

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Unit and Member Dispatch and Response Policy

I. Purpose

- A. This policy, developed by the Board of Directors of the Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR), defines the limits under which MASAR member units, and their members, may respond to wilderness SAR operations inside, and outside, of the State of Maine.
- B. This policy applies only to units, and unit members, utilizing SAR skills recognized and certified by MASAR.

II. Responding to SAR Missions in Maine

- A. If called by a town, county, State, or Federal agency to assist with, or manage, a SAR operation inside the State of Maine, a unit and its members must:
 - 1. Notify the MASAR Duty Officer (as required in the MASAR Board's "Unit Rights and Responsibilities Policy");
 - 2. Work under the overall authority of an official government agency, whether town, county, state, or federal;
 - 3. If called to assist another MASAR unit, work under their management at all times;
 - 4. Perform tasks only within the limits of the unit members' wilderness SAR training and MASAR certification.
- B. If asked by a private citizen or organization to assist with, or manage, a SAR operation inside the State of Maine, not under the direction of the Maine Warden Service, a unit and its members must:
 - 1. If responding in an area for which the Warden Service has SAR responsibility:
 - a. Inform the Warden Service of the request;
 - b. Engage in the operation only with Warden Service concurrence;
 - 2. Perform only assigned tasks specifically requested by SAR management;
 - 3. Perform tasks only within the limits of the unit members' wilderness SAR training and MASAR certification.

III. Responding to SAR Missions Outside of the State of Maine

- A. If responding to a request from a public or private agency or organization to assist with, or manage, a SAR operation outside the State of Maine, a unit and its members must:
 - 1. Inform the MASAR Duty Officer of the request;
 - 2. Engage in the operation only with the knowledge and concurrence of the town, county, State, or Federal agency normally responsible for managing such an operation;
 - 3. Perform only assigned tasks specifically requested by SAR management;

4. Perform tasks only within the limits of the unit members' wilderness SAR training or MASAR certification.
- B. Units, or unit members, responding to a request from a public or private agency or organization to assist with, or manage, a SAR operation outside the State of Maine may claim membership in MASAR. However, they may not claim to represent MASAR itself.

IV. Limits to MASAR Representation

- A. Units or unit members performing SAR skills which are not recognized and certified by MASAR shall not:
 1. Claim membership in MASAR;
 2. Claim to represent MASAR
- B. Units or unit members performing SAR skills which are not recognized and certified by MASAR, and who make any of the actions or statements listed in Section IV(A), may be removed from MASAR.