

NCSSAR GROUND TEAM GUIDELINES

Search Environment Type			
Type 1 Extreme / Complex Terrain Environments	Type 2 Rugged Terrain Environments	Type 3 Moderate / Gentle Terrain Environments	Type 4 Urban Environments
Extreme Conditions (including but not limited to) Altitude (generally 7000+) or Snow, Ice, Desert, Heat, Heavy Ground Cover, Steep difficult terrain.	Rugged Conditions, Altitude generally under 7000', Desert, Heat, Cold, Moderate to Heavy Ground Cover.	Gently Rolling Terrain, Open Spaces, Maintained Trailheads, Agricultural Areas.	High Traffic, Urban Office Complexes, Man-Made Surfaces, Public Interaction and Park Trails.

Team Member Capabilities and Skills

	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4
Member qualified for Area Type	1/2/3/4 Multiple Operational Periods	2/3/4 Single Operational Period	3/4 Limited Deployment	4 Urban Deployment
Operational periods w/o external support	Capable of multiple operational periods, up to 72 hours in the field.	Capable of field assignments up to one day. With the possibility of a night in the field.	Capable of searching for one 12 hour operational period with self support	Capable of searching for one 12 hour operational period without self support
Medical Skills	First Responder	Current First Aid/ Adult/Child/Infant CPR	Current First Aid/ Adult/Child/Infant CPR	Current First Aid/ Adult/Child/Infant CPR
Radio Communications	Member should be familiar with basic radio communication skills. This should include: understanding the use of Mutual Aid Radio Frequencies and basic radio etiquette.	Member should be familiar with basic radio communication skills. This should include: understanding the use of Mutual Aid Radio Frequencies and basic radio etiquette.	Member should be familiar with basic radio communication skills. This should include: understanding the use of Mutual Aid Radio Frequencies and basic radio etiquette.	Member should be familiar with basic radio communication skills. This should include: understanding the use of Mutual Aid Radio Frequencies and basic radio etiquette.
Knowledge of Basic SEMS/ICS	Member should be familiar with the "Standardized Emergency Management System/ICS"	Member should be familiar with the "Standardized Emergency Management System/ICS"	Member should be familiar with the "Standardized Emergency Management System/ICS"	Member should be familiar with the "Standardized Emergency Management System/ICS"
Helicopter Safety	Basic Helicopter Safety Knowledge and familiarity with Loading/ Unloading - Both Hot and Cold Establish LZ Hoist operations	Basic Helicopter Safety Knowledge and familiarity with Loading/ Unloading - Both Hot and Cold Establish LZ Hoist operations	Basic Helicopter Safety Knowledge and familiarity with Loading/ Unloading - Both Hot and Cold Help establish LZ	Basic Helicopter Safety Help establish LZ
Interview Skills Information Handling	Member should be familiar with the handling of sensitive information and basic interview skills when dealing with witnesses and the public.	Member should be familiar with the handling of sensitive information and basic interview skills when dealing with witnesses and the public.	Member should be familiar with the handling of sensitive information and basic interview skills when dealing with witnesses and the public.	Member should be familiar with the handling of sensitive information and basic interview skills when dealing with witnesses and the public.

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Navigation	Determine and communicate position in the field in UTM coordinates; determine position by triangulation using only a map and compass; determine compass bearing to a visible point in the field; determine correct compass heading from one point to another designated on a topo map; select a logical route between two points on a topo map; demonstrate use of a GPS to determine position in both UTM and Lat/Long; enter and go to given UTM coordinates, enter routes and record tracks	Determine and communicate position in the field in UTM coordinates; determine position by triangulation using only a map and compass; determine compass bearing to a visible point in the field; determine correct compass heading from one point to another designated on a topo map; select a logical route between two points on a topo map; demonstrate use of a GPS to determine position in both UTM and Lat/Long; enter and go to given UTM coordinates, enter routes and record tracks	Determine and communicate position in the field in UTM coordinates; determine compass bearing to a visible point in the field; determine correct compass heading from one point to another designated on a topo map; demonstrate use of GPS to determine position and enter and go to given UTM coordinates.	Determine and communicate position in the field in UTM coordinates; determine compass bearing to a visible point in the field; determine correct compass heading from one point to another designated on a topo map; demonstrate use of GPS to determine position and enter and go to given UTM coordinates
Tracking Skills	Clue and track aware with familiarity in use of tracking tools, sign-cutting, and three man team.	Clue and track aware with familiarity in use of tracking tools.	Clue and track aware.	Clue and track aware.
Fitness	Fitness Test Type 1 Overnight	Fitness Test Type 2 --8 mile hike with 20# pack (excluding water) 500' elevation gain in under 3 hrs	Fitness Test Type 3 --8 mile hike with 20# pack (excluding water) 100' elevation gain in under 3 ½ hrs	Fitness Test Type 4 --4 mile hike with 10# pack (excluding water) in under 2 hours
Rough Terrain/Rope Skills	Basic Low Angle Skills; Packaging and litter work. Basic raising and lowering skills.	Basic Low Angle Skills; Packaging and litter work. Awareness of raising and lowering skills.	Basic knots. Assist with packaging and litter work.	Basic knots. Assist with packaging and litter work.
Crime Scene Protection and Clue Awareness	Member should be familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation, and basic search tactics.	Member should be familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation, and basic search tactics	Member should be familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation, and basic search tactics	Member should be familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation, and basic search tactics.
Pack Requirements	72 hour pack	24 hour pack	Day pack	Day pack
Winter Survival	Winter overnight for snow search certification. Classroom/gear check	Winter survival		
Personal Safety Training	Blood borne pathogens Search safety	Blood borne pathogens Search safety	Blood borne pathogens Search safety	Blood borne pathogens Search safety

Type 1 certification can be obtained for both all weather conditions and for non snow searches.