



**Office of the Chief
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 20, 2020

DRAFT

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Brian Gorski, Fire Chief

RE: Memorandum of Understanding Between SMFR and MCSAR

REPORT:

In 1999, a small group of individuals that lived in Manatee County and worked at various public safety agencies (fire, EMS and law), came together to fill a void that existed in our county. The void being the lack of Search and Rescue capabilities like all other counties have established.

This small group of individuals created the Manatee County Search and Rescue Team (MCSAR). MCSAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all charitable organization that provides Search and Rescue Services to the State of Florida, Manatee County and to any other county through mutual aid.

MCSAR primary mission is to assist in the recovery of lost, missing and abducted persons in urban, wilderness, natural and man-made disasters. MCSAR is NIMMS compliant and is a FEMA Type II Land Search and Rescue Team.

MCSAR resources consist of Urban and Wilderness K9 Teams for tracking, trailing and area search for live victims and cadaver location and recovery. In addition, they own and operate inflatable boats and medium tactical vehicle for flood response and limited access areas as well as off road equipment for wooded areas.

Southern Manatee has utilized MCSAR over the past few years when we experienced heavy rains that caused severe flooding in certain residential communities of our District in providing extrication of these citizens. For the past two (2) years MCSAR have participated in our annual Open House event in providing education and live demonstration of their equipment and their different K9's.

Since both agencies share a common goal of providing prompt, reliable and comprehensive services to our citizens we developed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize our mutual agreed partnership.

Additionally by executing this Memorandum of Understanding will enhance each agencies grant opportunities with both the Federal and State Government and will allow Southern Manatee when deployed by the State to assist another region during a disaster to attach a MCSAR asset along with our personnel and equipment, thus allowing us to provide a higher level of service to this disaster area.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S) OR ACTION(S):

Staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District and the Manatee County Search and Rescue Team.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

DRAFT

**Memorandum of Understanding Between Southern Manatee Fire
Rescue District and Manatee County Search and Rescue Team**

ADOPTED: February 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District and Manatee County Search and Rescue Team

WHEREAS, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District (District) and Manatee County Search and Rescue Team (MCSAR), collectively the "Partners," have come together to collaborate and to serve a public need for Search and Rescue Services; and

WHEREAS, the Partners herein have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which the District will be the lead agency; and

WHEREAS, the Partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the Partners as follows:

I. Description of Partner Agencies

The District is an independent special fire control district located in south Manatee County, Florida, that provides fire suppression, hazardous materials response and advanced life support Paramedic services to the citizens and visitors of the District.

MCSAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer charitable organization that has been operating and providing Search and Rescue Services in the State of Florida and the surrounding vicinities since 1999. MCSAR's mission is to assist local, state, military and federal agencies in the recovery of lost, missing and abducted persons in urban, wilderness, natural and man-made disasters, and proactively educate response agencies and the community on Search and Rescue.

MCSAR is a NIMMS compliant, FEMA Type II Land Search and Rescue Team. MCSAR follows the following standards: Federal and State law, FEMA Typing for Search and Rescue Teams, North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) and the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR). MCSAR is ASTM compliant and fully insured. Many of MCSAR's members are SARTECH II or higher, and all of the members of its deployment team carry equipment so that they can be self-reliant for 48 hours or more.

MCSAR has the following resources available: Urban and Wilderness K9 teams for tracking, trailing and area search (live find); Urban and Wilderness K9 Teams for Cadaver location and recovery, 21 Foot Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat for marine and inland water response, a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle for flood response or limited access areas. MCSAR has an Incident Management Team for scene management. MCSAR maintains a medical division with BLS capability for initial treatment of missing/lost victims or mass casualty response. Additionally, MCSAR utilizes a light rescue squad vehicle for mission support in conjunction with a mobile tactical trailer. MCSAR has two UAV's for scene survey and situational awareness. MCSAR can

provide basic recovery services for those injured and or trapped but cannot provide advanced extraction for those beyond surface rescue.

II. Nature of Relationship

The District and MCSAR have a mutual goal of providing prompt, reliable and comprehensive search and rescue services to the community. They are forming this partnership in order to more effectively serve the community served by the District.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

When the District has situations that arise that may benefit from the utilization of the services offered by MCSAR, the District will contact MCSAR and request services (Mission).

The District will fully inform MCSAR of all aspects of the Mission necessary to allow MCSAR to determine which services and equipment can best be deployed or utilized to assist in said Mission.

MCSAR will promptly deploy said resources to a staging location selected by the District.

MCSAR will appoint an incident commander who will be responsible for reporting directly to the District's incident commander.

MCSAR's incident commander will be responsible for directing all MCSAR resources consistent with the objectives and direction provided by the District.

MCSAR will continue to provide services throughout the Mission until dismissed or released by the District.

At the conclusion of the Mission, MCSAR will promptly provide District with any and all necessary forms and reports requested and will fully cooperate with any further requests for information.

Upon request, MCSAR will provide District with copies of any insurance policies of the organization, and/or any individual certifications or licenses of its members.

IV. Timeline

The roles and responsibilities described above will begin on February 20, 2020, and carry through September 30, 2023. This MOU can be extended, canceled or modified at any time during the time period specified if agreed to in writing between the Partners.

V. Commitment to Partnership

1. The collaboration service area includes all areas served and in the jurisdiction of Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District.

2. The partners agree to collaborate and provide Search and Rescue services to those in need of rescue and/or recovery as provided for herein.
3. MCSAR agrees to provide said services without compensation.
4. We the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU.

DULY ADOPTED at a public meeting this 20th day of February 2020.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

ATTEST:

Melanie A. Marken
Secretary

Dan Center, Interim Chair

Anthony C. Evans, Treasurer

Jim Cena, Commissioner

Jim Grote, Commissioner

By: _____
MCSAR Chief

Date