



Sullivan County

Wildland Search & Rescue Team Policy & Procedures

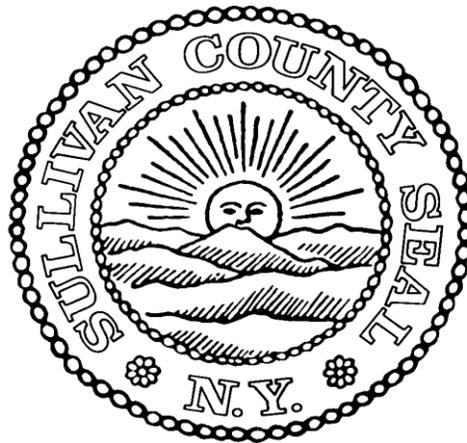


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1) INTRODUCTION

A) Mission Statement

The Sullivan County Wildland Search & Rescue Team is a specialty operation of the said organization "Sullivan County Bureau of Fire". The intent is to provide emergency search and rescue services for the Sullivan County Community and to provide mutual aid to other organizations needing such services.

B) Purpose

The purpose of the policy & procedure will be to establish The Wildland Search & Rescue Team Organization & Structure and to detail a uniform protocol for Wildland Search & Rescue incidents. Additionally this document provides clear guidelines to assist Fire Officers in establishing an efficient command & control procedure for wildland searches.

2) Team Organization & Structure

- A. Overall supervision of this team falls under the authority and direction of the Deputy Fire Coordinator for Special Operations who acts as the highest-ranking officer of the team as per the Sullivan County Fire Coordinator. The following organizational structure is for the internal operations of the team. Maintaining the integrity of this structure is critical for the safety of team members during training and operations. It also provides a vital link in the command structure of this team.
- B. The Sullivan County Fire Coordinator will appoint a Captain and Lieutenant
 - 1. Team Captain – duties:
 - a. assist the Deputy in charge of the team
 - b. assist the Incident Commander
 - c. assist in presearch briefing
 - d. assist in post search briefing
 - e. assist in search team deployment
 - f. any other duties assigned by command
 - g. conduct training drills
 - 2. Lieutenant – duties
 - a. act in place of Team Captain if absent
 - b. maintain the appropriate membership list
 - c. maintain personal files, to include training records
 - d. search documentation
 - e. submit an annual report to the Sullivan county Bureau of Fire
- C. Team Training and Guidelines will be based on Standard Wildland Search & Rescue techniques practiced by the NYS DEC Forest Ranger Division which follow a recognized National Standard.

3) Personnel Requirements

A. Applicants

- 1) Anyone wanting to apply to the Sullivan County Wildland Search & Rescue Team must be eighteen (18) years of age, be a member in good standing of a Sullivan County Fire Dept. has permission from their Chief and completes an application for Special Operations.
- 2) Applicants should be physically fit to meet the demands of the positions within the team structure.
- 3) All team members must complete an annual Fire Department firefighter OSHA physical.
- 4) Clothing that meets the demands of the various weather conditions during which any search may be conducted is required.
- 5) Applicants familiarity with proper radio procedure is required.

C) Definitions

- a. Team member – Firefighter having completed the Wildland Search & Rescue course offered by the New York State Forest Rangers.
- b. Crew Boss – A team member having :
 1. A minimum of basic first aid
 2. Map read certification
 3. Compass reading certification
 4. A minimum of three (3) searches
- c. Search Team - -seven (7) to ten (10) people to consist of:
 1. (1) A Crew Boss
 2. (1) First aid personal
 3. At least one (1) one fire department personal
 4. Team members
 5. An interpreter if deemed necessary

5) Call Out and Response Protocols

- 1) Individual Team Members will be notified of a call (search) by a special ops tone on their pager. If they are able to respond they must call in using the “**I Am Responding**” phone program. **DO NOT CALL IN TO 53 CRONTROL**
- 2) At no time shall any personnel from the Wildland Search & Rescue Team respond to an incident without being requested.
- 2) Upon arrival to the scene *all* personnel will report to the Incident Command Post to receive assignments.

6) Organizational Structure

A. The Deputy Fire Coordinator of Special Operations is responsible to assist the Fire Chief of jurisdiction with coordination of mutual aid, staging and all aspects of liaison for all resources and agencies at the incident. In the absence of the Team Captain and Lieutenant the Deputy Fire Coordinator on scene will appoint an acting captain for that incident.

7) General Operation Guidelines

- A) The Sullivan County Wildland Search & Rescue Team will operate under the National Information Management System (NIMS) at all times.