

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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**Fire & Rescue Division  
Special Operations & Hazardous Materials Section**

**GENERAL MESSAGE #2**

**Publication of FIRESCOPE ICS-162  
(Technical Search & Rescue Operational System Description)**

FIRESCOPE ICS-162 (Technical Search & Rescue Operational System Description) has been published on the [FIRESCOPE Publications](#) web page, replacing ICS-US&R-120-1 and ICS-SF-SAR 020-1.

The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors approved ICS-162 (Technical Search & Rescue Operational System Description), which replaces ICS-US&R-120-1 (Urban Search and Rescue Operational System Description) and ICS-SF-SAR 020-1 (Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Recommended Training, Skills, and Equipment List). It was published in August 2024.

**Background:**

ICS-162 was developed by the FIRESCOPE Technical Search & Rescue Subcommittee to establish a single comprehensive Operational System Description that accounts for the multiple Technical Search & Rescue disciplines recognized as a function and responsibility of today's California Fire & Rescue Services. It is considered a living document, to which additional disciplines will be included through time as part of the continuing good work of the FIRESCOPE Technical Search & Rescue Subcommittee.

ICS-162 is a continuing multi-year collaboration involving various subject matter experts; representative California Fire Service stakeholders and leadership; the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; California Marshal's Office/State Fire Training; CICCS; and pursuant to ANSI Standards, NFPA Standards including NFPA 2500 and NFPA 1006; as well as applicable Federal Emergency Management Agency standards and end-user input. Included in ICS-162 are updated FIRESCOPE resource typing standards for Technical Search & Rescue resources, an updated process of Resource Typing Inspections and Re-Inspections, examples of ICS organization for Technical Search & Rescue emergencies and disasters, and related information.

**3-Year Implementation Plan:**

A 3-year Implementation Plan began with the August 2024 publishing of ICS-162 on the FIRESCOPE web page, to provide stakeholders a reasonable period of time to plan, budget, and make other preparations for compliance with this new Operational System Description effective August 2027.