



Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations Search and Rescue

MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM LEADER

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Mountain Search and Rescue (SAR) Team Leader directly supervises a Mountain SAR Team and provides general leadership, direct supervision, wellness, and safety of the team members
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 (Mountain 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 deployment3. Mountain SAR involves high-angle operations

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Superseded

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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Performs search, rescue, and recovery in 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	Same as Type 3, PLUS: Performs search, rescue, and recovery in 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	The National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 3 Mountain SAR Team Leader: 1. Directly supervises NIMS typed Mountain SAR Team 2. Provides general leadership, direct supervision, wellness, and safety of the team members 3. Performs search, rescue, and recovery in: a. 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 the possibility of occasional snow and ice obstacles limits travel, which includes city and county (urban or suburban) parks 4. Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS) in a specialized position on a Mountain SAR Team 5. Provides first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) 6. Provides: 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 capability for helicopter operations 7. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft for support, transportation, and evacuation 8. Operates in environments with and without infrastructure, including those (Continued)	Not Specified

Superseded

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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
DESCRIPTION			(Continued) affected by disasters and terrorism; with compromised access to roadways, utilities, and transportation; and with limited availability of shelter, food, and water	
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified
TRAINING	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. All training identified for the NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Technician 2. Operational leadership training in alpine environments that meet or exceed the requirements of ASTM F3028	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. All training identified for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 2 Mountain SAR Technician 2. Operational leadership training in mountain environments that meet or exceed the requirements of ASTM International (ASTM) F3027	Completion of the following: 1. All training identified for the NIMS Type 3 Mountain SAR Technician 2. IS-703: NIMS Resource Management 3. IS-809: Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 - Search and Rescue 4. Operational leadership training	Operational leadership training should be consistent with National Park Service (NPS) or United States Coast Guard (USCG) Operational Leadership training; National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) L-180: Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service; and NWCG L-280: Followership to Leadership, or Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)-Determined equivalent training.
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: Knowledge of alpine SAR and associated hazards and procedures including day and night operations and ability to carry out same Experience Experience leading NIMS Type 1 Mountain SAR Teams in the field	Same as Type 3, PLUS: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: Knowledge of mountain SAR and associated hazards and procedures including day and night operations and ability to carry out same Experience: Experience leading NIMS Type 2 Mountain SAR Teams in the field	Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: 1. All knowledge, skills, and abilities for the NIMS Type 3 Mountain SAR Technician 2. Knowledge of the EMAC deployment process 3. Knowledge of low mountain SAR and associated hazards 4. Knowledge of the capabilities of canine search Experience: 1. Experience leading NIMS Type 3 Mountain SAR Teams in the field 2. Completion of Mountain SAR Team Leader Position Task Book (PTB) or equivalent AHJ documentation	Not Specified

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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arduous 2. Meets minimum physical fitness standards, in accordance with the AHJ's Job Related Physical Ability Test (JRPAT) 3. Maintains AHJ-determined medical fitness suitable for the environment and job requirements 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 	The NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NIMS positions.
CURRENCY	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every three years 2. This position maintains currency for the NIMS Type 3 Mountain SAR Technician position 3. 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	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	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 Technician
3. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
4. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS), November 2017
5. ASTM International (ASTM) F2209-2014: Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member, 2014
6. ASTM F2751-2009: Standard Guide for Training of Support Level Land Rescue Team Member (LRT-Support) Member, 2009
7. ASTM F2752-2009: Standard Guide for Training for Level I Rope Rescue (R1) Rescuer Endorsement, 2014
8. ASTM F2890-2012: Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel, 2012
9. ASTM F2954-2012: Standard Guide for Training for Level II Rope Rescue (R2) Rescuer Endorsement, 2012
10. ASTM F3027-2013: Standard Guide for Training of Personnel Operating in Mountainous Terrain (Mountain Endorsement), 2013
11. ASTM F3028-2013: Standard Guide for Training of Search and Rescue Personnel Operating in the Alpine Environment (Alpine Endorsement), 2013
12. ASTM WK45629: Training of Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member
13. Mountain Rescue Association (MRA), Policy 105.1: National Compliancy Guideline, 2006
14. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications, 2013
15. National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC), Interagency Aviation Training Subcommittee, Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Guide, 2014
16. National Park Service (NPS) RM-59: National Park Service, Search and Rescue Reference Manual, 2011
17. Yosemite Decimal System (YDS), Classifications for Terrain
18. Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, latest edition adopted
19. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted

Superseded