

HELICOPTER SEARCH AND RESCUE CREW CHIEF

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Helicopter Search and Rescue (SAR) Crew Chief conducts air SAR, recovery, and evacuation 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 (Search and Rescue Aircraft - Helicopter/Rotary Wing). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment 3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days. The FAA places restrictions on flight times for aircrews. Crews may not be able to fly 12 hours per shift. See 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 117 for more information.

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 SAR Crew Chief:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducts air SAR, recovery, and evacuation operations from inside the aircraft 2. Performs air SAR that may include external load rigging and operation; communication with ground resources, other aviation assets, and deployed team members; technical rescues using hoist or short-haul techniques; coordination of landing zones and helispots for the helicopter; navigation support; communications support; and specialized helicopter operations in all water environments including swiftwater 3. Conducts day or night air searches and rescues under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions. Aircraft flight operations may also require flight under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and night vision goggles (NVG), based on the mission as the requestor specifies 4. Performs Basic Life Support (BLS) 5. Reports to the Helicopter SAR Pilot in command 6. Assists with overall search, rescue tactics, and medical operations 7. Supervises a qualified crew that conducts air SAR 8. Provides: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Safety of self and team members b. Basic medical care of self, team members, and survivors c. Simple decontamination of self and team members d. Basic ground support for helicopter operations 9. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft for operations and support 10. Operates in environments with and without infrastructure, including those affected by disasters and terrorism; with compromised access to roadways, utilities and transportation; and with limited availability of shelter, food, and water 	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified

Superseded

Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations
Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
TRAINING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All training identified for the NIMS Type 1 Helicopter SAR Technician 2. IS-102: Preparing for Federal Disaster Operations: FEMA Response Partners 3. IS-703: NIMS Resource Management 4. Basic Aviation Safety: Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) A-100 or equivalent 5. Completion of an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)-validated Helicopter SAR training program 	Not Specified
EXPERIENCE	<p>Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs emergency communications, navigation, and internal and external load, rigging, and operation 2. Provides preventative care and emergency corrective actions for all expected emergencies 3. Inspects, maintains, and operates personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, devices, and equipment specific to this position and sub-specialties <p>Experience:</p> <p>Completion of a Helicopter SAR Crew Chief Position Task Book (PTB) or equivalent documentation</p>	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs duties under arduous circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods of time 2. Maintains physical fitness and swimming standards, in accordance with the AHJ's Job Related Physical Ability Test (JRPAT) 3. Meets minimum medical fitness standards in accordance with those of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and AHJ 4. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for the United States of America 	Not Specified
CURRENCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain currency for the NIMS Type 1 Helicopter SAR Technician position 2. Annual refresher of related skills and emergency procedures in aircraft 3. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, participation in exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every three years 4. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires 	Provider must carry out and use any background checks as applicable law specifies. This may include a background check completed within past 12 months; sex-offender registry check; and a local, state, and a local, state, and national criminal history.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	AHJ-required BLS-level medical care certification or recertification	Not Specified

Superseded

NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Helicopter Search and Rescue Pilot
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Helicopter Search and Rescue Technician
3. FEMA, NIMS 508: Search and Rescue Aircraft – Helicopter/Rotary Wing
4. American National Standards Institute/American Society of Safety Engineers (ANSI/ASSE) Z359.1-2007 Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems & Components
5. ASTM International (ASTM) F2209-10: Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member, latest edition adopted
6. Firefighting Resources of Southern California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIRESCOPE) Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1, December 2012
7. National Search and Rescue Committee, Catastrophic Incident Search and Rescue (CISAR) Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, v. 3, June 2012
8. National Wildlife Coordinating Group (NWCG) National Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1, October 2016
9. NWCG, Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG), PMS 510, February 2013
10. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 61: Certification: Pilots, Flight Instructors, and Ground Instructors, latest edition adopted
11. FAA 14 CFR Part 67: Medical Standards and Certification, latest edition adopted
12. FAA 14 CFR Part 117: Flight and Duty Limitations and Rest Requirements: Flight Crew Members, latest edition adopted
13. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR Part 1910.120: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, latest edition adopted
14. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.132: Airborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted
15. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.134: Respiratory Protection, latest edition adopted
16. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.146: Permit-Required Confined Spaces, latest edition adopted

Superseded