



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
NEW MEXICO SEARCH AND RESCUE**



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
Search and Rescue Organization Recognition Criteria

SAR: SOP-01 Attachment 1
December 2014

1. PERSONNEL

- a. The organization will maintain 75% of active field personnel be certified, at a minimum, to the NMSAR Basic Field Certification. New organizations are granted a one (1) year waiver to achieve the required percentage of certified personnel. Active field personnel are defined as the organization's membership that will conduct search and rescue activities away from the Incident Command Post or Incident Base to perform actual searching, extraction, forward communication relay, or other assignments in the search area or rescue location.
- b. Do all personnel that have been designated as field personnel have, at a minimum, the following gear:
 - i. Appropriate Footwear for the environment, the terrain, and the planned activity.
 - ii. Gloves
 1. Leather
 2. Winter gloves/mittens
 - iii. Head cover(s) (sun protection / cold protection)
 - iv. Socks w/ extras for footwear
 - v. Appropriate clothing for environment and terrain
 1. Inner layer (basic underwear, long underwear – bottoms and tops)
 2. Middle layer(s) for warmth (bottoms and tops)
 3. Outer layer for wind and water protection (bottoms and top with hood)
 - vi. Pack or container to carry/hold the required gear and clothing
 - vii. Eye protection
 1. Sunglasses
 2. Goggles
 - viii. Food for twenty-four (24) hours
 - ix. Water (two [2] quarts minimum)

- x. Knife
- xi. Fire starter
- xii. Compass with five (5) degree accuracy
- xiii. Whistle
- xiv. Signal mirror
- xv. Electric light source (at least two [2])
- xvi. Personal first aid kit
- xvii. Space blanket
- xviii. Pencil or pen and paper
- xix. Webbing or nylon cordage

2. Fitness

- a. Can field personnel hike on an easy trail with pack, maintaining an average of two (2.0) miles per hour travel for two (2) miles?
- b. Can field personnel hike on a moderate trail with pack, maintaining an average of one and a half (1.5) miles per hour travel for two (2) miles?
- c. Can field personnel hike on a difficult trail with pack, maintaining an average of one (1.0) miles per hour travel for two (2) miles?

3. Team Safety Considerations

- a. Can field personnel identify common medical problems (heat and cold conditions, stress, fatigue, etc.) that team personnel may experience and provide basic treatment of medical condition?
- b. Can field personnel properly identify environmental and terrain hazards that may be encountered during SAR incidents and mitigate associated risks?

4. Search Techniques

- a. Can field personnel explain passive and active search techniques and provide examples of each?
- b. Can personnel define the following?
 - i. Hasty Search
 - ii. Area Search
 - iii. Grid Search
 - iv. Sound Sweeps
 - v. Containment

- vi. Attraction
 - vii. Probability of Detection (POD)
 - viii. Average Maximum Detection Range (AMDR)
 - ix. Point Last Seen (PLS)
 - x. Last Known Point (LKP)
 - xi. Probability of Area (POA)
 - xii. Initial Planning Point (IPP)
 - xiii. Investigation
- c. Can personnel discuss what can be constituted as a clue on SAR missions?
 - d. Can personnel discuss the procedure for securing of and notification for clues?

5. Incident Command System

- a. Have ALL personnel completed ICS-100? New organizations are granted a six (6) month waiver to achieve 100% fulfillment.
- b. Can ALL personnel identify the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for SAR operations in New Mexico?
- c. Can ALL personnel describe the duties of the following:
 - i. Incident Commander
 - ii. Operations Section Chief
 - iii. Planning Section Chief
 - iv. Logistic Section Chief
 - v. PIO
 - vi. Safety Officer
 - vii. Branch Directors
 - viii. Division/Group Supervisors
 - ix. Leaders
- d. Can ALL personnel explain the following actions to be completed as team personnel on SAR missions?
 - i. Complete sign-in procedure
 - ii. Receive briefing
 - iii. Perform assignment

- iv. Receive debriefing
- v. Participate in demobilization/rehabilitation
- vi. Complete sign-out procedure

6. Communications

- a. Does SAR organization have communication devices that will able personnel to communicate with the Incident Base (IB) personnel?
- b. Do personnel have knowledge of the communication devices' operating procedures?
- c. Have personnel been trained on "clear speech" concepts?
- d. Can personnel properly communicate their location to IB?
- e. Can personnel define when condition codes are to be used?

7. Land Navigation

- a. Can ALL personnel identify the type of maps commonly utilized on SAR missions?
- b. Can field personnel identify key land features on a map?
- c. Can field personnel identify their physical location on a map?
- d. Can field personnel plot their physical location on a map within one hundred (100) meters using a map and compass?
- e. Can field personnel determine a bearing while utilizing a compass?
- f. Can field personnel determine their physical location with a GPS unit?

8. Organization

- a. Does the organization have a training program that incorporates all of the listed criteria in this document? New organizations are granted a six (6) month waiver to develop a training program.
- b. Does the organization have a "call-out" plan to notify its personnel for activation?
- c. Does the organization agree to follow and uphold the SAR Act, SAR Plan, and SAR policies and procedures set forth by DPS?
- d. Can the organization's personnel define the DPS SAR Standard of Care?
- e. Has, or will, the organization obtained the necessary equipment to perform any specialized activity(ies) the organization wishes to conduct?