



SWIFTWATER/FLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNICIAN

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue (SAR) Technician performs search, rescue and recovery operations in various water environments.
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Performs search, rescue and recovery activities in the following settings:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Water environments including swiftwater and swiftwater/floodb. Shore, water and boat-based rescue operationsc. Situations involving human or animal rescue2. Provides medical care for self, team members and survivors, including Basic Life Support (BLS) for others3. Reports to a Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team Leader4. Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS), in an entry-level position within the Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team5. Ensures safety of self and team members6. Provides basic ground support for helicopter operations7. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft and aircraft for support, transportation and evacuation8. Operates in environments with and without infrastructure, including environments:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Affected by disasters and terrorismb. With disrupted access to roadways, utilities and transportationc. With limited access to shelter, food and water	Basic ground support for helicopter operations includes safety awareness and Landing Zone (LZ) knowledge.
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified



COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
TRAINING	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Training outlined for the NIMS Type 2 Land SAR Technician2. Training in water operations in water with a current of 1 knot or greater3. 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. Nighttime water SAR operationsb. Search methods in swiftwater and swiftwater/flood environmentsc. Water rescue scene management and dynamic risk assessmentd. Basic boat handling with paddle and rope systemse. Specialized rescue equipmentf. Extrication techniquesg. Animal hazards and safety protocolsh. Use, care, inspection and maintenance of related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) tools, devices and equipment specific to this position	Not Specified
EXPERIENCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completion of Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician Position Task Book (PTB), or equivalent AHJ documentation, including the following tasks:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Demonstrate a working knowledge of hydrology and associated hazards, including the recognition of water features and their impactb. Understand search procedures in the water environmentc. Demonstrate swimming and maneuvering skillsd. Understand ferry angle conceptse. Understand and apply relevant rescue techniques, including Talk, Reach, Throw, Row, Go/Tow and Helicopterf. Demonstrate rigging and operating of rope systemsg. Demonstrate awareness of flooding and associated hazards and their impact on medical problems associated with waterh. Identify and explain the hazards and implications of entrapmenti. Understand characteristics, medical issues, extrication techniques and contamination issues for locks, sluices, irrigation ditches and low-head damsj. Understand characteristics, design/hydrology and specific rescue techniques for vehicles and objects (strainers) in waterk. Demonstrate knowledge of behavior, hydrology, access and stabilization techniques related to helicoptersl. Identify and explain the hazards and difficulties of working in darkness and reduced-visibility conditions, and explain how to apply suitable control measures2. Ability to carry out the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Rescue procedures in a swiftwater and swiftwater/flood environment during day and night operationsb. Rope rescuec. Water rescue	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.



COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Arduous2. 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 standard4. 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 environments2. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years3. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires4. 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 could include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and BLS.

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.
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: Land Search and Rescue Technician
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team Leader
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. 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
12. 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