

Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel and Public Retirement



**Kentucky Division of Emergency Management
July 1, 2026**

Purpose and Mission

- Establishes an Urban Search & Rescue capability.
- Supports local jurisdictions when incidents exceed local response capability.
- Integrates the following established teams:
 - **KY-TF 1** (Type 1 US&R Team)
 - **KY-TF 2** (Type 2 US&R Team)
 - **KY-IST** (Incident Support Team)
 - **KY-HART** (Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team)
- Strengthens statewide readiness through:
 - Training
 - Credentialing
 - Response Planning
 - Statewide Search and Rescue



Personnel Growth and Specialized Capability



- Expanded the size and depth of Kentucky's task force and specialty response teams as contract employees
- Exceeded expectations by onboarding specialized trauma physicians and structural engineers as contract employees
- Continued success in the canine program, with four certified US&R live-find canines
 - Future development of human remains detection capability

Milestones and Operational Accomplishments

- Established and advanced **KY-TF 1**, **KY-TF 2** and **KY-HART** as statewide US&R response assets
- Strengthened statewide response coordination in emergency services
- Supported operations with the 2025 floods, tornado, & UPS plane crash
- Continued training and operational use of SARCOP statewide
- Development of a multi-use training facility



SARCOP
SAR Common
Operating Platform



Budget and Stewardship



- Initial \$16,175,000 start-up funding was executed responsibly to build statewide US&R capability
- Grant Funding to local Rescue Squads
 - **FY 2025** \$482,670.73 awarded to **29** local search and rescue teams.
 - **FY 2026** \$490,878.88 awarded to **36** local search and rescue teams.
- **FY27 & FY28** Sustainment: \$3,500,000 per year to maintain statewide US&R capability
 - Continued funding supports remaining start-up equipment
 - Training
 - Readiness & Maintenance
 - long-term sustainment of the Commonwealth's US&R response system

Building Readiness Through Training

- Attended and delivered instruction at national and statewide conferences
- Strengthened readiness in position-specific training
- Expanded partnerships through instruction, co-training, and exercises with partner agencies
- Continued building a trained, credentialed, and deployable statewide workforce





Your commitment has already helped save hundreds of lives and will continue to shape the future of emergency services across the Commonwealth.