



Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations  
Search and Rescue

## MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE STRIKE TEAM/TASK FORCE LEADER

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Mountain Search and Rescue (SAR) Strike Team/Task Force Leader provides general leadership, direct supervision, wellness, and safety of the Strike Team/Task Force members and other single resources
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Mountain Search and Rescue Team).</li><li>2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment</li><li>3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days</li><li>4. Mountain SAR involves high-angle operations</li></ol>

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.

Superseded

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>The National Incident Management System (NIMS) Mountain SAR Type 1 Strike Team/Task Force Leader:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides general leadership, direct supervision, wellness, and safety of the Strike Team/Task Force members and other single resources in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low Mountain environments: Tracts of land characterized by steep slopes and moderate variations in elevation that require the ability to negotiate routes rated as Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) classes 1-4 and occasionally class 5, where steep to vertical rock, steep forested or brush-covered terrain, talus slopes, boulder fields, and possibly occasional snow and ice obstacles limits travel, which includes city and county (urban or suburban) parks</li> <li>Mountain environments: Tract of land characterized by steep slopes and great variations in elevation, that requires the ability to negotiate routes rated Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) class 2-4, and occasionally class 5, and where steep to vertical rock, steep forested or brush-covered terrain, talus slopes, boulder fields, and occasional snow and ice obstacles limit travel</li> <li>Alpine environments: Mountainous terrain, typically above tree line, that requires the ability to negotiate routes rated YDS class 2-5, and where any combination of altitude, extreme weather, extensive exposure to snow/ice obstacles, avalanche risk, and crevasses affect travel; in general, the alpine environment includes all mountainous terrain above 3,500 meters</li> </ol> </li> <li>Oversees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety of self and team members</li> <li>Basic medical care of self, team members, and survivors</li> <li>Simple decontamination of self and team members</li> <li>Basic ground support capability for helicopter operations</li> </ol> </li> <li>Implements assigned portion of the Incident Action Plan (IAP)</li> <li>Reports on the progress of operations and status of resources</li> <li>Evaluates the need for and requests additional resources</li> <li>Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft for support, transportation, and evacuation</li> <li>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</li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Not Specified	Not Specified
<b>TRAINING</b>	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All training identified for the NIMS Type 1 Strike Team/Task Force Leader</li> <li>All training identified for the NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Team Leader</li> <li>Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)-provided search management and planning course</li> <li>Training that meets or exceeds the requirements of ASTM International (ASTM) 2685, ASTM 3024, and ASTM 3027</li> </ol>	Land search operations and planning training should be consistent with National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR): Managing the Lost Person Incident (MLPI), NPS Search Management, U.S. Coast Guard: Inland SAR Planning Course., or AHJ-Determined equivalent training.

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COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ability to provide oversight and supervision within a respective area to ensure the team accomplishes objectives for assigned area</li> <li>2. Ability to carry out the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Technical rescue operations</li> <li>b. General standards of technical rescue</li> <li>c. Rope rescue</li> <li>d. Mountain and Alpine SAR</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Ability to oversee inspection and maintenance of personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, devices, and equipment specific to this position</li> <li>4. Knowledge of operations, tactics, strategy, and safety considerations specific to the exercise, planned event or incident</li> <li>5. Knowledge of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) deployment process</li> <li>6. Knowledge of alpine and mountain SAR and associated hazards</li> <li>7. Knowledge of the capabilities of canine search for low mountain, mountain, and alpine environments</li> <li>8. Understanding of SAR procedures in the low mountain, mountain and alpine environments during day and night operations</li> </ol> <p>Experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Type 1 Mountain Strike Team/Task Force Leader, NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Team Leader, and NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Technician positions, or equivalent AHJ documentation for each position</li> <li>2. Demonstrating multiple casualty and multiple asset scene management and dynamic assessment of risk</li> <li>3. Identifying hazards, including potential operating environments</li> <li>4. AHJ-determined incident management experience</li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performs duties under arduous circumstances, characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods of time</li> <li>2. Meets minimum physical fitness standards, in accordance with the AHJ's Job Related Physical Ability Test (JRPAT)</li> <li>3. Maintains AHJ-determined medical fitness suitable for the environment and job requirements</li> <li>4. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the US Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control's recommended adult immunization schedule for the United States of America</li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>CURRENCY</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, participation in exercise, drill, or simulation once every three years or as the AHJ determines</li> <li>2. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires</li> <li>3. This position maintains currency for the NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Team Leader and NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Technician positions</li> </ol>	<p>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.</p>



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COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified

Superseded

## NOTES

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

## REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Mountain Search and Rescue Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Mountain Search and Rescue Team Leader
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Mountain and Search Rescue Technician
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Strike Team/Task Force Leader
5. ASTM International (ASTM) F2209-2014: Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member, 2014
6. ASTM F2685-2014: Standard Guide for Training of a Land Search Team Leader (STL), 2014
7. ASTM F2751-2009: Standard Guide for Training of Support Level Land Rescue Team Member (LRT-Support) Member, 2009
8. ASTM F2752-2009: Standard Guide for Training for Level I Rope Rescue (R1) Rescuer Endorsement, 2014
9. ASTM F2890-2012: Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel, 2012
10. ASTM F2954-2012: Standard Guide for Training for Level II Rope Rescue (R2) Rescuer Endorsement, 2012
11. ASTM F3024-2013: Standard Guide for Training of a Land Search and Rescue (SAR) Strike Team/Task Force Leader, 2013
12. ASTM F3027-2013: Standard Guide for Training of Personnel Operating in Mountainous Terrain (Mountain Endorsement), 2013
13. ASTM F3028-2013: Standard Guide for Training of Search and Rescue Personnel Operating in the Alpine Environment (Alpine Endorsement), 2013
14. ASTM WK45629: Training of Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member
15. Mountain Rescue Association (MRA), Policy 105.1: National Compliancy Guideline, 2006
16. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications, 2013
17. National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC), Interagency Aviation Training Subcommittee, Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Guide, 2014
18. National Park Service (NPS) RM-59: National Park Service, Search and Rescue Reference Manual, 2011
19. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), National Incident Management System (NIMS) Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide PMS 310-1, 2016
20. Yosemite Decimal System (YDS), Classifications for Terrain
21. Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, latest edition adopted
22. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted

Superseded