

BOAT OPERATOR (SEARCH AND RESCUE)

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Boat Operator (Search and Rescue [SAR]) responds to water-based SAR missions and is responsible for the safety of crew and passengers.
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 (Stillwater/Flood SAR Team or Waterborne SAR Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment.

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	The Boat Operator (SAR): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responds to water-based SAR missions from a boat 2. Serves as the senior crew member 3. Maintains responsibility for the safety and conduct of crew and passengers, safe operation/navigation of the boat and completion of missions 	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Superseded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. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 3. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 4. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 5. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), ASTM International (ASTM) or equivalent water-based 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"> a. Job performance guidelines outlined in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, or equivalent b. Executing launch and recovery in stillwater/flood settings c. Recognizing moving water characteristics and hazards d. Recognizing vessel limitations, hull damage and watertight integrity e. Making over ground, power turns f. Closing/bearing away g. Coming alongside moving vessels; understanding suction effects h. Capsize avoidance and recovery i. Use of loaded lines j. In-tandem boat operations—side by side, moving a line, survivor/crew/equipment transfer k. Towing and being towed, including length of tow lines, positioning, passing a tow line, using a bridle, towing alongside and casting off a tow line l. Approaching, righting and dealing with entrapments from capsized vessels m. Awareness of rescue from vehicles n. Rescues from shore o. Mass evacuation p. Helicopter rescue procedures q. Night operations r. Use, care, inspection and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tools, devices and equipment specific to this position s. Use of GPS, maps and compass; navigation on water t. Boat handling skills u. SAR operations from powered craft v. AHJ-approved boater safety course 	Not Specified
EXPERIENCE	Completion of Boat Operator (SAR) Position Task Book (PTB), or equivalent AHJ documentation	Not Specified

Superseded

Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations
Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arduous 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's (CDC) immunization recommendations 	The NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) defines physical/medical fitness levels for NIMS positions.
CURRENCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual refresher of related SAR skills and abilities in water environments 2. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years 3. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires 4. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission assignment 	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.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified

Superseded



Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations Search and Rescue

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.
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: Stillwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 508: Waterborne Search and Rescue Team
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Boat Crew Member (Search and Rescue)
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. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, latest edition adopted
8. NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, latest edition adopted
9. 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