

LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) TEAM

DESCRIPTION	A Land Search and Rescue (SAR) Team conducts search, rescue, and recovery in one or more of the environments of land or wilderness, in response to natural and human-caused events
RESOURCE CATEGORY	Search and Rescue
RESOURCE KIND	Team
OVERALL FUNCTION	<p>The Land SAR Team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conducts search, rescue, and recovery in land and wilderness environments through use of aircraft and ground vehicles for support, transportation, and evacuation in non-technical terrain <ol 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: Areas 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 Provides first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS) 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 Conducts primary rescue of humans and animals and delivers them to safe refuge, but is not intended to perform secondary transport of rescued humans and animals to shelters or other locations
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the following items prior to deployment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intra-team communications, such as programmable inter-operable communications with Command, General Staff, and other supporting resources Presence of contaminated environments and need for related personal protective equipment (PPE), respiratory protection, clothing, and equipment Security and force protection needed upon arrival Logistics support, such as length of deployment, lodging, transportation, and meals The requestor should specify additional specialized equipment, such as hardware, software, ropes, rescue, or evacuation equipment The requestor should specify the mission location and operational environment, such as land, wilderness, or hazardous materials contamination The requestor should specify the type of animal rescue such as livestock and equine, companion, avian, non-domestic, and exotic animals The requestor should acquire additional specialized personnel such as advanced medical, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), paramedic, and canine SAR personnel separately The requestor should acquire secondary land or air transport of rescues separately The requestor should specify or separately acquire additional vehicles, trailers, equipment, or supplies such as fuel The requestor should consider the need for additional capabilities to address hazards that may be encountered during operations in SAR environments, which may be immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH), as ASTM International (ASTM) F2890 Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel defines The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) may require additional capability-based training or certification, such as those related to cave, mine, water, hazardous materials, or higher altitudes

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

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

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
MINIMUM PERSONNEL PER TEAM	9	6	Not Specified
MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT PERSONNEL PER TEAM	1 - NIMS Type 1 Land Strike Team/Task Force Leader 2 - NIMS Type 1 Land SAR Team Leader	1 - National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Land Strike Team/Task Force Leader 1 - NIMS Type 2 Land SAR Team Leader	NIMS Type 1 Land SAR Team/Task Force Leader should have experience in the deployment area's environment
SUPPORT PERSONNEL PER TEAM	6 - NIMS Type 1 Land SAR Technician	4 - NIMS Type 2 Land SAR Technician	Requestor may order a NIMS Type 1 EMT or Paramedic as a separate resource to supplement the team based on the incident need
ENVIRONMENT CAPABILITY PER TEAM	Wilderness	Land	Not Specified
OPERATIONS CAPABILITY PER TEAM	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Performs search, rescue and recovery in: 1. Wilderness environments 2. Weather conditions including snow flurries and slippery ice surfaces 3. YDS classes 1-3 terrain	1. Performs search, rescue and recovery in: a. Land environments b. Weather conditions not including snow or slippery ice conditions c. Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) classes 1-2 terrain 2. May work with Canine Search Teams 3. First aid to include CPR, automated external defibrillator (AED) or medical responder care, if certified 4. Basic rope rescue	YDS classified terrains as classes 1-6: 1. Class 1: Walking with a low chance of injury 2. Class 2: Simple scrambling, with the possibility of occasional hand use and little potential danger 3. Class 3: Scrambling on an increased angle with increased exposure and necessary handholds. Falls could easily be fatal 4. Class 4: Simple climbing, with exposure and rope use. Falls may well be fatal 5. Class 5: Technical rock climbing using a rope, specialized equipment and training to protect against a fall. Un-rope falls can result in severe injury or death 6. Class 6: Rock/Ice so sheer and smooth that it is unclimbable without the use of aid, such as artificial and other devices: bolts, wedges, rope ladders, etc.
GENERAL EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	Same as Type 2	Equipment consistent with this resource's capabilities and needs, that meets or exceeds ASTM F2209: Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member and Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) Policy 105.1	Not Specified
VICTIM EXTRACTION SYSTEM EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	1. Litter basket or similar 2. Patient tie in system	Not Specified	Not Specified
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) EQUIPMENT PER TEAM MEMBER	Same as Type 2	Minimum PPE consistent with this resource's capabilities and needs, that meets or exceeds ASTM 2209: Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member	PPE is mission specific and may vary by working environment; it includes protective footwear, protective clothing for skin exposure, eye and ear protection, respirators, gloves and masks

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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PER TEAM MEMBER	Same as Type 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portable and mobile intra-team communications 2. Portable radio with ground to air capability 3. Charger for devices 4. Handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) unit 5. Two-way handheld radio 6. Mobile phone 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intra-team and inter-team communications are consistent with National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) 2. Consider alternate forms of communication, such as satellite phones, based on the mission assignment and team needs

Superseded

NOTES

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

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Emergency Medical Technician
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Paramedic
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Land Search and Rescue (SAR) Strike Team/Task Force Leader
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Land Search and Rescue (SAR) Team Leader
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Land Search and Rescue (SAR) Technician
6. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
7. ASTM F2209: Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member, 2014
8. ASTM F2890: Standard Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel, 2023
9. MRA, Policy 105.1: National Compliance Guideline, 2015
10. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, NIFOG, March 2022

Superseded