

ASRC Training Requirements

Version 8

This document describes the ASRC training requirements, which are divided into these categories:

- Teams
- All Members
- Awareness Level Search Team Member
- Operational Level Search Team Member
- Technician Level Search Team Member
- Search Manager III
- Search Manager II
- Search Manager I

For more information about these requirements, {insert SOP here, i.e. GTO or local TO before regional trainers?}.

{There are many places that say “subject to the AHJ,” or “as judged by the GTO.” It would simplify the requirements if we took that language out, and instead added a paragraph in this intro chapter that briefly explains the role of AHJ and GTO with regard to determining the appropriateness of certification/training.}

{Do we need a paragraph talking about the accreditation system?}

{use page break so it's easy to find, and print, the section you want}

Teams

Each accredited team shall:

- Maintain a current database or record of individual certification, including:
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
 - Abilities
 - Medical fitness
 - Physical fitness
- Establish a medical fitness requirement, based on the local jurisdiction, including recurrences, for all field members
- Establish a physical fitness requirement, based on the local jurisdiction, including recurrences, for all field members

Note: While member teams may define their own physical fitness requirement, the ASRC recommends that teams adopt, at a minimum, the US Forestry Service's Moderate fitness requirement, which consists of a 2 mile hike, in 30 minutes or less, carrying a 25 pound pack.

- Maintain policies, based on the local jurisdiction, on:
 - Drug and alcohol use, dependency, and abuse
 - Sexual harassment
 - Culture, race, sex/gender, and age sensitivity
- Operate within the Incident Command System (ICS)

All Members

Requirements

General

All members shall:

- Complete background checks, as determined by the local jurisdiction or team policy
- Wear identifiable uniforms, or markers, as determined by the individual team and/or environment
- Meet the minimum age requirement, as determined by the individual team or jurisdiction
- Possess current certification in Basic First Aid, or an equivalent.
- Possess current certification in CPR for Healthcare Professionals.
- Demonstrate proficiency in individual skills and abilities every three years
- Meet, or exceed, minimum participation requirements for training and operations, as defined by the local team or region
- Possess adequate food, water, and equipment to sustain themselves for 24 hours, in any season, as determined by authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) in the anticipated areas of operation
- Know, and follow, safe driving procedures, as determined by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All members shall possess, and have knowledge regarding the use of, the personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to safely participate in field search operations in any season, and in all anticipated areas of operations, as determined by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Appropriate PPE includes:

- All clothing, outerwear, footwear, and personal field equipment
- Survival equipment that enables the member to bivouac
- A durable, hands-free method of carrying personal, as well as team, equipment in the field

In addition to PPE, all members shall:

- Know the reasons for carrying each piece of equipment, and be able to demonstrate the use of all field equipment, as determined by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)
- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of mission-specific packing for a typical area of operations

Awareness Level Search Team Member

A member at this level has the ability to recognize the hazards and risks in a given situation, or environment, and is able to request appropriate resources for search and rescue operations. Individuals at this level are not permitted to enter a hazard zone, but may serve other functions.

Requirements

Before advancing to Awareness Level Search Team Member, individuals shall:

- Successfully complete, and possess certification for, these courses:
 - IS-100.b: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100
 - IS-700.a: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
 - Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens - Infection Control Training or equivalent
- Participate in a minimum of one group practical field training, or exercise
- Demonstrate the ability to function as an effective member of a field team on an uncomplicated task

Operational Level Search Team Member

A member at this level has the ability to recognize the hazards and risks in a given situation, or environment, can use equipment, and can apply limited search and rescue techniques to an operation. Members at this level will generally assume one of the field team duties, such as navigation or communications. Individuals at this level are permitted to enter a hazard zone, or serve other functions.

Requirements

Before advancing to Operational Level Search Team Member, individuals shall complete these requirements:

- General
- Health and Personal Safety
- Legal Aspects of Search and Rescue
- Land Navigation Skills
- Communication Skills
- Search Skills
- Basic Ropes and Rope System Skills
- Subject Management Skills

General

- Successfully complete, and possess certification for, these courses:
 - IS-200.b: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
 - IS-317: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams, or an equivalent.
 - One of these approved hazardous material awareness training courses, or an equivalent:
 - IS-5.A: An Introduction to Hazardous Materials
 - NFPA 472: HazMat Awareness
 - OSHA 1910.120(Q)(6)(i): HazMat Awareness Training or equivalent
- Adequately inspect PPE to determine wear, damage, and operational readiness
- Demonstrate understanding of these phases of a search operation:
 - Preplan
 - Notification
 - Planning a Strategy
 - Tactics and Techniques
 - Suspension
 - After Action Review
- Demonstrate understanding of search operation terms, as well as factors that can affect them:
 - PLS: Point Last Scene
 - LKP: Last Known Point
 - Search segment/area
 - POA: Probability of Area
 - POD: Probability of Detection
 - POS: Probability of Success
- Demonstrate understanding of these agency roles in search operations:
 - National
 - Tribe
 - Local

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- Demonstrate understanding of these team roles:
 - Leader
 - Navigator
 - Radio Operator
 - Medic
 - Specialist

Personal Health and Safety

- Demonstrate understanding of the signs and symptoms and describe preventative measures for these:
 - Cold related injuries
 - Heat related injuries
 - Dehydration
 - Fatigue / Exhaustion
 - Blisters
 - Sunburn
- Demonstrate understanding of the five (5) methods in which the body loses heat:
 - Conduction
 - Convection
 - Evaporation
 - Radiation
 - Respiration
- Demonstrate understanding of the effects of heat loss:
 - Positive
 - Negative
 - Methods to assist with heat loss
 - Methods to prevent heat loss
- Demonstrate understanding of the principal of layered clothing:
 - Define each layer
 - Function of each layer
 - Advantages of materials used in each layer
 - Disadvantages of materials used in each layer
- Demonstrate understanding of the area of operation:
 - Weather
 - Terrain
 - Plant
 - Wild / Domestic animals
- Demonstrate understanding of the food to be carried on a field task:
 - Type
 - Quantity
- Demonstrate understanding of field hygiene:
 - Personal hygiene
 - Sanitation requirements and techniques
- Demonstrate understanding of field survival:
 - Short term
 - Long term
 - Basic needs and order of priority
 - S.T.O.P.
 - Water purification

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- Demonstrate understanding of emergency signaling devices:
 - How to use
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages
- Demonstrate understanding of emergency shelters:
 - Requirements
 - Construction of

Legal Aspects of Search and Rescue

- Demonstrate understanding of the factors necessary to prove negligence:
 - Duty to Act
 - Breach of Duty
 - Breach of Duty caused harm
 - Suffers harm as a result of the Breach
- Demonstrate understanding of abandonment:
- Demonstrate understanding of consent:
 - Implied
 - Expressed
 - Informed
- Demonstrate understanding of crime scene procedures:
 - Preservation
 - Clue handling
- Demonstrate understanding of confidentiality:
 - Mission
 - Subject
 - Victim
 - Witness
 - Patient
- Demonstrate understanding of private property:

Land Navigation Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of methods used to avoid getting lost:
- Demonstrate understanding of the parts of the compass:
- Demonstrate understanding of the following navigation terms:
 - Latitude (parallels) and longitude (meridians)
 - Degrees, minutes and seconds
 - True north, magnetic north, Grid North
 - Declination:
 - Convert from Map to Compass
 - Convert from Compass to Map
 - Datum
 - Contour lines:
 - Index
 - Intermediate
 - Supplementary
- Demonstrate understanding of the following maps used in search and rescue:
 - Topographical
 - Street

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- Park
- Other
- Demonstrate understanding of reading and interpreting a 7.5 minute topographic map:
 - Border information
 - Colors
 - Grades of highways, roads, trails and bridges
 - Power lines
 - Buildings, schools, churches and cemeteries
 - Storage tanks, wells, mines, caves, picnic areas and campsites
 - Benchmarks (control stations) and spot elevations
 - Boundaries, fence and other landmark lines
 - Contour lines:
 - Depressions
 - Cuts
 - Fills
 - Elevations
 - Perennial and intermittent streams, springs, falls and marshes
 - Valleys, ridges, peaks and sags (saddles, cols)
 - Photo revisions.
 - Determine a bearing between two points
 - Measure the distance between two points
 - Communicate map coordinates and position to others
- Demonstrate understanding of plotting methods or grid systems using:
 - Latitude – Longitude
 - USNG (United States National Grid)
 - UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator)
 - ASRC Grid
- Demonstrate understanding of the following navigational functions:
 - Orient a map
 - Using a Compass
 - Using terrain features
 - Using the Compass, plot a course on a map
 - Obtain and follow a simple compass bearing (100m)
 - Determine a reciprocal
 - Move around obstacles [boxing]
 - Find a position by triangulation
 - Find a position by resection
 - Determine position by terrain feature identification.
- Demonstrate understanding of a Global Positioning System (GPS)
 - 101
 - How GPS determines location
 - Limitations and sources of signal error
 - Compare/Contrast with map and compass
 - Fundamentals
 - Power on/off
 - Batteries
 - Settings
 - Datum
 - Distance units
 - Location type (UTM, Latitude/Longitude)
 - Track
 - Clear log

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- Turn log on / off
- Operation
 - Determine coordinates for current location
 - Given only the coordinates, navigate to a location
 - Plot location on map
 - Waypoint
 - Record
 - Edit
 - Locate previously stored
- Demonstrate understanding of the following Orienteering terms:
 - Catching features
 - Collecting features
 - Attack points
 - Aiming off
 - Handrail
- Demonstrate understanding of measuring distance by pacing (100m)
- Demonstrate understanding of night navigation

Communication Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of verbal communication:
 - Accuracy
 - Clarity
 - Effective
- Demonstrate understanding of field radio equipment
 - Setup and test prior to going on task
 - Basic troubleshooting steps
 - Basic operation
- Demonstrate understanding of radio procedures and protocols
- Demonstrate understanding of the duties for the field position of radio operator
- Demonstrate understanding of interfacing with the Media
- Demonstrate understanding of Non-Radio Communications:
 - Hand Signals
 - Whistle

Search Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of the following Search Techniques:
 - Passive
 - Active
- Demonstrate understanding of the following Search Tactics:
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid
 - Lay and pick up flag line
 - Tight grid
 - Lay and pick up flag line
 - Evidence
 - Lay and pick up flag line
- Demonstrate understanding of the following tracking skills:
 - Sign vs Track

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- Sign-cutting vs Tracking
- Sign / Track preservation
- Demonstrate understanding of the following search procedures, policies and guidelines:
 - Incident callout or dispatch
 - On scene check-in
 - Mission briefing
 - Mission debriefing
 - Working with other agencies
- Demonstrate understanding of the following operational terms:
 - L.A.S.T.
 - Locate
 - Access
 - Stabilize
 - Transport
 - Search
 - Rescue
 - Recovery
- In a normal operational area, demonstrate the ability to perform as a member of a search team on a:
 - Day task
 - Night task
 - Seasonal
 - Spring
 - Summer
 - Fall
 - Winter
 - Hazardous Area

Basic Ropes and Rope System Skills

- Demonstrate the ability to correctly tie the following Knots, Bends, Hitches:
 - Overhand safety knot
 - Half hitch
 - Girth Hitch
 - Figure 8 on a bight with safety
 - Figure 8 follow-through with safety
 - Figure 8 bend with safety
 - Bowline with safety
 - Clove hitch with safety
 - Double Fisherman's, or Grapevine Bend
 - Triple wrapped Prussic knot on a main line
 - Water knot with safety in webbing
- Demonstrate understanding of the following systems
 - Single point anchor system using the anchor strap method
 - Single point anchor system using the wrap three/pull two strap method
 - Single point anchor system using the tensionless hitch
 - Simple rope mechanical advantage system with appropriate safety
 - Rope lowering system with appropriate safety

Subject Management Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of the Subject's Behavior:
 - Ex: does behavior threaten the safety of the team or other victims

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- Demonstrate understanding of the Subject's Condition:
 - Uninjured
 - Trapped and uninjured
 - Injured but not trapped
 - Injured and trapped
 - Deceased
- Demonstrate understanding of the field care given to a Subject:
 - Universal precautions [Body Substance Isolation(BSI) (PPE)]
 - Triage
 - Treatment of injury
 - Extrication
 - Subject Packaging
 - Various considerations related to securing in litter
 - Subject Removal / Transport
 - Litter management
 - various transport skills and procedures
 - litter calls
 - Transfer of Care

Technician Level Search Team Member

A member at this level has the ability to recognize the hazards and risks in the given situation or environment (Search, Technical Rock, Snow and Ice, Disaster, WMD, etc.) and be able to use equipment and apply advanced search and rescue techniques to operations. Members at this level will generally assume the field team leader duty. Individuals at this level are permitted to enter a hazard zone, or serve other leadership functions.

Requirements

Before advancing to Technician Level Search Team Member, individuals shall complete these requirements:

- General
- Search Skills
- Basic Ropes and Rope System Skills
- Leadership Skills

General

- Successfully complete, and possess certification for, these courses:
 - IS-10.A: Animals in Disaster: Awareness and Preparedness
 - IS-11.A: Animals in Disaster: Community Planning
 - IS-800.B: National Response Framework, An Introduction
 - IS-809: Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 9 – Search and Rescue
 - Water Rescue for the First Responder (Awareness Level)
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use and operation of
 - All Team Equipment
 - All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Shall know the standard Search operating procedures, requirements, and protocols of the AHJ
- Demonstrate understanding of proper communications
 - Correctly using ICS forms
 - Phonetic alphabet
 - Spell words
 - Pronounce numbers
 - Radio communications
- Demonstrate understanding of advanced navigation
 - Locate and mark search area boundaries on a map or GPS receiver
 - Determining the distances and bearings to corners or area boundary intersections

Search Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of the leadership role for each of the following Search Tactics:
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid
 - Tight grid
 - Evidence
- Demonstrate understanding of choosing appropriate Search Tactics:
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid

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- Tight grid
- Evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to lead a team for the following Search Tactics:
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid
 - Tight grid
 - Evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to select appropriate spacing for the following Search Tactics:
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid
 - Tight grid
 - Evidence
- Demonstrate an understanding of approaching and moving through the search area for each Search: Tactic
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid
 - Tight grid
 - Evidence
- Demonstrate an understanding of time management for each Search Tactic:
 - Containment
 - Hasty
 - Loose grid
 - Tight grid
 - Evidence
- Demonstrate understanding of the following stages in the search process:
 - Preplanning and Preparation
 - First Notice
 - Check-in
 - Briefing
 - Assignment
 - Debriefing
 - Check-out
 - Return to service
 - Mission Log
 - Mission Critique

Basic Ropes and Rope System Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of a rope rescue incident action plan (IAP)
- Demonstrate understanding of steps in a rope rescue operation
- Demonstrate understanding of the following Knots, Bends, Hitches:
 - Alpine butterfly loop
 - Munter hitch
- Demonstrate understanding of a Low Angle Raising System:
 - Using operational commands and a simple rope mechanical advantage system, direct a team in a low-angle raising operation
 - Construct a compound rope mechanical advantage system:
 - While under simulated load, convert to a lower system
- Demonstrate understanding of a Low Angle Lower System

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- Using operational commands, direct a team in a low-angle lowering operation
 - While under simulated load, convert to a raising system

Leadership Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of morale:
 - Recognizing problems
 - Maintaining / improving
- Demonstrate understanding of Situation Awareness
- Demonstrate understanding of Delegating Tasks
- Demonstrate understanding of Leading a Team
- Demonstrate understanding of Team Briefing including:
 - Subject information
 - Terrain
 - Tactics
 - Clues
 - Weather
 - Safety and hazards
 - Assignment objectives
 - Attitude
- Demonstrate understanding of Team Debriefing including:
 - Forms and documents
 - Safety issues
 - Search area coverage (POD)
 - Clues found
 - Difficulties / problems in search area
- Demonstrate understanding of Helicopter Ground Support Operation (Landing Zone):
 - Selecting and marking appropriate area size
 - Establishing and maintaining Scene Safety
 - Identifying visible hazards
 - Identifying available resources (personnel and equipment)
 - Effectively communicating conditions and hazards to aircrew

Search Manager III

Definition

Requirements

Search Manager II

Definition

Requirements

Search Manager I

Definition

Requirements