

# WASHINGTON STATE SEARCH AND RESCUE

## *Search and Rescue Emergency Worker Core Competency Criteria*



Revision Number: 2011-080

## Washington State SEARCH AND RESCUE CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

*The purpose of this document is to establish a standardized set of core competencies for Ground/Land Search and Rescue volunteers in Washington State. Additionally this document establishes a process for changes, modifications, and updates of the state core competency. It needs to be noted that core competencies are by their nature living documents and processes, which will require review and modifications as protocols and best practices change and are formally accepted.*

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 100 OBJECTIVES**

Establish minimum standardized core competencies and associated levels of training for search and rescue volunteers involved in search and rescue operations in Washington State. Additionally, to provide each Sheriff or Police Chief with a body of professional, trained, and qualified searchers to accomplish the mission of search and rescue.

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 101 DEFINITIONS**

Word or Acronym	Definition
WA-ST-SAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington State Search and Rescue (RCW 38,52.010, 38.52.400, 38.52.410)</li> </ul>
AED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An Automated External Defibrillator or AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a subject . Training courses need to be conducted on the operation and functions of an AED (American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or Washington State Department of Labor and Industries recognized AED training program).</li> </ul>
Authorized Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Authorized official" means the adjutant general of the Washington military department or designee, director of the state emergency management division or designee, the director or designee of a local emergency management agency, the chief law enforcement officer or designee of a political subdivision, or other such officials as identified in the search and rescue annex or emergency support function of a local comprehensive emergency management plan.(WAC 118-04-060)</li> </ul>
AFRCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center</li> </ul>
Blood Bourne Pathogens (BBP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The successful completion of a basic course of instruction in blood borne pathogens by a recognized organization (i.e. American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and Washington State as a recognized blood borne pathogens training program).</li> </ul>
C.A.P.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Civil Air Patrol</li> </ul>

Word or Acronym	Definition
Certified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Having successfully passed all testing and demonstrated performance objectives outlined in this document for mission deployable SAR personnel.</li> </ul>
EMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department</li> </ul>
Emergency Worker Card (EWC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emergency workers shall register in their jurisdiction of residence or in the jurisdiction where their volunteer organization is headquartered by completing and filing an emergency worker registration card, Form EMD-024 or equivalent, with the local emergency management agency. WAC 118-04-080</li> </ul>
ESAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explorer Search and Rescue – Boy Scouts of America program.</li> </ul>
Evidence Search (Mission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Evidence search" means an unscheduled, nonemergency training activity utilizing emergency worker skills to look for evidentiary material resulting from criminal activity.</li> </ul>
Field Team or Field Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teams or Units personnel that are involved in SAR field operations.</li> </ul>
First Aid/CPR Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The card issued after successful completion of a course of instruction in first aid and cardio pulmonary resuscitation by a recognized organization (i.e. American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and recognized by Washington State as a recognized first aid program).</li> </ul>
ICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incident Command System (ICS) ICS: Is a personnel management structure through which disaster response is controlled. The system allows the development of a command chain of any size that can include government agencies and non-governmental organizations alike.</li> </ul>
Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Mission" means a distinct assignment of personnel and equipment to achieve a set of tasks related to an incident, emergency, disaster, or search and rescue operation that occurs under the direction and control of a local authorized official. WAC 118-04-060</li> </ul>
NASAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Association of Search and Rescue</li> </ul>
NIMS	<p>National Incident Management System (NIMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NIMS: The organization through which disaster management is coordinated. NIMS is designed to prepare for, prevent, and manage response to emergency and disaster situations, and to coordinate emergency response disaster responders on the local, state and federal levels.</li> </ul>
On Scene Command and Control Radio – OSSCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On Scene Command and Control Radio frequency (i.e. OSCCR – REDNET- V-CALL – V-TAC {List is not an inclusive list}</li> </ul>
Performance Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exercises that measure an individual's skill at performing specified tasks, or to determine if the student has a certain body of knowledge.</li> </ul>
RCW or Revised Code of Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revised Code of Washington – Specifically RCW 38.52 which defines the responsibilities for search and rescue.</li> </ul>

Word or Acronym	Definition
Responder Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Field</b> - A responder who is fully certified to general field operations.</li> <li>▪ <b>Limited Field</b> – A responder who regularly leaves base for operations, but remains on a road, in a vehicle or at a checkpoint on a road.</li> <li>▪ <b>Novice</b> – A responder who has met the “basic” training requirements and has no field or operational experience or training.</li> <li>▪ <b>Support</b> – A responder who operates in base and has a SAR function.</li> </ul>
SARVAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council</li> </ul>
Search and Rescue Coordinator (SAR Coordinator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The person designated by the chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision, to coordinate the search and rescue program.</li> </ul>
Search and Rescue Member (SAR Member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An individual who is a member of an officially recognized search and rescue team or unit.</li> </ul>
Search and Rescue Team or Unit (SAR Team or Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A group of Search and Rescue personnel who are officially recognized by a County Sheriff or Police Chief.</li> </ul>
Sheriff or Police Chief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision shall be responsible for local search and rescue activities. Operation of search and rescue activities shall be in accordance with state and local operations plans adopted by the elected governing body of each local political subdivision. These state and local plans must specify the use of the incident command system for multiagency/multijurisdictional search and rescue operations. (RCW 38.52.400)</li> </ul>
Sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The discoverable physical evidence of the passage or presence of a person.</li> </ul>
Support Team or Support Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teams or Units personnel that are involved in support of field operations.</li> </ul>
Training Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training event" means a planned, nonemergency activity for the development, maintenance, or upgrading of emergency worker skills. WAC 118-04-060</li> </ul>
WAC (Washington Administrative Code)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington Administrative Code – Specifically WAC 118.04 which defines emergency workers and the indemnifications provided to emergency workers.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
WASPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs</li> </ul>
WESAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington Explorer Search and Rescue</li> </ul>
WSDOT – Aviation Search and Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington State Department of Transportation – Aviation Division – Jurisdiction for Air Search and Rescue – RCW 47.68.380.</li> </ul>
WSSARCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington State Search and Rescue Coordinators Association</li> </ul>

**Note: The noted definitions and acronyms apply to this document.**

**Note: If NIMS, FEMA, or other governing organizations add terminology or definitions those definitions or terminology will be added or cross-referenced in this document.**

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 101 MINIMUM CORE COMPETENCY**

**To obtain and maintain the Washington State Search and Rescue basic certification, each member must:**

- Possess a valid First Aid/CPR/BBP card.
- Possess a valid State Drivers License (if eligible to operate a motor vehicle in Washington State) or a valid state issued identification card. If eligible to operate a motor vehicle they must also obtain motor vehicle insurance that satisfies Washington State insurance requirements. If operating a personally owned motor vehicle (POV) said vehicle must meet any and all Washington State motor vehicle requirements.
- \* *Reference RCW 46.04.670, RCW 46.30.010, 020, 030, and 040, RCW 46.20.001, 005, and 017 \**
- Successfully complete all performance objective skill tests and achieve a minimum score of 70% on written exams for tested areas of the Core Competency.
- Successfully complete;
  - FEMA IS-100-B
  - FEMA IS-700-A
  - Any other federal, state, or local training requirement that is defined as needed by the sponsoring jurisdiction.
- Possess an emergency worker card authorized by the chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision responsible for local search and rescue missions where the member's SAR team is based and registered (per WAC 118.04).
- Attend annually twenty-four (24) hours or more of continuing education, approved by the chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision, each year, in subjects related to search and rescue.
- Eight (8) hours of the annual continuing education may be done during a SAR mission or on supervised and approved (approved by the chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision) "mock" or "practice" search and rescue training operation.
- All field, limited field, novice, and support SAR volunteers must wear clothing appropriate to their assigned task. Clothing must be appropriate to terrain, location (particular attention to traffic and railroad hazards needs to be maintained), and weather conditions of the SAR volunteers assigned duty area, task assignment area, and mission objectives (hi-vis, rain gear, wool clothing would be considered appropriate).
  - Clothing is defined as shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and jackets ([for the purpose of this document](#)).
  - Clothing should clearly identify the person wearing it as a "Search and Rescue Volunteer".
  - Clothing should be red, yellow, or orange in color.

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 102 PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE TESTS**

Certification; each applicant must successfully complete all performance objective skill tests. Performance objective skill tests measure the applicants' ability to perform a given task. These tests may be taken as many times as necessary to successfully demonstrate the ability to accomplish the given task. The applicants' successful completion of a task should be marked on an evaluation form as "demonstrated".

The applicants' failure to properly complete a given task should be marked as "needs improvement" until the applicant can successfully complete said task.

The Sheriff or Chief Law Enforcement officer for the County or political sub division may require a higher standard if they choose. (**WAC 118-04-120**)

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 103 WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

Applicants must pass written exams with a minimum score of 70%, for each area requiring testing (i.e. navigation, survival skills, etc.). The exam shall be administered by the "authorized official", or designee, for the political sub division in which the applicant has his or her emergency worker card. The exam may be developed by the state or the local jurisdiction in conjunction with SARVAC's and WSSARCA's core competency exam team. Challenge exams and equivalence exams may be developed by local jurisdictions or recognized statewide organizations with review and approval by the SARVAC and WSSARCA core competency exam team.

The exam must cover all areas listed in the core competencies, which require written testing and evaluation.

Statewide organizations or counties recognized by SARVAC and WSSARCA core competency committee may apply for training and testing equivalence (*statewide/national organizations may be but are not limited too; WESAR, MRA, NASAR, CAP, ARES, WSDOT Aviation Search and Rescue program, etc*). Equivalence in this context means they have shown written and performance standards on an individual basis that are equal to or exceed the core competencies contained in this document and proceeding Washington State SAR core competency documents.

Statewide organizations or counties recognized by SARVAC and WSSARCA core competency committee may apply for a testing challenge process (*statewide/national organizations may be but are not limited too; WESAR, MRA, NASAR, CAP, ARES, WSDOT Aviation Search and Rescue program, etc*). Challenge process in this context means they have written and performance testing process on an individual basis equal to or exceeding the core competencies contained in this document.

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 104 EMERGENCY WORKER CARD**

Applicants who successfully meet all requirements, local and Washington State, may be issued a Washington State Emergency Worker card (form EMD-024 or equivalent) signed by the local "Authorized Official" (*see definitions and WAC 118-04-060 and WAC 118-04-080 for definitions*) indicating the emergency worker card holder is qualified as a search and rescue emergency worker.

The "Authorized Official" (*see definitions and WAC 118-04 for definition*) for the County or political sub division issuing the emergency worker card may revoke the card at his or her discretion for cause or failure to meet local and Washington State requirements for search and rescue or maintaining their search and rescue qualifications.

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 105 ENFORCEMENT OF CORE COMPETENCY**

The Chief Law Enforcement Officer of each political subdivision should endeavor to implement the core competencies as set forth in this document. The Chief Law Enforcement Officer, "Authorized Official" shall submit upon request, to Washington Emergency Management Search and Rescue Program Manager, an annual report. This report should be submitted within 45 days of the formal request.

Throughout the year, the Chief Law Enforcement Officer may certify additional personnel; however, only one report may be requested per year.

Each "authorized official" of a political subdivision should attempt to use only personnel who have successfully completed a training course that meets or exceeds the minimum core competencies as outlined in this document. Exception would be the use of "temporary registered emergency workers" per **WAC 118.04.080**.

Search and Rescue units should comply with all local, state and federal ordinances, regulations and laws that govern search and rescue activities.

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 106 ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

In addition to the minimum core competencies outlined here, some SAR members may need and some Chief Law Enforcement Officers may require SAR members operating in their jurisdictions to possess additional specialized training (*WAC 118-04-120*). SAR members may need to meet certification core competencies for their specialty. Nothing listed in the minimum core competencies shall be construed so as to limit or replace the certification requirements of any specialty unit.

These specialty areas may include but are not limited to; mountain rescue, K-9, water rescue, swift water, whitewater, rope rescue, technical rescue, man tracking, ELT/PLB location, all terrain vehicles (ATV), snowmobiles, mounted or horse units, and 2 and 4 wheel drive (*note this list is not inclusive of all search and rescue specialties*).

▪ **WA-ST-SAR – 107 CERTIFICATION AND RE-CERTIFICATION OF CORE COMPETENCY**

Upon approval and ratification of the Washington State Basic SAR Core Competencies SAR members will begin the process of certification. SAR members who have been recognized and accepted by the chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision responsible for local search and rescue activities will have thirty-six (36) months 3 years to become fully certified initially.

Every five years after the initial three year certification period SAR members will need to re-certify. Certification and re-certification is based on core competencies contained in this document and any preceding core competency documents.

Certification and re-certification may be accomplished by completion of a task book process. They can also be accomplished by a challenge testing process, or the completion of an approved equivalence training courses (basic training academy).

▪ **WA-ST-SAR - 108 REVISION OF CORE COMPETENCY**

Revision to core competency shall be presented in writing to the Core Competency Review Committee of SARVAC and WSSARCA for review and evaluation. The Core Competency Review Committee shall be a joint committee with members from SARVAC and WSSARCA.

The process timeline for revisions to the Washington State Search and Rescue Core Competencies shall be as follows;

- Proposed changes need to be submitted to the SARVAC/WSSARCA core competency committee by no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- The SARVAC/WSSARCA core competency committee shall review and make a formal recommendation to SARVAC and WSSARCA governing bodies by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Changes to the ratified and accepted core competencies may be presented for review at the Washington State Search and Rescue Conference.
- The approved recommendations shall be forwarded to WASPC or Washington State Sheriff's Association by no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for formal acceptance.

Recommended core competencies will be presented to the Search and Rescue Coordinator of Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) and to the Washington State Sheriffs' Association.

The recommendations may be reviewed and voted on by WASPC or Washington State Sheriff's Association. The vote may be prior to implementation of any change.

Changes will have a Forty-five (45) day formal review and comment period.

**\*\*\* Note: Refer to attachment B for the diagram of the revision process.**



**Ratification**

Reviewed and dated by the appropriate representatives of the following listed parties.

**Washington State Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council - SARVAC**

Signed: W. O. (Bill) Gillespie – SARVAC President (signature on original document on file)

Date: 02/08/2012

**Washington State Search and Rescue Coordinators Association - WSSARCA**

Signed: George Ratayczak – WSSARCA President (signature on original document on file)

Date: 02/10/2012

**Washington Emergency Management Division of the Military Department - EMD**

Signed: Chris Long – Wash State SAR Program Coordinator (signature on original document on file)

Date: 02/08/2012

**Washington Sheriffs' Association or Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs**

Signed: Sheriff Dave Brown – President WSSA (signature on original document on file)  
Sheriff Sue Rahr – President WASPC (signature on original document on file)

Date: 02/08/2012

**PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written statements, formal application processes, and verbal statements the applicant must attest to being physically and mentally capable of performing assigned mission task.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SAR volunteer must in the initial application process attest to being;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physically capable of performing assigned duties and task.</li> <li>▪ Mentally capable for assigned duties and task.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Annually SAR volunteers must attest to being;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physically capable of performing all assigned task for their level of training.</li> <li>▪ Mentally capable of performing any all duly assigned task for their level of training.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. SAR volunteers must inform the “authorized official” of any;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physical impairments that may impact their ability to perform assigned mission task.</li> <li>▪ Mental impairments that may impact their ability to perform assigned mission task.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>** Reference WAC118-04-200 **</b></p>

**LEGAL ISSUES**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the legal issues involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Under Washington State law who is responsible for search and rescue (SAR) missions.</li> <li>2. A search area may be restricted, and who may restrict the search area and for what reason may an area be restricted.</li> <li>3. The basic elements of <i>RCW 38.52.180</i> and <i>38.52.410</i>.</li> <li>4. The limitations of the Good Samaritan Law <i>RCW 4.24.300</i>.</li> <li>5. The elements of “Duty to Act” for a SAR volunteer.</li> <li>6. The elements afforded to volunteers under WAC 118.04 pertaining to;                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Claims</li> <li>b) Indemnification afforded volunteers</li> <li>c) Limitations of the afforded indemnification</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## SEARCH AND RESCUE SURVIVAL SKILLS AND SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the survival skills required in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clothing worn by SAR volunteers for their assigned SAR operations must be appropriate for conditions encountered on the mission.</li> <li>2. What actions should be taken when mission personnel become lost or injured?</li> <li>3. The three elements of fire.</li> <li>4. Minimum hydration requirements for SAR mission personnel.</li> <li>5. Methods of water purification and their effectiveness.</li> <li>6. Fundamentals of survival in a non-urban environment.</li> </ol>

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance demonstration the applicant will demonstrate survival skills and equipment:</b></p> <p><i>(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i>  <i><u>Does Not Apply to:</u></i>  <i><u>Support Responders or Limited Field Responders.</u></i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build a fire using materials found in the field and carried in a mission ready pack/kit. The fire must be constructed in a manner that will provide personal warmth; or team warmth; or warmth for a found subject for 8 to 12 hours (fire or stove - local regulations will be the guidance factor).</li> <li>2. Identify fuel for fire to provide heat and location identification for 12 to 24 hours, fuel sources must be from the field.</li> <li>3. Heat and provide warm fluids to a team member and/or the found subject (fire or stove - local regulations will be the guidance factor).</li> <li>4. Use any three (3) emergency signaling methods, plus one (1) emergency aircraft signaling method.</li> <li>5. Deploy and erect a shelter that is well marked and visible to nearby searchers, durable enough to protect from wind, rain, or snow, using materials carried in a mission ready pack/kit and/or found in the field. Shelter must be sustainable for 12 to 18 hours for the SAR member, members, or subject.</li> <li>6. Locate or identify alternate shelter (natural or other field sources of shelter).</li> <li>7. The equipment needed for emergency pack/kit and describe their use (county specific list of equipment), the trainee will be asked to remove certain specified items and describe their use. (Reference county SAR field operations guide or county SAR specific protocol for equipment).</li> <li>8. Tie three (3) basic knots of the five listed in the training.</li> </ol>

**RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the communications issues involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The difference between a frequency and a channel.</li> <li>2. The function of a repeater.</li> <li>3. The function and operation of a manual relay.</li> <li>4. The importance of keeping batteries warm during cold weather.</li> <li>5. A basic knowledge of radio performance and the effects that terrain, distance, and structures have on radio communications.</li> <li>6. A basic knowledge of radio plain "English" and associated procedures.</li> <li>7. A basic knowledge of the county's inter-unit and intra-unit communications procedures, protocols, and frequency's.</li> <li>8. Determine the orientation for best radio wave transmission and reception.</li> </ol>

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>The applicant will demonstrate the ability to identify the following components on a Search and Rescue radio:</b></p> <p><i>(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the Push-to-Talk switch.</li> <li>2. Identify the Channel/Frequency selector.</li> <li>3. Change the radio's batteries.</li> <li>4. Turn the radio on select radio frequency as identified in the communications briefing (ICS 205).</li> <li>5. Select the channel as requested by search command (frequency change).</li> <li>6. Change radio channel or frequency to a predefined frequency.</li> <li>7. Select state SAR frequency and a command and control frequency (either a county specific or state-wide incident command and control frequency – {i.e. OSCCR –V-TAC – V-CALL}).</li> </ol>

**LAND NAVIGATION**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of land navigation involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the different types of maps used in SAR.</li> <li>2. Identify the primary coordinate systems in use today.</li> <li>3. Identify a location on a map using Latitude and Longitude (degrees – minutes - decimal minutes).</li> <li>4. Identify a location on a map using UTM/USNG.</li> <li>5. Define the difference between True and Magnetic north.</li> <li>6. Identify the relevance of Datum and coordinate systems</li> <li>7. Identify the advantages and limitations of GPS.</li> <li>8. Define several advantages and disadvantages of the different map coordinate systems.</li> <li>9. Determine the elevation of a point on a map.</li> <li>10. The coordinate system most commonly used by aircraft and maritime vessels.</li> <li>11. Identify 10 common map symbols.</li> <li>12. Identify the components of a compass.</li> </ol>

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to</b></p> <p><i>(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i></p> <p><u><i>Numbers 11 thru 12 - Do Not Apply to Support or Limited Field Responders.</i></u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Orient a map, compensating for declination.</li> <li>2. Use a scale to measure distance on a map.</li> <li>3. Identify five elements of the legend on a topographic map.</li> <li>4. Read contour lines on a topographic map and identify their relationship to physical objects on the ground.</li> <li>5. Plot a bearing on a map.</li> <li>6. Plot their location using a map and compass</li> <li>7. Determine the bearing between two points and the back azimuth on a map.</li> <li>8. Adjust for declination (compass).</li> <li>9. Demonstrate the ability to take a bearing on a selected object, expressing it in both true and magnetic degrees (compass).</li> <li>10. Plot a coordinate using the primary coordinate system in your area of operation (lat/long, UTM, National Grid).</li> <li>11. Demonstrate the ability to navigate between four (4) selected points in your primary search area for a minimum distance of .5 mile (or 1/2 mile) with no more than four (4) degrees of deviation (using the appropriate tools, i.e. compass, map, GPS).</li> <li>12. Demonstrate the ability to navigate around an obstacle blocking your selected path while staying on course (compass).</li> </ol>

**GPS OPERATION**

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:</b></p> <p><i>(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mark, edit, and delete a waypoint in a GPS receiver.</li> <li>2. Change the batteries of a GPS receiver.</li> <li>3. Change coordinate systems and datum with in a GPS unit.</li> <li>4. Turn on a GPS and acquire a coordinate that accurately represents your location.</li> <li>5. Set their GPS for True North</li> </ol>

**CRIME SCENE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the crime scene identification and management involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What to do when evidence of a crime or a deceased person is located.</li> <li>2. Techniques used to secure a crime scene.</li> <li>3. Who is allowed into a crime scene, and who has control of the scene.</li> <li>4. When a searcher may pick up or disturb possible evidence.</li> <li>5. The relationship of RCW 68.50 to a crime scene.</li> <li>6. Understand the specific requirements of notification as contained in RCW 68.50.</li> <li>7. What types of search methods are used for a crime scene, and the reasons they are used.</li> </ol>

**SEARCH ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the search organization and management involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ground team's position in the ICS structure and organization chart.</li> <li>2. The five functional sections of the ICS structure.</li> <li>3. The purpose of the assignment briefing and debriefing.</li> <li>4. The function of the Medical Team Leader and Communications Team Leader.</li> <li>5. The function of check in and out procedures</li> <li>6. Understand the role and functions provided by Public Information Officer (PIO) in reference to a SAR mission, and the public, news media, and other agencies.</li> </ol>

**CLUE AWARENES AND IDENTIFICATION**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the clue awareness and identification involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define the types of clues for a search and rescue operation.</li> <li>2. The elements of sign and how to protect and preserve them.</li> <li>3. The definition of "sign": <u>the discoverable physical evidence of the passage or presence of a person.</u></li> </ol>

**SEARCH TECHNIQUES**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the search techniques involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The elements of the four (4) types of searches</li> <li>2. Three passive &amp; active search methods.</li> <li>3. The importance of staying on assigned task as given by the Incident Command.</li> <li>4. The reasons why searchers look for clues as well as the subject (list at least 4).</li> <li>5. What to do when a clue is located.</li> <li>6. The elements of a sound sweep search.</li> <li>7. Describe three elements of "Critical Separation".</li> <li>8. The advantages and disadvantages of searching at night.</li> <li>9. The concept and use of;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ POA (probability of area)</li> <li>➤ POD (probability of detection)</li> <li>➤ IPP (initial planning point)</li> <li>➤ LKP (last known position)</li> <li>➤ PLS (point last seen)</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:</b></p> <p><i>(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i>  <u><i>Does Not Apply to Support or Limited Field Responders.</i></u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To determine "Critical Separation" in at least two different environments, i.e. wooded and open areas.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate the ability to route search;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Critical Separation (CS) for a prone adult body, wide on either side of the route and 50 yards long in ten (10) minutes. Nine to ten clothing objects, suitable to the adult body reference, and one (1) object representing an adult subject should be placed in the search area. A reasonable percentage of detection is expected and any adult body should be found (30% to 50%).</li> <li>➤ Demonstrate effective evidence searching critical separation (CS) for small caliber cartridge cases, for an area 50 feet long, in open grass area such as a ball field with 1 to 2 inch high grass. Twenty (20) cases should be placed with the expectation of finding 15 casings in 10 minutes</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Locate, preserve and document potential clues/evidence in a given search area.</li> </ol>



**SUBJECT / SEARCHER FIRST AID**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of subject/searcher first aid involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The symptoms, treatment, and methods of prevention of hypothermia.</li> <li>2. The symptoms, treatment, and methods of prevention of frostbite.</li> <li>3. The three ways in which heat is transferred away from the body.</li> <li>4. The four ways heat is transferred to the body.</li> <li>5. The symptoms, treatment, and methods of prevention of hyperthermia.</li> <li>6. The importance of hydration in hot and cold climates.</li> <li>7. Methods to control bleeding.</li> <li>8. Methods of limb immobilization (splinting).</li> </ol>

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:</b></p> <p><i>These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Properly assess patient's medical status within the scope of training.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate 2 methods to control bleeding.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate the method to immobilize a fracture of the upper and lower arm.</li> <li>4. Demonstrate the method to immobilize a fracture of the ankle.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate method to prepare a subject for litter evacuation.</li> </ol>

**SEARCHER SAFETY**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of searcher safety involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Common weather hazards for the region that they typically operate.</li> <li>2. Situational awareness of a defined search area or areas. The searcher must be able to explain the GAR (green-amber-red) individual and team safety system and processes used to arrive at which level of searcher safety is being assigned to the assigned task and search area.</li> <li>3. Searching on private property, searcher safety level assignment (GAR) and awareness.</li> <li>4. Avalanche/Winter searcher safety level assignment (GAR) and awareness.</li> <li>5. Water safety and searcher safety level assignment (GAR) and awareness.</li> <li>6. Searcher fatigue</li> <li>7. Identify basic searcher safety priorities, contained in a briefing and the IAP.</li> </ol>

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:</b></p> <p><i>These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the area for safety issues and concerns and the safety of a searcher, found subject, team members, or injured team member.</li> <li>2. Identify which level of searcher safety is being defined for the area of the search assignment (GAR). Identify what environmental or weather hazards are being considered in the searcher safety assessment and safety level assignment.</li> <li>3. Identify and assign a safety level (GAR) for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Single Searcher and a single subject (unhurt - moderate weather – moderate terrain)</li> <li>▪ Multiple searchers and no subject (moderate weather – wilderness terrain)</li> <li>▪ Multiple searchers and 2 subjects (injured – injuries severe – wilderness terrain – severe weather)</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

**HELICOPTER SAFETY**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through written evaluation the applicant will demonstrate knowledge of the helicopter safety involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define the basic requirements for a LZ or heliport.</li> <li>2. Define five (5) basic general helicopter safety elements.</li> <li>3. When and how to properly approach and depart a helicopter.</li> </ol>

**RESCUE TECHNIQUES**

Requirement	Field - Performance Criteria
<p><b>Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:</b></p> <p><i>These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)</i>  <u><i>Does Not Apply to Support or Limited Field Responders.</i></u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the area for safety and safe methods to access a found subject or injured team member.</li> <li>2. Properly assess a subject's status (medical, location, readiness for transport) within your scope of training.</li> <li>3. Properly prepare a subject for litter transport/evacuation (per local protocols/standards).</li> <li>4. Secure the subject into a litter and transport the litter safely as a member of a litter team. The litter team will transport the loaded litter over, under and around obstacles for a minimum of ¼ mile.</li> </ol>

## WA-ST-SAR-108 Appendix A – Additional First Aid and Medical Accreditation Programs

- First Aid / Emergency Medical – Programs Recognized – If the county chooses to use and implement these programs –

★ The list below is not inclusive, it is simply for reference. ★

- First Aid American Red Cross (First Aid, CPR, BBP)
  - First Aid American Heart Association (First Aid, CPR, BBP)
  - American Red Cross – Wilderness First Aid
  - MOFA – American Red Cross Mountaineering Oriented First Aid
  - NOLS - Advanced First Aid
  - NOLS - Wilderness EMT
  - Wilderness First Responder (Approved Provider)
  - Wilderness EMT (Approved Provider)
  - Outdoor Emergency Care – National Ski Patrol
- State Certified EMS Providers
    - First Responder / Emergency Medical Responder
    - EMT – B
    - Paramedic
  - Note First Aid (FA), Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP), and Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) classes need to be from a Washington State recognized, certified, and credentialed organization and/or provider.

## WA-ST-SAR-108 Appendix B – Note on Core competency Committee Structure

### Note

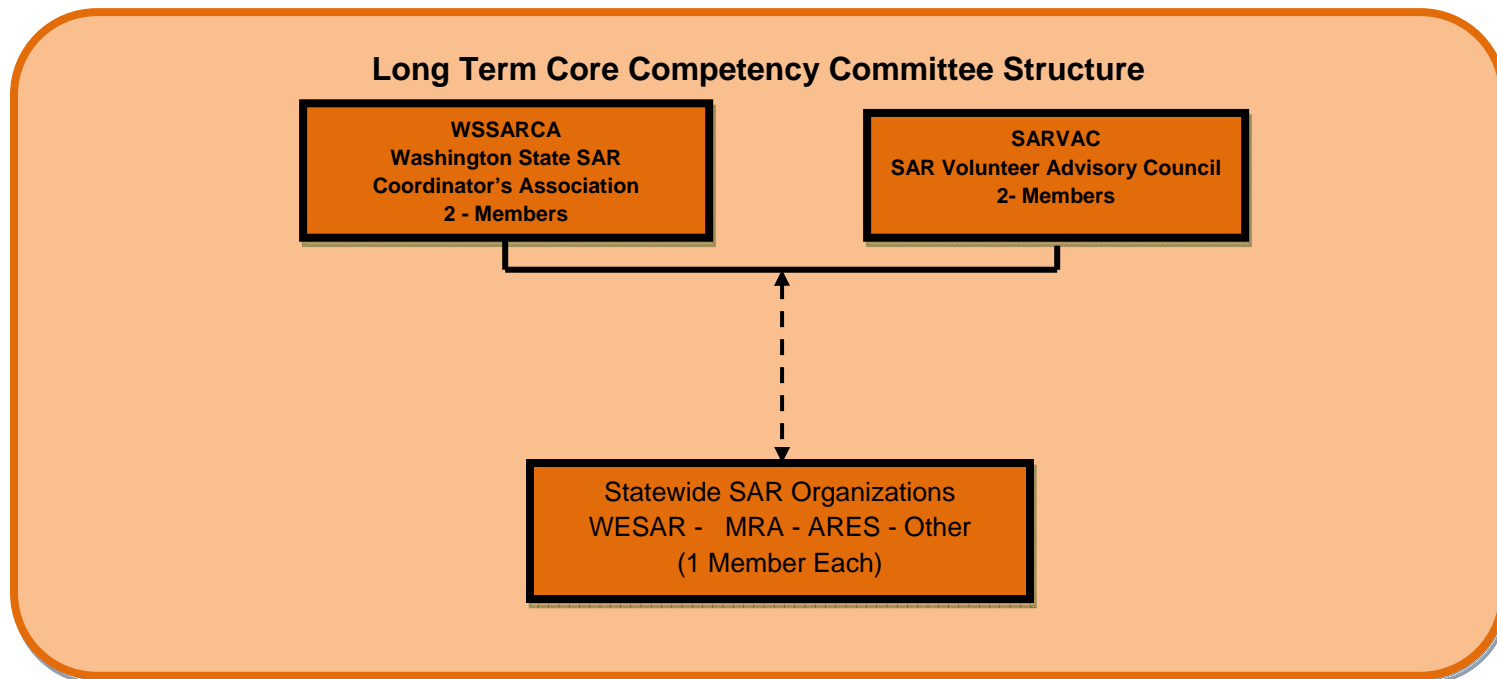
**Core Competency Committee term used because final structure and composition of the committee may change. The final committee may include (but is not limited to);**

- **MRA – Mountain Rescue Association**
- **WESAR – Washington Explorer Search and Rescue**
- **Other statewide Search and Rescue organizations**

**Once past the Core Competency Committee the organizations focus down to;**

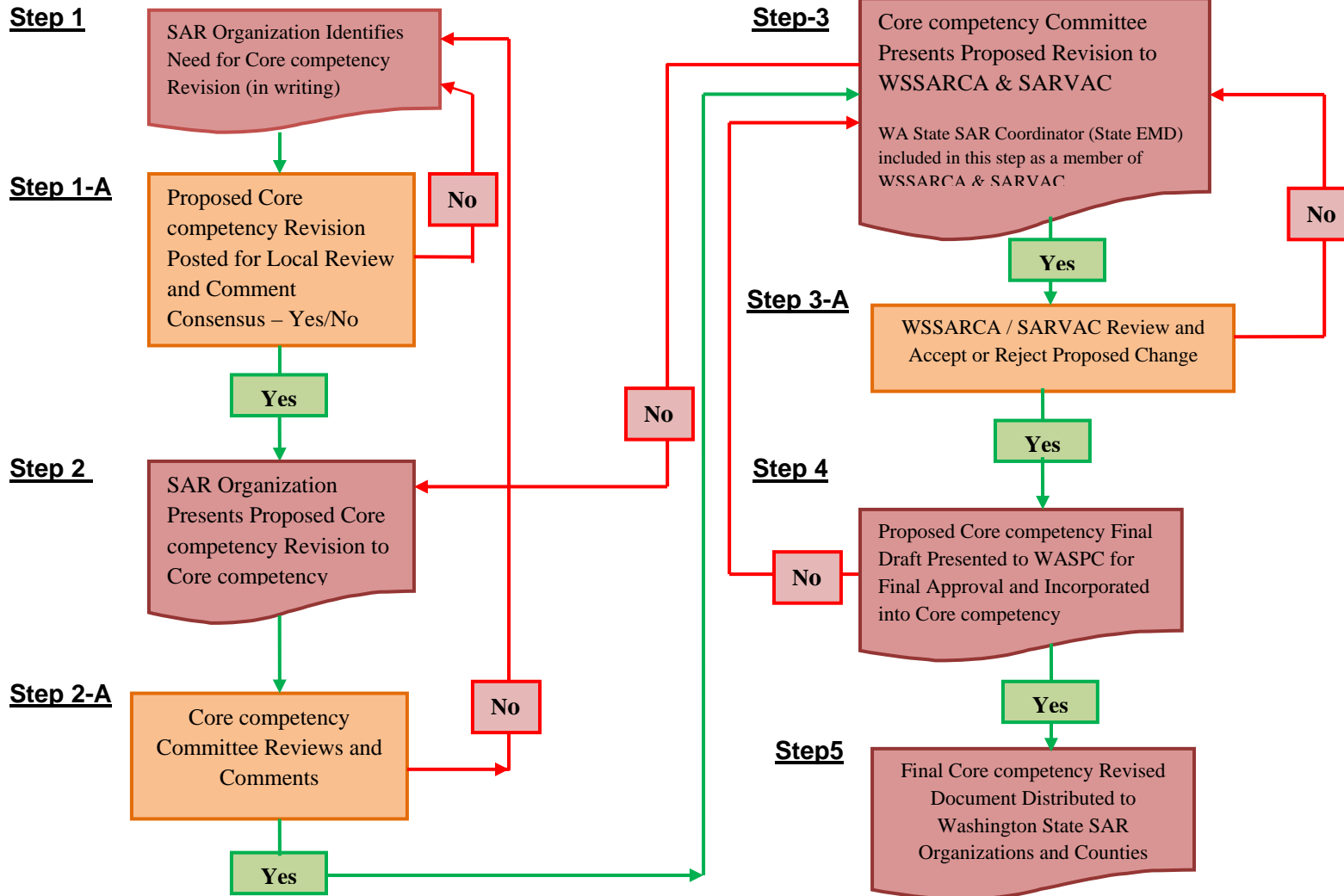
- **Washington State Search and rescue Coordinators Association - WSSARCA**
- **Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council - SARVAC**
- **Washington State Emergency Management Division of the Military Department**
- **Washington State Sheriffs Association – WSSA – Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs - WASPC**

## WA-ST-SAR-108 Appendix C – Long Term Committee Structure



## WA-ST-SAR-108 Appendix D – 107 Revisions to Core Competencies

### Core Competency Proposed Change Procedure



**Application Chart**

**Core Competency Application by Subject, Topic, and Search Qualification Type**

Topic/Subject Matter Area	Support SAR Responder				Limited Field SAR Responder				Field Qualified SAR Responder			
Physical & Mental Fitness		WE				WE				WE		
Legal Issues	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Survival Skills & Equipment	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Radio Communications	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Land Navigation	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
GPS Operation	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Crime Scene Identification & Management	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Search Organization & Management	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Club Administration & Logistics	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Searcher Safety	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Helicopter Safety	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Subject & Searcher First Aid	C	WE	PE	F	C	WE	PE	F	C	WE	PE	F
Rescue Techniques	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Searcher Safety	C	WE	PE		C	WE	PE		C	WE	PE	F

Updated 7-1-18 see below

**Legend**

Classroom Training = C    Written Evaluation = WE    Performance Evaluation = PE    Field Training = F



**CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF**  
**Core Competency Application by Subject, Topic, and Search Qualification Type**

Topic/Subject Matter Area	Support SAR Responder				Limited Field- Novice SAR Responder				Field Qualified SAR Responder			
	C	WE			C	WE	PE	F	C	WE	PE	F
Introduction to Search & Rescue	C				C				C			
Section 6 Physical & Mental Fitness	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Section 7 Legal Issues	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Section 8 Survival Skills & Equipment					C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Section 9 Radio Communications	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE	PE	
Section 10 Basic Land Navigation					C	WE	PE	F	C	WE	PE	F
Section 10A GPS Operation					C	WE	PE	F	C	WE	PE	F
Section 11 Crime Scene Identification & Management					C	WE			C	WE		
Section 12 Search Organization & Management	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		
Section 13 Clue Awareness & Identification					C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Section 14 Search Techniques					C	WE			C	WE	PE	F
Section 15 Subject & Searcher First Aid, and Rescue Techniques					C	WE	PE	F	C	WE	PE	F
Section 16 Searcher Safety					C	WE	PE		C	WE	PE	F
Section 17 Helicopter Safety	C	WE			C	WE			C	WE		

**Legend**  
**Classroom Training = C    Written Evaluation = WE    Performance Evaluation = PE    Field Training = F**

## Proposed Time (hours) for Core Competency Training

Core Competency Area	Classroom Hours	Field Hours	Notes/ Special Instructions
Physical/Mental Fitness	1 **		** The requirement is for an annual form to be completed by the SAR volunteer and provide to the Sheriff's Office or DEM office.
Legal Issues	2		
Survival Skills & Equipment	4	6**	** The field requirement may include and overnight field training or field training stations to demonstrate specific skills.
Radio Communications	2**		** Radio communications training needs to be incorporated into all field sessions and mock missions.
Land Navigation	6	4	
GPS Operation	2	2	May be included in Land Navigation.
Crime Scene Identification & Management	3	3	
Search Organization & Management	3**		** ICS and NIMS organizational structures need to be included in all trainings.
Search Techniques	3	4	
Helicopter Safety	2		
Subject & Searcher First Aid	8**	4	** Note classroom time for a basic first aid class. Additional training (classroom and field is highly encouraged).
Rescue Techniques	4	4	
Searcher Risk Management (Safety)	2**		** Risk Management needs to be incorporated into all field and mock mission trainings.

**\*\*\* Counties may add additional training classes and hours as appropriate to their needs and mission requirements. \*\*\***