

RADIO DIRECTION FINDING TEAM

DESCRIPTION	The Radio Direction Finding Team conducts electronic direction-finding operations in support of search and rescue (SAR) efforts
RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Team
OVERALL FUNCTION	<p>The Radio Direction Finding Team locates distress beacons in land and wilderness environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land: Area located within, or immediately next to, urban boundaries no further than 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers) from a road readily accessible by emergency personnel and which may include parks, wild areas, private, state, and municipal lands Wilderness: Area beyond a trailhead or eyesight distance of a backcountry two-wheel drive (2WD) road (approximately 200 feet) OR anywhere the local infrastructure has been compromised enough to experience wilderness-type conditions such as remoteness from public infrastructure support services, poor to no medical services or potable water, or compromised public safety buildings or communications systems
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss logistics for deploying this team, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment Requestor specifies certain needs and issues prior to deployment, including, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mission location and operational environments, such as the size and type of structure(s) Additional specialized personnel necessary, such as medical staff, logistics specialists, advisors, and aircraft support staff Additional transportation-related needs, such as specific vehicles, trailers, equipment, supplies, and fuel The type of device to direction find, such as a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT), Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), Vulnerable Person Tracking Device, or other emergency transmitters Discuss additional specialty equipment, such as hardware, software, ropes, victim evacuation devices, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) The requestor should specify the mission location and operational environment This team relies on local emergency infrastructure for all rescued people and animal hand-off Operations in SAR environments may be immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH), per ASTM International F2890-17: Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel, the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual, and the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the IAMSAR Manual. Requestor should consider the need for additional capabilities or endorsements

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	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT PERSONNEL PER TEAM	Same as Type 2	1 - Team Leader	Management staff for Type 1 follow the Incident Command System (ICS) model

Resource Typing Definition for Mass Search and Rescue Operations Search and Rescue

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
SUPPORT PERSONNEL PER TEAM	Team members to support at least two operational field units	1 - Team Member	Requestor may order a National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or a NIMS Type 1 Paramedic as a separate resource to supplement the team based on the needs of the incident
CAPABILITIES PER TEAM	Same as Type 2, PLUS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team members must be experienced in coordinating with other search teams and aircrews Team members must have training for operations in wilderness environments Team is expected to be able to triangulate a distress beacon to its source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team members must be able to operate the team's equipment Team is expected to be able to triangulate a distress beacon to its source in land environments Unit level mission release No search management capabilities 	The operational period is determined by the Incident Commander
RESCUE EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	Equipment to support remote extraction and field transport of aircraft crash survivors	Not Specified	Not Specified
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) EQUIPMENT PER TEAM MEMBER	Same as Type 2	Appropriate level of PPE for the working environment	Not Specified
ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one Handheld Portable Electronic Direction Finder per team At least one handheld GPS device per team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one Handheld Portable Electronic Direction Finder At least one handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) device 	Teams with the capability to detect frequencies of 406 megahertz are recommended, but not required
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	Same as Type 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate radio communications compatible with the incident response Cell phones 	Not Specified
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	4x4 vehicles that can transport each team throughout the search area	1 - Vehicle that can transport the team throughout the search area	4x4s are recommended, but not required, for the Type 2 team

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 United States government, or any of its employees, of the information or content which a non-federal resource or material provides.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Land Search and Rescue Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Paramedic
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Emergency Medical Technician
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017