

Course: NEWSAR, SAR Field Team Member

Instructor: NEWSAR approved instructor.

Prerequisites: None.

Primary Audience: Search and Rescue Field Personnel (Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, or Fire Service).

Course Goal: To provide participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to successfully operate as field searchers in inland SAR operations.

Learning Objectives:

Produce students who are able to:

1. Safely and effectively operate in the field in inland SAR operations in all weathers. (clothing, footwear, hazard recognition, hazard mitigation, survival, terrain traversal).
2. Be clue aware searchers operating under ICS for an authority having jurisdiction.
3. As a member of a task force or strike team, given land search assignment, effectively navigate and carry out appropriate field tactics to complete the assignment.
4. Describe, giving a field team member a perspective into search management, some of the approaches and documentation that the overhead team uses to manage a search.

Focus of the course is on core skills for ground searchers as members of human or canine tasks. The course is also intended to lay a foundation for future learning towards field team leadership, visual tracking, search management, and technical rescue.

Delivery:

Workshop consisting of Lecture, Discussion, and Practical Evolutions. Lecture is supplemented with powerpoint presentations. When taught by a NEWSAR approved instructor, students receive a certificate of completion from NEWSAR on completion of the course.

The course is organized in 4 thematic modules of about 6 hours of classroom and practical training each. The course can run, not including breaks, in four 6 hour days, or three 8 hour days.

Costs:

No charge from NEWSAR for delivery or certificates.
There are costs for texts and for materials and supplies.

Texts:

Cooper, D.C. ed. 2005. Fundamentals of Search and Rescue. National Association of Search and Rescue. Jones and Bartlett, Sudbury.

Smith, R., et al., 2007. Basic Search and Rescue Skills; 2007; A Practitioners Guide to Search & Rescue (2nd ed). ERI Canada and ERI International, Calgary.

Supplemental Resources:

NASARC, 2011. Land Search And Rescue Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual. 278pp. (available online).

Course Outline:

Module 1 – SAR

SAR Systems, Search Crucials
Search Theory
Lost Person Behavior
Land Navigation – Topography, Decision Points [Practical]
Search Sensors and Tactics
ICS – Managing Chaos
Legal and Ethical Framework

Module 2 – Core Search Skills

Clue Detection
Tracking [Practical] (End day 1)
Land Navigation: Map, Compass, Coordinate Systems [Practical]
Hazards and mitigation
Crime Scene Awareness
Backcountry operations: Clothing, Weather
Basic Survival [Optional Practical]

Module 3 - Searching

Land Navigation: Grid with compass and pace count, GPS [Practical]
Applying Search Tactics [Practical] (End Day 2)
Canine and Equine SAR [Practical]
Mountain Bike, ATV, Snowmobile SAR
Communications & Accountability
Putting it all together: The Task Assignment Form

Module 4 - Rescue

Knots and Rope [Practical]
Land Navigation: Communicating location [Practical]
Rescue
Packaging and Low angle Litter operations. [Practical]
Helicopter Operations
The SAR incident