**Introducing Midwest Search & Rescue**

**Midwest Search & Rescue** is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to building on public, private and corporate partnerships to ensure that the search and rescue assets in Kansas are prepared to respond when needed. The primary purpose of our organization is to promote and support the sustainment and furtherance of the search and rescue capability in Kansas by providing or augmenting training, equipment, consulting, and response.

“Our mission is to enhance the search & rescue capability in the State of Kansas”

We will accomplish this by:

- Supporting the regional search and rescue task forces in Kansas.
- Developing and providing affordable training to task force members.
- Assisting with future needs for specialized equipment.
- Providing subject matter expertise in search and rescue operations.
- Providing an all-hazards response capability that will augment the current system.

Please take time to review our strategic plan and consider how you can help us enhance the search and rescue capability in Kansas, thereby ensuring that we will all be better prepared for the next disaster!
OUR MISSION

Enhance the search & rescue capability in the State of Kansas.

OUR PURPOSE

Midwest Search & Rescue is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to building on public, private, and corporate partnerships to ensure that the search and rescue assets in Kansas are prepared to respond when needed. The primary purpose of our organization is to promote and support the sustainment and furtherance of the search and rescue capability in Kansas by providing or augmenting training, equipment, consulting, and response.

OVERVIEW

Kansas, like much of the Midwest, is highly susceptible to a wide range of devastating disasters from a building collapse, grain elevator explosion, or wide area flood, to the total destruction caused by a tornado, like the twisters that struck Greensburg, Kansas and Joplin, Missouri. While we certainly can’t stop a natural disaster, nor can we always prevent the devastation caused by mankind, such as the horrific event that stunned downtown Oklahoma City on a quiet April morning in 1995, we can strive to be better prepared, trained, and equipped to respond quickly and effectively when those events do occur!

From a family maintaining an emergency kit that will sustain them until help arrives, or a homeowner who knows how to shut off a leaking gas line; to a police officer or firefighter that understands the importance of incident command and resource management during a disaster; to a rescue technician that is trained and equipped to cut and remove a collapsed roof to reach a victim, or use an acoustical listening device to hear the faintest sound from several floors below, we all play a part in “saving lives” when the disaster strikes!

While much has been done to prepare the general public and local first responders in Kansas for the next disaster, it is critical that we continue to focus our efforts on training and preparing rescue personnel to handle the complex rescue situations they will encounter during a disaster. However, developing and sustaining a cadre of trained search & rescue “specialists” in the state is not only expensive, it is an ongoing endeavor. For that reason, Midwest Search & Rescue was organized specifically as a 501c3 non-profit organization to seek out and build on the public, private and corporate partnerships that will maximize our potential, and help ensure that when the next disaster hits, there will be trained rescue personnel ready to respond in Kansas! Every citizen deserves to know that when their family is trapped in a basement after a devastating tornado, or buried in a car under the concrete and steel of a collapsed parking garage, that trained rescuers are responding with the specialized skills and equipment that provide the best chance of survival.
Since the Greensburg tornado in 2007, Kansas has worked hard to develop a search and rescue response system utilizing trained specialists throughout the state, organized into regional task forces. These task forces are generally comprised of dedicated members of local fire and EMS agencies, whose specialized training and equipment is provided whenever local budgets or Homeland Security grants allow. Unfortunately, as local budgets shrink and grant funds are reduced or eliminated, supporting the training and equipment needs of these task forces becomes more difficult, if not impossible.

**Midwest Search & Rescue** is dedicated to providing a supplemental funding source that will ensure that the search and rescue assets in Kansas are prepared to respond for years to come, regardless of funding.

In order to enhance the search and rescue capability in Kansas, Midwest Search & Rescue has developed this dynamic planning document which will focus on five (5) main areas, **General Business, Training, Equipment, Consulting, and Response.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Midwest Search & Rescue is committed to operating a 501c3 non-profit organization in the State of Kansas.

This will be accomplished by:

- Marketing our organization through the use of the internet, social media, mass mail/email, brochures, etc., as well as making direct contact and meeting with our partners in the public, private, and corporate sectors.
- Leasing and maintaining a business location along the I-70 corridor with office space, vehicle and equipment maintenance areas, and vehicle storage areas. This general location was chosen because of the proximity to populated areas in the state, as well as access to major transportation routes.
- Providing the appropriate business insurance for the organization, including general and professional liability, auto & property insurance, etc.
- Meeting the appropriate bookkeeping and auditing requirements for a 501c3 non-profit organization as mandated by Kansas state law and the Internal Revenue Service.
TRAINING

Midwest Search & Rescue is committed to ensuring that rescue personnel in Kansas are prepared to respond to disasters or significant events in Kansas and beyond. In addition, Midwest Search & Rescue is committed to supporting awareness and training in disaster preparedness and response for the general public and all first responders.

This will be accomplished by:

- Designing and maintaining a website where the general public, first responders, and search and rescue personnel can access preparedness, training, and response resources.
- Promoting disaster awareness and training through online resources, social media, newsletters, etc.
- Developing and delivering position specific training to regional task force members.
- Developing and delivering initial and refresher technician level training to regional task force members in various rescue disciplines, including structure collapse rescue, trench rescue, vehicle & machinery rescue, confined space rescue, rope rescue, water/flood rescue, etc.
- Supporting the delivery of training from outside experts who can be brought to Kansas to share knowledge and experience gained from responding to a variety of disasters in other parts of the country.
- Supporting training opportunities for search and rescue instructors in Kansas that will enable them to provide training to first responders or regional task force members throughout the state.
- Assisting in the coordination of state and regional conferences, or any other training opportunities where regional task force members can receive advanced training in areas such as structure collapse, search operations, disaster medical operations, K9 search operations, water/flood rescue, etc.
- Designing and conducting operational readiness exercises for the regional task forces, encouraging their interaction and interoperability with other response entities such as the Kansas National Guard, Incident Management Teams, etc.
EQUIPMENT

Midwest Search & Rescue is committed to enhancing the search & rescue capability in Kansas by acquiring and maintaining a cache of specialized equipment for training and response, focused on providing an incident support capability and initial search operations for any disaster environment. In addition, Midwest Search & Rescue will provide supplemental funding to assist the regional task forces in acquiring and sustaining the specialized equipment needed for response.

This will be accomplished by:

General
- Acquiring and maintaining two (2) prime movers such as 4-wheel drive crew cab pickup trucks. Each unit would be used to tow response trailers, transport personnel and equipment, and carry auxiliary tanks to transport diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline.
- Equipping a 14 person response team with accountability badges, uniforms, and personal protective clothing & equipment.
- Acquiring a 6X6 all wheel drive ATV for use in transporting equipment and personnel to remote and inaccessible areas.
- Acquiring a tracked Skid Steer that can be used to remove debris and clear access to victims.
- Acquiring a tandem axle flat bed trailer to transport the ATV and Skid Steer.
- Acquiring sustainment equipment such as tents, cots, sleeping bags, portable toilets/showers, etc.

Incident Support/Search Operations
- Acquiring a 20’ tandem axle enclosed trailer with generator, climate control, desk, and storage cabinets. This trailer will transport equipment and provide a secure location where rescue personnel can conduct command and control operations during a disaster.
- Acquiring the following equipment:
  - Communications equipment
  - Computers (2), printer, misc. office supplies, tables, chairs, etc.
  - Technical search equipment including search cameras, listening devices, confined space communications equipment, etc.
  - Air monitors, hot sticks, and other safety equipment
  - Forcible entry equipment including ladders, saws, hand tools, etc.
  - Ropes and ancillary equipment for raising/lowering victims
  - Victim retrieval and removal equipment, including basic medical supplies

Water/Flood Rescue
- Acquiring one flat bottom aluminum boat with motor
- Acquiring one inflatable rescue boat with motor
- Acquiring misc. water rescue equipment including personal flotation devices, dry suits, throw bags, etc.
- Acquiring a tandem axle trailer with equipment boxes to transport boats, motors, and water rescue equipment.
CONSULTING
Midwest Search & Rescue is committed to providing professional guidance to Incident Commanders, Emergency Managers, or Governing Bodies in Kansas during a disaster or significant event by providing subject matter expertise regarding search & rescue operations.

This will be accomplished by:

- Distributing informational material to various organizations in Kansas such as fire and police agencies, emergency management organizations, cities and counties, etc.
- Establishing and maintaining an 800 telephone number for 24/7 access.

RESPONSE
Midwest Search & Rescue is committed to providing a deployable resource capable of assisting in the location and retrieval of victims affected by a disaster or significant event in Kansas and beyond. This all-hazards response team will be on call 24/7, ready with equipment to respond within 2 hours of notification, at no cost to the affected jurisdiction. This team can support or provide a search and rescue capability in the first hours following a disaster or significant event, while regional, state, and federal teams are being mobilized and deployed, and then work alongside those teams to provide the best possible outcome. This response team will deploy with the equipment and logistical support to operate and be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours, so as not to burden the local jurisdiction.

This will be accomplished by:

- Recruiting and filling a 14 person (3 deep) response team using the same positions and requirements indicated in the Kansas Search & Rescue Response Plan for a Structure Collapse Team and Water/Flood Rescue Task Force.
- Developing a call out and mobilization system with 24/7 rostering.
- Providing training and periodic operational readiness exercises for response personnel.