CHAPTER 90 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES.** Search and Rescue missions are coordinated by each County's Sheriff Department or by the State Police depending on the location of the incident. Each request for assistance will go through the interagency dispatcher center; that dispatch center will make contact with the appropriate agency or department having jurisdiction for the request.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES IN CASE OF SERIOUS ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY

- The local dispatch center is responsible for requesting emergency ground and/or air transportation through established procedures. This may include coordination with Incident Management Teams who are requesting emergency transport through procedures identified in the team's medical plan.

- Notify Unit Duty Officer or Agency Administrator per established procedures and guidelines.

- Notify appropriate Great Basin Geographic Area Coordination Center (EGBCC or WGBCC) Center Manager or Coordinator on Duty (COD).

- Coordinator on Duty will notify the GACC Manager, the Great Basin Fire Operations Specialist (Great Basin Coordinating Group Duty Officer) and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

- The Coordinator on Duty is responsible for notifying the Great Basin Critical Incident Support Coordinator if Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) services are being requested. (See Supplement 2 – Great Basin Interagency Mobilization Guide, Critical Incident Stress Management Procedures).

- Depending on the incident, the local unit should designate a Public Information Officer or information center as the primary point of contact for media or the public.

- The COD should also notify the sending Geographic Area Coordination Center and or Interagency Resource Representative (IARR) for that Area if one is assigned.

- For more information see the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, Chapter 19, page 19-11.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **USDA - FOREST SERVICE.** 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 shall 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 Congress appropriate supplemental funds to reimburse agencies for each extraordinary expense, unless the expenditures were made under the major disaster law (FSM 1522.61).

- **DOI – BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS.** Each agency official 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 designated agency official 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.

For search and rescue which is non-fire related, obligations incurred should be considered as payable out of currently available funds only, without expectation of reimbursement.

- **STATE AGENCIES.** 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.

- **MILITARY.** 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.

AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

- **AVIATION INCIDENT/ACCIDENT RESPONSE GUIDE (CRASH/RESCUE PLAN).** The guide outlines recommended actions to be taken whenever there is an overdue aircraft, an aircraft accident, or an aircraft search-and-rescue operation. 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. Each interagency dispatch center shall have a current up to date plan available.

- **INTERAGENCY AVIATION MISHAP RESPONSE GUIDE.** Department of Interior agencies and Forest Service should also refer to the Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide at:

  http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pms503.pdf

NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK. The National Response Framework (NRF) provides a comprehensive national all-hazards approach to domestic incident management across a spectrum of activities including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. This plan identifies the Forest Service as the primary and coordinating agency for implementing the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4, Firefighting and DOI as a Primary Agency, along with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for implementing ESF #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

For more information please see:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/allhazardresponse/ESF-4_Function/documents.html