

N.Z. LAND SAR Inc.

STANDARDS

Rescue Controller

Introduction

This document specifies the standards of performance required for the Rescue Controller role in Land SAR.

The Rescue Controller is appointed by the Field Controller to manage the rescue phase of an operation. The Rescue Controller provides specific rescue operational expertise; planning and co-ordination of field rescue personnel during the rescue phase of a SAR operation.

This role, for the purposes of the standards, has been divided into five parts:

Part 1	Non-Operational
Part 2	Pre-Operational
Part 3	Operational
Part 4	Post Operational
Part 5	Background Knowledge

NB: All bullet-point lists in this standard are not intended to be definitive lists but as guidelines as to the sort of things that should be considered.

Part 1 Non-Operational

Maintain a SAR readiness status and participate in training.

Criteria

1.1 Maintain a state of preparedness that enables a response to a SAR operation in the shortest possible time.

These include:

- Availability
- Contactability
- Mental condition
- Awareness/Knowledge of the outdoors
- Awareness/Knowledge of rescue methods and techniques

1.2 Develop skills for dealing with and handling people involved in a rescue during a SAR operation.

Likely needs include:

- Awareness

- Delegation
- Counselling
- Active listening skills
- Motivational skills
- Communication skills
- Leadership skills

1.3 Be able to apply currently accepted rescue management practices, as appropriate, to the SAR operation.

1.4 Maintain knowledge of SAR rescue personnel.

Likely factors include:

- Fitness
- Availability
- Capability/ Competence/ Skills
- Experience

1.5 Maintain familiarity with (rescue) specialists and their resources;

This includes:

- Helicopters
- Four wheel drive
- Communication
- Cliff Rescue/ACR Teams

1.6 Be aware of the Police requirements when dealing with bodies;

- Scene preservation/security
- DVI
- Sudden Death/ Suspicious death
- Keep log of events (including photos)

Part 2 Pre-Operational

Provide SAR operational rescue expertise during the Pre-Operational phase of a SAR Operation.

Criteria

- 2.1 Assist, where appropriate, the Field Controller in the development of the rescue plan that meets the requirements of the SAR operation.
- 2.2 Assist, where appropriate, and in conjunction with the Field Controller and/or Adviser(s), in the selection of rescue personnel to meet the likely requirements of the SAR operation.

Rescue personnel would include;

- OC Patient
 - Patient Minder
 - Medical staff
 - Stretcher Controller
 - Specialist rescue personnel
 - Communication staff
 - Local knowledge
 - Log Keeper
 - Helicopter pilot
 - Route finders
- 2.5 Discuss and agree with the Field Controller the conditions for the appointment as Rescue Controller for the operation.

Conditions may include:

- Length of term of the appointment,
- Shift work options
- Briefing on the operation,
- Appointment review conditions,
- Hand-over procedures,
- Any specific limitations or requirements of the operation.

Part 3 Operational

Provide SAR operational rescue expertise during a SAR Operation

These criteria can be divided into five main functions; Set-up, Deployment, Strategies, Reviews, and Close Down.

Also note that many of these functions may occur simultaneously.

Criteria

Set-up

- 3.1 Implement the SAR Rescue Plan, as is appropriate to the operation.
- 3.2a Liaison is maintained with Field Headquarters.
- 3.2b Recommendations of Adviser(s) / Field Controller(s) are implemented as appropriate to the operation.
- 3.3 Liaison with Field Headquarters ensures SAR personnel who meet the requirements of the rescue are located and prepared for involvement in the operation.

Requirements may include:

- Specialist Skills,
- Experience,
- Self sufficiency
- Local knowledge

- 3.4 Review(s) of the logistics arrangements ensures that they meet the requirements of the SAR operation.

Logistics include:

- Food, equipment, etc.
- Transport
- Re-supply
- Communications
- Technology
- Medical specialists
- Evacuation transport
- Rescue Specialists
- Rescue equipment

- 3.5 Appoint rescue staff with the appropriate skills and experience for the operation.

These include:

- OC patient
- Patient Minder

- Medical staff
- Stretcher Controller
- Specialist Rescue personnel
- Communication staff
- Transport Co-ordinator
- Route finder

3.6 Brief these staff on the requirements for the operation.

3.7 Co-ordinate the resources for the rescue

Deployment

3.8 Deployment of the rescue teams is appropriate for the operation.

Factors to consider may include:

- Nature of injuries of the patient(s)
- Location of the patient(s)
- Number of patients
- Extent of briefing of rescue teams
- Time involved getting teams to the patient(s)
- Location of the teams
- Transport requirements
- Availability of rescue equipment (including helicopters, etc.)
- Availability of specialists (medical and rescue)
- Weather

Strategies

3.9 Strategies devised ensure identification and management of events arising during the course of the rescue.

Events arising may include:

- Unexpected hazards,
- Accidents to rescue personnel,
- Changing weather or environment conditions,
- Extended time requirements,
- Communication difficulties,
- Change in party/patient status,
- Scene preservation,
- Police/DVI requirements

3.10 Contingency planning meets the possible long term requirements of the rescue operation.

Requirements may include:

- Additional resources
- Specialists resources
- Additional and replacement personnel

- 3.11 Communication and information sharing networks include Adviser(s), PLO(S), FHQ, Teams, Field Controller.
- Communication networks may also include local knowledge people, local and neighbouring SAR resource groups specialists groups and Advisers.
 - Regularly brief teams on the status of the operation.
 - Regular SITREPS to Field Headquarters.

Reviews

- 3.12 Regular reviews of the rescue plan in terms of the objectives of the rescue operation.

Factors to consider include:

- Appropriateness of the rescue method(s)
- Use of specialists
- Weather

- 3.13 Reviews of the performance of the Key Rescue Personnel, Team Leaders and Teams are undertaken to identify assistance or intervention as required.

The review may include factors such as:

- Stress, fatigue, ongoing suitability where circumstances have changed
- Shift changes
- Reviews of team performance related to areas searched.
- Quality of information received from the Teams
- Personal, Business or Family circumstances.

The review should be undertaken with the assistance of an Adviser

- 3.14 Procedures put in place provides for an effective hand-over of control of the operation to another Rescue Controller.

- *This function will be undertaken by the Adviser(s) and Field Controllers*

- 3.15 Operational recommendations of the NZ Land SAR Organisation are implemented in the SAR operation unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Close Down

- 3.16 Management of the closedown is appropriate for the operation.

- Rescue Teams out of the field and accounted for,
- Rescue site cleared,
- Equipment accounted for.

NB: Use Field Headquarters staff to assist with this phase of the operation.

Part 4 Post-Operational

Participate in the post-operative phase of the SAR operation.

Criteria

4.1a Monitor team members and leaders who have been exposed to trauma or operational stress for indications of the need for counselling.

4.1b Recommend to Adviser(s) and/or Field Control staff counselling services for team members as required.

4.2a Participate in the SAR Operational Management Team review of the operation.

The review may involve other Advisers, Field Controllers and/or experts.

4.3b Participation in the de-brief assists with the information sharing process.

4.4 Within two weeks of the completion/suspension of the operation provide a report to Adviser(s), PLO and Field Controller.

The report should include:

- Outline of the operation,
- Strategies used,
- Information from debriefing of missing subject(s)
- Statistical data,
- Suggestions for improvements,

and be included with the P130 report.

4.5 Perform tasks as delegated at the debrief within the allocated time period.

Part 5 Background Knowledge

Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of SAR structure and terminology.

Criteria

5.1 The operational SAR structure, hierarchy and classes of operation are described.

5.2 The roles of the Land SAR Adviser, Field Controller and Rescue Controller are described.

5.3 Commonly used SAR terms are defined and their use explained.

5.4 Demonstrate a good knowledge of current rescue techniques and available equipment/resources as appropriate.