

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Unit Trainee Definition and Limitations

I. Purpose

- A. This policy, developed by the Board of Directors of the Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR), defines the terms under which uncertified members of MASAR member Units may respond to wilderness SAR operations inside, and outside, of the State of Maine.
- B. This policy applies to all member Units of MASAR regardless of the Unit's certification status.
- C. Each Unit shall be responsible for determining the status of its members, e.g. Trainee, Support, or Certified.
- D. Each Unit shall be responsible for informing its members that the state's insurance coverage is limited for uncertified Trainees.

II. Definitions of Unit Member Status

- A. Trainee - any member of a MASAR member Unit involved in wilderness SAR training on a regular basis who is not certified by MASAR.
- B. Support – any member of a MASAR member Unit that has a limited certification from MASAR, or a certified Unit member who is temporarily unable to work in the field but is still useful in a support role.
- C. Certified– any member of a MASAR member Unit holding a current Search Team Member certification from MASAR.

III. Limits to Trainee Response

- A. Trainees may participate in search and rescue operations managed by the Maine Warden Service, with the following limitations:
 - 1. Each Trainee must meet the requirements of Section III, Part A, subparts 4, 5, and 6, of MASAR's Search Team Member Certification Standard, e.g. each must have current certification in basic first aid, current CPR certification, and successful completion of an aerobic fitness test within the prior 3 years.
 - 2. Participation by each Trainee in search and rescue operations must be approved by a unit officer.
 - 3. Each Trainee in the field must be under the direct supervision of a MASAR-certified Search Team Member or agency equivalent, and no more than two Trainees may be supervised by one person. Incident Management may waive these requirements.
 - 4. Any Unit dispatching Trainees to an incident must also make provision for a sufficient number of MASAR-certified personnel to supervise those trainees.
- B. Trainees may not participate in search and rescue operations managed by the Maine Warden Service when only certified personnel are specifically requested.