I. Purpose

a) This ESF lists the Cornell University departments and external agencies responsible for search and rescue actions that may take place during an emergency.

II. Scope

a) Includes all emergencies where search and rescue operations are required. Departments will assist in rescuing and protecting Cornell community members involved in a disaster or emergency.

b) Coordinate search and rescue response operations.

c) Includes search operations including but not limited to: missing persons, criminal suspects, and armed subjects.

d) Includes technical rescue operations including but not limited to: confined space rescue, trench rescue, water rescue, high angle/rope rescue, and rescue from hazardous material incident sites.

   i) Rescue from structural fire incidents is part of ESF-4 Fire Services.

e) May be activated by the Incident Commander to respond to incidents that are beyond the capabilities of the initial emergency response actions.

f) May be activated to respond to incidents that overwhelm normal Incident Command response actions.
III. Situation

a) Emergency Conditions and Hazards
   i) Cornell University may periodically experience emergency and disaster situations that will require search and rescue operations.
   ii) Cornell University may periodically experience emergency and disaster situations that will require response by University resources and outside agencies and the restoration of essential services. Potential emergencies and disasters include both natural and human-caused incidents.
   iii) See Cornell’s Risk Assessment for a description of potential emergencies.

IV. Assumptions

a) Initial emergency response capabilities may be inadequate for the scope of search and rescue operations.

b) University resources will be quickly overwhelmed.

c) Communication systems may fail during a major incident.

d) Backup services will be available but may take time to activate.

e) Shortfalls can be expected in both support personnel and equipment.

f) State and federal assistance may not be immediately available.

V. Concept of Operations

a) General
   ii) ESF Annexes define roles and responsibilities, planned concept of operation, and internal and external capabilities and resources.
   iii) ESF annexes are designed to provide basic information to include points of contact in case additional resources or expertise is needed at the incident scene or on an Incident Management Team.

b) Organization
   i) National Incident Management System concepts will be used for response to all incidents.
   ii) Incident or Unified Command will be used by responding departments.
   iii) When requested, ESF personnel will report to the Incident Command Post or EOC, or will participate as members of Incident Management Team.
c) Notification
   
i) Campus incidents involving requests for ESF-11 Search and Rescue assistance are to be reported to the Cornell University Police Department (CUPD) Dispatch Center by calling 911 from a campus phone or 607-255-1111 from an off campus phone.

   ii) The CUPD Dispatch Center will notify the on-duty EH&S Emergency Services Team personnel of the incident or request for assistance.
       
       (1) As needed, EH&S personnel will request the CUPD Dispatch Center to activate EH&S FPES Hot Pager or Emergency Management Hot Pager.

   iii) If external search or rescue services are needed, the CUPD Dispatch Center will contact the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response Dispatch Center to request response by the appropriate police or fire agency.

   iv) Requests for additional resources shall occur under the authority of the Incident/Unified Command
       
       (1) Requests for additional Cornell University rescue resources should be made through the EH&S representative on scene.

       (2) Requests for additional Cornell University search resources should be made through the Cornell Police representative on scene.

d) Direction, Control and Authority to Act

   i) The Incident Command System (ICS) is used by University personnel to respond to emergencies and incidents.

   ii) During the emergency response phase, all responders will be under the direction and control of the incident’s Incident/Unified Command.

   iii) Responders reporting to the incident scene will report to the Incident Commander at the Incident Command Post unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.

   iv) The Incident/Unified Command is authorized to take actions necessary to contain and control the incident to protect and reduce impact to lives, research, property, the environment, and campus operations.


e) Actions

   i) Preparedness

      (1) EH&S and Cornell Police shall develop and maintain a list of campus, community, and vendor resources that could be requested during an emergency.
(2) EH&S and Cornell Police shall maintain continuity of operation (COOP) plans for the scope of capabilities identified in the ESF. Service recovery priorities and resources shall be identified in the C-COOP planning tool and further detailed through plans and procedures.

(3) EH&S and Cornell Police will maintain a list of personnel (at least one primary and one back-up) that can be called to serve on an Incident Management Team to manage search and rescue related support functions.

(4) Develop procedures to document costs for any potential reimbursement.

(5) Participate in exercises and training to validate this annex and any supporting plans and procedures.

ii) Response

(1) Coordinate campus search and rescue operations.

(2) Act as liaison with outside search and rescue response agencies including local fire departments and the Tompkins County Search and Rescue Team Team.

(3) In conjunction with the Incident Commander, coordinate emergency information for public release through ESF-17 Communications.

iii) Recovery

(1) Coordinate search and rescue related assistance as needed by the Incident Commander, Incident Management Team, and/or Incident Executive Leadership Team.

(2) Ensure that ESF-11 personnel, departments or agencies maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.

VI. Responsibilities

a) Primary Department: Environmental Health and Safety

i) Serve as the lead agency for search and rescue support functions and support the response and recovery operations after ESF activation.

(1) Cornell Police will serve as the lead agency in searches related to the pursuit of criminal suspects or armed subjects.

ii) Develop, maintain, and update plans and procedures during an emergency.
iii) Identify, train, and assign personnel to serve as ESF-11 representatives at an Incident Command Post or on an Incident Management Team (IMT) when a University IMT is assembled.

b) Support Departments
   
i) Develop, maintain, and update plans and procedures for use during an emergency.

   ii) Identify, train, and assign personnel to assist the primary department at the Incident Command Post or on the Incident Management Team as needed.

   iii) Support the primary department as needed.

VII. Capabilities

a) Cornell University EH&S
   
i) Confined Space Rescue Team to provide technical rescue from campus confined spaces.

   ii) EHS Emergency Services and CUEMS staffs are trained to assist in evacuation of individuals who are unable to self-evacuate from a non-hazardous environment.

b) Cornell University Police
   
i) Ground Search Capabilities
      (1) Police staff trained in urban and wild-land search techniques

   ii) Building Search Capabilities
      (1) Police staff trained in building search techniques

c) Ithaca Fire Department
   
i) High Angle/Rope Rescue

   ii) Trench Rescue

   iii) Confined Space Rescue

   iv) Hazardous Materials Response Team

d) Tompkins County Search and Rescue Team
   
i) Ground Search

VIII. Resources

a) EHS – 2 tracked evacuation stair chairs
b) CUEMS – 2 tracked evacuation stair chairs

IX. Policies and Procedures
   a) EHS Confined Space Rescue Team Procedures
   b) Cornell University Police Policy Manual

X. Attachments
   a) None
Plan Review and Revision History

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Version 2.0 updates</td>
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