

## Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

### 304.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Florida Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response Systems as resources for disaster response.

### 304.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Sanibel Fire and Rescue District to utilize the FEMA and Florida USAR resources in the event of an urban disaster, as appropriate.

### 304.3 RESOURCES

USAR is a multi-hazard discipline and may be used for a variety of disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, typhoons, storms, tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities and hazardous material releases.

USAR task forces have four areas of specialization:

- (a) Searches - Finding victims who are trapped after a disaster
- (b) Rescues - Freeing victims, including safely digging victims out of collapsed concrete or metal
- (c) Technical - Applying specialized structural knowledge to help make rescues safe for the rescuers
- (d) Medical - Caring for victims before and after a rescue

#### 304.3.1 FEDERAL RESOURCES

If a disaster warrants national USAR support, FEMA may deploy task forces within six hours of notification and can provide additional teams as necessary to support the Sanibel Fire and Rescue District's efforts to locate victims and manage recovery operations.

The following resources are generally available from the FEMA USAR Response System:

- Air Search Team (fixed-wing)
- Airborne Reconnaissance (fixed-wing)
- Canine - Avalanche/Snow
- Canine - Disaster Response
- Canine - Land/Cadaver
- Canine - Water
- Canine - Wilderness
- Canine - Wilderness Tracking and Trailing
- Cave Search and Rescue Team

# Sanibel Fire and Rescue District

## Fire Policy Manual

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- Collapse Search and Rescue Team
- Mine and Tunnel Search and Rescue Team
- Mountain Search and Rescue Team
- Radio Direction Finding Team
- Swiftwater and Flood Search, and Dive Rescue Teams
- USAR Incident Support Team
- USAR Task Force
- Wilderness Search and Rescue Team

More information about the specific capabilities and sustainability of USAR resources may be obtained on the FEMA website.

#### 304.3.2 FLORIDA RESOURCES

The following Florida USAR Task Forces (FL-TF) are authorized and available resources in the state pursuant to Florida emergency management law (§ 252.35, Fla. Stat.):

- FL-TF1 and FL-TF2 are Type I FEMA USAR teams located in Miami-Dade County.
- FL-TF3 is a Type I USAR team located in the St. Petersburg, Tampa and Hillsborough County areas.
- FL-TF4 is a Type II USAR team located in the Orange County, Orlando and Seminole County areas.
- FL-TF5 is a Type II USAR team located in Jacksonville.
- FL-TF6 is a Type II USAR team located in Southwest Florida.
- FL-TF7 is a Type III USAR team located in Tallahassee.
- FL-TF8 is a Type III USAR team located in the Alachua County, Gainesville, Marion County and Ocala areas.
- FL-TF9 is a Type III USAR team located in Volusia County.

There are also additional resources identified as Type II Technical Rescue Teams, Type III Collapse Search and Rescue Teams and Light Technical Rescue Teams authorized and available throughout Florida.