

Southwest Area Mobilization Guide
Chapter 90 • Emergency Procedures and Safety

90.1 Requests for Assistance

90.1.1 Operations in New Mexico

Search-and-rescue missions are coordinated by the New Mexico State Police. All Zone and Agency dispatchers in New Mexico should contact the nearest State Police office immediately when search-and-rescue operations are involved.

90.1.2 Operations in Arizona

Search-and-rescue missions are coordinated by each County's Sheriff Department. Dispatchers in Arizona should contact the County Sheriff having jurisdiction immediately when search-and-rescue operations are involved.

90.2 Checklist of Actions in Emergency Cases

90.2.1 In Event of Serious Accident or Death

- a. Activate rescue unit and equipment.
- b. Notify doctor and give instructions. (In some cases, this will be the first thing to be done).
- c. Notify Unit Line Officer.
- d. Notify IARR.
- e. Notify Southwest Area Coordinator through normal channels. Area Coordinator will notify all personnel concerned. The SWCC Manager will notify the Federal Aviation Agency if the emergency involves an aircraft accident.
- f. Notify County Sheriff's Office and/or State Police. (Arrange for a coroner if a death is involved.)
- g. Designate Information Officer. Information Officer will contain press until reliable information is obtained. No names will be released until next of kin has been notified.
- h. Instruct key lookouts or other key positions to remain on duty as necessary.

90.3 Areas of Responsibility

90.3.1 Forest Service Responsibilities

Inside and outside the National Forests, as a humanitarian measure, the use of Forest Service personnel and equipment is authorized for the purpose of protecting life and property and for relieving suffering and distress arising from such causes as floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and snowstorms.

The Regional Forester should be notified promptly of any extraordinary use or obligation of funds or use of personnel or equipment. Obligations incurred should be considered as payable out of currently available funds only, without expectation of reimbursement. Only in rare cases does the congress appropriate supplemental funds to reimburse agencies for each extraordinary expense, unless the expenditures were made under the major disaster law (FSM 1522.61).

Southwest Area Mobilization Guide

Chapter 90 • Emergency Procedures and Safety

90.3.2 BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS Responsibilities

Each agency head charged with the duty of providing fire protection for any property of the United States is authorized to enter into a reciprocal agreement with any fire organization maintaining fire protection facilities in the vicinity of such property, and for other property for which such organization normally provides fire protection.

In the absence of any agreement authorized or ratified, each agency head is authorized to render emergency assistance in extinguishing fires and in preserving life and property from fire, within the vicinity of any place at which such agency maintains fire protection facilities, when the rendition of such assistance is determined under regulations prescribed by the agency head to be in the best interest of the United States.

90.3.3 Legal Responsibilities of State Agencies

Primarily, the protection of life and property and the maintenance of law and order within the territorial jurisdiction of any state is the responsibility of state and local authorities. In some states, the basic law places responsibility for protection of life and property and the search for lost persons on the sheriffs of the respective counties. In other states the State Highway Patrol has the responsibility to assist during emergencies involving protection of life and property.

90.3.4 Military Responsibilities

For the land area of the United States, the Air Rescue Service of the Air Force is charged with the responsibility of providing search, survival aid, and rescue of passengers and crew of missing and/or crashed aircraft in accidents which do not occur in the proximity of airports. This responsibility applies to all aircraft, civil as well as military. In Alaska, responsibility for air rescue is shared by the Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

90.4 Aircraft Accidents and Incidents

90.4.1 Southwest Area Aviation Incident/Accident Response Guide

The guide outlines recommended actions to be taken whenever there is an overdue aircraft, an aircraft accident, or an aircraft search-and-rescue operation. Whenever such action must be taken, use the guide to expedite emergency actions.

All personnel involved in aviation and dispatch should be familiar with the contents of this guide. Those who do not deal with aviation on a regular basis should be able to use this guide to accomplish the purpose in the absence of more knowledgeable individuals.

90.5 Emergency Transport of Sick And Injured Persons

90.5.1 Helicopter Transport

a. Arizona

1. State Air Ambulance Service. Arizona Department of Public Safety has 3 Bell 206L3 and 2 206L1 helicopters and provides full-service helicopter transport, 24 hours a day, to local hospitals for critical injuries or illnesses. One is located Falcon Field, Mesa, one in Flagstaff, one in

Southwest Area Mobilization Guide

Chapter 90 • Emergency Procedures and Safety

Kingman, and one in Tucson, with the other used as a backup ship. Requests should be made to the DPS Communications System (1-800-247-6337) or may be made through Arizona State Forestry Dispatcher.

2. Samaritan Health Services, "AIR EVAC", 2630 Sky Harbour Blvd. Phoenix, Arizona, Telephone 602-247-3822 (1-800-321-9522), has 4 MBB BK17 (Boelkow) helicopters available, based around the Phoenix Metropolitan area, available for Medivac services. They are dispatched with nurse paramedics.

b. **New Mexico**

1. University of New Mexico "LIFEGUARD" operates an Aerospatiale Twin-Star helicopter. Located at 2211 Lomas Blvd. NE, they provide emergency service within a 150-mile radius of Albuquerque. Request made by dialing 1-800-MED-LIFT (1-800-633-5438).

2. New Mexico Air National Guard, at Santa Fe, and the 5050th Air Lift Command based at Kirtland AFB can be contacted through the New Mexico State Police.

NOTE: Normal procedures for requesting helicopter service should be through normal dispatch channels. Services may be requested for Agency employees who may be injured while on duty or private citizens who may be injured or become ill while visiting public lands.

90.5.2 Air Ambulance Service

a. **Arizona**

1. Samaritan Health Services, "AIR EVAC", 2630 Sky Harbor Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona, Telephone 602-247-3822, (1-800-321-9522) has five Medivac fixed-wing aircraft, four Conquests and a LearJet. Most are based at Sky Harbor Airport, Phoenix but one of the Conquests is based at Lake Havasu City Airport. They are dispatched with nurse respiratory therapists.

2. Air Medical Transport Inc., 2635 E. Airlane, Phoenix, Arizona 85034, telephone 1-800-892-6440, provides a full-service medical transportation system, available 24 hours a day. A Merlin IV-C, prop jet, is completely furnished as an intensive care unit. Air Medical Transport Inc. will provide service anywhere within the United States.

b. **New Mexico**

Several Air Ambulance services are available at Albuquerque International Airport.

AANI AIR AMBULANCE	1-800-327-1966
AIR AMBULANCE AMERICA	1-800-262-8526
MED FLIGHT AIR AMBULANCE	842-4433
FOUR SEASONS AVIATION	842-4040

Southwest Area Mobilization Guide

Chapter 90 • Emergency Procedures and Safety

90.6 Hazardous Materials

If material that may be hazardous to the environment or to an individual's health is located on Public Lands, immediate and proper notification may be of great importance. Any containers found with suspicious or unknown contents that may contain hazardous waste materials should be reported immediately. If unsure of a liquid material found, do not touch it, as many hazardous liquid materials are absorbed through the skin and may cause either an immediate or delayed reaction. Persons seen dumping or off-loading containers or material that may be of a hazardous nature (midnight dumping) should also be reported.

- a. In New Mexico, immediately notify the Environmental Improvement Division at their 24-hour emergency reporting number, 505-827-9329.
- b. In Arizona, immediately notify the Hazardous Waste Division at their 24-hour number, 1-800-352-8400.

90.7 Emergency/Critical Incident Resources

90.7.1 Work and After-Hours Telephone Numbers

- a. Forest Service CONCERN Program Coordinators: 505-842-3391
- b. Private Contractors Available for After-hours:

Critical Incident Assistance
Aarlon Employee Counseling, 1-800-382-9333.

90.8 Federal Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan

90.8.1 Forest Service Responsibilities

The Federal Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan assigns the USDA Forest Service responsibility to manage and coordinate the detection and suppression of wild land, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, a catastrophic earthquake. First priority is saving lives, the second is protecting property.

Upon notification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Forest Service provides National Fire Suppression Liaison Officers, located either at FEMA Headquarters or in Fire and Aviation Management, Rosslyn, who serve as liaison between FEMA, primary and secondary Federal agencies, NICC, and Regional Fire Suppression Support Coordinators.

Additionally, the Forest Service Regional Office provides a Fire Suppression Support Coordinator, who operates under the direction of the Presidentially appointed Federal Coordinating Officer. The Fire Suppression Support Coordinator is responsible for coordinating Federal firefighting response at the Regional level.