

2016 State of the State Report for SUSAR – Kansas

At last year's conference we announced that legislation had been passed in Kansas that placed the search & rescue program under the Office of the State Fire Marshal. In December 2015, a SAR Coordinator and Administrative Assistant were hired for the program.

2016 Highlights

- The development of a five year strategic plan which included the adoption of the national US&R standard.
- The formalized organization of a task force or team in each homeland security region of the state, which includes three Type 3 task forces, a Type 4 task force and three structural collapse rescue teams.
- We currently have 7 deployable K9s and 1 deployable Structures Specialist (StS). Another StS just returned from training in California. We continue to recruit those positions, as well as other affiliated member positions.
- We have designated a Sponsoring Agency in each region and are in the process of signing MOUs with each Participating Agency.
- We have established several committees and section work groups that will help us identify training and equipment needs across the state.

2016 Deployments

- Two small tornado events where a regional task force responded and we deployed K9 teams as single resources to assist with search operations.

2016 Training

- Task Force Leader class
- Planning Team Training class
- 3 Structural Collapse Technician classes
- 9th Annual Technical Rescue Conference
- One StS to California for training
- 2 K9 teams to OK-TF1 for a Type II K9 Evaluation
- Hosted a Type I K9 Evaluation at Crisis City

Our focus as we move forward is the development of more formalized plans and procedures, as well as continuing to provide the position specific training required by the national US&R standard.