
**IS-809: ESF #9 – Search and Rescue
Student Manual**

February 2009

Topic

Course Overview

**Display
Visual 1**



Key Points

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with the function and composition of ESF #9 – Search and Rescue.

Approximate Time: 1 hour

Content Outline: This module includes the following major topics:

- ESF Overview
- ESF #9 Purpose and Scope
- ESF #9 Coordinator and Primary Agencies
- ESF #9 Support Agencies
- ESF #9 Concept of Operations
- ESF #9 Actions
- Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue
- Waterborne Search and Rescue
- Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue
- Summary

Materials:

- Instructor Guide
- Student Manual (including the ESF #9 – Search and Rescue Annex)

**Display
Visual 2**

Objectives

- Describe the overall purpose and scope of ESF #9.
- Identify the supplemental assistance ESF #9 provides to State, tribal, and local governments.
- Identify typical activities accomplished by ESF #9 resources.
- Describe the types of partnerships formed between ESF #9 and other response agencies and organizations.



Key Points

At the end of this course, you will be able to:


- Describe the overall purpose and scope of ESF #9.
- Identify the supplemental assistance ESF #9 provides to State, tribal, and local governments.
- Identify typical activities accomplished by ESF #9 resources.
- Describe the types of partnerships formed between ESF #9 and other response agencies and organizations.

Topic

Course Overview



**Display
Visual 3**

Introductions



Tell us:

- **Your name.**
- **Your role in emergency management.**
- **What you hope to gain from this course.**

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Visual 3

Key Points

Introduce yourself to the members of your table groups, providing:

- Your name.
- Your role in emergency management.
- What you hope to gain from this course.

Display
Visual 4

National Response Framework (NRF)

- Establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response.
- Presents an overview of key response principles, roles, and structures that guide the national response.
- Includes Core Document, Annexes, and Partner Guides.

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Visual 4

Key Points

The National Response Framework (NRF):

- Is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards response.
- Builds upon the National Incident Management System (NIMS) coordinating structures to align key roles and responsibilities across the Nation, linking all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

The NRF is comprised of:

- The Core Document, which describes the doctrine that guides our national response, roles and responsibilities, response actions, response organizations, and planning requirements to achieve an effective national response to any incident that occurs.
- Emergency Support Function Annexes, which identify Federal resources and capabilities that are most frequently needed in a national response (e.g., transportation, firefighting, mass care).
- Support Annexes, which describe essential supporting aspects that are common to all incidents (e.g., financial management, volunteer and donations management, private-sector coordination).
- Incident Annexes, which address the unique aspects of how we respond to seven broad categories or types of incidents (e.g., biological, nuclear/radiological, cyber, mass evacuation).
- Partner Guides, which provide ready references describing key roles and actions for local, tribal, State, Federal, and private-sector response partners.

**Display
Visual 5**

Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)

ESFs are:

- **The primary operational-level mechanism to provide assistance.**
- **Organized around functional capabilities (e.g., emergency management, transportation, search and rescue, etc.).**



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Visual 5

Key Points

The Federal Government and many State governments organize many of their resources and capabilities—as well as those of certain private-sector and nongovernmental organizations—under Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

The ESFs:


- Are coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCCs), and Joint Field Offices (JFOs).
- Are a critical mechanism to coordinate functional capabilities and resources provided by Federal departments and agencies, along with certain private-sector and nongovernmental organizations.



Note that some States also have organized an ESF structure along this approach.

**Display
Visual 6**

ESF General Duties

- **Commit agency assets.**
- **Approve and implement mission assignments.**
- **Maintain situational awareness and report on ESF operations.**
- **Represent agency on task forces and ad hoc groups.**
- **Serve as technical experts.**



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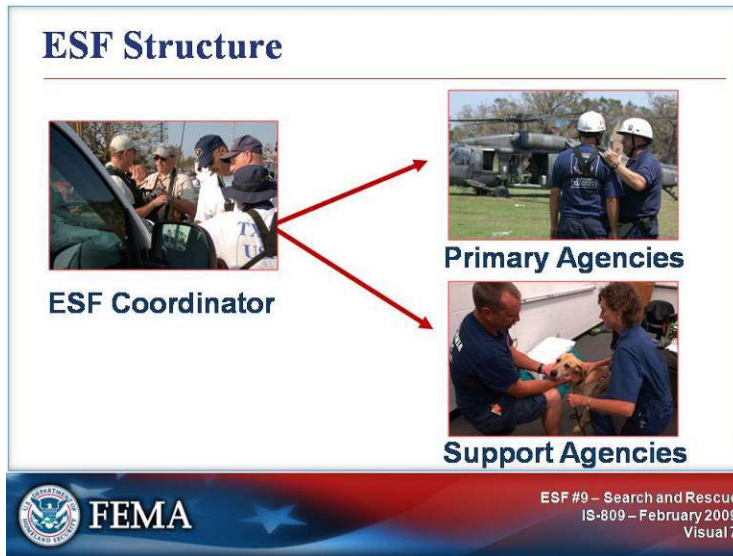
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Visual 6

Key Points

Review the general ESF duties listed on the visual.

Why is it important that ESFs have the authority to commit agency assets?

**Display
Visual 7**



Key Points

The ESF structure includes:


- **ESF Coordinator.** The entity assigned to manage oversight for a particular ESF.
- **Primary Agencies.** ESF primary agencies are Federal agencies with significant authorities, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF. A Federal agency designated as an ESF primary agency serves as a Federal executive agent under the Federal Coordinating Officer (or Federal Resource Coordinator for non-Stafford Act incidents) to accomplish the ESF mission.
- **Support Agencies.** Support agencies are those entities with specific capabilities or resources that support the primary agencies in executing the mission of the ESF.



ESFs provide support to other ESFs. For example: ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering may support rural ESF #5 – Emergency Management forces to obtain heavy equipment and/or demolition services as needed to suppress incident-related fires.

**Display
Visual 8**

ESF Coordinator

- Pre-incident planning and coordination
- Ongoing contact with primary and support agencies
- Coordination with private-sector organizations
- Preparedness planning and exercises



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Visual 8

Key Points

The ESF coordinator has management oversight for that particular ESF.

Note that, as described on the visual, the ESF coordinator has a role throughout the incident management cycle.

Display
Visual 9

Primary and Support Agencies

- **Primary Agency:** Federal agency with significant authorities, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF.
- **Support Agency:** Assists the primary agency by providing resources and capabilities in a given functional area.



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Visual 9


Key Points

When an ESF is activated in response to an incident:

- The **primary agency** is responsible for:
 - Serving as a Federal executive agent under the Federal Coordinating Officer (or Federal Resource Coordinator for non-Stafford Act incidents) to accomplish the ESF mission.
 - Orchestrating Federal support within its functional area for an affected State.
 - Providing staff for the operations functions at fixed and field facilities.
 - Notifying and requesting assistance from support agencies.
 - Managing mission assignments and coordinating with support agencies and appropriate State agencies.
 - Working with appropriate private-sector organizations to maximize use of all available resources.
 - Supporting and keeping other ESFs and organizational elements informed of ESF operational priorities and activities.
 - Maintaining trained personnel to support interagency emergency response and support teams.
- **Support agencies** are responsible for:
 - Conducting operations, when requested by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or the designated ESF primary agency, using their own authorities, subject-matter experts, capabilities, or resources.
 - Participating in planning for short- and long-term incident management and recovery operations and the development of supporting operational plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), checklists, or other job aids, in concert with existing first-responder standards.
 - Assisting in the conduct of situational assessments.
 - Furnishing available personnel or other resource support as requested by DHS or the ESF primary agency.
 - Providing input to periodic readiness assessments.
 - Participating in training and exercises aimed at continuous improvement of response and recovery capabilities.
 - Identifying new equipment or capabilities required to prevent or respond to new or emerging threats and hazards, or to improve the ability to address existing threats.


**Display
Visual 10**

Activation of ESFs



- Not every incident requires the activation of ESFs.
- ESFs may be selectively activated for:
 - Stafford Act Emergency and Major Disaster Declarations.
 - Non-Stafford Act incidents as specified in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5).

ESF deployment must be coordinated, even if under the agency's own authority!



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Visual 10

Key Points


ESFs may be selectively activated for both Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act incidents under circumstances as defined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5). Not all incidents requiring Federal support result in the activation of ESFs.


FEMA can deploy assets and capabilities through ESFs into an area in anticipation of an approaching storm or event that is expected to cause a significant impact and result. This coordination through ESFs allows FEMA to position Federal support for a quick response, though actual assistance cannot normally be provided until the Governor requests and receives a Presidential major disaster or emergency declaration.

**Display
Visual 11**

Emergency Support Functions

- ESF #1 – Transportation
- ESF #2 – Communications
- ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering
- ESF #4 – Firefighting
- ESF #5 – Emergency Management
- ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services
- ESF #7 – Logistics Management and Resource Support
- ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF #9 – Search and Rescue**
- ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
- ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ESF #12 – Energy
- ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security
- ESF #14 – Long-Term Community Recovery
- ESF #15 – External Affairs



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Visual 11

Key Points

The 15 ESFs are listed on the visual. The complete ESF Annexes are available at the NRF Resource Center at www.fema.gov/nrf.

This course focuses on ESF #9 – Search and Rescue.

Describe your roles or associations with ESF #9.

Topic

ESF Overview

**Display
Visual 12**



Key Points

What role does environment play in search and rescue?


This course covers the specific capabilities of each of the ESF #9 response partners.

Topic

ESF #9 Purpose and Scope


**Display
Visual 13**


ESF #9: Purpose



ESF #9:

- Provides specialized lifesaving search and rescue services.
- Assists State, tribal, and local authorities.
- Is activated for incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.

 See page 1 of the Annex.

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Visual 13

Key Points

ESF #9 – Search and Rescue (SAR) provides specialized lifesaving assistance to State, tribal, and local authorities when activated for incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.

Refer to page 1 of the ESF #9 – Search and Rescue Annex.

Topic

ESF #9 Purpose and Scope

Display
Visual 14

ESF #9: Scope

The Federal SAR Response System provides:

- Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue (US&R)
- Waterborne Search and Rescue
- Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue

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Visual 14

Key Points

The Federal SAR Response System is composed of the primary agencies that provide specialized SAR operations during incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response. This includes:

- Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue (US&R)
- Waterborne Search and Rescue
- Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue

SAR services include the performance of distress monitoring, communications, location of distressed personnel, coordination, and execution of rescue operations including extrication or evacuation along with the provisioning of medical assistance and civilian services through the use of public and private resources to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress.


The scope information can be found on page 1 of the ESF #9 – Search and Rescue Annex.

Topic


ESF #9 Coordinator and Primary Agencies


Display
Visual 15

ESF #9 Coordinator & Primary Agencies



- FEMA serves as the coordinator.
- Primary agencies include:
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - United States Coast Guard (USCG)
 - Department of the Interior (DOI)
 - United States Air Force (USAF)

 See pages 4-6 of the Annex.



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Visual 15

Key Points

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) is the ESF #9 coordinator.

Primary agencies for ESF #9 are:

- DHS/FEMA
- DHS/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- Department of the Interior/National Park Service (NPS)
- Department of Defense/U.S. Air Force (USAF)

More information can be found on pages 4-6 of the ESF #9 – Search and Rescue Annex.

Topic

ESF #9 Support Agencies

**Display
Visual 16**

ESF #9 Support Agencies

- **Customs and Border Protection** provides specialized response.
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** provides emerging technologies.
- **Army Corps of Engineers** provides engineering and expertise.
- **Forest Service** provides equipment and supplies.
- **Department of Health and Human Services** provides medical expertise.



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Visual 16

Key Points

In addition to its four primary agencies, ESF #9 is served by a number of support agencies. This support includes:

- Customs and Border Protection provides specialized response.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration provides emerging technologies.
- Army Corps of Engineers provides engineering and expertise.
- Forest Service provides equipment and supplies.
- Department of Health and Human Services provides medical expertise.


Topic


ESF #9 Concept of Operations

**Display
Visual 17**

Concept of Operations

- **Activation of ESF #9 is dependent upon the:**
 - **Nature and magnitude of the event.**
 - **Suddenness of onset.**
 - **Existence of State and local resources in the affected area.**
- **Depending on the type of incident, the appropriate primary agency will initiate response activities.**



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Visual 17

Key Points

Activation of ESF #9 is dependent upon the nature and magnitude of the event, the suddenness of onset, and the existence of State and local resources in the affected area.

Depending on the type of incident, the appropriate primary agency will initiate response activities. For example, in a maritime distress situation, the U.S. Coast Guard will initiate Federal waterborne search and rescue response activities.

Topic


ESF #9 Actions



**Display
Visual 18**

ESF #9 Actions

Search and rescue services provided under ESF #9 include:

- **Monitoring distress alerts.**
- **Locating distressed personnel.**
- **Coordinating rescue efforts.**
- **Extricating or evacuating victims.**
- **Providing medical assistance.**



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Visual 18

Key Points

Search and rescue services provided under ESF #9 include:

- Monitoring distress alerts.
- Locating distressed personnel.
- Coordinating rescue efforts.
- Extricating or evacuating victims.
- Providing medical assistance.


Topic

ESF #9 Actions

**Display
Visual 19**

Discussion Question

**What are some examples
of the types of search
and rescue operations?**



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Visual 19


Key Points

What are some examples of the types of search and rescue operations each primary agency performs?


Topic

Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue

**Display
Visual 20**




Primary Agency: US&R


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FEMA:

- Serves as the primary agency in US&R missions.
- Follows the National US&R Response System to deploy US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams, and technical specialists.

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Visual 20

Key Points

FEMA serves as the primary agency in US&R missions.

FEMA follows the National US&R Response System to deploy US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams, and technical specialists.

FEMA's National Urban Search and Rescue Response System has been deployed for searches of collapsed or damaged buildings in incidents nationwide, including the Oklahoma City bombing, the collapse of the World Trade Center, and rescue efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Also during Hurricane Katrina, 28 National US&R task forces were mobilized. The teams rescued more than 6,000 individuals.

Topic

Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue

**Display
Visual 21**

National US&R Response System



FEMA's National US&R Response System includes:

- Equipped task forces situated across the country.
- More than 5,000 specially trained individuals.
- Trained US&R canines.

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Visual 21

Key Points

FEMA's National US&R Response System organizes local emergency personnel into integrated disaster response task forces. These task forces, complete with necessary tools and equipment, and specialized training and skills, are deployed by FEMA in times of catastrophic structural collapse.

There are 28 national task forces situated across the country. The entire US&R Response System is comprised of more than 5,000 individuals.

US&R teams include specially trained canines that can help locate survivors in an incident.

Approximately 80 FEMA canines were active in rescue efforts at the World Trade Center attack site. They and their handlers were members of the 20 FEMA US&R teams deployed to support the City of New York.

Topic

Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue

Display
Visual 22

US&R Task Force Components



- **Search:** Locating victims.
- **Rescue:** Removing trapped victims.
- **Medical:** Providing confined-space medical treatment.
- **Technical:** Providing structural engineers, hazmat specialists, and communications specialists.
- **Logistical:** Providing specialists for the transportation, maintenance, tracking, and rehabilitation of task force equipment.

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Visual 22

Key Points

Each task force has five main components:


- **Search:** Locating victims of a disaster.
- **Rescue:** Removing a victim from the location where he or she is trapped, which often involves removing debris from around the victim.
- **Medical:** Providing confined-space medical treatment for victims before, during, and after rescue.
- **Technical:** Providing technical support for the rescuers, such as structural engineers, hazmat specialists, and communications specialists.
- **Logistical:** Providing logistics specialists responsible for the transportation, maintenance, tracking, and rehabilitation of task force equipment.

Topic

Waterborne Search and Rescue


**Display
Visual 23**

Primary Agency: Waterborne SAR



USCG:

- Serves as the primary agency in Waterborne SAR missions.
- Coordinates response from an agency-designated command center (Area/District/Sector) or the Rescue Coordination Center, Rescue Sub-Center, or Joint Rescue Coordination Center nearest to the affected area.



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Visual 23

Key Points

USCG serves as the primary agency in Waterborne SAR missions.


USCG coordinates response from an agency-designated command center (Area/District/Sector) or the Rescue Coordination Center, Rescue Sub-Center, or Joint Rescue Coordination Center nearest to the affected area.

Topic

Waterborne Search and Rescue



**Display
Visual 24**

USCG Resources



USCG response involves:

- Multi-mission stations, cutters, aircraft, and boats linked by communications networks.
- Units positioned to arrive onsite within 2 hours of the initial notification.
- Crews that include rescue swimmers, emergency medical technicians, and first responders.

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Visual 24

Key Points

USCG SAR response involves multi-mission stations, cutters, aircraft, and boats linked by communications networks.

The Coast Guard maintains SAR facilities on the east, west, and gulf coasts; in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and on the Great Lakes and inland U.S. waterways. USCG SAR units are positioned to arrive onsite within 2 hours of the initial notification.

The Coast Guard search and rescue crews include rescue swimmers, emergency medical technicians, and first responders.

Topic

Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue

**Display
Visual 25**

Primary Agency: Inland/Wilderness SAR



DOI:

- Serves as the primary agency for Inland/Wilderness SAR missions.
- Coordinates response from a regional office.
- Conducts efforts ranging from searching for lost hikers to performing complex technical rescues in high altitude, mountainous environments.



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Visual 25

Key Points

DOI serves as the primary agency for Inland/Wilderness SAR missions.

DOI coordinates response from a regional office.


Search and rescue efforts in DOI areas range from searching for lost hikers to performing complex technical rescues in high altitude, mountainous environments.

Topic



Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue

**Display
Visual 26**

DOI Resources



- **The National Park Service (NPS):**
 - Is the inland SAR subject-matter expert.
 - Employs hundreds of trained rangers in SAR operations.
 - Uses nearly 300 rangers trained as emergency medical technicians.
- **The Bureau of Land Management and National Wildlife Refuge System provide SAR services in their areas.**

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Visual 26

Key Points

The National Park Service (NPS) is the inland SAR subject-matter expert and has hundreds of trained rangers in SAR operations from cliff rescues to helicopter evacuations in all park environments. In addition, the NPS has nearly 300 rangers trained as emergency medical technicians.

Note that Bureau of Land Management rangers and National Wildlife Refuge System law enforcement officers also provide search and rescue services in their areas.

Topic

Aeronautical Search and Rescue

Display
Visual 27

Primary Agency: Aeronautical SAR



USAF:

- Serves as the primary agency for Aeronautical SAR missions.
- Coordinates initial actions from its Rescue Coordination Center. If significant DOD resources are required, a Joint Task Force is activated.



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Visual 27

Key Points

USAF serves as the primary agency for Aeronautical SAR missions.


USAF coordinates initial actions from its Rescue Coordination Center. If significant DOD resources are required, a Joint Task Force is activated.

Topic

Aeronautical Search and Rescue


**Display
Visual 28**

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)



The CAP:

- **Is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization of volunteers.**
- **Conducts approximately 95 percent of aerial search activity in the inland area.**
- **Uses a fleet of single-engine, piston aircraft; the Nation's most extensive communications network; and more than 1,000 emergency service vehicles.**
- **Provides mission coordinators, ground teams, and personnel on alert status.**

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Visual 28

Key Points

For aerial searches, the Air Force calls on the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the Air Force. The Patrol conducts the majority of all aerial search activity in the inland area. Aerial search activities are coordinated through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization of volunteers. As the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, CAP conducts approximately 95 percent of all aerial search activity in the inland area.


In addition to the world's largest fleet of single-engine, piston aircraft; the Nation's most extensive communications network; and more than 1,000 emergency services vehicles, the CAP provides SAR mission coordinators, ground teams, and additional personnel on alert status.

Topic

Summary


Display
Visual 29

Knowledge Review and Summary



Instructions:

- Answer the review questions on the next page in your Student Manual.
- Be prepared to share your answers with the class in 5 minutes.
- If you need clarification on any of the material presented in this course, be sure to ask your instructors.

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Visual 29

Key Points

Instructions:

- Answer the review questions on pages 32 and 33 of your Student Manual.
- Be prepared to share your answers with the class in 5 minutes.
- If you need clarification on any of the material presented in this course, be sure to ask your instructors.

Additional information about the National Response Framework and Emergency Support Functions can be obtained at the NRF Resource Center at www.fema.gov/nrf.

Topic

Summary

Display
Visual 30

Taking the Exam

Instructions:

1. **Take a few moments to review your Student Manuals and identify any questions.**
 2. **Make sure that you get all of your questions answered prior to beginning the final test.**
 3. **When taking the test . . .**
 - **Read each item carefully.**
 - **Circle your answer on the test.**
 - **Check your work and transfer your answers to the computer-scan (bubble) answer sheet or enter the answers online.**
- **You may refer to your Student Manuals and the Annex when completing this test.**



Key Points

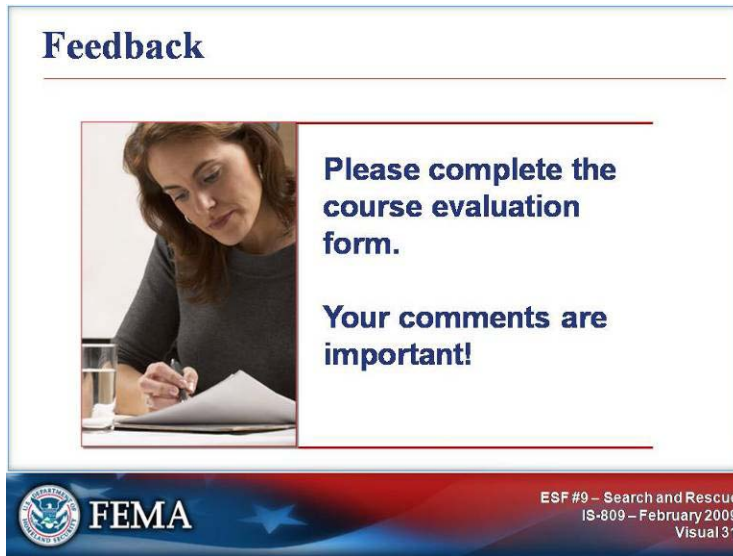
Instructions:

1. Take a few moments to review your Student Manuals and identify any questions.
2. Make sure that you get all of your questions answered prior to beginning the final test.
3. When taking the test . . .
 - Read each item carefully.
 - Circle your answer on the test.
 - Check your work and transfer your answers to the computer-scan (bubble) answer sheet or enter the answers online.

You may refer to your Student Manuals and the annex when completing this test.

Topic	Summary
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Display
Visual 31



Feedback

Please complete the course evaluation form.

Your comments are important!

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Visual 31

Key Points

Please complete the course evaluation/feedback form.

ESF #9 – Knowledge Review

1. Who serves as the coordinator for ESF #9?

2. Which agency would most likely act as the primary agency if ESF #9 were activated to rescue of cruise ship passengers from a liner damaged by a tropical storm?

3. Which agency would most likely act as the primary agency if ESF #9 were activated to search for survivors of an airliner downed by an apparent terrorist attack?

4. Which agency would most likely act as the primary agency if ESF #9 were activated to rescue of residents of a rural area trapped by a sudden severe ice storm?

5. Which resource consists of highly trained and well-equipped local fire and emergency personnel?
 - Task forces
 - Incident support teams
 - Technical specialists

6. Fill in the blank: The _____ conducts approximately 95 percent of all aerial search activity in the inland area.

7. Match the activities with the ESF #9 support agencies that perform them.

Activities	Support Agencies
_____ Supplies equipment for searches in wilderness and forested areas	A. USDA/Forest Service
_____ Provides test-bed facilities for proof-of-concept and beta testing of new SAR technologies.	B. Department of Health and Human Services
_____ Conducts specialized search and rescue operations along the U.S.-Mexico border.	C. DHS/Customs and Border Protection
_____ Offers engineering expertise in searches of collapsed buildings.	D. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
_____ Provides support to Emergency Medical Technicians working in a Coast Guard search and rescue team.	E. DOD/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

8. Use the space below to make note of any questions you have about the material covered in this course.

Your Notes