



Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations
Search and Rescue

SWIFTWATER/FLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNICIAN - BOAT OPERATOR

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue (SAR) Technician - Boat Operator operates the boat, provides direction to the Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician - Boat Bowman and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of boat operations.
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician - Boat Operator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operates the boat, provides direction to the Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician - Boat Bowman and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of boat operations 2. Performs search, rescue and recovery activities in the following settings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water environments including swiftwater and swiftwater/flood b. Shore, water and boat-based rescue operations c. Situations involving human or companion animal rescue 3. Provides medical care for self, team members and survivors, including Basic Life Support (BLS) for others 4. Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS), in a specialized position within the Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team 5. Ensures safety of self and team members 6. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft and aircraft for support, transportation and evacuation 7. Operates in environments with and without infrastructure, including environments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Affected by disasters and terrorism b. With disrupted access to roadways, utilities and transportation c. With limited access to shelter, food and water 	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified



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COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
TRAINING	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training outlined for the NIMS Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician - Boat Bowman 2. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), ASTM International (ASTM) or equivalent swiftwater SAR training program that the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) has verified and that covers the following position-specific skills and aptitudes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Job performance guidelines as outlined in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, or equivalent b. Night operations c. Use, care, inspection and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) tools, devices and equipment specific to this position d. Use of GPS, maps and compass; navigation on water e. Low-head dam rescue operations f. Boat handling skills in swiftwater/flood situations g. Maneuvering skills in swiftwater, including running with the flow, moving aft over ground, making power turns and closing/bearing away h. SAR operations from powered craft i. AHJ-approved boater safety course 	Not Specified
EXPERIENCE	Completion of Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician - Boat Operator Position Task Book (PTB), or equivalent AHJ documentation	NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications and NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents address additional knowledge, skills and abilities that apply to this position.
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arduous 2. Meets minimum physical fitness and swimming standards, in accordance with the AHJ's job-related physical ability test (JRPAT) 3. Maintains AHJ-determined physical fitness standards suitable for the environment and typing; NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments meets or exceeds this physical fitness standard 4. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) immunization recommendations 	The NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) defines physical/medical fitness levels for NIMS positions.
CURRENCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual refresher of related SAR skills and abilities in water environments 2. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years 3. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires 4. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission assignment 	Provider must carry out and use any background checks as applicable law specifies. This may include a background check completed within the past 12 months; a sex-offender registry check; and a local, state and national driving and criminal history.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	AHJ-required BLS-level medical care certification or recertification	AHJ determines which emergency medical certifications meet the minimum criteria, which can include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and BLS.



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NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.
2. This document contains references to non-federal resources and materials. Such references do not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. government, or any of its employees, of the information or content which a non-federal resource or material provides.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Technician
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Technician – Boat Bowman
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
5. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System, November 2017
6. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019
7. ASTM International (ASTM) F2890: Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel, latest edition adopted
8. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, latest edition adopted
9. NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, latest edition adopted
10. NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents, latest edition adopted
11. NFPA 1983: Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services, latest edition adopted
12. National Search and Rescue Committee (NSARC), Catastrophic Incident Search and Rescue (CISAR) Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, latest edition adopted
13. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Immunization Recommendations for Disaster Responders, United States, latest edition adopted