<b>IC</b>	<b>Incident Commander</b>
<b>ICS</b>	<b>Incident Command System</b>
<b>LKP</b>	<b>Last Known Position</b>
<b>MBSDA</b>	<b>Monterey Bay Search Dog Association</b>
<b>MCO</b>	<b>Mission Control Officer</b>
<b>MPS</b>	<b>Mountain Public Service Rescue Team</b>
<b>M/VC</b>	<b>Military and Veterans Code</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>National Defense Plan</b>
<b>OHT</b>	<b>Overhead Team</b>
<b>OPLAN</b>	<b>Operations Plan</b>
<b>OSC</b>	<b>On-Scene Commander</b>
<b>PIO</b>	<b>Public Information Officer</b>
<b>PLS</b>	<b>Point Last Seen</b>
<b>PSAR</b>	<b>Preventive Search and Rescue</b>
<b>POA</b>	<b>Probability of Area</b>
<b>POD</b>	<b>Probability of Detection</b>
<b>POS</b>	<b>Probability of Success</b>
<b>ROW</b>	<b>Rest of the World</b>
<b>RP</b>	<b>Reporting Party</b>
<b>SAR</b>	<b>Search and Rescue</b>
<b>SARCOORD</b>	<b>Search and Rescue Coordinator</b>
<b>SARSAT</b>	<b>Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking</b>
<b>SMC</b>	<b>Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator</b>
<b>SMF</b>	<b>State Military Force</b>
<b>USAF</b>	<b>United States Air Force</b>
<b>USAR</b>	<b>Urban Search and Rescue</b>
<b>USCG</b>	<b>United States Coast Guard</b>
<b>WOOF</b>	<b>Wilderness Finders, Inc.</b>



## Authorities

- A. California Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- B. California State Emergency Plan
- C. California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan
- D. California Government Code

- 1. Section 26614 - Search and Rescue Expenses:

- The Board of Supervisors of a county may authorize the Sheriff to search for and rescue persons who are lost or are in danger of their lives within or in the immediate vicinity of the county. The expenses incurred by the Sheriff in the performance of such duties shall be a proper county charge.

- 2. Section 26614.5 - Sharing Expenses:

- The county or city and county of a residence of a person searched for or rescued by the Sheriff under the authority of Section 26614 shall pay to the county conducting the search or rescue in any case where the expenses exceed \$100.00.

- 1. Must file claim within 30 days
      - 2. Reasonable expenses

- 3. Section 26615 - Directory of Specially Trained Dogs:

- The Sheriff shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, a directory of specially trained dogs with proven ability in search and rescue operations as one of the possible methods to be used under the authority of Section 26614. The directory shall include the location of the dogs and a list of their previous experience.

- 4. Section 26620 - Office:

- The office of the County Director of Civil Defense and Disaster shall be held ex-officio by the County Sheriff.

- 5. Section 29612 - Searches and Rescues:

- The expense necessarily incurred in searches and rescues for persons who are lost or in danger of their lives are county charges.

- 6. Section 53240 - Authority of Legislative Body; Payment of Costs; Determination of Value:



The legislative body of a county may provide for the payment of the costs of replacing or repairing property of an employee, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, watches, or articles of clothing when any such items are damaged in the line of duty without fault of the employee. If the items are damaged beyond repair, the actual value of such items shall be determined as of the time of the damage thereto.

## E. California Health and Safety Code

### 1. Section 1798.6

1. Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include any paramedic or other prehospital emergency personnel, at the scene of the emergency who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency.
2. If any county desires to establish a unified command structure for patient management at the scene of an emergency within that county, a committee may be established in that county comprised of representatives of the agency responsible for county emergency medical services, the county sheriff's department, the California Highway Patrol, public prehospital-care provider agencies serving the county, and public fire, police, and other affected emergency service agencies within the county. The membership and duties of the committee shall be established by an agreement for the joint exercise of powers under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
3. Notwithstanding subdivision (a), authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more



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serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks.

### 2. Section 13862

A district shall have the power to provide the following services:

- a. Fire protection services.
- b. Rescue services.
- c. Emergency medical services.
- d. Hazardous material emergency response services.
- e. Ambulance services, pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797)
- f. Any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.



## F. California Penal Code

### 1. Senate Bill 390 (La Malfa): To Amend Assault and Battery Section of Penal Code 241(c)

1. This bill, as proposed to be amended in Committee by the author, would add search and rescue team members to the existing misdemeanor assault and battery crimes applicable where the victim is a firefighter, peace officer, or other similarly-situated professional, as specified.
2. This bill provides that assault or simple battery on a search and rescue member is punishable by a jail term of up to one year and a fine of up to \$2,000.
3. This bill defines search and rescue member as any person who is part of an organized search and rescue operation that is managed by governmental law enforcement agency.

### 2. Senate Bill 1920 (Grayson – 2018) Impersonation: Search and Rescue personnel, Penal Code 538h

(a) Any person, other than an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, who willfully wears, exhibits, or uses the authorized uniform, insignia, emblem, device, label, certificate, card, or writing of an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, with the intent of fraudulently impersonating an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, or of fraudulently inducing the belief that he or she is an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, or uses the same to obtain aid, money, or assistance within this state, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) (1) Any person, other than the one who by law is given the authority of an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, who willfully wears, exhibits, or uses the badge of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team with the intent of fraudulently impersonating an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, or fraudulently inducing the belief that he or she is an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or





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team, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(2) Any person who willfully wears or uses any badge that falsely purports to be authorized for the use of one who by law is given the authority of an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, or that resembles the authorized badge of an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team as would deceive any ordinary reasonable person into believing that it is authorized for the use of one who by law is given the authority of an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, for the purpose of fraudulently impersonating an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, or of fraudulently inducing the belief that he or she is an officer or member of a government agency managed or affiliated search and rescue unit or team, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

### 3. Section 14205

1. All local police and sheriffs' departments shall accept any report, including any telephonic report, of a missing person, including runaways, without delay and shall give priority to the handling of these reports over the handling of reports relating to crimes involving property. In cases where the person making a report of a missing person or runaway, contacts, including by telephone, the California Highway Patrol, the California Highway Patrol may take the report, and shall immediately advise the person making the report of the name and telephone number of the police or sheriff's department having jurisdiction of the residence address of the missing person and of the name and telephone number of the police or sheriff's department having jurisdiction of the place where the person was last seen. In cases of reports involving missing persons, including, but not limited to, runaways, the local police or sheriff's department shall immediately take the report and



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assess the reasonable steps to be taken to locate the person. If the missing person is under 16 years of age, or there is evidence that the person is at risk, the department shall broadcast a "Be on the Look-Out" bulletin, without delay, within its jurisdiction.

2. If the person reported missing is under 16 years of age, or if there is evidence that the person is at risk, the local police, sheriff's department, or the California Highway Patrol shall submit the report to the Attorney General's office within four hours after accepting the report. After the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System online missing person registry becomes operational, the reports shall be submitted, within four hours after accepting the report, to the Attorney General's office through the use of the California Telecommunications System.
3. In cases where the report is taken by a department, other than that of the city or county of residence of the missing person or runaway, the department, or division of the California Highway Patrol taking the report shall, without delay, and, in the case of children under 16 years of age or where there was evidence that the missing person was at risk, within no more than 24 hours, notify, and forward a copy of the report to the police or sheriff's department or departments having jurisdiction of the residence address of the missing person or runaway and of the place where the person was last seen. The report shall also be submitted by the department or division of the California Highway Patrol which took the report to the center.
- d. The requirements imposed by this section on local police and sheriff's departments shall not be operative if the governing body of that local agency, by a majority vote of the members of that body, adopts a resolution expressly making those requirements inoperative.

#### 4. Section 14210

1. The Legislature finds and declares that it is the duty of all law enforcement agencies to immediately assist any person who is attempting to make a report of a missing person or runaway.
2. The Department of the California Highway Patrol shall continue to implement the written policy, required to be developed and adopted pursuant to former Section 11114.3, for the coordination of each of its divisions with the



police and sheriffs' departments located within each division in taking, transmitting, and investigating reports of missing persons, including runaways.

#### 5. Section 14213

1. As used in this title, "missing person" includes, but is not limited to, a child who has been taken, detained, concealed, enticed away, or retained by a parent in violation of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 277) of Title 9 of Part 1. It also includes any child who is missing voluntarily or involuntarily, or under circumstances not conforming to his or her ordinary habits or behavior and who may be in need of assistance.
2. As used in this title, "evidence that the person is at risk" includes, but is not limited to, evidence or indications of any of the following:
  1. The person missing is the victim of a crime or foul play.
  2. The person missing is in need of medical attention.
  3. The person missing has no pattern of running away or disappearing.
  4. The person missing may be the victim of parental abduction.
  5. The person missing is mentally impaired.
3. As used in this title, "child" is any person under the age of 18.
4. As used in this title, "center" means the Violent Crime Information Center.
5. As used in this title, "dependent adult" is any person described in subdivision (h) of Section 368, regardless of whether the person lives independently.
6. As used in this title, "dental or medical records or X-rays," include all those records or X-rays which are in the possession of a dentist, physician and surgeon, or medical facility.

#### E. California Fish and Game Code

##### 1. Section 10740-Wilderness

It is unlawful for any person other than a legally constituted peace officer or officer or employee of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the department or of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or county fish and game wardens or their duly authorized representatives, to travel by motor boat, automobile, motorcycle, or other type of motorized vehicle,



or, except for emergencies and for rescue and aerial search for rescue purpose, to land and airplane, helicopter, or similar equipment, within the boundaries of a primitive, wilderness, or wild area closed to the above modes of travel as established by a duly authorized officer of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and recorded in the office of the Regional Headquarters of the Pacific-Southwest Region of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and with the department.

#### E. United States Code

##### 1. Title 42, Chapter IV Section 5779

1. In General: Each Federal, State, and local law enforcement agency shall report each case of a missing child under the age of 21 reported to such agency to the National Crime Information Center of the Department of Justice.
2. Guidelines: The attorney general may establish guidelines for the collection of such reports including procedures for carrying out the purposes of this section and section 5780 of this title.
3. Annual Summary: The attorney general shall publish and annual summary of the reports received under this section and section 5780 of this title.

##### 2. Title 42, Chapter 72 Subchapter IV Section 5780

Each State reporting under the provisions of this section and section 5779 of this title shall-

1. Ensure that no law enforcement agency within the State establishes or maintains any policy that requires the observance of any waiting period before accepting a missing child or unidentified person report.
2. Ensure that no law enforcement agency within the state establishes or maintains any policy that requires the removal of a missing person entry from its state law enforcement system or the National Crime Information Center computer database based solely on the age of the person; and
3. Provide that each such report and all necessary and available information, which, with respect to each missing child report, shall include-
  1. The name, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight, and eye and hair color of the child:



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2. The date and location of the last known contact with the child: and
3. The category under which the child is reported missing: is entered immediately into the State law enforcement system and the National Crime Information Center computer network and made available to the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse within the State to receive such reports: and
2. Provide that after receiving reports as provided in paragraph (2), the law enforcement agency that entered the report into the National crime Information Center shall-
  1. no later than 60 days after the original entry of the record into the State law enforcement system and National Crime Information Center computer networks, verify and update such record with any additional information, including, where available, medical and dental records
  2. institute or assist with appropriate search and investigation procedures; and
  3. maintain close liaison with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for the exchange of information and technical assistance in the missing children cases.

### E. United States Public Law 106-393, "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" also known as Title III

#### 1. SEC. 301 DEFINITIONS: In this title:

1. PARTICIPATING COUNTY - The term "participating county" means an eligible county that elects under section 102(d)(1)(B)(ii) or 103(c)(1)(B)(ii) to expend a portion of the Federal funds received under section 102 or 103 in accordance with this title.
2. COUNTY FUNDS - The term "county funds" means all funds an eligible county elects under sections 102(d)(1)(B)(ii) and 103(c)(1)(B)(ii) to reserve for expenditure in accordance with this title.

#### 2. SEC. 302. USE OF COUNTY FUNDS

1. LIMITATION ON COUNTY FUND USE - County funds shall be expended solely on projects that meet the requirements of this title. A project under this title shall be approved by the participating county only following a 45-day public comment period, at the beginning of which the county shall



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1. publish a description of the proposed project in the publications of local record; and
  2. send the proposed project to the appropriate resource advisory committee established under section 205 if one exists for the county.
2. AUTHORIZED USES -
1. SEARCH, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES - An eligible county or applicable sheriff's department may use these funds as reimbursement for search and rescue and other emergency services, including fire fighting, performed on Federal lands and paid for by the county.
  2. COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK CAMPS - An eligible county may use these funds as reimbursement for all or part of the costs incurred by the county to pay the salaries and benefits of county employees who supervise adults or juveniles performing mandatory community service on Federal lands.
  3. EASEMENT PURCHASES - An eligible county may use these funds to acquire
    1. easements, on a willing seller basis, to provide for nonmotorized access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes
    2. conservation easements; or
    3. both.
  4. FOREST RELATED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - A county may use these funds to establish and conduct forest related after school programs.
  5. FIRE PREVENTION AND COUNTY PLANNING - A county may use these funds for -
    1. efforts to educate homeowners in fire-sensitive ecosystems about the consequences of wildfires and techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires; and
    2. planning efforts to reduce or mitigate the impact of development on adjacent Federal lands and to increase the protection of people and property from wildfires.
  6. COMMUNITY FORESTRY - A county may use these funds towards non-Federal cost-share requirements of section 9 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105).



## General

In all jurisdictions in California, except in the City and County of San Francisco, the Sheriff, as Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the county, retains the responsibility for the search and rescue (SAR) of lost individuals and for missing or downed aircraft occurring in that jurisdiction. In the City and County of San Francisco these responsibilities are charged to the Chief of Police. However, this does not relieve municipal governments, special districts, and other political subdivisions of the State, either by law or by inference in the Government Code, of the responsibility to conduct initial SAR investigative actions or actual field operations when persons are reported either lost or missing. Furthermore, to define responsibility and to hasten the state's response, additional legislation enacted a few years past, required special attention be afforded to lost or missing juvenile subjects and victims. The law was later broadened even further to include all subject categories.

In some specific areas of the State where exclusive law enforcement jurisdiction is exercised by the host authority, i.e., National Parks, some military bases, and other federal lands, the host law enforcement authority retains the responsibility for SAR operations. Usually the law enforcement authority of these exclusive jurisdiction areas will call upon the sheriffs of adjoining counties for assistance in SAR operations. Such assistance has been routinely provided over the years but may be further based upon written Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or informally based upon daily working relations. Other areas of non-state lands, such as national forests and other military bases, share the law enforcement responsibility. In these areas of concurrent jurisdiction SAR responsibility may be shared; but, in most instances, SAR operations are conducted by the Sheriff of that county. The role of the host is usually that of support to the Sheriff's field operations.

This system of jurisdictional responsibility has proven effective over the many years and has provided the resources necessary to conduct typical SAR operations. Only in those instances where a shortfall of personnel or equipment resources is experienced within that county would there be a need to request assistance from another jurisdiction. In these SAR events where additional resources are needed beyond the capability of the host jurisdiction, the state's system for mutual aid assistance is activated.



## Mutual Aid

The system for mutual aid in California is an outgrowth of California's Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (1950) and the Governor's Executive Order, both signed by Governor Earl Warren.

The concept of mutual aid is simply neighbor helping neighbor during emergency conditions. This assistance is done on a voluntary basis and is usually without cost to the requestor. In SAR, such assistance is usually provided with sheriffs' volunteer forces that are trained by the department for suburban, rural, and back country search and rescue operations. In California, a SAR event is considered an emergency.

### **A. Local**

SAR operations conducted within incorporated areas of the state are usually the responsibility of the chiefs of police where such departments exist. The resources within that police department would be committed to a SAR incident and could also include civilian volunteer personnel from within the incorporated community.

### **B. Operational Area (County)**

When the magnitude of a SAR incident exceeds the capabilities of the local police department, that department may and should request SAR assistance from the County Sheriff, the Operational Area Law Enforcement Coordinator. All SAR resources within that county (operational area) could then be committed by the Sheriff to the SAR incident. The sheriff's resources would likely include salaried deputies, other county agencies and their employees, and/or registered civilian volunteers who are affiliated with the sheriff's department. Locally situated state agencies could also be requested for resources support such as the CHP with its rotary and fixed winged aircraft.

### **C. Region**

Within the regional concept of mutual aid, several counties may have already initiated mutual aid agreements to assist each other in SAR operations. These agreements, formal or informal, have evolved mainly through necessity. The errant direction of travel of lost persons and aircraft in trouble are not restricted by jurisdictional boundaries. The need for expanded SAR training has also fostered the regional concept of mutual aid for SAR volunteer units in California. Scheduled training seminars and exercises provide many opportunities for cross training individuals and units in deployment for joint operations.





***In all instances where intercounty or regional assistance is provided in SAR, the overall responsibility for the management of resources and the conduct of the search is retained by the requesting jurisdiction.***

#### **D. State**

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement Branch has the responsibility of coordinating mutual aid in SAR for the State of California. This coordination responsibility extends to the fuse of both State or Federal resources and the deployment of other resources from adjoining regions. This role is prescribed in the state's Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan and is conducted in much the same manner as in other Law Enforcement Mutual Aid activities. *Search is an Emergency* in life threatening circumstances. For this reason, wider latitude in the mutual aid system is permitted in the evolution or escalation of support for SAR incidents. This strict adherence to the prescribed channels of communication detailed in requests for assistance is modified in appreciation of the timely response necessary in this type of an emergency.

Unless valued time can be gained in a SAR emergency by processing a local request for mutual aid assistance through the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator, all such SAR mutual aid requests are made directly to the Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch. This expediency does not remove the responsibility of the requesting county to apprise the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator of the SAR emergency and the needed support from outside the region. A telephone message or hard copy notification or FAX is appropriate in such instances.

Resources for mutual aid assistance will always be requested through a Sheriff's department or State agency. Resources will be selected from the nearest adjacent jurisdiction having the needed resource skills, unless the availability of the nearest team overrides this policy.

The diagram provided on the back cover of our SAR manual depicts the channels of communication for SAR notification. The dotted connecting line between county-region-state illustrates the delayed advisory notice usually observed in requests for SAR mutual aid.

The diagram further illustrates the Governor's Office of Emergency Services's position and role within the National SAR System. The National SAR Plan (NSP), dated February 1, 1991, designates agencies having statewide responsibility for the coordination of SAR operations as the point of contact for federal assistance or support. The Air Force Rescue



## Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Search and Rescue Annex

Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Langley Field, Virginia, is the federal agency responsible for inland SAR coordination within the forty-eight contiguous states.

*Cal OES is tasked as the statewide requestor within the NSP to coordinate all requests for federal resource assistance to all local jurisdictions within California.*

Although the AFRCC maintains a toll-free telephone number, **(800) 851-3051**, which is accessible to any caller, all requests for federal assistance will eventually be acted upon by the AFRCC through Cal OES. In a like manner, all requests from the federal government or from other states for California SAR personnel or equipment resources are accomplished through AFRCC to the California SAR coordinating agency, Cal OES. These procedures routinely transpire with daily information being passed to Cal OES from AFRCC on Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT) radio signals from Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT); alert notification of overdue aircraft as well as infrequent requests for assistance from the U.S. State Department related to international SAR incidents.



## State Resources

Cal OES retains administrative management for several volunteer SAR groups and state agencies SAR teams. The members of these volunteer groups are non-state employees but are designated Disaster Service Workers (DSW) within the provisions of the State Emergency Plan. When requested by local jurisdictions, these volunteers are dispatched by Cal OES within or outside the state as temporary state employees. When dispatched by the state, an administrative number, called a mission number, is always assigned to the incident. This administrative number/mission number triggers limited protection against liability claims and provides Workers' Compensation coverage in the event of an accident. This protection is afforded these volunteer SAR personnel from the beginning to the conclusion of the SAR incident.

Agencies who utilize minors as disaster service workers (e.g., explorer scouts, etc.) should note the following:

1. A volunteer disaster service worker who is a minor is not excluded because of his age from the coverage under worker's compensation provisions relating to disaster service workers.
2. The child labor statues do not apply to the state or its political subdivisions and, therefore, as a matter of law is not applicable to disaster service workers who are minors. However, as a matter of public policy such statues should be adhered to if it is reasonably possible to do so.
3. An individual who is responsible for impressing a minor into service or accepting a minor's voluntary service as a disaster service worker will not incur additional liability as a result of such action merely because the disaster worker is a minor.



## Current Entitlement

State Compensation Insurance, State of California Disaster Employees:

A. *Temporary disability* - \$1,356.31 weekly

B. *Permanent disability* - \$1,356.31 weekly

(Number of weeks is determined by percentage of disability)

C. *Death*

1. One Dependent \$250,000.00

2. Two Dependents \$290,000.00

3. Three Dependents plus \$320,000.00

4. \$10,000.00 burial allowance

5. Safety Officer Benefits Act \$

D. *Conditions*

1. Must be registered with the local Civil Defense Director or CAL OES as a Disaster Service Worker.

2. Includes coverage for training exercises (at the training site only).

3. Must be on an authorized response.

4. The registering agency must be aware of the response.

Any State of California government agency may be tasked by Cal OES to directly assist in or provide support to local agencies in a SAR incident. Cal OES has the responsibility for contacting all State agencies requested and for assigning an administrative number for purposes of fiscal tracking. Usually local agencies needing state assistance for resources already have existing close working relationships with these State agencies at the district or sub-district level. Such relationships should be continued and/or enhanced for operational convenience and other considerations with no further need to contact Cal OES. It is important, however, to understand at the outset exactly who is responsible for any payments or reimbursements for services when these state agency resources are sought and used at the local level.



## State Agencies Frequently Tasked

### A. Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Capabilities:

1. SAR contact link with AFRCC and other federal agencies
2. 24-hour response posture for SAR coordination
3. SAR mutual aid coordination responsibility
4. Special resources:
  - a. California Explorer Search and Rescue Team (CALESAR)
  - b. California Rescue Dog Association (CARDAs)
  - c. Wilderness Finders, Inc. (WOOFF)
  - d. Monterey Bay Search Dogs (MBSD)
  - e. Underground SAR Teams
  - f. Geographic Information System Support (GIS Corps)
5. On-site SAR management (upon request)
6. Radio communications caches (CLEMARS frequency handhelds, base stations)
7. Private vendor contact

### B. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

The CHP has greatly expanded its role in SAR over the past ten years. With SAR in mind as a primary function, recently acquired helicopters and other aircraft are specially equipped to conduct airborne SAR and to facilitate SAR ground activities. All CHP helicopters are fitted with LORAN-C, navigation instruments; direction finding equipment; and multi-channel Wulfsberg digital communications systems. CHP helicopter crews include at least two (2) medical providers at the minimum EMT-1 level.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

CHP SAR resource assets may be brought in at any point within the specified SAR request and communications channel. SAR coordinators at the city or county level are encouraged to contact CHP immediately when the need for their services and expertise is identified by directly contacting the Air Operations Unit in the resident CHP division. The CHP also operates fixed-wing aircraft within its jurisdictional divisions which are equipped to provide aerial surveillance, direction finding and position fixing capabilities in SAR incidents.

#### *Other Capabilities:*

1. Traffic control
2. Radio communications relay
3. Aerial medical evacuation



**C. Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Capabilities:**

1. Vehicle for transportation
2. Snow removal equipment
3. Other heavy equipment

**D. Department of Forestry (CDF) Capabilities:**

1. Four wheeled drive vehicles
2. Helicopters
3. Ground crews (grid searchers)
4. Handheld radios (FIREMARS frequency)
5. Field kitchens

**E. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Capabilities:**

1. Four wheeled drive vehicles
2. Boats
3. Area knowledge

**F. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Capabilities:**

1. Ground crews (grid searchers)
2. Field kitchens

**G. California National Guard (CNG) Capabilities:**

1. Helicopter transport
2. Aerial medical evacuation
3. Ground crews (grid searchers)
4. Special optical equipment
5. Base camp logistics

**H. California Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)**

The CAP, composed of aviation-oriented civilians, military reservists, and active duty military volunteers, is organized along conventional military lines by state wings. As an auxiliary of the active U.S. Air Force, they respond to the majority of SAR missions in the Inland Region, primarily in operations to locate downed or missing aircraft along with the arduous task of finding and silencing false alarming ELT's. As a resource of the State of California, the California Wing CAP works closely with, and is frequently tasked by Cal OES as disaster service workers to also assist in disaster preparedness planning and as responders during actual civil emergencies. When conducting operations in California, the CAP functions with a Cal OES administrative number for each mission. Added information relating to the CAP is included as an appendix to the SAR Annex.

**Capabilities:**

1. Corporate and privately owned fixed wing aircraft
2. Airborne direction finding
3. Airborne Communications Relay (CAP COMM)
4. Ground teams



## Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Search and Rescue Annex

While this list of state agencies does not include all the departments that could be brought into a support role in a SAR incident, it does identify those organizations most frequently involved in mutual aid SAR events. When state agencies are committed to support an incident, a Cal OES administrative number is assigned to that department to defray costs and other expenditures experienced in its support operations.



## Federal Assistance

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), as the coordinating agency for federal assistance within the Inland Region, is responsible for contacting all federal resources for SAR support and services. When federal agencies are tasked by the AFRCC to support local operations, these services are accomplished at no cost to local or state government. Federal agencies with SAR capabilities are tasked by AFRCC within the framework of the NSP to fulfill international, national, and local requests for assistance. The responders are usually from the uniformed services of the U.S. Department of Defense, but also may be from the U.S. Coast Guard, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Other federal agencies having a special interest in emergency services or which can provide helpful ancillary SAR services or special facilities needed for SAR include:

### ***Federal Agencies Frequently Tasked:***

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

### **A. U.S. Coast Guard**

U.S. Coast Guard maintains a wide variety of SAR resources, primarily dedicated to maritime search throughout the United States and its territories. The Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area (COMPAC-AREA) is the SAR Coordinator for the Eastern Pacific Maritime Sub-Region. California lies within this geographical area and is divided into the San Francisco SAR Sector and the Long Beach SAR Sector. These SAR sectors comprise the Twelfth and Eleventh Coast Guard Districts, respectively. The resources and facilities within these districts are available to the needs of state and local agencies in emergency situations when requested by the appropriate authority.

1. Fixed wing aircraft
2. Helicopters
3. Cutters





4. Boats
5. Stations
6. Coast Guard Auxiliary

## **B. U.S. Air Force (USAF)**

Air Force missions are coordinated by the AFRCC at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. AFRCC is also the liaison between other military/federal SAR Coordinators and the FAA National Track Analysis Program (NTAP). Other Air Force resources are controlled by other commands but may be accessed through the AFRCC.

1. Special purpose aircraft: Photo reconnaissance and Side looking radar reconnaissance
2. Helicopters
3. Air Force Para-rescue units
4. CAP
5. Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST)

## **C. U.S. Army**

The U.S. Army is the designated SAR Coordinator for military operations responding to natural disasters within United States territory. Specified units and installations maintain a large variety of resources.

1. Light fixed wing aircraft
2. Helicopters
3. Land SAR units
4. Disaster equipment

## **D. Federal Aviation Administration**

1. Aircraft of various types
2. Flight following and alerting services
3. Radar nets
4. VHF direction finding nets



## Distress Alert Policy

### BACKGROUND

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services – Law Enforcement Branch, serving as the California State Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator, is the recipient of and is responsible for coordinating SAR responses to various distress alerts that occur within this State. Specifically, CAL OES receives State notification and is responsible for coordinating State SAR responses to the following:

- **ALNOT** - "Alert Notification": Missing or overdue aircraft alerts
- **ELT** - "Emergency Locator Transmitter": Automatically or manually activated aircraft distress signal transmitter alerts
- **EPIRB** - "Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon": Automatically or manually activated vessel/boat distress signal transmitter alerts
- **PLB** - "Personal Locator Beacon": Manually activated personal distress signal transmitter alerts
- **SEND** - "Satellite Emergency Notification Device": Portable emergency notification and location device

### POLICY

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services will respond to each report of a distress signal and/or missing or overdue aircraft as an emergency. While history has shown that the majority of ALNOT, ELT, EPIRB, and PLB alert missions are in fact false distress alerts, the emphasis shall be to coordinate responses to each incident as an actual emergency until proven otherwise.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services response will consist of notifications to and coordination with all relevant Federal, State, and local government jurisdictional agencies.

**Note:** Notifications and coordination from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services with all local government jurisdictions will commence at the Operational Area (OA)/County level.

(This Policy and Procedure document has been reviewed and accepted by the management of AFRCC, USCG, CAWG CAP, CSWC, and Cal OES LEB. 09/06/04) 09/06/2004 2



## **JURISDICTION**

Pursuant to the California Government Code (Emergency Services Act) and the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Law Enforcement Branch (LEB) is responsible for coordinating responses to SAR distress alerts within the State.

The State of California, Cal OES, having coordination jurisdiction over these types of SAR incidents within the State, operates in cooperation with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the California Wing (CAWG) of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The AFRCC is responsible for National Inland SAR coordination and operates under the National SAR Plan. The AFRCC provides assistance to the State of California by alerting and providing federal assets for response to inland SAR incidents. The USCG is responsible for Maritime SAR coordination and operates under the National SAR Plan. The USCG provides assistance to the State of California by providing federal asset response to Maritime SAR incidents and to non-Maritime SAR incidents on an as available basis. The CAWG CAP operates under the National SAR Plan and provides assistance to the State of California by providing aircraft and personnel to search for and locate the source of distress alert beacons and/or the location of missing or overdue aircraft. CAWG CAP resources are tasked as either a Federal resource of AFRCC or as a State resource of Cal OES. Regardless of tasking avenues, all in-state, multi-county distress alert CAWG CAP mission efforts are in direct support to the State and are under the management control of the State (Cal OES) jurisdiction.

The State of California (Cal OES) maintains jurisdiction on distress alert incidents as long as the source of the distress alert signal and or search location for a missing or overdue aircraft are likely to be within the State, involving multiple counties, yet a specific county/operational area (OA) location cannot be determined. Once the scope of the search effort narrows to a specific OA, the jurisdiction for the search incident transfers to that county's OA Law Enforcement (LE) Agency. It is at this point that Cal OES, AFRCC, USCG, and CAWG CAP become an assistant to and will only operate in support of that jurisdiction. The jurisdictional OA LE agency may at this point elect to assume Incident Command and total SAR responsibility for the incident. Or, the OA LE agency may elect to operate a Unified Command in conjunction with Cal OES, AFRCC, USCG, and CAWG CAP in a combined SAR effort. Or lastly, the OA LE agency may request that Cal OES, AFRCC, USCG, and CAWG CAP continue sole Incident Command SAR response efforts on behalf of the identified county.



## PROCEDURE

### **(ALNOT) Aircraft, Missing or Overdue "Alert Notification":**

1. Upon a California State Warning Center (CSWC) receipt of an ALNOT, or a report of an aircraft that is missing, overdue, or has dropped off radio/radar contact, from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), the Cal OES Emergency Notification Controller (ENC) will attempt to ascertain the aircraft tail number, a physical description of the aircraft such as make/model, number of engines, color, etc, departure and arrival points/times, number of persons on board and their identities, the aircraft owner's information, and/or the aircraft's last known point from the AFRCC. If only a tail number is known, the ENC will continue to work with AFRCC and query CLETS for owner and aircraft information.
2. If the AFRCC has initiated an AFRCC "incident" or "mission", the ENC will assign a Cal OES LEB/SAR mission number and provide it to the AFRCC. If not already completed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - Flight Service Stations (FSS), the AFRCC may initiate ramp checks at the departure/arrival points and at airports along the flight path and/or request assistance in doing so from Cal OES. The AFRCC will then activate the California Wing (CAWG) of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) as appropriate and will begin to identify a CAWG CAP Incident Commander (IC) for the mission.
3. The ENC will then send a California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) message to all Watch Commanders/SAR Coordinators within the area of the State affected (This may be in addition to previous requests made to specific local law enforcement agencies for ramp checks etc., by the FAA FSS).
4. When CAP is alerted or activated, both AFRCC and CAP are under agreement to contact the CSWC within 30 minutes of this notification to provide the CAP IC's identity and Point of Contact (POC) numbers.
5. The ENC will monitor the time and as soon as the CAP IC's POC numbers are received (within 30 minutes) the ENC will contact the Law Duty Officer (LDO) and provide a briefing of the ALNOT as well as all actions taken. The ENC will also identify the counties or jurisdictions affected and provide the CAP IC's information.



## Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Search and Rescue Annex

6. The LDO will determine if contact with the potentially affected jurisdictional SAR agency(s), at the Operational Area/County level, and/or the CAP IC is necessary. This communication will identify the State's resources (CAP) response to local government jurisdictional agencies to assure that all affected agencies are fully aware of the incident and coordinating their efforts in a unified manner.
  - A. Some subjective factors to evaluate in determining levels of contact and coordination are weather conditions, aircraft capabilities, VFR verses IFR, pilot experience, pilot familiarity with the route, mountain pass altitudes along the route, etc.
7. Both the ENC and the LDO will keep each other apprised of any status changes throughout the duration of the incident.
8. The LDO will keep the mission report database updated as much as possible and in some rare cases may request that these updates be entered by the ENC.



**(ELT) Aircraft "Emergency Locator Transmitter":**

1. Upon a CSWC receipt of an ELT, from the AFRCC, the ENC will ascertain the approximate location of the signal, as well as any information associated with the receipt of that signal (Some newer ELT units transmit data such as the registered owner as well as GPS coordinates), from the AFRCC. The ENC will also identify the county(s) or jurisdictions affected
2. The ENC will assign a CAL OES LEB/SAR mission number and provide it to the AFRCC.
3. The AFRCC will then activate the CAP or may request that Cal OES activate CAP.
4. The ENC will then contact the affected jurisdictional Operational Area County Sheriff's Department's 24-hour contact number and request to speak to the "Watch Commander" or "SAR Coordinator". Once contacted, the ENC will brief them on the ELT signal and provide them with the details known and inform them that a CAP IC is in the process of being identified for the State or Federal response to the incident (Often very minimal information is known at this point and accuracy of distress alert signals received are questionable). The ENC will advise that once the CAP IC is identified that they, the ENC, will call back to provide the IC's contact information to facilitate unified response plans and to update information regarding the distress alert signal.
5. When CAP is alerted or activated, both AFRCC and CAP are under agreement to contact the CSWC within 30 minutes of this notification to provide the CAP IC POC numbers.
6. The ENC will monitor the time and as soon as the CAP IC's POC numbers are received (within 30 minutes) the ENC will re-contact the affected jurisdictional Operational Area County Sheriff's Department's "Watch Commander" or "SAR Coordinator" and provide them with the CAP IC's name and contact numbers. This communication will identify the State or Federal resources (CAP) response to local government jurisdictional agencies to assure that all affected agencies are fully aware of the incident and coordinating their efforts in a unified manner.
  - A. The Operational Area (OA) Sheriff's Department may not be the law enforcement agency with physical jurisdiction over the geographical location where the distress alert beacon is sounding. It may be a municipal Police Department within that OA. Within the guidelines of the Law Enforcement (LE) Mutual Aid Plan, coordination is conducted from the State (CAL OES) to the OA LE level. The OA LE agency is expected to coordinate responses to these alerts within their counties, with their affected municipal LE, local government jurisdictions. But, if for any reason this coordination request with the OA is unsuccessful, the ENC shall immediately notify the LDO. The LDO will then contact the



OA and attempt to facilitate communication between the OA and municipal jurisdiction to ascertain who will assume Incident Command or who will coordinate with State or Federal assets responding. If this occurs, both the ENC and LDO shall log all communications (times, persons spoken to, etc) into the RIMS report for follow up by the Law Enforcement Branch at a later time.

7. The LDO will contact the CSWC each morning, during normal waking/working hours of each day, prior to the issuance of the LDO report as required, to check on any CSWC handled distress alert missions and will conduct any follow up coordination necessary with these missions.
8. If the ENC does not receive the identity or contact information of the CAP IC from CAP or AFRCC within 30 minutes, in order to re-contact the jurisdictional OA Sheriff's Department, the ENC shall immediately notify the LDO. The LDO will then work to obtain this information and coordinate its dissemination.
  - A. Once notified, the local jurisdiction LE may choose to allow CAP to solely conduct the mission. If so, ensure that they are updated as to any status changes, dispositions, etc. either by direct communication from the CAP IC or personally by the LDO.
  - B. The local jurisdiction LE may also choose to assume the mission with the assistance of CAP. If so, the LDO will ensure that both the local jurisdiction SAR Coordinator/Watch Commander and the CAP IC are communicating and coordinating their respective response efforts. This coordination should be conducted from a joint incident command post staffed by both the local LE jurisdiction as well as liaison representatives from the CAP.
  - C. The local jurisdiction LE may also choose to assume the mission without the assistance of CAP. If so, the LDO will encourage accepting the assistance of CAP but will also ensure that any decisions to assume the mission without the assistance of CAP is immediately communicated to the CAP IC, AFRCC, and CSWC.
  - D. The Cal OES MOU with CAWG CAP requires CAP to notify local LE directly when conducting searches for missing aircraft or distress alert signals in a specific jurisdiction. CAP is then required to advise the ENC that the notification was made and who was contacted.



**(ELT) Aircraft "Emergency Locator Transmitter" (Continued):**

9. The LDO will monitor the progress of ELT missions pending final disposition. As such, if a mission occurs after hours and all notifications are made by the W/C, the LDO will make follow up calls during normal working hours or daytime hours, prior to the issuance of the LDO report as required, to determine the status of the mission and to assure that coordination is being conducted between CAP (State Resources) and local government as well as determining any additional resource needs for the mission
10. Both the ENC and the LDO will keep each other apprised of any status changes learned throughout the duration of the incident.
11. The LDO will keep the mission report database updated as much as possible and in some rare cases may request that these updates be entered by the ENC.





**(EPIRB) Vessel/Boat “Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon”:**

1. Rarely will the CSWC receive a report of an EPIRB signal, as they are typically located on vessels that operating in the Maritime environment. Responses to these types of distress signals are routed directly to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Occasionally an EPIRB distress signal may originate from a State inland waterway and/or a reservoir. These signals will be routed to the CSWC. Upon a CSWC receipt of an EPIRB, from either the AFRCC or USCG the ENC will ascertain the approximate waterway location of the signal, as well as any information associated with the receipt of that signal (Some EPIRB's are capable of transmitting data such as the vessel information as well as GPS coordinates), from the AFRCC.
2. The ENC will assign a Cal OES LEB/SAR Mission Number and provide it to the AFRCC or USCG.
3. The AFRCC will then activate the CAP or may request that Cal OES activate CAP.
4. The ENC will then contact the affected jurisdictional Operational Area County Sheriff's Department's 24-hour contact number and request to speak to the “Watch Commander” or “SAR Coordinator”. Once contacted, the ENC will brief them on the EPIRB signal and provide them with the details known and inform them that a CAP IC is in the process of being identified for the State or Federal response to the incident (Often very minimal information is known at this point and accuracy of distress alert signals received are questionable). The ENC will advise that once the CAP IC is identified, that they, the ENC, will call back to provide the IC's contact information to facilitate unified response plans and to update information regarding the distress alert signal.
5. When CAP is alerted or activated, both AFRCC and CAP are under agreement to contact the CSWC within 30 minutes of this notification to provide the CAP IC's POC numbers.
6. The ENC will monitor the time and as soon as the CAP IC's POC numbers are received (within 30 minutes) the ENC will re-contact the affected jurisdictional Operational Area County Sheriff's Department's “Watch Commander” or “SAR Coordinator” and provide them with the CAP IC's name and contact numbers. This communication will identify the State or Federal resources (CAP) response to local government jurisdictional agencies to assure that all affected agencies are fully aware of the incident and coordinating their efforts in a unified manner.



**(EPIRB) Vessel/Boat "Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon" (Continued):**

- A.** The Operational Area (OA) Sheriff's Department may not be the law enforcement agency with physical jurisdiction over the geographical location where the distress alert beacon is sounding. It may be a municipal Police Department within that OA. Within the guidelines of the Law Enforcement (LE) Mutual Aid Plan, coordination is conducted from the State (CAL OES) to the OA LE level. The OA LE agency is expected to coordinate responses to these alerts within their counties, with their affected municipal LE, local government jurisdictions. But, if for any reason this coordination request with the OA is unsuccessful, the ENC shall immediately notify the LDO. The LDO will then contact the OA and attempt to facilitate communication between the OA and municipal jurisdiction to ascertain who will assume Incident Command or who will coordinate with State or Federal assets responding. If this occurs, both the ENC and LDO shall log all communications (times, persons spoken to, etc) into the RIMS report for follow up by the Law Enforcement Branch at a later time.
- 7.** The LDO will contact the CSWC each morning, during normal waking/working hours of each day to check on any CSWC handled distress alert missions and will conduct any follow up coordination necessary with these missions.
- 8.** If the ENC does not receive the identity or contact information of the CAP IC from CAP or AFRCC within 30 minutes, in order to contact the jurisdictional OA Sheriff's Department, the ENC shall immediately notify the LDO. The LDO will then work to obtain this information and coordinate its dissemination.

  - A.** Once notified, the local jurisdiction LE may choose to allow CAP to solely conduct the mission. If so, ensure that they are updated as to any status changes, dispositions, etc. either by direct communication from the CAP IC or personally by the LDO.
  - B.** The local jurisdiction LE may also choose to assume the mission with the assistance of CAP. If so, the LDO will ensure that both the local jurisdiction SAR Coordinator/Watch Commander and the CAP IC are communicating and coordinating their respective response efforts. This coordination should be conducted from a joint incident command post staffed by both the local LE jurisdiction as well as liaison representatives from the CAP.
  - C.** The local jurisdiction LE may also choose to assume the mission without the assistance of CAP. If so, the LDO will encourage accepting the assistance of CAP but will also ensure that any



## Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Search and Rescue Annex

decisions to assume the mission without the assistance of CAP is immediately communicated to the CAP IC, AFRCC, and CSWC.

- D.** The Cal OES MOU with CAP CAWG requires CAP to notify local law enforcement when conducting searches for missing aircraft or distress alert signals in a specific jurisdiction. CAP is then required to advise the ENC that the notification was made and who was contacted.
- 9.** The LDO will monitor the progress of EPIRB missions pending final disposition. As such, if a mission occurs after hours and all notifications are made by the CSWC, the LDO will make follow up calls during normal working hours or daytime hours, prior to the issuance of the LDO report as required, to determine the status of the mission and to assure that coordination is being conducted between CAP (State Resources) and local government as well as determining any additional resource needs for the mission.
  - 10.** Both the ENC and the LDO will keep each other apprised of any status changes learned throughout the duration of the incident.
  - 11.** The LDO will keep the mission report database updated as much as possible and in some rare cases may request that these updates be entered by the ENC.



**(PLB) Persons "Personal Locator Beacon":**

1. All PLB signals received within California will be routed to the CSWC. Upon a CSWC receipt of a PLB, either directly to the W/C workstation or via telephone from the AFRCC, the ENC will ascertain the approximate location of the signal as well as all data information transmitted (All PLB's are required to be registered with owner and contact information and this data is transmitted via the alert – some PLB's also transmit GPS coordinates). This registration data will be sent directly to the CSWC workstation or can be forwarded via fax or e-mail from the AFRCC.
2. The ENC will assign a Cal OES LEB/SAR Mission Number.
3. The ENC will then notify and fully brief the LDO of the PLB alert, all the data information transmitted, as well as identify the county or jurisdiction affected.
4. The LDO will then contact AFRCC and confirm the registered owner/emergency contact information, the transmitted signal coordinates, and if AFRCC has had direct communication with the registered owner or emergency contacts.
5. If initial investigations are inconclusive through an inability to contact those listed in the alert message or the status of the PLB bearer is unknown, the LDO shall presume it is an emergency and initiate an appropriate SAR response notification.
6. The LDO will then contact the affected jurisdictional Watch Commander or SAR Coordinator, at the Operational Area/County level, and brief them on the PLB signal. The LDO will relay the registered owner/emergency contact information, the transmitted signal coordinates, and any other information obtained from AFRCC. The LDO should offer state resource assistance, such as CAP, to assist in the search for the source of the signal. If federal assistance is needed, contact the AFRCC.
7. Both the ENC and the LDO will keep each other apprised of any status changes learned throughout the duration of the incident.
8. The LDO will keep the mission report database updated as much as possible and in some rare cases may request that these updates be entered by the ENC.



**(SEND) "Satellite Emergency Notification Device":**

1. All SEND signals received within California will be routed to the California State Warning Center (CSWC). Upon a CSWC receipt of a SEND signal from the International Emergency Response Coordination Center (IERCC), the CSWC will ascertain the approximate location of the signal as well as all data information associated with the device (All SEND devices should be registered with owner and emergency contact information and All SEND alerts transmit GPS coordinates). This registration data will be given directly to the CSWC workstation from IERCC.
2. The CSWC will assign an OES LEB/SAR Mission Number.
3. The CSWC will then notify and fully brief the LDO of the SEND alert, all the data information transmitted, as well as identify the county or jurisdiction affected.
4. The LDO will then contact IERCC and confirm the registered owner/emergency contact information, the transmitted signal coordinates, and if IERCC has had direct communication with the registered owner or emergency contacts.
  - a. If IERCC does not receive a return call from the LDO within 15 minutes of first notice to the CSWC, IERCC will then directly contact the affected jurisdiction and relay the transmitted signal's coordinates, registered owner's (R/O) information, and R/O's listed emergency contacts information. Once IERCC receives the call from the LDO, IERCC will then relay to the LDO all known information providing the agency contacted and who they had spoken with. From then on, IERCC will continue to update both the agency and the LDO.
  - b. If IERCC receives an activation that has been confirmed via two-way communication of a medical/severe emergency requiring immediate attention, IERCC will directly contact the affected jurisdiction and report the medical/severe emergency information. Once the affected jurisdiction has been notified, IERCC will follow up with the normal routing and notify the CSWC as of the activation and the exigency. Once IERCC receives the call from the LDO, IERCC will then relay to the LDO all known information providing the agency contacted and who they had spoken with. From then on, IERCC will continue to update both the agency and the LDO.
5. If initial investigations are inconclusive through an inability to contact those listed in the alert message or the status of the SEND bearer is unknown, the LDO shall presume it is an emergency and initiate an appropriate SAR response notification.



**(SEND) "Satellite Emergency Notification Device" (Continued):**

6. The LDO will then contact the affected jurisdictional Watch Commander or SAR Coordinator, at the Operational Area/County level, and brief them on the SEND signal and the presumption of an emergency. The LDO should ascertain if the Authority-Having-Jurisdiction is in need of mutual aid assistance and if so, coordinate that response.
7. The CSWC and LDO will keep each other briefed of any status changes learned throughout the duration of the incident.
8. The LDO will keep the mission report database updated as much as possible and in some rare cases may request that these updates be entered by the CSWC.
9. The LDO will ensure that the required SEND incident feedback form is completed and forwarded to the State SAR Coordinator or his designee.



## APPENDIX # 1

### U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center

#### References:

- a. National SAR Plan
- b. AFM 64-2 (National SAR Manual)
- c. AFM 2-36 (SAR Operations)
- d. JCS Pub 2 (Unified Action Armed Forces)
- e. ARRS OPLAN 9506

#### I. SITUATION

There is a continuing requirement for search and rescue efforts on behalf of occupants of aircraft or surface vehicles/vessels when they are missing or in distress. This requirement applies to both civilian and military personnel, in peacetime as well as during hostilities. In addition to providing SAR support for their own operations, the armed forces have traditionally accepted, to the extent practicable, a moral or humanitarian obligation to aid civilians and property in distress. The National Search and Rescue Plan, as amended February 1, 1991, defines this need and delineates three regions, viz., the Inland Region comprising the forty eight contiguous states and the District of Columbia, the Maritime Region which includes all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and certain areas on the high seas, the Overseas Region, including the interior of Alaska. The National SAR Plan also designates the Air Force, the Coast Guard, and the overseas area commanders, respectively, as the responsible agencies for these regions. AFR 23-19 further designates the Air Rescue Service as the executive agency for the Inland Region.

#### A. Definitions:

##### 1. Inland Region

The inland areas of Continental United States, except the inland area of Alaska and waters under the jurisdiction of the United States.

##### 2. Maritime Region

The waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; the State of Hawaii; the portions of the State of Alaska south of 58 degrees north latitude and east of 141 degrees west longitude; the high seas and those commonwealths, territories and



possessions of the United States lying within the area designated as the "Maritime Region".

**3. Overseas Region**

Overseas unified command areas, and the inland area of Alaska, which are not included within the Inland Region or the Maritime Region as defined above.

**4. SAR Coordinator**

An official responsible for coordinating and, as appropriate, controlling SAR operations of a SAR Region, sub-region, or sector.

**5. Regional SAR Coordinators**

Inland Region - U.S. Air Force Maritime Region - U.S. Coast Guard  
Overseas Regions - Unified Commanders.

**6. SAR Sub-region**

The geographical area formed by dividing SAR regions into smaller areas of responsibility.

**7. Rescue Coordination Center (RCC)**

A primary SAR facility suitably staffed by supervisory personnel and equipped for coordinating and controlling SAR operations.

**8. SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)**

An official designated by a Regional or Sub-regional SAR Coordinator for coordinating and controlling a specific SAR mission.

**9. On-Scene Commander (OSC)**

An official who controls SAR operations and communications at the scene of a distress mission when control of the mission cannot be exercised effectively by the SMC.

## II. MISSION

The Air Rescue Service, as SAR Coordinator for the Inland Region, will organize and integrate existing agencies for their facilities into a basic cooperative SAR network for rendering assistance to military, civilians, and property in distress, consistent with existing laws and agreements.





### III. EXECUTION

#### **A. Concept of Operations:**

The Regional SAR Coordinator will establish, staff, and operate a RCC (#7 above) in the Inland Region through which he discharges his duties and responsibilities in accordance with AFM 64-2.

#### **B. Tasks of the Air Force RCC:**

1. Functions as the SAR Coordinator for the Inland SAR Region.
2. Establishes, staffs, and operates a RCC to function as the coordinating facility in its area of responsibility.
3. Negotiates and develops joint SAR agreements with federal agencies and state governments SAR agencies within its area of responsibility.
4. Accepts information relative to SAR incidents or potential SAR incidents, and any requests for SAR assistance. SAR Coordinators will not accede to requests for assistance from local government agencies in SAR incidents involving civilians without reference to the state government SAR agency when applicable.
5. Complies with agreements negotiated in support of this plan with other SAR agencies.
6. Evaluates each SAR incident or request for assistance to determine and take the proper course of action.
7. Monitors and evaluates SAR operations for effectiveness. Functions as or assists the SMC as applicable. Assistance provided will include offering advice, guidance, and instruction during the course of SAR operations. Reduce the SMC's administrative workload by preparing and transmitting to interested agencies will reports required in accordance with this plan. (Mission report data will be accumulated by the SMC and telephoned to the appropriate RCC under normal conditions.
8. Conducts liaison, preplanning, and coordination with state and local officials in developing the supporting structures for SAR operations.



9. Coordinates or controls SAR operations which are interstate in character or have a high degree of national interest.

**C. Support by other Agencies:**

1. Major Commands of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard districts will, by agreement with the Regional SAR Coordinator, provide for the fullest practicable utilization of facilities in SAR missions, consistent with statutory responsibilities and authorities and assigned functions of such agencies, and will provide the SAR Coordinator authority for the coordination of these facilities committed to such missions.
2. Civil agencies of the federal government will, by agreement with the Regional SAR Coordinator, provide for the fullest practicable statutory responsibilities and authorities and assigned functions of such agencies, and will provide for such coordination by the SAR Coordinator of their facilities as may be necessary and practicable.
3. State, local and private agencies will, by agreement with the Regional SAR Coordinator, provide for the fullest practicable cooperation in SAR missions, consistent with the willingness and ability of such agencies to engage in SAR, and will provide for such coordination by the SAR Coordinator of their facilities as may be necessary and practicable.
4. The CAP will conduct SAR operations upon the request and authorization of the Air Force RCC and will accept the SMC responsibility and control of participating CAP forces upon the request of the Air Force.



#### **IV. COMMAND AND CONTROL**

- A. Existing command structure of all military or nonmilitary agencies participating in this plan will remain in effect, except as it pertains to forces and/or resources committed to their operations which come under the purview of this plan, in which instance operational control of these forces will be delegated to the SMC or OSC, consistent with agreements as outlined below.
- B. SMC, as defined and designated in accordance with this plan will, regardless of service or command of assignment, exercise operational control of federal, and coordinated nonfederal resources allocated to each SAR mission. Although federal leadership in the search and rescue field may generally be recognized, the federal government holds no mandate to compel state, local, or private agencies to conform to a national search and rescue plan. The desires of state and local agencies to direct and control their own facilities in SAR missions resulting from intrastate or local activities within their boundaries must be respected and ensured. Cooperation, therefore, must be sought through liaison and agreements.
- C. A civil agency within a state or subdivision thereof may exercise control of the overall SAR effort, in consonance with the recognized authority of the several states and their responsibility for the protection of life and property of the citizens. When military personnel and/or equipment are requested and committed to support a civil agency in accordance with this plan, a military SMC will be designated to control and direct the military effort.
- D. In those cases, in which the state or local agency retains this control, a military SMC will be appointed by the Regional SAR Coordinator and will exercise operational control of the military forces committed. Agreements negotiated in support of this plan, at whatever level, will take cognizance of this principle.



## V. GENERAL

- A. The provisions of this plan are applicable to all Department of Defense and other federal agencies signatory to the National SAR Plan, and to the federal, state and local organizations that enter into formal or informal agreements with the Regional SAR Coordinator to provide mutual support in SAR operations. Established state and local organizations which perform SAR functions may desire, within political areas of responsibility, to retain those established SAR responsibilities which are primarily local or intrastate in character. In this event, appropriate arrangements will be made by the Regional SAR Coordinator and each state and/or local organization in question.
- B. No provisions of this plan, or of any supporting plan, are to be construed in any way to contravene the responsibilities and authority of any participating state, county, municipality or other agency as defined by statutes, ordinances, executive orders or international agreements or the established responsibilities of other agencies and organizations which regularly assist persons and property in distress within local areas.
- C. Boundaries of SAR regions and subdivisions thereof, established by or under this plan, are not to be construed as barriers to effective SAR operations or to the exercise of initiative and judgment.
- D. No provisions of this plan or of any supporting plan are to be construed as an obstruction to prompt and effective action by any agency or individual to relieve distress whenever and wherever found.
- E. Any installation or agency within the SAR system will accept and take immediate action on all reported SAR incidents. Action to be taken includes evaluating, providing immediate assistance within capability, and reporting to the appropriate RCC by the most expeditious means available.
- F. Each of the Armed Services provides SAR facilities in support of its own operations and in support of other services and civil SAR requirements on a noninterference basis.
- G. The SAR Coordinator will coordinate and, as appropriate, direct the operations of the SAR mission therein, consistent with existent agreements, and will otherwise act to implement this plan.



- H. Liaison and cooperation in SAR will be afforded to the SAR forces of other nations, as required, commensurate with capability.
- I. The use of military SAR forces in law enforcement is prohibited under the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878. Although reference is made only to the Army of the United States in this act, legal interpretation makes it binding on the United States Air Force.

## **VI. RCC COMMUNICATIONS**

RCC communications provide the SAR Coordinator with a means of exercising command authority and of obtaining rapid and reliable information on distress or possible distress incidents from the source of scene for relay to all activities capable of providing assistance.

Coordinator/Controller positions in the RCC are equipped to permit access to all center communications circuits from each position. The RCC has a capability to net with the area CAP radio nets. Basic criteria for radio equipment will be that it is crystal controlled, readily supportable, and a common item in the Air Force inventory.

*The Air Force RCC will:*

- A. Provide appropriate civil and federal agencies throughout areas of responsibility, necessary information for contacting the RCC.
- B. Accept collect calls for the reporting or coordinating of rescue missions.
- C. Maintain a communications directory of circuits, exchanges, and telephone numbers in the area of responsibility to include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - 1. All military establishments;
  - 2. Federal Emergency Management Agency;
  - 3. State emergency services organizations;
  - 4. State Highway Patrol Headquarters;
  - 5. State and federal forestry services;
  - 6. CAP Regional and Wing Headquarters;
  - 7. State SAR Coordinators;
  - 8. Other rescue coordination centers;
  - 9. Federal Aviation Administration; and
  - 10. Air Force CAP Liaison Officers.



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The Air Force RCC can be contacted through a variety of leased and commercial communications systems. These systems are explained in the following paragraph.

1. Commercial Toll Lines: Call (804) 764-8113
2. Toll Free Number: (800) 851-3051
3. Direct Dial Auto-von: 574-8112, 13, 14, 15, 16.
4. Mailing Address:  
*Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)*  
*205 Dodd Blvd., Suite 101C*  
*Langley AFB, 23665-2789*
5. Electrical Transmission Message Address:  
HQ ACC/AFRCC LANGLEY AFB, VA.
6. Phone Patch: Provided by USAF Global High Frequency Aeronautical Stations on any of their assigned frequencies.
7. NAWAS: The National Warning System provides a capability for immediate notification of distress situations via hotlines.



## VII. REPORTS SECTION

Annex Papa to OPLAN 9506 establishes the procedures for reporting efforts expended on SAR operations. Information reported under the provisions of this annex will be used at all echelons to monitor SAR operations and to perform analysis for future programming requirements.

A. SAR Coordinators are responsible for the implementation and fulfillment of all reporting requirements. SAR Coordinators will ascertain that all efforts coordinated by the RCC on operational missions in support of this plan are completely reported.

B. Task agencies will report daily activities via verbal communications means as soon as possible after close of the day's efforts.

C. *Definitions:*

1. Incident-An occurrence wherein aircraft or persons are assumed to be in distress and require assistance.
2. SAR Mission-The conduct of SAR operations for aircraft or persons in distress involving the dispatch of SAR/recovery forces, whether by direction or as a spontaneous response to an emergency, when dispatched at the direction/request of the Regional RCC. For reporting purposes, a mission will not be considered complete until all participating forces, air and/or ground, have returned to the home station.
3. Sortie-Applies to each separate flight accomplished while participating in any mission defined in paragraph D below.

D. For the purposes of this document, mission types are defined as follows:

1. Search- The effort to locate an object or person in distress, without subsequent location/recovery.
2. Rescue/Recovery-The use of the title words, "Rescue/Recovery" implies the location and recovery of personnel or aerospace hardware and return of the retrieved personnel/hardware to a designated area.
3. Medical Evacuation- The transportation of a sick or injured person to a medical facility.



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4. False-The dispatch of SAR forces on a mission which is later proved unnecessary due to either lack of valid objective or lack of an emergency after dispatch. If a mission proves false after the dispatch and recovery of rescue forces, the mission will be classified according to the situation at the time of the alert.
5. Support- Operations involving the dispatch of SAR aircraft, equipment or personnel in support of active missions as defined in paragraphs 7D(1) through 7D(3) above. Example: Transport of government officials on aerial survey of flood damage as directed by the operational control commander.
6. Assist-
  - a. Missions which are coordinated and/or controlled by established SAR agencies other than federal, such as an established and duly appointed state SAR agency, within the Inland Region, and for which federal assistance has been requested and provided, will be reported as "Assist" missions. Established state SAR agencies are those agencies designated by governors as State SAR Coordinators to coordinate SAR operations within their respective states, such as the Director, State Aeronautics Commission; Director, State Board of Aeronautics; Director, Department of Aeronautics; State Police; or State Forestry Service, Fish and Game Commission, etc.. The definition does not include local police or other agencies and organizations of the public service that normally participate in lifesaving activities. SAR Coordinators cannot direct any nonfederal agency to report SAR action in accordance with this plan. However, those federal agencies which are committed to and provide SAR assistance in a mission coordinated by a nonfederal agency will report their participation to the SAR Coordinator.





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- b. Missions which are coordinated and/or controlled by the United States Coast Guard within the Maritime Region, to include any federal agency which the Coast Guard may designate as SMC, controller, or commander, and for which assistance is provided from within the Inland Region area. Federal forces committed to assist in such missions from the Inland Region RCC will report their daily SAR activities to the SMC designated by the Coast Guard and will also report their daily SAR Activities to the ARS SAR Coordinator. (Note: CAP is considered a federal SAR force.) SAR missions in which ARS is an assisting agency may be closed when the controlling agency suspends the SAR mission.
7. Local Base SAR  
SAR operations within the vicinity of an airdrome, the conduct of which is determined to be within the capability of the SAR forces maintained by the airdrome in support of local flying operations, not requiring the alerting of nor assistance from other SAR agencies and facilities.



## **APPENDIX # 2**

### **California Wing, Civil Air Patrol**

References:

AFM 64-2

ARRS 9506 (Inland SAR)

CAPM 50-15 plus attachments, 15 April 1983

Memorandum of Understanding, California Wing, CAP, Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

### **I. SITUATION**

#### **A. General**

This Appendix sets forth the conditions under which the California Wing, CAP, can be activated to assist in the conduct of search and rescue (SAR) and disaster relief operations within the State of California. As the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, CAP is tasked to provide this support consistent with its congressional charter and the appropriate USAF and CAP regulations.

#### **B. Area of Responsibility**

The California Wing, CAP is available for SAR and disaster relief operations within the State of California. Close coordination is maintained with CAP forces responsible for operations in adjacent states. For administrative purposes, the California Wing is divided into eleven groups, each with some number of assigned squadrons, covering the state's area. The responsibility for conducting actual SAR or disaster relief operations is assigned to a designated Mission Coordinator who utilizes air and ground resources drawn from the squadrons to accomplish the mission.



## **II. MISSION**

The California Wing, CAP, will support SAR and disaster relief operations as authorized by the Air Rescue Service (ARS) of the USAF and/or the Secretary, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

## **III. EXECUTION**

In concept, the California Wing, CAP, will respond to requests for support from the AFRCC and/or from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Authority to activate CAP units is transmitted to the Duty Wing Mission Control Officer (MCO) designated by the Commander, California Wing, CAP. An MCO is available on a 24-hour basis. The roster is provided to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Activation authority and alert information also may be transmitted directly to the Commander, Deputy Commander, Chief of Staff or Director.

It is the responsibility of the MCO and/or designated member of the wing staff to exercise established alerting procedures, activate, and man appropriate bases of operation. Reports will be filed and routed as prescribed in current directives.

## **IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. CAP maintains a dedicated statewide radio network including fixed (point-to-point), mobile (vehicular) and air-to-ground (aircraft) facilities. These communications facilities, which are tied to a similar national network, may also, in emergency, handle third party traffic for other participating disaster or SAR agencies.
- B. CAP, when authorized by requesting agencies, has a limited but increasing capability to operate on frequencies above 150 MHz

## **V. RESOURCES**

CAP maintains an extensive list of resources for response to SAR missions. These resources include approximately 2200 emergency services-rated personnel, 24 corporate owned aircraft and over 400 member owned aircraft. In addition to the aircraft resources, CAP maintains other resources such as numerous types of vehicles, field kitchens, emergency power generators and communications capabilities that are primarily dedicated to ground operations.



## **VI. LIABILITY**

CAP personnel, when functioning under orders published by competent authority, are covered by the provisions of the Federal Employees Compensation Act or the State of California Employee Compensation Program as appropriate. When operating under the authority of the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, both federal and State coverage are in effect.



## **APPENDIX # 3**

### **SAR Mutual Aid Guidelines**

#### **Introduction**

Pursuant to the California Government Code, Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2, "The Emergency Services Act", the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Law Enforcement Branch manages and maintains the State of California Search and Rescue Mutual Aid Program. This includes the publication of plans pertaining to Search and Rescue Mutual Aid. This publication, The Cal OES SAR Mutual Aid Plan, serves as an annex to the Cal OES Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan.

In order to refine the State's Search and Rescue Mutual Aid Program, the Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch assembled California's 58 County Sheriffs' Search and Rescue Coordinators, as well as California's State and Federal SAR Cooperators. This group of interested agencies is called the "State Sheriffs' Search and Rescue Coordinators". The main objective of this group is to collectively review and address statewide SAR issues to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's SAR Mutual Aid Program.

One of the main issues identified was the existence of multiple and inconsistent "standards" that affect the SAR discipline, specifically mutual aid SAR responses. The lack of statewide consistency in how SAR resources were evaluated and categorized made it difficult for SAR resources to be used as a mutual aid resource. This issue was addressed in detail by the State Sheriffs' SAR Coordinators. Their objective was to create mutual aid guidelines that met or exceeded existing applicable "standards" while creating effective and efficient statewide criteria for mutual aid SAR responses. These guidelines are intended to define SAR proficiencies solely for mutual aid resources.

- These guidelines contain information for law enforcement agencies to consider when addressing the broad range of issues related to Search and Rescue Mutual Aid. These guidelines do not constitute a policy, nor are they intended to establish a standard for any agency. Cal OES is sensitive to the needs for agencies to have individualized policies that reflect concern for local issues. Cal OES intends these guidelines to be a resource for law enforcement agencies that will provide maximum discretion and flexibility in the development of individual agency policies.



The creation of California's SAR Mutual Aid Guidelines encompasses all potential SAR disciplines and is developed as follows:

1. The State Sheriffs' SAR Coordinators identify the guideline discipline need.
2. The State Sheriffs' SAR Coordinators elect one of their fellow coordinators to chair the guideline creation process.
3. The State Sheriffs' SAR Coordinators identify and task a group of subject matter experts into a "Specialist Working Group".
4. The Specialist Working Group creates the guidelines based upon their knowledge and experience and submits them back to the coordinators for review, recommendation, and/or approval.
5. Once approved by the coordinators, and reviewed by Cal OES Administration and Staff Counsel, the coordinators present the guidelines to the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) for their review, recommendation and/or approval.
6. Once approved by CSSA, the guidelines become part of the Cal OES California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan – SAR Annex.

Effectiveness and efficiency is achieved as California's SAR Mutual Aid Guidelines are created by California's SAR experts, for California's Sheriff's SAR Coordinators, and approved by the Sheriffs of California, all for the benefit of those who become the subjects of search and/or rescue in California's SAR environments.

The following guidelines include "typing" of both the SAR environment as well as the SAR resource. They are designed to match the conditions, environment and possible length of deployment (normal operational periods should be 12 hours) as determined by the mutual aid requestor and the minimum equipment, experience, and skill level the responding agency should consider when sending SAR personnel.

The goal of "typing" is to be able to identify the largest number of SAR resources while minimizing the risk of placing an unsuitable SAR resource in an unsafe situation. The responding agencies' liaison or leader shall have final approval of any assignments their personnel are asked to perform.

Volunteer SAR personnel should be properly registered as Disaster Service Workers (DSW). DSW registration will ensure that the volunteers are eligible for worker's compensation coverage if they should be injured and provides additional liability protection for the volunteer and the government agency.



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NOTE: The endeavor of Search and Rescue necessitates response into difficult and unpredictable circumstances in widely varied and many times hazardous terrain. These guidelines are intended to assist Search and Rescue Coordinators in identifying appropriate emergency response resources to effect searches and rescues in the most expeditious manner possible while considering known and unknown hazards. These guidelines are not intended to address all eventualities. Rather they are a set of tools derived from collective knowledge to address the task at hand. Search and Rescue is inherently dangerous and participants respond with knowledge of the associated risks.

It is the responsibility of agencies responding to California Search and Rescue Mutual Aid requests to provide qualified personnel and equipment that meet or exceed the recommended level of skills and capabilities stipulated in these guideline documents.

The California SAR Mutual Aid Guidelines are only minimum guidelines and circumstances that are unique to a particular search and rescue mission may dictate that additional or higher skills and qualifications may be necessary for the safety of the searcher and for successful search and rescue operations.



## **SAR Mutual Aid Guideline Links:**

[Ground Searchers](#)

[SAR/USAR](#)

[Underwater SAR](#)

[Tracking](#)

[Underground SAR](#)

[Technical Rope Rescue](#)

[Off-Highway Vehicles](#)

[Mounted SAR](#)

[Alpine SAR](#)

[Incident Support Teams](#)

[Fixed-Wing Aircraft](#)

[Swiftwater/Flood SAR](#)

[SAR Canines](#)





Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch  
24 Hours - (916) 845-8700