

West Virginia Search and Rescue Council
Wilderness Search and Rescue Standards
Search Team Support
Approved 10-14-2010

1. SCOPE

- 1.1. The field training standards for Wilderness Search and Rescue are intended to define the minimum requirements for individuals to perform the following functions in the general environment of the state of West Virginia.
 - 1.1.1. Missing person search
 - 1.1.2. Ground portion of missing aircraft search
 - 1.1.3. Evacuation of individuals from wilderness environments
- 1.2. Individuals seeking Search Team Support accreditation should be capable of performing these functions anytime of the year, day or night, and in all weather conditions experienced in the state of West Virginia
- 1.3. Individuals seeking Search Team Support accreditation should hold active membership in a professional search and rescue group, or an established emergency services organization such as a law enforcement agency, rescue squad, or fire department.
- 1.4. A Search Team Support accreditation issued by the West Virginia Search and Rescue Council, or member team, does not constitute a license to practice skills, but signifies only that the individual holding the accreditation has met an established standard of knowledge and performance and should be able to function in a competent manner at the level indicated.
- 1.5. Search Team Support accreditation issued by the West Virginia Search and Rescue Council, or member team, shall be valid for a three year period starting on January 1st of the year following the initial credential unless issued on January 1st of the current year.
- 1.6. Search Team Support accreditation may be revoked by the West Virginia Search and Rescue Council at any point in time.

2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 2.1. Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
 - 2.1.1. Training Standards (v6.3)
- 2.2. ASTM Standards
 - 2.2.1. F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search
 - 2.2.2. F1993 Standard Classification System of Human Search and Rescue Resources
 - 2.2.3. F2685 Standard Guide for Training of a Level II Land Search Team Member
 - 2.2.4. F2751 Standard Guide for Training of Support Level Land Rescue Team Member
- 2.3. Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - 2.3.1. Emergency Support Function #9 Search and Rescue
 - 2.3.1.1. <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-09.pdf>
 - 2.3.2. Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue
 - 2.3.2.1. http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/508-8_search_and_rescue_resources.pdf
- 2.4. State Search and Rescue Councils
 - 2.4.1. Pennsylvania (www.pсарc.org)
 - 2.4.2. Virginia (www.vasarco.org)
- 2.5. State Emergency Operations Plans
 - 2.5.1. Maryland Emergency Management Agency

2.5.1.1. http://www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA/content/pdf/The_State_of_Maryland_Emergency_Operations_Plan_26Aug09.pdf

- 2.5.2. Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan
 - 2.5.2.1. <http://kyem.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/197CC054-C079-4877-BE2FBAA237CDB07D/0/ANNEXLALL.pdf>
- 2.5.3. Ohio Emergency Management Agency
 - 2.5.3.1. http://ema.ohio.gov/Documents/Ohio_EOP/esf_9.pdf
- 2.5.4. Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
- 2.5.5. West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 - 2.5.5.1. http://www.wvdhsem.gov/wveop_1.htm
- 2.5.6. Virginia Department of Emergency Management
 - 2.5.6.1. http://www.vaemergency.com/library/plans/coveop/eopvol2/COVEOP_ESF9_version_12_10_2009.pdf

- 2.6. Mountain Rescue Association
 - 2.6.1. Member Policies 6-24-2007

3. TERMINOLOGY

- 3.1. The definitions listed here are for the purpose of these standards only. They may or may not reflect the definitions used by other individuals, groups, or agencies.
 - 3.1.1. AHJ – Agency Having Jurisdiction
 - 3.1.2. DHS – Department of Homeland Security
 - 3.1.3. FEMA- Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - 3.1.4. NASAR – National Association for Search and Rescue
 - 3.1.5. NIMS – National Incident Management Systems
 - 3.1.6. PSARC – Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council
 - 3.1.7. State SAR Coordinator – The person designated by the Coordinator of Emergency Management to coordinate the Search and Rescue program of the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and to coordinate overall state SAR operations.
 - 3.1.8. SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC) – The person designated by the Legal Responsible Agent to coordinate and manage on-scene operations during a specific SAR incident. Depending upon the management system used and the organizations involved, this person may be called the Mission Coordinator (MC), On-Scene Commander (OSC), or Incident Commander (IC).
 - 3.1.9. Type I Incident – Largest most complex search incident. Multiple regional, state, local and SAR agencies involved. Could require the use of two or more divisions/branches for one shift or more. Significant external influences present.
 - 3.1.10. Type II Incident – Multiple SAR resource types required from throughout the state.
 - 3.1.11. Type III Incident – County level SAR event involving numerous county level agencies.
 - 3.1.12. Type IV Incident – Local area Single SAR agency/resource type involvement. Very limited

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number of resources. Often initial stage of a search incident. Can be a stabilized search.

- 3.1.13. SM – Search Manager
- 3.1.14. STM – Search Team Member
- 3.1.15. STM-CQ – Search Team Member Callout Qualified
- 3.1.16. STL – Search Team Leader
- 3.1.17. STS – Search Team Support
- 3.1.18. VASARCO – Virginia Search and Rescue Council
- 3.1.19. VDEM – Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- 3.1.20. WSAR – Wilderness Search and Rescue
- 3.1.21. WVDHSEM – West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- 3.1.22. WVSARCO – West Virginia Search and Rescue Council

4. REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. Minimum age for Search Team Support is fourteen (With written parental consent).
- 4.2. A background check shall be required of all individuals seeking Search Team Support accreditation.
- 4.3. Successful completion of the following Emergency Management Institute – FEMA Independent Study Program courses
 - 4.3.1. IS-100 – Introduction to ICS
 - 4.3.2. IS-700 – NIMS an Introduction
 - 4.3.3. IS-800 – National Response Framework, An Introduction.
 - 4.3.4. IS-809 – ESF #9 Search and Rescue
- 4.4. Have successfully completed a basic first aid course or higher
- 4.5. Have successfully completed a First Responder CPR course
- 4.6. Individual seeking Search Team Support Accreditation shall respond to incidents with the following minimum personal equipment items.
 - 4.6.1. Appropriate clothes and footwear for both foul and fair weather
 - 4.6.2. Water container(s) of two liter capacity
 - 4.6.3. Day pack or other pack capable of carrying personal equipment into the field
 - 4.6.4. Sufficient food and supplies to maintain operational capability for a minimum period of 48 hours.
 - 4.6.5. Headlamp and second light source
 - 4.6.6. Lighter, matches, and candle or equivalent fire source
 - 4.6.7. Knife or multi-purpose tool
 - 4.6.8. Compass with declination adjustment capability
 - 4.6.9. Personal First Aid Kit
 - 4.6.10. Waterproof pen/pencil and paper
 - 4.6.11. Whistle
 - 4.6.12. Two pairs plastic, vinyl, or equivalent examination gloves
 - 4.6.13. Five (1) gallon Ziploc bags or equivalent
 - 4.6.14. Valid photo identification such as a state driver's license.

5. KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- 5.1. Have participated satisfactorily in a minimum of one group practical field exercise.

- 5.2. Have demonstrated the ability to function as an effective field member on an uncomplicated task as judged by the team training officer.
- 5.3. Have basic knowledge of laws as they pertain to wilderness search and rescue in the state of West Virginia.
- 5.4. Have basic knowledge of personal equipment as it relates to wilderness search and rescue.
- 5.5. Have basic knowledge of short-term survival as it relates to the general environment found in the state of West Virginia.
- 5.6. Have basic knowledge of various search tactics as they relate to wilderness search and rescue in the state of West Virginia
- 5.7. Have basic knowledge of personal safety.
- 5.8. Have basic knowledge of the Incident Command System to include common roles utilized within wilderness search and rescue.

6. EXEMPTIONS

- 6.1. If an individual is unable to meet the Search Team Support field training requirements due to a permanent physical disability, he or she may petition their team to become a Search Team Support accredited. The petition for exemption must include the following items which shall remain in the individuals permanent team file:
 - 6.1.1. Written request for exemption which shall include the minimum following items:
 - 6.1.1.1. Team Name
 - 6.1.1.2. Individuals Name
 - 6.1.1.3. Individuals Address
 - 6.1.1.4. Reason for Exemption
 - 6.1.2. Letter from physician confirming the permanent disability and outlining physical restrictions as they apply to search and rescue.
- 6.2. Any individual who has been deemed Search Team Support qualified without meeting the field requirements may not be sent on a field task.
- 6.3. The intent of this exemption is not to decrease the operational standards but to provide opportunities for those who are physically disabled and therefore unable to meet field qualifications, but are otherwise able to meet all other requirements and are capable of being an asset at a search and rescue incident.