

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

SAR Support Member Certification Standard

Appendix A

Certification Evaluation Testing Objectives

To be certified by the Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR) as a SAR Support Member, a person must demonstrate that they have the following knowledge, skills, and abilities.

- I. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate knowledge of the regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines of their unit, MASAR, and the State of Maine including the following:
 - A. Their unit's call out and dispatch procedure.
 - B. The basic information needed when alerted to respond:
 1. Mission type
 2. Command Post location
 3. Check in contact information
 - a) Phone number and/or
 - b) Email address
 4. Expected arrival time
 5. Special equipment or PPE needed
 6. Exceptional hazards or safety risks
 - C. The procedure for checking in at an incident
 - D. The procedures for departing from an incident
 - E. How a SAR Support Member is to deal with the media, including limits on information that may be provided:
 1. Personal SAR experience
 2. SAR operations
 - F. How to interact with the following SAR specialties and/or personnel:
 1. Dog teams
 2. Mounted teams
 3. Trackers
 4. EMS personnel
 5. Listening posts
 6. Infrared detectors
 7. Aircraft
 8. Rope rescue teams
 - G. Insurance coverage
 1. What insurance is provided for volunteer SAR personnel in Maine
 2. How this insurance is managed in Maine
 3. Who to contact if he or she is injured
 4. Who should be informed to make a claim
 - H. The reasons for emphasizing safe driving practices enroute to, and returning

from, a SAR incident.

II. Aircraft Operations

- A. A SAR Support Member shall list the safety rules for approaching, leaving, loading, and riding in helicopters.
- B. A SAR Support Member shall describe the procedures used to safely assist with helicopter hoist operations.
- C. A SAR Support Member shall describe the procedures used to safely assist with helicopter short haul operations.

III. Legal Aspects of Search Operations

- A. A SAR Support Member shall describe the basic legal aspects of the following, as they apply to a search team member:
 - 1. Confidentiality of medical information
 - 2. Confidentiality of mission information
 - 3. Duty to respond
- B. A SAR Support Member shall explain the legal limits in regard to entering or crossing private property while assisting with a SAR operation.

IV. Searcher Health and Safety

- A. A SAR Support Member shall understand the importance of maintaining their health in the following ways:
 - 1. Prior physical fitness
 - 2. Nutrition
 - 3. Hydration
- B. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate an understanding of how to maintain their health in regard to the following:
 - 1. Nutrition, including the types of food and quantities needed
 - 2. Hydration
 - 3. Personal hygiene and sanitation
 - 4. Mitigating the effects of the environment
- C. A SAR Support Member shall recognize the signs and symptoms, and demonstrate the preventive measures for:
 - 1. Cold-related problems
 - 2. Heat-related problems
 - 3. Dehydration
 - 4. Fatigue and exhaustion
 - 5. Sunburn
- D. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate an understanding of airborne and blood-borne human pathogens:
 - 1. Types of pathogens
 - 2. Methods of transmission
 - 3. Effectiveness of body substance isolation methods
- E. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate an understanding of how to mitigate the risks from airborne and blood-borne pathogens through the use

- of suitable PPE
- F. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate an understanding of the effects of stress, including awareness of the causes and symptoms of post-traumatic stress
 - G. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate an understanding of how circumstances require special precautions, and what those precautions should be for the following:
 - 1. Weather
 - a) Current as well as potential conditions, including:
 - (1) Temperature changes
 - (2) Clouds
 - (3) Wind
 - b) Local effects due to terrain and surrounding vegetation
 - c) Severe weather, including:
 - (1) NWS warnings
 - (2) Storm hazards
 - (a) Lightning
 - (b) Sleet
 - (c) Hail
 - (d) Snow
 - (e) Torrential rain
 - (f) Strong winds
 - 2. Environmental hazards in the normal area of operations
 - a) Terrain
 - b) Plants
 - c) Wildlife and domestic animals
 - d) Day vs. night
 - e) Water hazards
 - (1) Still and running water
 - (2) Low head dams
 - (3) Strainers
 - (4) Ice
 - f) Safety and rescue methods for water hazards
 - (1) Wading safety
 - (2) Team wading
 - (3) Pole wading
 - (4) Partner pairings around the water
 - (5) Defensive swimming
 - (6) Rescue - reach/throw
 - (7) Ice self-rescue and partner rescue
 - H. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate an understanding of situational awareness and how it affects SAR operations:
 - 1. Risks above
 - 2. Risks below
 - 3. Risks around

V. SAR Clothing

- A. A SAR Support Member must understand the concept of clothing as a system, and how it protects them from the effects of the environment while outdoors:
 - 1. The five ways by which the human body loses heat
 - 2. The effects of heat loss and their importance
 - 3. How to prevent heat loss.
 - 4. The reasons for wearing clothing in layers
 - 5. The functions of each layer
 - 6. The advantages and disadvantages of materials commonly used in each outdoor clothing layer
 - 7. The factors to be considered when choosing socks and footwear.
- B. A SAR Support Member shall have, and shall know how to use, the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) determined by MASAR to be necessary to safely support SAR operations in the normal area of operations, including:
 - 1. Clothing, including outerwear and footwear, suited to the mission and the expected environment.
 - 2. Personal equipment.
- C. A SAR Support Member shall know the reasons for carrying, and explain or demonstrate the use of, the items included in the "Recommended Minimum Personal Equipment List", Appendix B of MASAR's SAR Support Member certification standard.

VI. Communications

- A. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate:
 - 1. The ability to communicate information clearly, accurately, and effectively.
 - 2. An understanding of the ICS communication doctrine.
 - 3. An understanding of the radio protocols in effect during SAR operations.
 - 4. The ability to correctly operate a hand-held radio.
 - 5. The ability to transmit and receive coordinates for a geographical location.

VII. Land Navigation

- A. A SAR Support Member shall be able to list at least three types of maps used in SAR operations and explain the differences between them.
- B. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate the ability to identify, and describe the significance of, common map symbols.
- C. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate the ability to identify, describe the significance of, and explain how to use the information found in a map's legend.
- D. A SAR Support Member shall be able to identify, and explain the significance and use of, the following:
 - 1. Contour lines and spacing

2. True north
 3. Magnetic north
 4. Grid north
 5. Declination
- E. A SAR Support Member shall demonstrate the ability to determine the elevation for a specified location on a map

VIII. Introduction to Search and Rescue

- A. To demonstrate an understanding of the concepts involved in Search and Rescue, a SAR Support Member shall do the following:
1. Define the following terms, as used in SAR operations:
 - a) Search
 - b) Rescue
 - c) Recovery
 - d) (LAST) Locate, Access, Stabilize, Transport
 2. Explain the importance of the following components of SAR operations:
 - a) Preplanning
 - b) Notification
 - c) Planning/Strategy
 - d) Tactics/Operations
 - e) Suspension
 - f) Critique
- B. To demonstrate an understanding of where the responsibilities for Search and Rescue lie in the State of Maine, a SAR Support Member shall:
1. List the four main provisions of Section 1, Title 12 MRSA, section 10105, subsection 4 (the Maine SAR statute).
 2. List the major responsibilities for search and rescue in Maine under the Maine SAR Plan for the following agencies and organizations:
 - a) Local SAR Authorities
 - b) Warden Service
 - c) Marine Patrol
 - d) U.S. Coast Guard
 - e) State Park Rangers
 - f) Federal Park Authorities
 - g) Civilian SAR units

IX. Search Techniques and Tactics

- A. A SAR Support Member shall be able to explain the differences between Passive and Active search tactics, their advantages and disadvantages, and reasons for their use.