

# WASHINGTON STATE SEARCH and RESCUE SYSTEM ESF-9

Core Competency Training Materials - Version 1-1-2012

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## State SAR System

Legal Foundation

- RCW 38.52 - Land SAR
- RCW 47.68 - Air Search
- WAC 118-04 - Volunteer Program (land)
- WAC 468-200 - Volunteer Program (air)
- State & Local CEMP - SAR Annex Required

RCW: Revised Code of Washington (Law)

WAC: Washington Administrative Code (Regulations)

CEMP: Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

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## CEMP ESF-9 Search and Rescue (SAR)

### PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division  
Washington State Department of Transportation

### SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington State Department of General Administration  
Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Military Department, National Guard  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
Washington State Patrol  
American Red Cross  
U.S. Department of Defense  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard

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## SEARCH and RESCUE RCW 38.52.010(7)

***'Search and Rescue' means the acts of searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground, marine, or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as result of a natural, technological, or human caused disaster, including instances involving searches for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used.***

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## Responsibilities

According to state law (RCW 38.52):

- **Chief Law Enforcement Officer conducts SAR operations.**
- **WSDOT Aviation Division responsible for missing aircraft search (RCW 47.68.380) and coordinating air resources for land SAR (CEMP).**
- **Local emergency management director coordinates support for local SAR operations and registers local volunteers under WAC 118-04 (state) criteria.**
- **Emergency Worker (volunteer) Program is established.**
- **State emergency management director appoints State Coordinator of SAR Operations.**

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## State SAR Responsibilities

**RCW 38.52.030**

(8) The director shall appoint a state coordinator of search and rescue operations to coordinate those state resources, services and facilities (other than those for which the state director of aeronautics is directly responsible) requested by political subdivisions in support of search and rescue operations, and on request to maintain liaison with and coordinate the resources, services, and facilities of political subdivisions when more than one political subdivision is engaged in joint search and rescue operations.

**RCW 47.68.380**

(1) The aviation division of the department is responsible for the conduct and management of all aerial search and rescue within the state. This includes search and rescue efforts involving aircraft and airships. The division is also responsible for search and rescue activities involving electronic emergency signaling devices such as emergency locator transmitters (ELT's) and emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRB's).

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## Responsibilities State Coordinator of SAR Operations

*RCW 38.52.030 (8)*

### Resource Coordination

“...coordinate those state resources, services and facilities  
...requested by political subdivisions in support of search and  
rescue operations...”

### Multi-agency Coordination

“...maintain liaison with and coordinate the resources, services,  
and facilities of political subdivisions when more than one  
political subdivision is engaged in joint search and rescue  
operations...”

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## Responsibilities State Coordinator of SAR Operations

### Resource Coordination:

- SAR Resource Network – State Emergency Operations Officer (SEOO)
- Rescue Coordination Center (RCC)
- Emergency Worker (Volunteer) Program (WAC 118-04)
- SAR Training Standards

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## Responsibilities State Coordinator of SAR Operations

### Multi-agency Coordination:

- State Emergency Operations Officers (SEOO) -- Duty Officers
- Rescue Coordination Center
- Technical Specialist – Unified Command
- Incident Command System Training
- SAR Management Training
- WSSARCA
- WA SARVAC
- State SAR Conference

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## SAR Operations ("Normal") Local Actions

- Notification
- Mission Analysis/Size-Up
- State Mission Number
- Mobilization of Local Resources
- Request For Additional Resources

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## SAR Operations Resource Coordination

- State SAR Coordinator/Duty Officer
- Thru local *supporting* jurisdiction
- State, Federal, & International Resources
- Federal rescue coordination centers: Tyndall AFB, Seattle, Victoria.

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## SAR Resources

- Volunteer SAR Units
- Law Enforcement agencies
- Washington National Guard
- Federal Military
- Canadian (BC) Volunteer Units and Provincial & Federal Resources

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## State Rescue Coordination Center

(Mass Rescue Operations/Catastrophic Incident SAR)

- Extension of state emergency operations center.
- Fixed or mobile.
- WMD Emergency Management Division & WSDOT Aviation Division.
- Multiple communications means.
- May employ other resource mobilization procedures.

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## CEMP ESF-9

### Search and Rescue (SAR)

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**SUPPORT AGENCIES:**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington State Department of General Administration  
Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Military Department, National Guard  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
Washington State Patrol  
American Red Cross  
U.S. Department of Defense  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard

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# Emergency Worker Program

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## Emergency Worker Program Legal Foundation

### RCW 38.52 – Emergency Management

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=38.52>

### WAC 118-04 – Emergency Worker Program

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=118-04>

RCW: Revised Code of Washington (Law)

WAC: Washington Administrative Code (Regulations)

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## Emergency Worker Program RCW 38.52

- EMD directed to establish the program.  
(RCW 38.52.310)
- Liability coverage by the state. (RCW 38.52.180)
- Medical, property loss, fuel, and extraordinary expense reimbursement.  
(RCW 38.52.020(1)(d))
- Covers both incidents and training events.

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## WAC 118-04

- 118-04-020 Purpose and intent.**
- 118-04-040 Scope.**
- 118-04-060 Definitions.**
- 118-04-080 Registration.**
- 118-04-100 Classes of emergency workers.**
- 118-04-120 Classes and qualifications of search and rescue emergency workers.**
- 118-04-160 Establishment of state standards.**
- 118-04-180 Responsibilities of authorized officials registering and using emergency workers.**
- 118-04-200 Personal responsibilities of emergency workers.**
- 118-04-220 Emergency worker duty status.**
- 118-04-240 Mission numbers -- Requests and requirements.**
- 118-04-260 Evidence search mission numbers -- Requests and requirements.**
- 118-04-280 Training event numbers -- Requests and requirements.**
- 118-04-300 Compensation eligibility and compensation board.**
- 118-04-320 Eligibility requirements and procedures for filing personal injury claims.**
- 118-04-340 Eligibility requirements and procedures for filing property loss and damage claims.**
- 118-04-360 Eligibility requirements and procedures for filing fuel, toll, and ferry expense reimbursement claims.**
- 118-04-380 Eligibility requirements and procedures for filing extraordinary expense claims.**
- 118-04-400 After action reporting.**
- 118-04-420 Severability.**

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## Emergency Worker Registration

- Required by WAC 118-040-080.
- 18 Classes of Emergency Workers.
- Authority to register delegated to local (County and City) DEM.
- Permanent Registration.
- Temporary Registration (on scene.)

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## Emergency Worker Status Incidents

- Reference: WAC 118-04-220.
- Mission number issued by EMD.
- Must be mobilized by and under direction and control of authorized official.
- WAC 118-04-240(5) coverage is Portal-to-Portal.

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## Emergency Worker Status Training Events

- Training events coordinated by local DEM.
- Training Event (Mission) Numbers issued by EMD for individual events or training series.
- Same liability, medical, and property loss coverage as incidents.

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## Emergency Worker Status "Indemnity"

RCW 38.52.180

(2) All legal liability for damage to property or injury or death to persons (except an emergency worker, regularly enrolled and acting as such), caused by acts done or attempted during or while traveling to or from an emergency or disaster, search and rescue, or training or exercise authorized by the department in preparation for an emergency or disaster or search and rescue, under the color of this chapter in a bona fide attempt to comply therewith, except as provided in subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section regarding covered volunteer emergency workers, shall be the obligation of the state of Washington.

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## Emergency Worker Status "Immunity"

RCW 38.52.180

(3) No act or omission by a covered volunteer emergency worker while engaged in a covered activity shall impose any liability for civil damages resulting from such an act or omission upon:

- (a) The covered volunteer emergency worker;
- (b) The supervisor or supervisors of the covered volunteer emergency worker;
- (c) Any facility or their officers or employees;
- (d) The employer of the covered volunteer emergency worker;
- (e) The owner of the property or vehicle where the act or omission may have occurred during the covered activity;
- (f) Any local organization that registered the covered volunteer emergency worker; and
- (g) The state or any state or local governmental entity.

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## Emergency Worker Status "Immunity"

RCW 38.52.180

(4) The immunity in subsection (3) of this section applies only when the covered volunteer emergency worker was engaged in a covered activity:

- (a) Within the scope of his or her assigned duties;
- (b) Under the direction of a local emergency management organization or the department, or a local law enforcement agency for search and rescue; and
- (c) The act or omission does not constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

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## Emergency Worker Status "Covered..."

RCW 38.52.180

(5) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Covered volunteer emergency worker" means an emergency worker as defined in RCW 38.52.010 who (i) is not receiving or expecting compensation as an emergency worker from the state or local government, or (ii) is not a state or local government employee unless on leave without pay status.

(b) "Covered activity" means:

(i) Providing assistance or transportation authorized by the department during an emergency or disaster or search and rescue as defined in RCW 38.52.010, whether such assistance or transportation is provided at the scene of the emergency or disaster or search and rescue, at an alternative care site, at a hospital, or while in route to or from such sites or between sites; or

(ii) Participating in training or exercise authorized by the department in preparation for an emergency or disaster or search and rescue.

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## Emergency Worker Claims

- Claims filed through local DEM.

- Forms on EMD Web site:

[http://emd.wa.gov/search\\_rescue/sar\\_forms.shtml](http://emd.wa.gov/search_rescue/sar_forms.shtml)

- Instructions on form and in WAC 118-04.

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## SAR Program

RCW 38.52 – Emergency Management  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=38.52>

WAC 118-04 – Emergency Worker Program  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=118-04>

SAR and EW Program Forms  
[http://emd.wa.gov/search\\_rescue/sar\\_forms.shtml](http://emd.wa.gov/search_rescue/sar_forms.shtml)

RCW 47.68 - Aeronautics  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=47.68>

WAC 468-200 - Conduct and management of emergency air operations air search  
& rescue/disaster relief  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=468-200>

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