



# Monroe County Search and Rescue Capabilities and Team Composition

As of October 2009

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**Mission:** The Monroe County Search and Rescue team was organized in January of 2006 and structured to fill a particular void in our County Rescue and Response Capabilities. The team was chartered to work closely with other emergency organizations in the County. The team is designed to respond to missing persons, high angle and difficult rescues and recoveries, aircraft crash location, confined space operations, on site rehab and breathing air delivery, air quality monitoring, as well as swift water and scuba diving operations.

**Certifications:** The primary team leaders of the team are all certified nationally trained professionals who in turn certify and train all members of the team and assure they meet all local and federal standards for FEMA NIMS based operations. Basic training meetings occur once per month and large scale scenarios occur quarterly.

**Members:** Members of the SAR team include members from the county volunteer fire departments, paid fire departments, Sheriff's department, Fish and Wildlife, ambulance services, as well as any citizen who has the desire to commit to the team and possess a special set of skills beneficial to the team.

**Funding:** The Monroe SAR team is a volunteer organization which receives no funding from local, municipal, county or state funds. Our funding comes from Federal grants, fund raisers, donations, as well as members supplying most of their own gear and supplies.

**Capabilities:** Below is a list of the current capabilities of the team.

- High angle rescue (rescues from ravines, cliffs, and underground verticle well's.)
- Missing person's location and rescue.
- Ground navigation.
- Advanced life support with 3 paramedics.
- 2 - K9's for victim tracking and recovery.
- Satellite phone and internet.
- Air quality monitoring (Oxygen percentage, CO percentage, flammable gas detection, LEL & UEL)
- Difficult ground transport by all terrain 4wd vehicles or manual extraction.
- Scene rehab.
- Mechanical advantage systems via life safety rope systems.
- Confined space rescues and recoveries.
- Amateur radio club integration.
- Disaster structural search and clearing with markings and procedures to FEMA standards.
- Confined space ventilation.
- Downed aircraft ELT location via electronic direction finders and distance meters. 121.5 MHz analog and digital.
- Personal and marine EPIRD (electronic locator) location. (linked to NOAA for primary response)
- Night time operations with generation 3 night vision goggles.
- Body heat tracking with thermal heat tracking device.
- Communication center allowing onsite instant repeater setup as well as frequency linking and voice recording.
- Frequency transmission from 40 MHz – 800 MHz. Frequency reception from .05MHz – 3 GHz - 50FT ANTENNA.
- Frequency and tone transmission detection for setup of frequencies from outside agencies.
- Aircraft and marine transceivers.
- Ability to link any frequency of any agency in real time, not just Monroe County Frequencies.
- USGS mapping system for topographic mapping and printing of area maps on waterproof paper.
- ArcView and MARPlot aerial satellite photography.
- Onsite weather station with forecasts and chemical spill wind travel mapping.
- Direct personal access to helicopters and fixed wing aircraft for land searches and scene surveys.
- Self sufficient deployment for up to 2 weeks.
- Swift water rescue land or boat based.
- SCUBA Diving operations land or boat based.
- Underwater to surface communications with ability to patch into radio system and record traffic.
- Mobile HAZMAT software, CAMEO, ERG.
- Boat based underwater SONAR for victim location finding.
- Mobile 4 tank breathing air cascade 5000 psi system.
- Mobile SCUBA diving gas blending operations (NITROX).
- Mobile SCUBA diving air quality verification and oxygen percentage verification.
- Mobile Ultrasonic visual air cylinder neck inspection station (Certified VIP inspector.) Internal cylinder inspection via digital scope camera.
- 20 SCUBA diving 3000 psi air tanks. (Can transfill 2216 fire fighting bottles if needed)
- Rescue SCUBA equipment for 10 personnel.
- Underwater metal detector.
- Onboard SCBA and SCUBA equipment repair with spare parts and testing devices.
- Up to 30kw of combined generator power.