**§303. Air search procedures**

**1. Agreements.**  The Chief of the State Police may establish agreements with public or private agencies or organizations to assist in air search operations.

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Situations covered.**  The Chief of the State Police shall establish and maintain a state air search and rescue plan for the immediate handling of the following emergency situations arising from aeronautical activities:

A. Locating aircraft believed lost and down within the State; and [PL 1981, c. 41 (NEW).]

B. Locating persons who are believed lost and down in the State as a result of accidents involving aircraft overflying the State or parachute jumps. [PL 1981, c. 41 (NEW).]

For purposes of this section, the phrases "within the State" and "in the State" include the coastal waters of the State as defined in Title 12, section 6001.

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Plan of action.**  The state air search and rescue plan must provide a plan of action for search and rescue that will mobilize all state and federal agencies that can contribute in those emergencies and inform all state and federal agencies that request to be informed of any air search operation, in accordance with agreements reached in advance. The plan may include utilization of the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol to coordinate and control specific air search operations. The plan must provide that its first objective is saving human life and rendering prompt aid to survivors.

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

**4. Authority.**  The Chief of the State Police is responsible for the execution and overall coordination of air search and rescue efforts initiated in support of the air search and rescue plan by the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol and those state and federal agencies that are designated in the plan to play a role in emergencies.

A. [PL 1995, c. 504, Pt. B, §6 (RP).]

A-1. The Chief of the State Police may delegate authority for overall coordination of air search and rescue efforts to a commissioned officer within the Bureau of State Police. [PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (NEW).]

B. [PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (RP).]

C. [PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (RP).]

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 678, §48 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 41 (RPR). PL 1985, c. 610 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 489, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 504, §B6 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1. 2023
 . The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.