

NCSSAR MOUNTED 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 Period	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	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.

NCSSAR MOUNTED TEAM GUIDELINES

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
Rope Skills	Basic Low Angle Skills; Packaging and litter work. Awareness of 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	Personal safety day pack
Winter Survival	Winter overnight 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

Recommended Capabilities and Skills				
	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4
Can be deployed to Environment Type	1/2/3/4	2/3/4	3 /4	4
Transportation	Suitable tow vehicle & horse trailer combination to be maintained in good working order.	Suitable tow vehicle & horse trailer combination to be maintained in good working order.	Suitable tow vehicle & horse trailer combination to be maintained in good working order.	Suitable tow vehicle & horse trailer combination to be maintained in good working order.
Horse/Rider	Annual successful completion of basic skills, see below **	Annual successful completion of basic skills, see below **	Annual successful completion of basic skills, see below **	Annual successful completion of basic skills, see below **
Rider – Search Skills	Have ability to modify traditional ground search techniques to mounted search environment	Have ability to modify traditional ground search techniques to mounted search environment	Have ability to modify traditional ground search techniques to mounted search environment	Have ability to modify traditional ground search techniques to mounted search environment

NCSSAR MOUNTED TEAM GUIDELINES

Rider – knowledge to administer first aid to horse	Recognize animal distress & either provide emergency treatment or summon appropriate assistance.	Recognize animal distress & either provide emergency treatment or summon appropriate assistance.	Recognize animal distress & either provide emergency treatment or summon appropriate assistance.	Recognize animal distress & either provide emergency treatment or summon appropriate assistance.
Equipment - Rider	Mission suitable attire, minimally: heeled riding shoes/boots, long pants, hat, cap or helmet, gloves, flashlight.	Mission suitable attire, minimally: heeled riding shoes/boots, long pants, hat, cap or helmet, gloves, flashlight.	Mission suitable attire, minimally: heeled riding shoes/boots, long pants, hat, cap or helmet, gloves, flashlight.	Mission suitable attire, minimally: heeled riding shoes/boots, long pants, hat, cap or helmet, gloves, flashlight.
Horse Fitness	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and missions.	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and missions.	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and missions.	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and missions.
Equipment - Horse	Mission suitable tack minimally: saddle, bridle, halter, lead rope, hoof pick, horseman knife. Food/water ***	Mission suitable tack minimally: saddle, bridle, halter, lead rope, hoof pick, horseman knife. Food/water ***	Mission suitable tack minimally: saddle, bridle, halter, lead rope, hoof pick, horseman knife. Food/water ***	Mission suitable tack minimally: saddle, bridle, halter, lead rope, hoof pick, horseman knife. Food/water ***

NOTE: All Mounted SAR teams are presumed to be self sufficient, with regards to their horses, for up to 72 hours. This is true when teams are returning to base camp in between operational periods. This includes food, limited water and horse related supplies. Depending on the duration/conditions of the mission requesting agencies should be prepared to provide a water source. This may be any domestic water source (creeks, ponds, water trucks, etc.)

**** Basic Skills Objective:** To provide a safe and reliable resource for Mounted Search and Rescue Operations. These qualifications for horse and rider (as a team) are to include, but are not limited to the following: It is recommended horse and rider qualify annually.

SAFETY:

- * Horses must NOT exhibit the following behaviors: kicking, biting, rearing or bucking. Any horse that has a tendency toward any of these behaviors is NOT suitable for SAR work of any kind.
- * Riders must demonstrate control of the horse at all times.
- * The horse must be sound and in good health.
- * Horses must be deemed calm and steady.

NCSSAR MOUNTED TEAM GUIDELINES

GROUND MANNERS:

- * Ties and does not pull back
 - * Leads
 - * Leads and can be led by another horse and rider
 - * Loads and unloads from ramp and step-up style trailers
 - * Allows all feet to be picked up without resistance
 - * Rider can mount/dismount horse, from ground, on either side
- * Exhibits good ground manners

MANNERS UNDER SADDLE:

- * Neck or direct reins without resistance
- * Stands calmly
- * Walks, jogs, lopes, and stops under control
- * Side passes to left and right
- * Backs a pattern without resistance
- * Compatible with other horses

TRAIL MANNERS:

- * Crosses over and thru water calmly
- * Crosses bridges
- * Safely negotiates trail obstacles
- * Leaves and returns to a group alone
- * Can calmly negotiate varied terrain
- * Stands calmly while rider opens and closes gates
- * Calmly accepts and performs for another rider as needed
- * Is able to carry essential supplies for mission

SENSORY:

The horse will remain under the control of the rider in the following situations: around boxes, papers, plastic, boards, flags, balloons, flares, firecrackers, markers, ribbons, flagging tape, strollers, dogs, bicycles, motorbikes, emergency vehicles, aircraft and various noises.

NCSSAR MOUNTED TEAM GUIDELINES

The horse will also remain under the rider's control when the rider is giving/receiving items from someone on the ground. And, will allow the rider to put on or remove articles of clothing while mounted.

*** Depending on the weather/terrain/mission the following equipment items are recommended: Emergency shoeing supplies, emergency vet kit, picket line, hobbles, fence pliers, collapsible bucket, easy boot, limb saw, leather-man type tool, bug spray, emergency blanket.

**** Recommended first aid supplies and wound management information:

Cotton roll	Roll gauze
Vetrap	Elastikon
Duct tape	Telfa pads (4x4)
Betadine scrub	Betadine solution or Nolvasan solution
Water soluble antibiotic/ointments (nitrofuvasin)	Hoof pick
Pliers	Sharp scissors
Hemostats	Flashlight w/spare batteries
Thermometer	Stethoscope
Bucket	