

Investment Justification (IJ) – Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Program

Georgia is highly vulnerable to a variety of natural and human-caused incidents, including severe weather, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, structural collapse, transportation accidents, acts of terrorism, trans-national criminal attacks, trench collapses, and confined space emergencies. These incidents often result in victims being trapped and requiring specialized rescue capabilities beyond the capacity of traditional fire and EMS units. In order to best respond to a terrorist or trans-national criminal attacks, Georgia needs to maintain a robust, field tested, experienced GSAR capability able to navigate attacks in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

The **[Applicant GSAR Team complete name]**, established in **[YEAR]**, consists of highly trained members from **[list counties/agencies]** who provide specialized technical rescue operations. The team currently has **[NUMBER]** active members serving **[NAME of COUNTIES WITHIN REGION]**. While the team is trained and recognized as part of Georgia’s statewide Search and Rescue system, capability gaps remain in specialized rescue equipment, training sustainment, and medical stabilization resources for victims. Without DHS funding, the ability to maintain operational readiness and ensure a rapid response to large-scale or complex rescue incidents will be significantly reduced, putting Georgia communities and critical infrastructure at greater risk.

The GSAR Program provides a statewide deployable capability for technical rescue, staffed by personnel cross-trained in multiple disciplines including:

- Rope rescue and high-angle operations
- Confined space rescue
- Trench collapse rescue
- Structural collapse rescue
- Mine and transportation-related rescue
- Initial medical stabilization of entrapped victims

The impact of this program includes:

- Life-saving capability: GSAR is uniquely positioned to locate, extricate, and stabilize victims in complex environments.
- Rapid statewide response: Strategically located GSAR teams ensure coverage across Georgia to reduce response times.
- Interoperability: GSAR teams integrate seamlessly with local fire, EMS, law enforcement, GEMA/HS, and FEMA USAR assets when required.
- Terrorism preparedness: GSAR provides specialized rescue capabilities essential in response to attacks involving IEDs, building collapse, or other deliberate acts of mass violence.

Budget Request

The **[Task Force Team complete number/Agency]** is requesting **[\$[TOTAL]** through the SHSGP to sustain and expand GSAR operations. Funds will be used as follows: **(Select or add equipment)**

1. Specialized Rescue Equipment – **[\$[insert cost]**

- Hydraulic/pneumatic shoring tools, trench panels, lifting bags, struts, and stabilization systems for collapsed structures and trenches.
- 2. Medical Equipment for Victim Stabilization – \$[insert cost]
 - Advanced trauma kits, airway management supplies, litters, and patient packaging systems for initial medical stabilization.
- 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – \$[insert cost]
 - Helmets, harnesses, gloves, respiratory protection, and protective clothing required for confined space and collapse operations.
- 4. Technical Rescue Training & Recertification – \$[insert cost]
 - Advanced rope rescue, trench rescue, and confined space training courses to maintain compliance with national rescue standards.
- 5. Deployment Readiness & Sustainment Costs – \$[insert cost]
 - Maintenance of response vehicles, fuel, and equipment calibration to ensure rapid mobilization.

This investment supports DHS/FEMA SHSGP National Priorities and the National Preparedness Goal by:

- **Saving Lives & Protecting Communities:** Providing specialized capabilities to locate, extricate, and stabilize trapped victims.
- **Strengthening State & Regional Response:** Expanding GSAR ensures mutual aid coverage across Georgia and interoperability with federal assets.
- **Protecting Critical Infrastructure:** GSAR is capable of responding to incidents at power plants, transportation hubs, government centers, and other CIKR.
- **Supporting Core Capabilities:** Mass Search and Rescue Operations, Operational Coordination, and Public Health/Medical Services.