

Aviation Search and Rescue (SAR) interagency Exercise – GEORGIA



Vakhtang Bolkvadze

Emergency Management Service of the Ministry
of Internal Affairs of Georgia





Government of Georgia – Decree N 336

Adopted on 16 July 2019



“Aviation Search and Rescue Response Plan”

The plan was established in accordance with **Annex 12 of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944)** and the **Air Code of Georgia**

The main Objectives of the Aviation Search and Rescue (SAR) Response Plan:

- Mitigate and manage the impact of emergencies resulting from aviation accidents;
- Ensure timely activation and effective operation of a unified **SAR** system;
- Define the roles and responsibilities of all entities participating in the **SAR** system;
- Protect human life and minimize the impact of aviation emergencies;

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Main Objectives of the SAR Exercise:

- **Practical testing** of the Aviation Incident Response Plan
- **Verification of coordinated actions** among all involved agencies
- **Improvement of overall readiness and interagency coordination** during aviation emergencies

During the exercise, we observed:

- Functioning of real-time information exchange and communication procedures
- Organization and implementation of joint rescue operations
- Use of technical equipment and resources during rescue activities
- Provision of medical evacuation and psychological support for victims



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Exercise Scenario

The scenario was very similar to a real situation, where an aircraft made an emergency landing on the Black Sea coast.

The scenario included all three **SAR** alert phases:

- **Uncertainty Phase** (code word INCERFA): A situation where there is uncertainty about the safety of the aircraft and its occupants.
- **Alert Phase** (code word ALERFA): A situation where there is apprehension about the safety of the aircraft and its occupants.
- **Distress Phase** (code word DETRESFA): A situation where there is reasonable certainty that the aircraft and its occupants are in grave and imminent danger and require immediate assistance.



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Practical Exercise Activities

- **Aerial Reconnaissance:** The aircraft that had made an emergency landing was located and identified using rescue helicopters.
- **Site Security:** The police secured the incident area and established safe zones.
- **Evacuation & Rescue:** Injured were evacuated and deceased were recovered using rescue helicopters, boats, and other rescue equipment.
- **Firefighting Operations:** Firefighting operations were carried out both on land and from the sea.
- **Medical Evacuation:** On-site medical triage was conducted and victims were transported to hospitals.
- **Psychological Support:** The Georgian Red Cross provided psychological support to victims and their families.



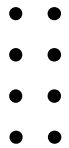
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Exercise Key Results & Achievements

- ✓ The exercise was successfully conducted and the set objectives were achieved
- ✓ The Aviation Incident Response Plan was tested in practice
- ✓ Coordinated actions between supporting agencies were carried out effectively
- ✓ Interagency information exchange and notification procedures were verified which ensured fast and accurate coordination in real situations
- ✓ The effectiveness of search and rescue operations and the capabilities of technical resources were assessed





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