

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 in various water environments
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 Search and Rescue Team). 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

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 Technician:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs search, rescue, and recovery in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water environments including stillwater, stillwater/flood, swiftwater, swiftwater/flood b. Shore, water, and boat-based rescue operations c. Situations involving human and animal rescue 2. Provides medical care to include Basic Life Support (BLS) 3. Reports to a Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team Leader 4. Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS), in an entry-level position within a Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team 5. Provides: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Safety of self and team members b. Medical care of self, team members, and survivors c. Basic ground support capability for helicopter operations 6. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft for support, transportation, and evacuation 7. 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Superseded

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
TRAINING	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training outlined for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 2 Land SAR Technician 2. Training in rating of Class 3 or higher whitewater, per American Whitewater (AW) Section VI Safety Code <p>Completion of a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), ASTM International (ASTM) or equivalent swiftwater SAR training program, AHJ-verified, meeting the following position-specific key skills and aptitudes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Night time water SAR operations 2. Search methods in stillwater, stillwater/flood, swiftwater, swiftwater/flood environments 3. Water rescue scene management and dynamic assessment of risk 4. Basic boat handling by paddle and rope systems 5. Specialized rescue equipment 6. Extrication techniques 7. Animal hazards and safety protocols 8. Use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) 	Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives.

Superseded

Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations
Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
EXPERIENCE	<p>Completion of Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician Position Task Book (PTB) or equivalent AHJ documentation that includes the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working knowledge of hydrology and associated hazards, to include the recognition of water features and their impact 2. Understand search procedures in the water environment 3. Demonstrate swimming and maneuvering 4. Understand ferry angle concepts 5. Understand and apply relevant rescue techniques, to include Talk, Reach, Throw, Row, Go/Tow, and Helicopter 6. Demonstrate rigging and operating of rope systems 7. Demonstrate awareness of flooding and associated hazards and their impact on medical problems associated with water 8. Identify and explain an understanding of the hazards and implications associated with entrapment 9. Demonstrate the use of supporting tag lines and use of cinches for mud and ice 10. Understand characteristics, medical issues, extrication techniques, and contamination for locks, sluices, irrigation ditches, and low head dams 11. Understand characteristics, design/hydrology, and specific rescue techniques for vehicles and objects (strainers) in water 12. Demonstrate knowledge of the behavior, hydrology, access, and stabilization techniques when working with helicopters 13. Identify and explain the additional hazards and difficulties associated with working in darkness and reduced visibility and application of suitable control measures <p>Ability to carry out the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rescue procedures in a swiftwater and swiftwater/flood environment during day and night operations 2. Technical rescue operations 3. Rope rescue 4. Water rescue 	<p>NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications and NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents further address Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities.</p>
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. 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 recommended adult immunization schedule for the United States of America 	Not Specified

Superseded

Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations
Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
CURRENCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual refresher of related rescue skills and abilities in water environments 2. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, participation in exercise, drill, or simulation once every three years or at the determination of the AHJ 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	AHJ-required BLS-level medical care certification or recertification	The AHJ determines the emergency medical certifications the technician needs to meet the minimum criteria, which could include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and BLS.

Superseded

NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Land Search and Rescue Technician
3. American Whitewater (AW), Safety Code of American Whitewater, 2005
4. ASTM International (ASTM) F2890: Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel, 2012
5. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications, 2013
6. NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, 2013
7. NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents, 2014
8. NFPA 1983: Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services, 2012
9. 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
10. National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG), National Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1, Physical Fitness Levels, October 2016
11. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule - United States, 2014
12. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, latest edition adopted
13. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.134: Respiratory Protection, latest edition adopted
14. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.146: Permit-Required Confined Spaces, latest edition adopted
15. 29 CFR 1910.1030 OSHA, Annual Bloodborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted

Superseded