

## SWIFTWATER/FLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNICIAN

<b>RESOURCE CATEGORY</b>	Search and Rescue
<b>RESOURCE KIND</b>	Personnel
<b>OVERALL FUNCTION</b>	The Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue (SAR) Technician performs search, rescue and recovery operations in various water environments.
<b>COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS</b>	<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 (Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team).</li> <li>2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment.</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.

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>The Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performs search, rescue and recovery activities in the following settings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Water environments including swiftwater and swiftwater/flood</li> <li>b. Shore, water and boat-based rescue operations</li> <li>c. Situations involving human or animal rescue</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Provides medical care for self, team members and survivors, including Basic Life Support (BLS) for others</li> <li>3. Reports to a Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team Leader</li> <li>4. Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS), in an entry-level position within the Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team</li> <li>5. Ensures safety of self and team members</li> <li>6. Provides basic ground support for helicopter operations</li> <li>7. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft and aircraft for support, transportation and evacuation</li> <li>8. Operates in environments with and without infrastructure, including environments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Affected by disasters and terrorism</li> <li>b. With disrupted access to roadways, utilities and transportation</li> <li>c. With limited access to shelter, food and water</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Basic ground support for helicopter operations includes safety awareness and Landing Zone (LZ) knowledge.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Not Specified	Not Specified

Superseded

Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations  
Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
<b>TRAINING</b>	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training outlined for the NIMS Type 2 Land SAR Technician</li> <li>2. Training in water operations in water with a current of 1 knot or greater</li> <li>3. 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"> <li>a. Nighttime water SAR operations</li> <li>b. Search methods in swiftwater and swiftwater/flood environments</li> <li>c. Water rescue scene management and dynamic risk assessment</li> <li>d. Basic boat handling with paddle and rope systems</li> <li>e. Specialized rescue equipment</li> <li>f. Extrication techniques</li> <li>g. Animal hazards and safety protocols</li> <li>h. Use, care, inspection and maintenance of related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) tools, devices and equipment specific to this position</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>a. Demonstrate a working knowledge of hydrology and associated hazards, including the recognition of water features and their impact</li> <li>b. Understand search procedures in the water environment</li> <li>c. Demonstrate swimming and maneuvering skills</li> <li>d. Understand ferry angle concepts</li> <li>e. Understand and apply relevant rescue techniques, including Talk, Reach, Throw, Row, Go/Tow and Helicopter</li> <li>f. Demonstrate rigging and operating of rope systems</li> <li>g. Demonstrate awareness of flooding and associated hazards and their impact on medical problems associated with water</li> <li>h. Identify and explain the hazards and implications of entrapment</li> <li>i. Understand characteristics, medical issues, extrication techniques and contamination issues for locks, sluices, irrigation ditches and low-head dams</li> <li>j. Understand characteristics, design/hydrology and specific rescue techniques for vehicles and objects (strainers) in water</li> <li>k. Demonstrate knowledge of behavior, hydrology, access and stabilization techniques related to helicopters</li> <li>l. Identify and explain the hazards and difficulties of working in darkness and reduced-visibility conditions, and explain how to apply suitable control measures</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Ability to carry out the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Rescue procedures in a swiftwater and swiftwater/flood environment during day and night operations</li> <li>b. Rope rescue</li> <li>c. Water rescue</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	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.

Superseded

Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations  
Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
<b>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arduous</li> <li>2. Meets minimum physical fitness and swimming standards, in accordance with the AHJ's job-related physical ability test (JRPAT)</li> <li>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</li> <li>4. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) immunization recommendations</li> </ol>	The NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) defines physical/medical fitness levels for NIMS positions.
<b>CURRENCY</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual refresher of related SAR skills and abilities in water environments</li> <li>2. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years</li> <li>3. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires</li> <li>4. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission assignment</li> </ol>	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.
<b>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS</b>	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.

Superseded

## 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

Superseded