

New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Incorporated



Pre Operational Standard

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<p>Disclaimer: New Zealand Land Search and Rescue (NZLSAR) wish to advise any reader of this document that it does not constitute a training manual or substitute any training from a suitable instructor. It is intended as a standard for NZLSAR alpine cliff and cave rescue teams in order for them to make informed decisions about safety of their own team. NZLSAR accept no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, or death resulting from the material contained in or omitted from this document.</p>
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Chapter 1 Needs Analysis

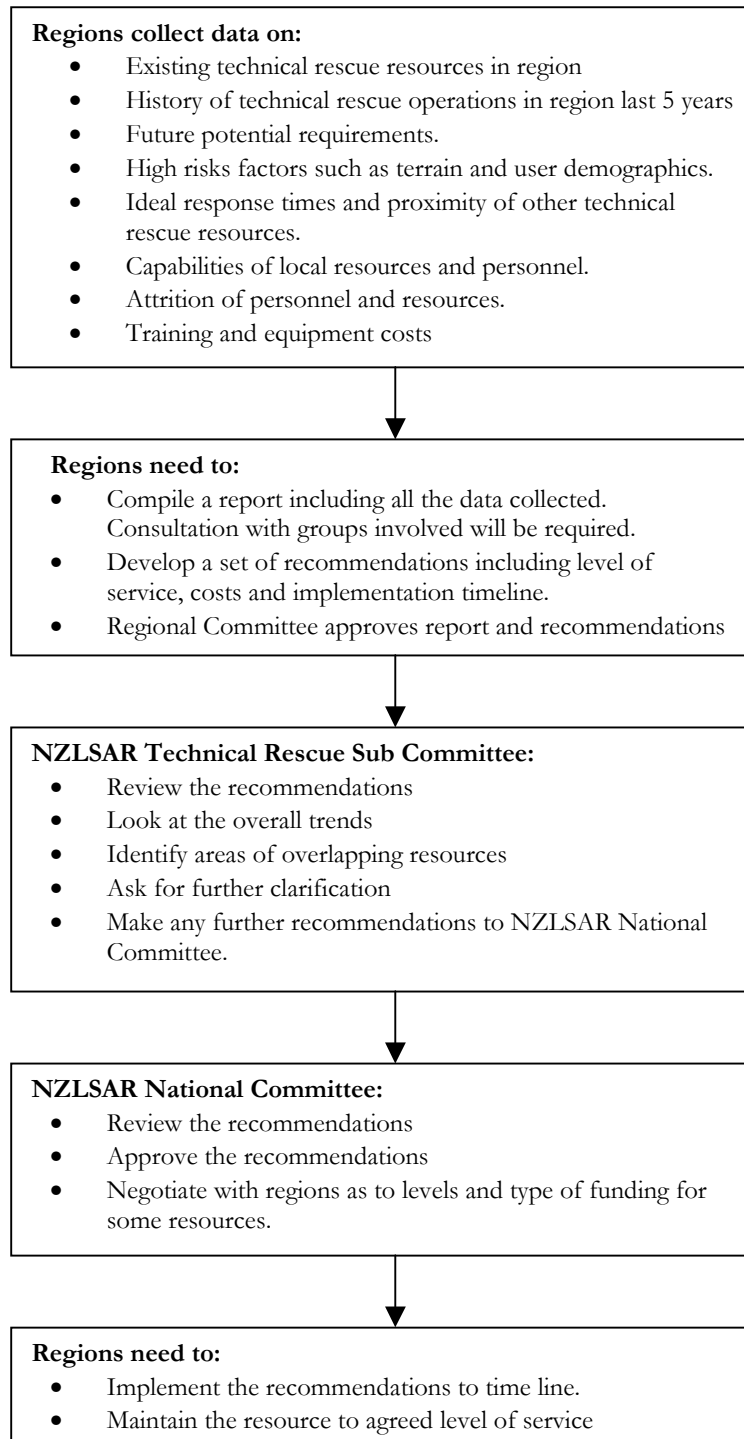
1.1 Introduction

- a. The level of service for Backcountry Technical Rescue in a region is to be appropriate considering the likely responses in the area.
- b. This document should be read in conjunction with other existing NZLSAR standards in particular Rescue Controllers, and Patient Care.
- c. Regional NZLSAR committees are responsible for implementing and maintaining these standards.

1.2 Determine an appropriate level of SAR operational preparedness

- a. The MoU between NZLSAR and NZ Police states “NZLSAR representatives will meet with respective Police District Commanders, or Area Controllers or representatives to discuss key tasks at district or area level. Areas of joint business, where improvements in service delivery can be made, should be identified and incorporated into District or area action plans, with appropriate performance measures. Items of discussion include operational requirements, training, media reports and funding.
- b. It must be recognised that there is a limit to the financial and practical resources available to Search & Rescue in New Zealand. It is therefore essential that comprehensive needs analysis be undertaken to ensure that adequate resources are available to meet anticipated needs, but unnecessary duplication of resources is avoided.
- c. The needs analysis should be undertaken at a regional level, with the combined effort of Police and NZLSAR. Regions should undertake a needs analysis every five years and make recommendations to NZLSAR on operational requirements. These recommendations are to be reviewed by the NZLSAR specialist sub committee and approved by the NZLSAR national committee.
- d. Factors that should be taken into account when undertaking the needs analysis include:
 - Existing technical rescue resources in region
 - History of technical rescue operations in region
 - High risks factors such as terrain and user demographics.
 - Ideal response times and proximity of other technical rescue resources.
 - Capabilities of local resources and personnel.
 - Attrition of personnel and resources.
 - Training and equipment costs required to maintain the various teams to the required standard.
- e. Following a needs analysis and recommendation approval the Region need to implement and maintain the resource to the agreed level.

1.3 Needs analysis flowchart



Chapter 2 Rescue Pre-Planning

2.1 Incident Based

Prepare working rescue plans based on historical data and future trends:

- a. Rescue pre-plans should be prepared based on past events and the likelihood of the events reoccurring.
- b. Events which may be considered when preparing incident based pre-plans may include recreational activities such as climbing, tramping, kayaking, backcountry skiing, and commercial activities such as ski areas, heliskiing, scenic flights, paragliding, rafting and wilderness tours.
- c. Consultation with industry / user groups can assist in identifying risk activities, available resources, and mitigation of risk within these groups

2.2. Locality Based Pre-Planning

Prepare working rescue plans based on local terrain and activities:

- a. Pre-plans should be undertaken for areas of high risk because of terrain, popularity of users, or factors such as remoteness, difficulty moving resources into areas.
- b. What are the emerging trends and activities in the area?
- c. Areas which may be considered when preparing incident based pre-plans may include remote locations such as alpine routes, difficult access areas and high risk locations such as rivers used by commercial white water adventure operators, suicide hot-spots, avalanche incidents and sites where several operations have been undertaken in the past.
- d. Pre-plans should include detailed maps, noting local landmarks and names (e.g. 'Ryans bend') which do not appear on Topo maps, but are familiar to users in the area. These maps should also identify problem hot-spots, access routes and hazards to aircraft.

Chapter 3 Response Parameters

3.1 Size up situation

- a. Incident type.
- b. Location.
- c. Victim status.
- d. Response priority.
- e. Known ground hazards.
- f. Weather conditions.

3.2 Resources

- a. Resources required.
- b. Resource suitability.
- c. Communication.
- d. Backup.

3.3 Incident Management

- a. Who is in charge?
- b. Planning.
- c. Briefing.
- d. Task and supervise.
- e. Financial.

3.4 Field Tactics

- a. Size up.
- b. Planning.
- c. Communication
- d. Re-evaluate.

3.5 Post mission

- a. Mission Suspension considerations.
- b. Demobilisation.
- c. Debriefing.