
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) PLAN

Purpose

This plan establishes responsibilities, authority, and operational and administrative procedures for Search and Rescue (SAR) activities within Campbell County, Kentucky.

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

1. Prioritize the protection of life.
 2. Locate, provide necessary care, including emergency medical care, and evacuate persons in distress by:
 - Utilizing the most effective methods.
 - Minimizing response time.
 - Ensuring safety and cost-efficiency.
 - Reducing impact on resources and routine county operations.
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Responsibilities

Under **KRS Chapter 39**, the Campbell County Emergency Management Director or designee is responsible for SAR operations. Responsibilities include:

1. Coordinating local SAR missions and determining agency involvement.
 2. Collaborating with law enforcement on SAR missions that involve criminal or jurisdictional elements.
 3. Ensuring compliance with state certifications for SAR teams, including canine and handler certifications.
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Emergent Authorities and Responsibilities

In incidents that cross jurisdictional lines or involve external agencies, Campbell County Emergency Management will coordinate with:

1. Multi-agency responders.
2. State and federal agencies (e.g., Civil Air Patrol for missing aircraft).
3. Agencies addressing incidents along county borders and waterways.

SAR missions prioritize life safety and supersede all non-critical activities.

Plan for Lost or Missing Person Search

I. Initial Notification

Upon notification of a missing person, the Campbell County Public Safety Communications Center will:

1. Alert the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction.
2. Notify the relevant Fire Department.
3. Contact Boone County Water Rescue for water-related incidents.
4. Notify Emergency Management.
5. Gather essential details about the missing person, including:
 - o Physical description.
 - o Circumstances of disappearance.
6. Obtain and communicate current weather conditions.

Legal Notes

- Any search lasting over **two hours** must involve the on-call Emergency Management official per **KRS 39F.180(1)**.
 - Missing minors and impaired individuals must be reported immediately under relevant statutes (e.g., **KRS 2.015, KRS 39F.010**).
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II. Search Urgency

The **Search Urgency Determination Form** evaluates the relative urgency of a SAR incident. Key factors include elapsed time since disappearance, subject profile, and environmental conditions. High urgency triggers immediate escalation and deployment of resources.

III. Initial Response

The County SAR Coordinator and law enforcement supervisor will:

1. Deploy initial resources (e.g., local SAR teams, fire, law enforcement, water rescue teams).
 2. Establish:
 - Last Known Position (LKP) or Place Last Seen (PLS).
 - Command Post (CP).
 - High-probability search zones.
 3. Conduct an Incident Action Plan (IAP) to address:
 - Resource needs.
 - Tactical search assignments.
 - Support services.
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IV. Strategy and V. Tactics

SAR strategies focus on:

1. Identifying search area boundaries using statistical data, terrain analysis, and subject behavior.
2. Deploying resources efficiently to:
 - Confine the subject's movement.
 - Optimize search probabilities.
 - Locate the subject or clues.

Tactical measures include:

1. Immediate deployment of hasty teams to high-priority areas.
 2. Use of trained personnel, SAR dogs, and aerial resources.
 3. Systematic clue documentation and evaluation.
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VI. Investigation and Interviewing

Thorough investigations and interviews are essential for gathering critical information.

Responsibilities include:

1. Completing a **Lost Person Questionnaire**.
 2. Coordinating with family, friends, and local agencies.
 3. Securing the incident scene for potential criminal activity.
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VII. Resources

Preferred SAR resources include:

1. Certified SAR teams and dogs.
2. Mantrackers and technical rescue teams.
3. Specialized units (e.g., water rescue, dive teams, aerial search).

Untrained volunteers may serve in limited support roles to preserve safety and mission integrity.

VIII. Callout Procedures

Callout procedures for SAR resources will be maintained, reviewed annually, and posted at the **Campbell County Joint Dispatch Center**.

IX. Organization and Management

SAR missions will adhere to the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**. Key roles include:

1. **Incident Commander (IC):** Overall mission authority.
 2. **Operations Officer:** Field deployment and task management.
 3. **Planning Officer:** Information analysis and IAP development.
 4. **Logistics Officer:** Resource and personnel support.
 5. **Finance Officer:** Cost tracking and expenditure documentation.
 6. **Public Information Officer (PIO):** Media coordination.
 7. **Safety Officer:** Risk management.
 8. **Liaison Officer:** Agency collaboration.
 9. **Communications Officer:** System reliability and logs.
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X. Command Posts

Command Posts (CP) should include:

1. Operational and staging areas.
 2. Sanitation, food, and medical services.
 3. Secure zones for family and media.
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XI. Rescue and Evacuation

SAR teams will prioritize:

1. Subject safety.
 2. Effective evacuation methods considering terrain, weather, and medical needs.
 3. Collaboration with EMS and air evacuation services when necessary.
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XII. Incident Site Procedures

SAR teams must:

1. Preserve potential crime scenes.
 2. Report and secure clues.
 3. Adhere to coroner protocols for fatalities.
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XIII. Suspending or Scaling Back a Mission

A mission may be **suspended** or **scaled back** if:

1. All search areas yield no results.
 2. Safety or resources are compromised.
 3. Approval is received from the IC after consultation with SAR stakeholders.
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XIV. Documentation and Reporting

Post-mission, the IC will:

1. Compile all documentation, including maps, forms, and reports.
 2. Submit reports to the **Kentucky Division of Emergency Management** within 20 days.
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XV. Critique

A post-incident critique will review:

1. Incident cause and prevention.
2. Operational successes and failures.
3. Recommendations for improving future SAR missions.

Focus critiques on constructive problem-solving, not assigning blame.

This enhanced SAR Plan emphasizes readiness, efficiency, and professionalism, ensuring Campbell County is prepared to respond effectively to SAR incidents.

Revised January 2, 2025