

# Weber County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit Directives

## November 2009

### Article 1, Fundamentals

- 1.1 **Name**—The name of this organization shall be the "Weber County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit" The Weber County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit shall be referred to throughout this document as "WCSSAR."
- 1.2 **Objectives**—The Objectives of WCSSAR shall be:
  - 1.2.1 To serve the residents and visitors of Weber County.
  - 1.2.2 To provide the men and women constituting the membership with training in organized technical search and rescue techniques. Primary emphasis will be on safety at all times both while on training missions and actual rescue call outs.
  - 1.2.3 To serve as a specialized resource for search and rescue missions. WCSSAR shall maintain expertise in technical situations as listed in Section 3.5.2. WCSSAR will also be available as a backup unit for urban SAR operations as needed by the Sheriff.
  - 1.2.4 To provide out-of-area SAR assistance to other agencies at the request of the Sheriff.
- 1.3 **Mission Call Outs**
  - 1.3.1 Requests for WCSSAR's assistance will be initiated and dispatched through the Weber County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) in accordance with the current call out roster. The method of the call out will be as agreed upon by the Sheriff's Office and the Executive Committee of WCSSAR.
  - 1.3.2 Members of the WCSSAR are covered by Workman's Compensation when on official missions and training requested by WCSSAR or the Sheriff.
- 1.4 **Headquarters**

The office and principle place of business shall be at the Weber County Sheriff's Complex, 721 W. 12th Street, Ogden, UT, unless designated otherwise by the Sheriff.

### Article 2, Incident Action and Organization

- 2.1 All rescue activities involving WCSSAR will be directed through the on-site Sheriff's Office Personnel or a designated WCSSAR representative. This person will be known throughout this document as the "incident commander." All SAR operations will be organized and directed as defined by the national standard commonly known as the Incident Command System or "ICS."
- 2.2 Individual WCSSAR members are not authorized to undertake official rescue operations on an individual basis unless specifically authorized by the incident commander. In no case shall an operation be undertaken under the auspices of the WCSSAR without prior notification and approval from the Sheriff's Office. Members who are not certified as peace officers shall not exercise peace officer authority while acting as a SAR member.
- 2.3 **Field Teams**
  - 2.3.1 In-the-field leadership will be designated prior to base site departure. To the extent possible, teams shall not be committed to the field without at least one member having the experience level of "Team Leader."
  - 2.3.2 Whenever possible, a field team shall consist of at least three individuals including a team leader. Operations with less than three individuals are discouraged and will be used with caution and careful evaluation and approval by the incident commander.

### Article 3, Membership

- 3.1 Members and applicants for membership must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and will be the subject of a standard background check. Members and applicants must not have the following items on their records unless given special accommodation by the Sheriff's Office:
- 3.1.1 Have been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in a federal or state penitentiary or of an offense involving dishonesty, unlawful sexual conduct, physical violence, or the unlawful use, sale or possession of a controlled substance.
  - 3.1.2 Have been convicted of a D.U.I. within the previous four years beginning with the date of conviction to the date of application.

3.2 **Membership** of this organization shall consist of people already skilled in wilderness travel and/or advanced swift water/underwater techniques. It is not the specific purpose of WCSSAR to provide basic training to personnel in these areas. WCSSAR training will be specific and designed to hone and improve the skills needed in the safe execution of wilderness or technical search and rescue. All members are required to maintain an appropriate level of physical fitness as designated by their team affiliation to perform SAR operations in all terrain and all weather conditions.

Membership status shall be broken down into five groups, Active/Operational, Active/Non-Operational, Candidate, Inactive and Support.

Application for membership shall be done through the Sheriff's Office. The applicant must fill out an application form that includes the agreement to have a standard background check done.

(See section **3.1** above) The applicant must indicate which SAR Skill Groups (section **3.5.2**) he/she is interested in joining. The Executive Committee shall review the application and interview the applicant. If the Executive Committee determines that a particular skill group does not need any additional members then they shall inform the applicant that his/her application will be placed on a waiting list. The order of the waiting list shall not be first-come-first-serve but instead shall be by skill and ability of the applicant and the needs of WCSSAR. Prospective members that have been approved by the Executive Committee shall be accepted onto the team as a candidate member (see section **3.2.3**) for a period of one year or until it is impossible to meet the requirements for full membership.

- 3.2.1 **Active/Operational** members must meet all meeting and mission attendance requirements and must complete all team training requirements within each calendar year. See sections **3.2** and **3.5**. These members are entitled to all WCSSAR privileges.
- 3.2.2 **Active/Non-Operational** Any member with an activity level that has dropped below that of paragraph 3.2.1 will be informed in writing by the Executive Committee that they have three months to show improvement in their participation level or be removed from WCSSAR. This also includes the failure to complete team required training. These members are not eligible for official search missions except during times of exceptional need. All WCSSAR issued gear e.g. radio, GPS, or any other non-personal gear, must be returned to WCSSAR until Active/Operational status is regained. Operational status will be regained upon successful completion of all requirements. These members are not entitled to WCSSAR privileges.
- 3.2.3 **Candidate** members must complete all of the requirements of an Active/Operational member. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from WCSSAR. Dismissal may come at the time it is evident that the requirements cannot be met. It may not be necessary to wait for the entire year. An extension may be requested from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review and approve or deny by majority vote. Although Candidate members will be included on mission callouts, they will be used for limited duty at the discretion of the Team Leaders. A Candidate member will either become Active/Operational or dismissed from WCSSAR at the conclusion of one year. These members are entitled to WCSSAR privileges.
- 3.2.4 **Inactive** status is for any member who will not be available for an extended period of time. Inactive status must be requested through and approved by the Executive Committee. Members returning from Inactive status will return as Candidate members. The primary purpose of Inactive status is that a member will not be required to reapply to the Sheriff's Office to return to WCSSAR. Inactive status may not be claimed for more than two years in a row. At least once a year, typically in the fall, the Executive

Committee will review the status of all Inactive members. These members are not entitled to WCSSAR privileges.

- 3.2.5 **Support** members are individuals that have dedicated years of service to WCSSAR and may now be limited by time or physical or other constraints. Support members are welcome at all WCSSAR meetings, trainings and missions with the understanding that their participation will be limited to an advisory roll. Field participation is not permitted.

### 3.3 **Attendance**

- 3.3.1 Each calendar year, all Active/Operational, Active Non-Operational and Candidate members are required to have a 50% attendance rate for all WCSSAR monthly meetings and the training exercise related to each meeting. Additional individual team trainings may also be scheduled but will not count towards the attendance requirement unless preapproved by the Executive Committee.

- 3.3.2 Each year, members are required to respond to at least 33% of all mission call-outs for their skill groups. (Due to the unscheduled nature of the actual mission call-outs, it is assumed that members may not always be available, hence the lower allowable percentage rate.)

Due to the training significance for each team and that scheduling may not permit all training to be delivered to seasonal teams during their season of operation, there is no exception to this requirement.

Members may be excused from any particular meeting or training for extenuating circumstances without being counted as an absence if approved by the Sheriff's representative or by the Group Coordinator. In these cases the percent attendance rate will be a percent of the otherwise available meetings.

- 3.4 **Conduct**—Members must remain aware that they are representatives of the Weber County Sheriff's Office and it is required that they conduct themselves appropriately when in the "public's eye". Members are expected to obey the law at all times. They are expected to use discretion when discussing WCSSAR missions, meetings and activities outside of WCSSAR, keeping in mind that information for the public will be released in WCSSAR's monthly newsletter. Members are expected to use discretion when communicating with IC and team members while on a mission, keeping in mind that family members or other outside individuals may be within ear shot. Members are also expected to use proper decorum concerning laughter and other horse play while the family and public are present. Failure to conduct oneself in the proper manner will result in a, first offense written counseling notice and possible dismissal from WCSSAR for any future infractions.

### 3.5 **Experience Levels and Skill Groups.**

Membership shall be classified by skill and experience with SAR as defined below. It is expected that few if any members will ever hold team leader status in all areas. For example, a member may have the following classification: SW-2, TC-X, OHV-3, W-1. This would mean that this member is a rescue member of the Swift Water team, is on the Extreme Team as a Technical Climber, is a trainee on the OHV team and is a team leader on the Winter Team. Although this member would receive the call-out for a Dive or K9 team mission, they would be used in a limited capacity so as to not exceed their training level.

Each WCSSAR member is expected to keep track of his/her training and experience so that they can notify the Group Coordinators of the need for a review of their experience level and skill group classification. The Executive Committee will then review the member as described in paragraph 3.3. Simply attending a training session is not enough; the member must have been an active participant and demonstrated their grasp of the concepts involved in the training.

#### 3.5.1 **Experience Levels.**

- 3.5.1.1 **Extreme Team (X):** A minimum of one year experience with WCSSAR. Must be 48 hour, four seasons, all weather field capable. Must have demonstrated, to the skill Group Coordinator, exceptional skill and experience for the skill group in question. Required skills and training—all standard training listed below, including/plus: search. Additional required personal equipment—headlamp,

personal shelter (tent or bivy sack, sleeping bag and pad) and stove. Additional personally owned equipment will be determined by the skill group, e.g., SW-X members would need a throw bag and wetsuit or dry suit. The Executive Committee will determine specific equipment needs. Helicopter trained. First Responder (Utah EMT, National Ski Patrol, OEC, etc.) Member needs only a current professional CPR certification and advanced first aid skills at a level approved by the Executive Committee. It is assumed that these skills are needed for patient treatment and the protection of bystanders and fellow team members.

3.5.1.2 **Team Leader (1);** A minimum of one year experience with WCSSAR. Must have been on at least two callouts and demonstrated, to the skill Group Coordinator, an ability to lead and organize a team. Must have completed all standard training for at least one skill group. Twenty-four hour, three season (four season for winter teams), all weather field capable. Helicopter trained. First Responder (Utah EMT, National Ski Patrol, OEC, etc.) Leader needs only a current professional CPR certification and advanced first aid skills at a level approved by the Executive Committee. It is assumed that these skills are needed for patient treatment and the protection of bystanders and fellow team members.

3.5.1.3 **Rescue (2):** A minimum of six months experience with WCSSAR. Participated in at least one call out and has been cleared for field duty by the Group Coordinator of the chosen skill group or Sheriff's Representative.

3.5.1.4 **Trainee (3):** Have the minimum required skills and personal equipment for one of the skill groups. All new members must start as "Trainees" regardless of experience. For example, a new member with years of SAR experience with another agency still needs to learn how WCSSAR operates and the capabilities of current team members.

3.5.2 **SAR Skill Groups and Requirements.** In all cases, the statement, "one year of experience..." is understood to mean substantial and aggressive experience, not simply being involved in the activity a few times during the past year. It is required that all members are skilled enough to be self sufficient in wilderness situations. All WCSSAR members are required to have the "ten essentials", minimum training as specified by the WCSSAR and the WCSO and appropriate clothing and gear. Please refer to Appendix I for details.

Failure to complete these requirements within the required time frames will result in a member's status change from Active/Operational to Active/Non-Operational or from Candidate to dismissal from WCSSAR.

The "Required Training" listed in Appendix I and in the following groups is considered as an absolute minimum to maintain an Active/Operational status and should be supplemented by attending training sessions for other groups. "Outside" training may be substituted for required training if pre-approved by the Executive Committee. An example would be members who are also ski patrollers that receive medical or avalanche training, some evidence of proof of training would be required. Since it is important to know the abilities of your teammates, outside training shall account for no more than half of the required training for a particular individual. All groups are expected to know how the Incident Command System works which is considered a part of the minimum training for everyone.

The Executive Committee shall review any member desiring a change in skill and experience classification. Approval shall be by majority vote

3.5.2.1 **Extreme Team (X):** Typical call out scenario—This team is called out when weather or other conditions are especially hazardous, thus requiring a quick response from the most highly skilled members of WCSSAR. Requirements—Is chosen by the Group Coordinator of the skill group and holds a Active/Operational status. Must be 48 hour, four seasons, and all weather field capable. Required Skills and Training—Must have all training and gear listed in paragraph 3.5.2 plus patient packaging, litter attending, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, search, and all training listed for one of the groups listed

below. Required personal equipment—head lamp, personal shelter (tent/bivy sack, sleeping bag, pad), and stove/utensils. Team members must pass the arduous physical fitness test.

- 3.5.2.2 **Divers (D):** Typical call-out scenario—Recovery of drowning victims in "still water" such as ponds, lakes, reservoirs, etc. Recovery of submerged articles and vehicles (cars, trucks, boats, aircraft, etc.) or crime scene evidence from "still" water. Required skills—Rescue Diver Certification by a recognized scuba diving training agency. Dark water/zero visibility dive experience. Required training—underwater search, underwater recovery/salvage, ice diving, basic first aid and professional CPR. Required personal equipment (should be modern and in good repair with recent service and or calibration)—full wet suit (5mm or greater) or dry suit, minimum of one 80 cu ft cylinder, regulator set with alternate air source, Pressure gauge, buoyancy compensator, mask, snorkel, fins, dive knife, depth gauge/dive computer, Underwater light, log book. Team members must pass the annual Moderate physical fitness test and should score a total of 12 or greater in the four categories of the I.A.R.D.S. Fitness and Watermanship Test.
- 3.5.2.3 **Swift Water (SW):** You must be a member of one of the other groups. Typical call-out scenario—Search/rescue/recovery of victims trapped in flowing water defined as rivers and creeks. Required skills—One year of water related experience such as diving, boating, kayaking, white water rafting, or canoeing as well as (rope skills) knots, raising & lowering systems. Strong swimmer. Required training—swift water rescue, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, basic first aid/professional CPR. Required personal equipment—personal floatation device, full wet suit (hood optional) or dry suit, harness, carabiner & sling, helmet, fixed blade river knife/w quick release sheath, whistle, river shoes, class III or V PFD, river gloves, and personal throw rope. Team members must pass the annual Moderate physical fitness test and should score a total of six (6) or greater in the two categories (500 yard swim and 15 minute tread water) of the I.A.R.D.S. Fitness and Watermanship Test.
- 3.5.2.4 **Airboat (AB):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR for downed aircraft, lost boaters, lost hunters, etc. in the Great Salt Lake or other areas accessible by airboat. Required skills—One year of experience piloting airboats. Strong swimmer. Required training—search, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, swift water rescue, familiarization rides, advanced first aid/professional CPR, 20 hours of training on ice surfaces in order to be able to operate the boat in winter. Required personal equipment—personal floatation device, airboat, operator and all passengers must wear a suitable PFD, hearing and eye protection at all times while the boat is in operation, and a helmet (can be a climb helmet) if on an ice surface. Team members must pass the moderate physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.5 **Technical Climbers (TC):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR in any high angle terrain including situations requiring the setting of anchor systems and/or roped lead climbing on rock, ice or snow for access. Required skills—Able to lead 5.7 with natural protection and significant lead climbing experience using natural protection at multiple climbing areas. Required training—all those listed under "climbers," aid climbing, ice climbing, avalanche, transceiver search, probe line search, snow anchors, and SKED. Required personal equipment—all that listed under "climbers," crampons, two ice axes (or one ice axe and two ice tools), snowshoes or telemark/AT skis with skins (non-metal-edged skis are not acceptable), avalanche transceiver, shovel, and probe poles. Team members must pass the arduous physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.6 **Climbers (C):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR in any high angle terrain in which roped access can be gained from above and that does not require lead climbing and anchor setting. Support for Technical Climbers. Required skills—Able to follow and clean 5.5 with natural protection. Must have some class 5 (roped) climbing experience. Must know how to belay. Skilled with all standard climbing knots: figure 8, water knot and grapevine knot. Required training—all training listed under "Search," rappelling and ascending past knots, litter attending

(specifically in high angle situations), raising/lowering systems, Tyrolean traverse, tension traverse. Required personal equipment—harness, helmet, head lamp, belay/rappel device, 3 locking carabiners, 3 prusik ropes and personal first aid kit. Team members must pass the arduous physical fitness test.

- 3.5.2.7 **Search (S):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR in terrain inaccessible to horses and four wheel drive vehicles. Support for technical teams in Swift Water and Climbing situations. Required skills—Good physical condition (able to assist in litter handling/loading and other strenuous activities such as hiking with a 30 pound pack), comfortable scrambling on terrain steep enough to require both hands, advanced first aid training, and experienced with backcountry over night travel. Required training—Search, litter setup and attending, scree evacuation, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR, plus attend trainings from at least one other skill group. Required personal equipment—helmet, harness, head lamp, 24 hour (three season) all weather field capable. Team members must pass the arduous physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.8 **K9 (Dog Team) (K):** Typical call-out scenario—Search for lost hikers, avalanche victims, drowning victims or article or evidence (Human Remains Detection) search. Required skills—Trained as a SAR dog handler as per WCSO standards. Teams must be certified, per the standard, to participate on mission call outs. The WCSO K9 standard is located in Appendix III. Dogs must demonstrate a level of drive to be effective for search work. They must also be advanced to a level of obedience to accept the training. Handlers are required to maintain control of their dogs, by either lead or crate, during mission and training activities. Although the team will accept and train puppies and new teams, the training will be search specific and not obedience oriented. All dogs are required to maintain all vaccinations and licensing. Dogs trained in protection or bite-work will not be allowed on the team. Required training—Search, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR, and dog-team-specific training. Required personal equipment—SAR dog, helmet, head lamp, 24 hour (three season) all weather field capable, for winter operations beacon, shovel and probe. Team members must pass the arduous physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.9 **Off Highway Vehicle (OHV):** Typical call-out scenario—Large terrain search accessible by off highway vehicles, e.g., lost hiker or hunter in the Monte Cristo area. Motorized support, e.g., personnel, material and/or litter transport. Required skills—One year experience with off highway 4X4 travel and either familiar with local terrain or skilled with topographic maps. Required training—Search, logistics and support, OHV operations, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR. Required personal equipment—Four wheel drive truck with adequate ground clearance, an off highway vehicle (a.k.a. a "four wheeler") or motorcycle, hand held or other directed search light, shelter and clothing to be able to be spend the night in all weather (3 season) conditions, personal first aid kit. Team members must pass the moderate physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.10 **Winter (Snowmobile/Snow Cat) (W):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR for an overdue snowmobiler or cross- country skier. Required skills—One year experience riding snowmobiles or snow cats. Deep snow ("sugar" snow) experience. Steep and tight terrain experience. Required training—Avalanche, transceiver search, probe line search, snow anchors, search, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR, winter patient packaging and litter setup/loading, winter injury training (frostbite, etc.), avalanche course. Required personal equipment—snowmobile and the ability to transport it (or be a snow cat operator), head lamp, rope for towing skiers, snowshoes, avalanche transceiver, shovel, probes, helmet, clothing and shelter to be able to survive the night, personal first aid kit and the ability to carry it on your person away from the snowmobile. Team members must pass the moderate physical fitness test.

- 3.5.2.11 **Winter Backcountry (BC):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR for backcountry travelers, overdue skiers, snowboarders and/or snowshoers, out-of-bounds downhill resort skiers and/or snowboarders. Support for the Snowmobile team if the terrain involved is too steep, wooded, deep or difficult for snowmobiles. Required skills—Multiple seasons experience in winter backcountry travel in steep terrain to include powder, hard, varied, wet and icy snow conditions and/or experience on snowshoes, split snowboard and/or telemark/AT skis while wearing a backpack. Required training—Avalanche, transceiver search, probe line search. Recommended training snow anchors, glacier travel, search, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR, winter patient packaging and litter setup/loading, winter injury training. Required personal equipment—Snowshoes, split snowboard with skins, and/or telemark/AT skis with skins. (Non-metal-edged skis, or traditional snowboards are not recommended—for backcountry travel.) Avalanche probe and shovel, avalanche transceiver, climbing harness, helmet, head lamp, backpack, Recommended personal equipment—sleeping bag, bivy bag or tent, sleeping pad, winter capable stove, appropriate clothing (e.g., shell, poly, wool, but no cotton), personal first aid kit, crampon, ice axe and/or ice tools. Team members must pass the arduous physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.12 **Mounted SAR horse team (H):** Typical call-out scenario—SAR for lost hikers and riders in terrain accessible to horses and support, e.g., personnel, material transport. Required skills for the rider—Significant backcountry riding experience and able to maintain control of the horse. Required skills for the horse—Significant backcountry riding experience including the ability to willingly cross deadfall, water, mud. Horse must be calm around helicopters, loud noises, crowds, bright lights, other animals, motorized equipment/vehicles. Horse must be able to remain tied, unattended, for long periods of time. Must be able to load and unload well. Horse must control well. Horse must be able to be ponyed. Must be able to be ridden at night by a rider using a headlamp. Required training—Search, helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR. Required personal "equipment"—Horse (and ability to transport it) in good health and with feet in good condition, well maintained tack, personal first aid kit. Riders must always bring saddle bags, the ten essentials, and a halter and lead rope. Team members must pass the moderate physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.13 **Medical Support (M):** Typical call-out scenario—Provide patient care as needed by the groups listed above. It will be the responsibility of the team to provide access to the scene. For example, the technical climbers might lower a Medical Support member to a ledge to provide patient care to a fallen hiker. Required skills—EMT-I, paramedic, nurse, or physician. You must be able to work in extreme conditions such as on narrow ledges or in heavy rain. Required training—Helicopter, and participate in various training sessions for the above skill groups. You will also be expected to assist in running the medical related training sessions. Required personal equipment—helmet, climbing harness, head lamp, and all-weather (four season) clothing. Team members must pass the moderate physical fitness test.
- 3.5.2.14 **Logistics and Support (L):** Typical call-out scenario—Assist in base operations and communications as needed by the incident commander. Provide support for incident command and for all groups as needed. Required skills—Knowledge of SAR operations along with special skills such as computer mapping, radio communications, equipment, etc. Required training—Helicopter, map/compass/GPS, advanced first aid/professional CPR, incident command system, plus knowledge of the operational procedures for the above skill groups. Required personal equipment—head lamp and all-weather (four season) clothing. Team members must pass the light physical fitness test.

- 3.6 **Cessation of membership.**
- 3.6.1 Membership may be terminated by the Weber County Sheriff or Sheriff's office. Membership may also be terminated by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.
  - 3.6.2 All property of WCSSAR shall be returned to WCSSAR. This includes the SAR ID card.
  - 3.6.3 All privileges associated with WCSSAR shall cease. The right to wear any patches that designate association with WCSSAR and its national affiliations (NASAR, MRA, etc.) shall also cease and all patches shall be removed from clothing and gear owned by the exiting member.
  - 3.6.4 All emblems (e.g., sheriff's stars, Mountain Rescue Association circles, SAR license plates, etc.) on vehicles must be removed. This is also true of any vehicle sold by a current member.
- 3.7 **Equal Employment Opportunity.** The Sheriff's Office is dedicated to equal opportunity. All Sheriff's Office policies are in force regarding discrimination or harassment of any type. Members who feel that they are the target of such behavior must inform one of the team officers or Sheriff's Office SAR coordinators. It will be the responsibility of the officer to talk with the accused perpetrator. If the accused person's behavior is determined to be out of compliance with Sheriff's Office policies and they do not correct their actions, they will be removed from the team.
- 3.8 **Membership Roster.** WCSSAR shall maintain an up-to-date membership and training roster. It is the member's responsibility to notify the Executive Committee whenever their personal information (address, phone numbers, status, etc.) changes. The roster shall be updated at least quarterly and shall be made available upon request to all WCSSAR members along with the monthly training newsletter. Copies shall also be available to the Sheriff's Office and to the Weber area dispatch office. This roster will frequently be used as a tool to assist in call outs, the exact format shall be determined by the Executive Committee. You cannot expect to be called out or receive newsletters unless your contact information is up-to-date.
- 3.9 **State and National Organizations.** Membership in national organizations. Membership fees to national organizations such as MRA (Mountain Rescue Association) and NASAR (National Association of Search and Rescue) will be covered by the Sheriff's Office, within budget constraints. To qualify, WCSSAR must gain some benefit such as national accreditation for WCSSAR. If any member wishes to join more than one national organization, then the membership fees of the additional organizations shall be borne by the individual member. Dues will not be paid for Active/Non-Operational, Inactive or Support members.
- 3.9.1 All Active/Operational members of WCSSAR will also be members of the state sheriff's SAR organization. These dues will be covered by Sheriff's Office.
  - 3.9.2 If the budget allows, the Executive Committee will consider assisting with the cost of attending out-of-area training (e.g. attending national or regional meetings of NASAR, MRA, etc.) for WCSSAR members. Active/Non-Operational, Inactive and Support members will not be considered for funding assistance.
- 3.10 **Members use of Team Equipment.** All team equipment is intended for emergency or PSAR use and must be available to the team at all times. Members may not borrow team equipment for personal use without the express prior approval of the Executive Committee. In the rare cases that the Executive Committee allows non-SAR use of team equipment, the member shall be responsible for returning the equipment in a timely fashion and in as-good or better condition as when it was checked out. The member must make sure that the appropriate quartermaster has signed out the equipment and checked it back in. Special Note for Life Sustaining Equipment used in Underwater Operations- Use of or dispensing of breathing gas or respiratory aids including SCUBA regulators / facemasks must have prior approval of the Executive Committee

and be performed by trained operators only. Members with inactive status will not be allowed to borrow team equipment.

#### **Article 4, Meetings and Training**

- 4.1 The monthly meeting of WCSSAR shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month of the calendar year. Meetings shall begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the training room of the Sheriff's Office unless announced differently to the general membership by the Executive Committee. The monthly meetings shall cover official business of the WCSSAR and/or practical training as necessary. All skill groups will initially meet together for general business and updates. Individual groups shall then meet for specific business and/or training. All classroom training sessions shall be open to any member of WCSSAR.
- 4.2 Standard WCSSAR training sessions, especially those involving multiple teams, shall be typically scheduled for the first Saturday following the monthly WCSSAR meetings defined in paragraph 4.1. Specialized training sessions that primarily involve a single team should be scheduled on a different day to avoid conflicts. Since we are expected to operate in all weather conditions, training sessions will not usually be canceled on account of inclement weather unless safety or some other overriding concern is an issue. Practical Training shall consist of training directly useful to SAR work. The list of training sessions topics is included in Appendix I. This list is not complete nor is every type of training mandatory every year. It is expected that some sessions will cover more than one topic and that on any given Saturday training there will probably be several different sessions simultaneously at different locations. Training sessions must include those areas needed for national accreditation by organizations such as MRA and NASAR.

#### **Article 5, Finances**

- 5.1 This is a volunteer organization. There are no dues or fees to be a member beyond the expense of maintaining required personal equipment and donation of personal time to training sessions, monthly meetings, and mission call-outs.
- 5.2 The Sheriff's Office shall maintain the account(s) for WCSSAR. Individual groups within WCSSAR may not have accounts outside of the Sheriff's Office unless approved by the Sheriff.
- 5.3 Funding and fund-raising activities shall be coordinated through and by the Sheriff's Office. Members are encouraged to participate for the betterment of WCSSAR, but such events will not be counted towards the attendance requirement for training and call-outs.
- 5.4 **Expenditures**
- 5.4.1 All purchases must follow the current Weber County purchasing policies and procedures. SAR monies shall be expended for:
- 5.4.1.1 Any purpose deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
- 5.4.1.2 Any purpose approved by the Commander or Sheriff's Office.
- 5.4.2 Overview of funds by members. Any dispersal or acquisition of funds over \$1,000 shall be announced to the membership via the training newsletter and/or monthly meeting. All large expenditures will be approved by the Executive Committee. Any member who disagrees with the appropriateness of expenditures may ask for a meeting with the Executive Committee to discuss or ask that a specific expenditure be discussed at the monthly meeting. Due to the timing requirements of purchasing, the transaction may have already taken place. In this case, any member discussion will be noted for future expenditures of the same nature.

#### **Article 6, Officers, Executive Committee and Standing Committees**

- 6.1 **Officers** shall consist of a **Commander, Co-commander, Group Coordinators** and **Assistant Group Coordinators**. Officers shall typically agree to at least a one year commitment.  
**Selection of Officers:** The officers will be selected by the WCSO coordinators.
- 6.2 The **Executive Committee** shall be comprised of the **Group Coordinators and Assistant Group Coordinators**. These members should hold expertise at the level of Team Leader in their respective skill group(s). If at all possible, it is usually expected that they also be members of their respective Extreme Teams.
- 6.2.1 The coordinators will be as follows:
- 6.2.1.1 Dive/Swiftwater
  - 6.2.1.2 Technical Climbers (also representing Climbers and Backcountry)
  - 6.2.1.3 OHV
  - 6.2.1.4 K9
  - 6.2.1.5 Winter Motorized
  - 6.2.1.6 Mounted SAR
  - 6.2.1.7 Medical/OEC
  - 6.2.1.8 Logistics
  - 6.2.1.9 Airboat
  - 6.2.1.10 Winter Backcountry Non-Motorized
  - 6.2.1.11 Membership/Training
- 6.2.2 One member can represent more than one skill group on the committee.
- 6.2.3 The Executive Committee is responsible for developing a training schedule that meets the requirements listed in section 3.5.2 and any requirements needed for accreditation by appropriate national organizations. The Executive Committee is responsible for assigning a member or outside person to conduct the training sessions.
- 6.2.4 The Group Coordinators and Assistant Group Coordinators shall keep a record of all attendance at training sessions and mission call-outs. It is their responsibility to submit this record to the Membership Coordinator at the next Executive or WCSSAR meeting. The Training Committee shall review and evaluate all requests by WCSSAR members for changes in skill group and experience classifications.
- 6.3 **Duties of the officers and other committees/positions.**
- 6.3.1 **The Commander and Co-commander**
- 6.3.1.1 The **Commander** shall preside over all WCSSAR meetings and shall insure that all of these Directives are enforced. The Commander shall normally be selected from among the members of the Executive Committee. The Commander and the Executive Committee will represent WCSSAR to the Sheriff's Office. The Commander shall make an annual comprehensive report to the membership concerning the accounts and affairs of WCSSAR during the previous year. This may also be done via a written report in the newsletter.
  - 6.3.1.2 The **Co-commander** shall act as an assistant to the Commander and shall assume all duties of the Commander in the event that the Commander is absent. The Co-commander shall normally be selected from among the members of the Executive Committee.
- 6.3.2 **Fund Raising Committee/position.** This committee/position is in charge of coordinating all fund raising activities. No group is allowed to initiate any fund raising action without first consulting with the Executive Committee. The Fund Raising Committee/position shall coordinate all activities with the WCSO.
- 6.3.3 **PR/PSAR Position.** The person serving in the Public Relations/Preventative Search And Rescue Position will be in charge of activities related to the general public. This includes arranging for sessions with scout troops, elementary schools, parades, etc.
- 6.3.4 **Quartermasters.** It will be their duty to maintain WCSSAR's equipment in top working condition. Each group will have a quartermaster (and possibly an assistant or co-quartermaster) with expertise in maintaining specialty equipment such as dive gear, climbing gear, electrical generators, etc. The group Coordinators are responsible for

selecting the quartermaster(s). The selection shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

- 6.3.5 **National Organization Representatives.** These individuals act as the liaisons between WCSSAR and the various national accrediting agencies (MRA, NASAR, etc.). The Executive Committee is responsible for selecting these representatives. The selection shall be reviewed by the WCSO.
- 6.3.6 **The Newsletter Editor** is responsible for preparing the WCSSAR newsletter. The newsletter shall contain the training schedule for all the groups, a list and description of recent callouts and a summary of the Executive Committee meeting as provided by the Sheriff's Office. The newsletter shall be made available to all members of the WCSSAR and to others as decided by the Executive Committee and/or the Sheriff's Office.

## **Article 7, Amendment or Repeal**

- 7.1 Suggested amendments to these directives should be forwarded through the Executive Committee for review by the Sheriff's Office and approval by the Sheriff.
- 7.2 Periodic review of these directives should occur at least every third year by a committee appointed by the Commander and selected from within the Executive Committee.

## **Appendix I**

### **10 Essentials as referred in 3.5.2:**

- flashlight and headlamp
- extra clothing
- extra food and water
- waterproof matches or lighter
- candle or fire starter or stove
- pocket knife
- personal first aid kit
- GPS or compass
- emergency shelter (e.g. space blanket or bivy bag)
- sunglasses

### **Required Gear and Clothing as referred in 3.5.2:**

Due to the all-weather nature of SAR operations, all members are required to have adequate foul weather gear. In particular, all members must have a clothing system that is not based on cotton or other non-wicking fabrics. All members must have an outer shell layer of waterproof/wind-proof/breathable material such as Gore Tex.

### **Required Minimum Training as referred in 3.5.2:**

In addition to the required training listed in the following groups, all Active/Operational members must have completed the following **minimum** requirements:

- First Responder
- Professional CPR
- Physical Fitness Test. Level to be determined by chosen skill group.
  - Arduous—Three miles with a pack equivalent to 20% of the members body weight or 45 pounds, whichever is lighter, in 45 minutes or less.
  - Moderate—Two miles with a 25 pound pack in 30 minutes or less.
  - Light—One mile, no pack in 16 minutes or less.
  - A doctor's release may substitute for the arduous and medium tests as confirmation that the member is in good cardio health. However, due to the physical nature of the work and the requirement to move oneself from point A to point B, all members must demonstrate their physical capabilities by completing the light test.
- Sexual Harassment
- Defensive Driving
- Radio Operations and Protocol
- Avalanche Course (Team Approved), Winter teams only.

### **Standard Training topics as referred to in 4.2.**

In no particular order, the standard training shall consist of the following (note that some of these might require more than one session to cover completely and some training sessions may cover several topics):

- Advanced first aid (OEC or some similar wilderness EMT training is preferred.)
- Winter first aid (Cold related injuries such as frost bite and hypothermia.)
- Advanced first aid and professional CPR (First responder level.)
- Patient packaging and bandaging
- Litter loading and attending (both SKED and rigid litters, may be separate sessions)
- Mock search (field) and search strategy (classroom)
- Helicopter operations
- Map, compass & GPS
- Underwater search
- Underwater recovery/salvage
- Ice diving

- Swift Water (This includes water crossings, boats and haul lines, throw bags, tag lines, boogie boards, etc. This might be more than one training session.)
- Raising/lowering systems, litter attending in high-angle terrain
- Scree evacuation and litter attending
- Rappelling and ascending. (Both clean and past knots)
- Tyrolean traverse (With an attended litter and with individual personnel, also vertical pick off)
- Tension traverse (With a litter and attendants.)
- Aid climbing
- Ice climbing
- Snow anchors (bollards, pickets, flukes, deadman, etc.)
- Avalanche transceiver search and probe line search
- Avalanche forecasting and travel in avalanche terrain
- Winter patient packaging and transport
- Snow cat operation
- Winter travel: snowmobiles (accreditation ride)
- Winter travel: snow shoes or skins
- Winter travel: steep snow and ice with crampons and ice axes, ice axe self-arrest
- Winter survival: snow caves/trenches/etc.
- 4X4 winch and snatch-um strap usage, OHV operations, litter hauling/transport
- Logistics/Support: Operation and function of specialized equipment (generators, search lights, radios, Incident Command vehicles)
- Communications and the Incident Command System
- Dog Handling and training
- Familiarization rides/hikes/etc. to become familiar with high incidence areas and as accreditation rides

## Appendix II, Abbreviations and Definitions

- 1** - Team Leader skill level
- 2** - Rescue member skill level
- 3** - Trainee member skill level
- AB** - Airboat Group
- BC** - Winter Backcountry
- C** - Climbers Group
- D** - Divers Group (underwater recovery)
- EMT** - Emergency Medical technician
- H** - Mounted Posse Group
- K** - Search Dog Group
- L** - Logistics and Support Group
- M** - Medical Group
- Mounted Posse** – Weber County Sheriff’s Mounted Posse
- MSAR** – Mounted Search and Rescue
- MRA** - Mountain Rescue Association (a national accreditation organization)
- NASAR** - National Association of Search And Rescue (a national accreditation organization)
- OEC** - Outdoor Emergency Care (offered through the National Ski Patrol)
- OHV** - Off Highway Vehicle Group
- Peace Officer** – Law Enforcement Officer
- S** - Search Group
- SAR** - Search And Rescue
- SKED** - A flexible litter that can be rolled up and easily transported.
- SW** - Swift Water Group
- TC** - Technical Climbers Group
- W** - Winter Group
- WCSSO** – Weber County Sheriff’s Office
- WCSSAR** - Weber County Sheriff’s Search And Rescue.
- X** - Extreme Team

## Appendix III—Team Standards

### WCSSAR Technical Climb Team Standards

#### Official Policies of the Mountain Rescue Association

#### POLICY 105

#### PERSONNEL GUIDELINES

(Policy 105, 6-20-99 revised)

**Background** Policy 101 establishes minimum skills guidelines for team membership in the Mountain Rescue Association. These guidelines apply to member teams. Each membership classification requires that member teams have a certain number of Rescue Members and Support Members, as defined in the policy. In order to more clearly establish guidelines for team members, this policy sets forth guidelines that each team should consider in determining the competency of its members for the purposes of MRA accreditation and re-accreditation. This policy does not require that member teams identify these classifications within their own team structure. Each team will be responsible for testing the qualifications of team members.

#### Policy 105.

A. **Purpose** The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for team membership in the Mountain Rescue Association.

B. **Applicability** This policy is applicable to all field members of member teams. Field members are defined as persons who participate in the physical aspects of search and rescue operations, especially where it may be required to travel on foot beyond roads or the conveniences of civilization.

NOTE: Titles are further explained in the appendix to bring consistency with FEMA, IMS, and NFPA terminology. (6-20-99)

C. **Rescue Member** A Rescue Member should meet all of the following guidelines:

1. Minimum one year's experience in mountain search and rescue.
2. Physically capable of full participation in all search and rescue operations normally expected of the member team.
3. Meets minimum participation requirements of the member team and the region for training and operations.
4. Adequately equipped to conduct search and rescue operations in the terrain and under the conditions found in the member team's service area, and to be self-sustaining in the field under such conditions a minimum of three days.
5. Able to lead a search or rescue field team, and to organize and conduct a wilderness search or rescue using non-trained personnel.
6. Has participated in training sufficient to acquire the following knowledge and skills, or has demonstrated such skills, to the level required by the local unit:
  - a. **Search** Procedures, including:
    - 1) Initial request for assistance, determining urgency of response, and initiating call-out.
    - 2) Call-out procedures.
    - 3) Incident Command System and local search management procedures.
    - 4) Search planning and strategy, including probability analysis.
    - 5) Search tactics and operations, including confinement, trail blocks, attraction, hasty search, line search, grid search.
    - 6) Tracking.
    - 7) Wilderness navigation and travel.
    - 8) Night search.
    - 9) Radio communications.
    - 10) ELT search.

- 11) Use of GPS (6-20-99)
  - 12) Wilderness survival and survival techniques for the local area.
  - 13) Helicopter use and safety
- b. **Technical Rock Rescue** Procedures, including:
- 1) Knowledge of rescue equipment.
  - 2) Rescue planning and preparations.
  - 3) Knots, ropes, webbing, rope and webbing characteristics and handling.
  - 4) Anchors.
  - 5) Belaying.
  - 6) Ascending and descending a rope.
  - 7) Rock climbing (able to lead fourth class climb).
  - 8) Patient packaging and litter rigging.
  - 9) Rigging and operating raising and lowering systems.
  - 10) Highline rigging and operating.
  - 11) Low-angle or scree evacuation.
  - 12) Improvised rescue techniques.
  - 13) Helicopter use and safety
- c. **Snow and Ice Rescue** Techniques, including:
- 1) Knowledge of winter search and rescue equipment and its use.
  - 2) Travel over snow and ice, and in any winter conditions found in service area.
  - 3) Self-arrests.
  - 4) Roped team travel.
  - 5) Glissading.
  - 6) Snow and ice anchors and belays.
  - 7) Steep snow climbing with crampons and ice ax.
  - 8) Patient packaging under winter conditions.
  - 9) Litter rigging, raising and lowering on steep snow.
  - 10) Avalanche safety and rescue.
  - 11) Glacier travel and crevasse rescue.
  - 12) Winter survival.
  - 13) Helicopter use and safety.

NOTE: Titles are further explained in the appendix to bring consistency with FEMA, IMS & NFPA terminology. (6-20-99)

- D. **Support Member** A Support Member should meet all of the following guidelines:
1. Familiar with the search and rescue techniques and procedures included in Policy 105.C.6.
  2. Capable of assisting in ground search and rescue operations to the level of competency required by the member team.
  3. Maintains minimum participation requirements of the member team and the local region for search and rescue operations and training.

## WCSSAR K9 Standards

All teams who have adopted this Tri-State Standard must be certified by these standards or standards of higher difficulty. All teams must be evaluated by an operational handler who is certified in that specific discipline and is certified through Tri-State or equal. If a team does not certify to these standards, they will be removed from the Tri-State Standards.

### SCOPE

Purpose: The purpose of these Standards of Performance are to provide:  
Guidelines to be used for the evaluation of SAR dog teams.

These Standards of Performance provide minimum requirements for:

Wilderness Search

Trailing

Cadaver

Human Remains Detection

Water

Evidence

Avalanche

Building

Local Responsibility:

The training/testing officer for each individual unit is responsible for validating that individual teams have met or exceeded these guidelines before obtaining operational status.

### REQUIRED SKILLS NECESSARY FOR ACTIVE SAR DOG OPERATIONS:

#### Handler Skills:

- \* The handler must complete Handler's Skills Check-off List prior to testing the dog for operational status.
- \* A novice handler must respond to at least one actual search incident, as dog team support, prior to becoming an operational dog team.

#### Dog Skills – General:

- \* Adjacent area searching: The dog must be able to work effectively along side other dog teams without undue distraction.
- \* Endurance: The dog must be able to work a prolonged search while maintaining optimum performance.
- \* Night work: The dog team must show the ability to work without daylight.
- \* Wilderness Refind/Alert: The free-ranging dog must either return to the handler upon making a find and take the handler back to the subject, or the dog must stay and bark. The handler must be able to read either alert.
- \* Alert: In regards to disciplines other than wilderness, other types of alerts are acceptable: i.e., barking, down, sit and dig. The handler must state alert behavior prior to testing and must be able to read alert during the test.
- \* Age: The dog must be at least 12 months of age in order to be fielded for operational status.
- \* Temperament: The dog must be able to operate effectively and non-aggressively in all working situations.
- \* Vaccinations: All dogs must have proof of current required vaccinations.
- \* Agility: Handler must demonstrate, off lead, the ability to safely and confidently control the dog through the following skills:
  - \* Jump up at least three feet into a specified area.
  - \* Crawl under an obstacle  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the dog's height.
  - \* Climb onto, and walk along a log or obstacle 3-4 feet off the ground and 10 feet in length.
  - \* Not jump off area/object until commanded to do so.
  - \* Walk through a culvert or small tunnel.

**Obedience:**

- \* The handler must have off-lead control of the dog at all times.
- \* Dogs will not be allowed to approach other dogs while training/searching
- \* Dogs must be responsive to handler commands.
- \* Dogs must demonstrate the following:
  - \* Come – dog must come directly
  - \* Stop – on recall (dog will go towards handler and when given a command, stop, down or sit within a very short distance (safety issue)
  - \* Sit
  - \* Down
  - \* Stay – 5 minutes with handler out of sight
  - \* Heel or Close – within 2 feet of handler

**OPERATIONAL EVALUATION****General:**

- \* All disciplines must be re-certified every two years. Every effort should be made to complete re-certification, prior to expiration date. In the event this does not happen, the dog team will be given a three-month grace period to complete the test evaluation.
- \* Upon discretion of an evaluator, a test may be stopped at any time if the dog team is seen to have:
  - a) not been ready for testing
  - b) no forward progress
- \* It is the responsibility of the training/testing officer within each dog unit, to specify which handlers will participate in the testing process, as evaluators.
- \* If a handler who is testing their dog has hesitation as to the evaluator assigned to them, the handler may approach his/her training/testing officer and request a different evaluator.
- \* The handler must verbalize area strategy and dog's indication, prior to each test.

**Mini-Area Search:**

This must be completed prior to the Wilderness Search test. The area is to be approximately 1/4 by 1/4 mile in moderate terrain containing 3 well-hidden subjects. The search time is limited to 2 hours unless testers extend the time, due to weather or terrain concerns. The dog team must find all three subjects. If less than two re-finds or bark alerts are demonstrated, the test is inconclusive and must be repeated. The purpose of this test is to show the reliability of the dog's re-find/bark alert and the strategy skills of the handler. Upon successful completion, the handler may request the Wilderness Search test. The Wilderness Search test must be completed within six months of the Mini-Area test.

**Wilderness Search:**

In a 1 square mile area of moderate terrain, 1 – 3 subjects will be placed, either hidden or roaming. Subjects will enter area in a manner, which will make it difficult for the dog to cut the track. If a dog cuts a track, and follows it to the subject, this is an acceptable find. There may or may not be a simulated injury when subjects are located. The dog handler will complete an interview with the RP, at the search base, prior to beginning the test. A search strategy must be developed and verbalized to evaluators, prior to the test. The handler will tell the evaluators what the dog's alert will be. Adjustments may be made, considering wind shifts, obstacles, etc. The test team will be expected to communicate with base via radio and relay all pertinent information as well as alerts, clues, finds. After covering the area, the test team will return to the search base and explain percentage of area covered and give POD. The test team will cover the area just as he/she would on an actual search. The test team is expected to cover as much area as possible in three hours. (Remember, it isn't possible to cover the whole area, so segment the area in workable sections.) After handler has completed test, they will be asked what areas, if any, should be searched more thoroughly. Handlers must show on a topographical map which areas were covered, location of alerts and finds. Passing the operational wilderness search test will be a matter of

the teams' overall performance, taking all factors into consideration. The team is not expected to locate all subjects. If a dog locates a subject, and does not successfully alert the handler, the evaluators will terminate the test. The focus of this test is on the quality of the search strategy, proficiency in navigating through the search area and the team's ability to search efficiently, for the full duration of the test.

Re-Certification: The "Mini-Area Search" test will be used.

### **Trailing Search:**

\* Level 1: The length of the trail will be at least 1 mile and will be aged not less than 4 hours. The handler is responsible for collecting the scent article. The handler will be given a designated PLS, with area approximately 20 X 20 feet. The PLS will be contaminated by one person walking away from the PLS at the same time as the subject. This trail will be approximately ¼ mile in length. The two people will walk in different directions. The subject's trail will be laid in moderate terrain and all attempts will be made so that the dog cannot air scent. The start of the track should have a 360-degree possibility of direction. One cross track will be laid within one hour prior to the test and will be laid after the first third of the actual track. There should be a road crossing, either paved or dirt, in any part of the test. The dog must obtain direction of travel and locate subject for successful completion. It is an acceptable pass if wind change allows the dog to air scent after it has located the direction of travel, has successfully worked through the contamination, and successfully passed the cross track.

Re-certification: The same test is used for re-certification.

\* Level 2: The length of the trail will be at least one mile and will be aged not less than 12 hours. Handler will conduct an interview with RP. The handler is responsible for collecting the scent article. The handler will be given a designated PLS, with area approximately 100 X 100 feet. The PLS will be contaminated by one person walking away from the PLS at the same time as the subject. This trail will be approximately ¼ mile in length. The two people will walk in different directions. The subject's trail will be laid in moderate terrain, and all attempts will be made so that the dog cannot air scent. The start of the track should have a 360-degree possibility of direction. One cross track will be laid within two hours prior to the test and will be laid after the first third of the actual track. There should be a road crossing, either paved or dirt, in any part of the test. It is an acceptable pass if wind change allows the dog to air scent after it has located the direction of travel, has successfully worked through the contamination, and successfully passed the cross track.

Prior to testing for Level 2, the team must be certified in Level I.

Re-certification: The same test is used for re-certification.

\* Level 3: The length of the trail will be at least one mile and will be aged not less than 24 hours. Handler will conduct an interview with RP. The handler is responsible for collecting the scent article. The handler will be given a designated PLS, with area approximately 100 X 100 feet. The PLS will be contaminated by one person by walking away from the PLS at the same time as the subject. This trail will be approximately ¼ mile in length. The two people will walk in different directions. The subject's trail will be laid in moderate terrain, and all attempts will be made so that the dog cannot air scent. The start of the track should have a 360-degree possibility of direction. One cross track will be laid within two hours prior to the test and will be laid after the first third of the actual track. There should be a road crossing, either paved or dirt, in any part of the test. It is an acceptable pass if wind change allows the dog to air scent after it has located the direction of travel, has successfully worked through the contamination, and successfully passed the cross track.

Prior to testing for Level 3, the team must be certified in Level 2.

Re-certification: The same test will be used.

**Urban:** A handler may test for operational status in urban search without being operational in Level I or Level II trailing tests.

\* Handler will conduct an interview with RP. The handler is responsible for collecting the scent article. The handler will be given the PLS of either a residence or vehicle. The area will be contaminated. The trail will be aged not less than 2 hours and will be 6 – 8 blocks in length. The trail will include asphalt, concrete, sidewalks, alleys, grass, etc. There will be at least two street crossings. No day-to-day activities in the area will cause delay or cancellation of the test. Time limit is 1 hour but may be extended by the evaluators if they deem that there continues to be forward progress. Dog must locate and identify correct subject for completion of test.

Re-certification: The same test will be used.

### **Cadaver Search:**

\* Level 1: The handler will verbalize strategy, prior to test. If handler chooses to do an initial hasty search prior to beginning search strategy, this will be considered acceptable. This must be verbalized prior to the test. Handler will verbalize dog's indication, prior to testing. Dog team will search an area 100 X 100 yards, or equivalent square footage, in moderate terrain. Area will contain two sources. No pseudo scent will be used. The sources will contain tissue, blood, fat, organ. Volume of scent will simulate, as closely as possible, a deceased body. Evaluator/evaluators and dog handler who is testing, will verify volume of source to be used, prior to the test. One sample will be on the surface or hanging. The second sample will be buried 2-4 inches deep. The handler must call a find by recognizing the dog's indication behavior as stated prior to the test. False holes will be present. The team must be able to locate both samples, with no false alerts. The team must locate both scent sources within one hour. False holes will be present. Scent rise time will be not less than 1 hour.

\* Level 2: This will contain two separate tests. These two tests must be completed within 30 days of each other.

\* The handler will verbalize search strategy and dog's indication, prior to the test.

\* The dog team will search two separate areas. Each area will be 100 X 100 yards, or equivalent square feet in moderate terrain. The test will contain a minimum of 2 sources. The sources will contain tissue, blood, fat, organ. No pseudo scent will be used. The sources may be in one or both areas. This will be unknown to the handler. They must search both areas and will not be allowed to return to an area after it is searched. (Unless the handler verbalizes interest in a specific area and chooses to take the dog out of the area of interest and bring it back in to pinpoint source). Proper strategy must be used to ensure coverage of the entire search area. The samples used will simulate, as closely as possible, a deceased body. Evaluator/evaluators and dog handler who is testing, will verify volume of source to be used, prior to the test. The sources must be concealed extremely well so that the handler is unable to see them. Samples may be placed on the surface, buried 4-6 inches, or hanging. The dog must be able to locate all samples within 1 hour. The handler must call a find by recognizing the dog's indication behavior as stated prior to the test. False holes will be present. Animal bones or remains will be present. Scent rise time will be not less than 1 hour. Just prior to the test, a certified cadaver dog will be taken through the area in order to confirm that there is adequate scent for the testing team.

\* After completing this test, the dog team will search an area approximately 20 X 20 feet. This area will consist of several bones. This area may contain all animal, all human, or a combination of both. The dog must be able to identify the human bone and must ignore the animal bone. Handler must be able to determine, from the dog's indication, which, if any are human. The animal bones used for this test will be bones, which are found naturally in an area and have not been previously touched or gathered by handlers.

Level 2. Cadaver search test must be successfully completed prior to testing for Human Remains Detection.

### **Human Remains Detection Search:**

\* 1. The search strategy and the dog's indication must be verbalized prior to the test. The dog team will

search three separate areas, 75 X 75 feet each, or equivalent square footage, in moderate terrain, containing a minimum of 10 sources. One of the areas may contain no sources. Blood and bone will be used for 80% of the sources. No pseudo scent will be used. The areas will be searched in sequence to a 70% POD (70% of sources must be found). The dog cannot disturb the source. The handler may not return to a previously searched area. If the dog finds a source in an adjacent area, it is counted, but the handler must complete the search in the current area. The handler must call a find by recognizing the dog's indication behavior as stated prior to the test with no more than one false alert. The handler will be given 30 minutes to complete each area. Special care must be given while setting this test up, due to the subtle nature of the samples. If the dog is in scent and indicates, the evaluators may ask the handler to pin point the source.

\* 2. The dog team will search one room in a building, no larger than 20' x 20'. Not less than three samples will be in the room. The sources will be well concealed. They may be at floor level or raised, but not more than 3 feet. The samples will be blood and/or tissue. The handler will be given 30 minutes to search the area to a 70% POD (70% of an unknown number of sources must be found). Dog must not disturb the samples. The handler must call a find by recognizing the dog's indication behavior as stated prior to the test.

Re-certification: The same test is used for re-certification.

#### **Evidence Search:**

\* The dog team will search an area 200 X 200 feet, or equivalent square footage, in moderate terrain. A minimum of three, human scented articles will be well concealed on the surface or hanging, but not buried. A variety of articles will be used, including but not limited to: metal, plastic, and cloth. The person who is setting the test, can not use his/her own scent articles. The handler will be given 1 hour to search the area to an 80% POD ( 80% of an unknown number of articles must be found). Scent rise time will be no less than 30 minutes. The handler must state their procedures for crime scene preservation.

Re-certification: The same test is used for re-certification.

#### **Water Search:**

There are 2 separate tests for certification: shore and open water

A handler may choose to certify in one or both of these water certifications.

\* Shore: The dog team will search a stream or shore line, approximately 100 yards in length. A scent source will be placed 5-10 feet off the shoreline and will be 2 - 10 inches deep. The dog may indicate from the shore, or in the water, as long as handler can describe the location of the scent source within 15 yards. Scent rise time will be no less than 15 minutes.

Re-certification: The same test will be used for re-certification.

\* Open water: The team will perform an open water search. This will be done from a boat, in an area approximately 3 – 4 acres. A scent source will be used for the open water search. There will be no divers used for this certification. Scent source will be placed approximately 15 feet under water surface. The team will be tested on the strategy used to search the area, how efficiently the dog handler communicates to the boat operator, and how efficiently the handler can read the dog alerts at the subject's location. The handler must be able to define a search area for the divers. This area must be within 100 feet of scent source. Handler will plot location on map and explain what effects the wind and current may have on the scent. Scent rise time will be no less than 15 minutes.

Re-certification: The same test will be used for re-certification.

#### **Avalanche Search:**

\* Handler will conduct an interview with the RP prior to testing. Dog team will search an area no less than 150 X 150 feet that has been adequately tracked up/contaminated to hide ski tracks and holes.

Other searchers will actively be searching the area.

\* Initial Certification: There will 1 or 2 live victim(s) and four scented articles placed in the test area. For successful completion during the initial certification, the team must locate all the live victim(s) and 1 or 2 articles (for a total of 3 finds). The victim(s) must be hidden at a depth of 2 - 5 feet. Victim will enter the area in a manner making it difficult for the dog to track to the cave. Minimum scent rise time is 15 minutes for the live victim, and 1 hour for the articles. The longer the rise time for the articles, the deeper they can be buried.

\* The optimal way to place articles for tests are as follows: Place articles the day before if possible, use large articles (such as shirts, pants, scarves, gloves), when placing the article in the snow be sure to have the article opened up to full size, place blocks of snow on the articles to cover and then throw snow over the blocks to cover up the blocks (just like covering up live victims...with blocks covering the holes and snow thrown over the blocks), if this method is used you can bury the articles 1-3 feet deep, otherwise they should be buried 2-6 inches.

\* The test area will have false holes. The team will be given ½ - 1 hour to work the area, depending on size and terrain.

Re-certification: May be set up as above or:

\* If there isn't enough snow for live victims, the testers will place four articles in the test area. If only articles are placed, they must find 3 of the 4 articles. If possible, the articles that are used on the test should have been worn by people not setting up the test area and not hiding the articles. Handler must also accurately describe all areas that were searched and give a POD for the area. The test area will have false holes. People in the area will be placed so they will not clue the dog and handler.

\* All of the following safety precautions will be observed for a live burial: 1. Victim must have a radio and transceiver. Both must be in a position to be easily activated. 2. Victim location is to be marked and watched by an observer with a radio and transceiver.

### **Building Search:**

\* One to three victims will hide in a large building at least 15 minutes prior to the test. All victims must be found within designated time limit.

\* Due to the complexity of the building search, specifics will be discussed prior to testing.

Revised: January, 2008

## **Rescue Dog Testing**

### **WASATCH BACKCOUNTRY RESCUE LEVELS OF VERIFICATION AVALANCHE SEARCH TESTS**

WBR dog teams are tested in obedience each season and a search test every other season. Dog teams are tested at a different resort from their own and evaluated by three people, who grade the handler and dog on many different disciplines.

#### **C. CANDIDATE - Basic Search**

Test handler in shallow hole with light snow cover in sight of dog. Look for strong indication, desire to dig, and response to reward system.

Basic obedience skills, sociability and Handler control should be evident.

#### **B. EMERGENCY - Intermediate Search**

Subject buried out of test teams sight in moderate depth snow, (3 to 6 feet), for maximum of ten minutes, (average density snow, extremely dense snow necessitates slightly longer scent rise time), in a

simulated avalanche deposition zone at least 100 yards square. Handler and dog must approach and navigate rapidly and carefully, locating subject within twenty (20) minutes with strong indication and enthusiastic digging. Level B testing is not required "stepping stone", a team may elect to test for level A without having tested for level B, if the Handler feels they are ready.

**A. OPERATIONAL - Advanced Search**

Two subjects plus clothing articles buried out of sight of test team in moderate depth snow, (3 to 6 feet), for maximum of ten minutes, (average density snow), in a simulated avalanche site at least 100 yards top to bottom and 100 yards across. The Handler and dog must approach and navigate rapidly and carefully despite radio interruptions and people in the area. They need not locate the clothing articles. The team must find all of the victims in the allotted time (20 minutes). Finding only 1 victim does not qualify for a level B rating. Prior to testing, the handler should be able to describe to evaluators the body language their dog will display when signaling a "find".

## **WCSSAR Mounted SAR Standards**

Revised 9 March 2008

### Requirements for the Horse:

1. Horse that loads and unloads good or can be trained to.
2. Horse crosses water well.
3. Horse gets along well with other horses.
4. Horse controls well.
5. Horse can be ponyed.
6. Horse can handle gun fire, ideally right next to the horse but at least within 20 yards.
7. Horse can handle helicopter hover noise at 50 yards and doesn't mind having helicopters land and take off at distances of 50 yards.
8. Horse is responds well to OHVs and motor cycles.
9. Horse is shod and/or trimmed well.
10. Tack is in good usable condition. Western, English and/or Australian equipment is acceptable.
11. Horse and rider must work in harmony and get along well.
12. Horse is able to be tied for extended periods of time unattended.
13. Horse must be able to willing negotiate obstacles such as deadfall.

### Requirements for the rider:

1. Significant backcountry riding experience.
2. Minimum medical training at the level of the National Ski Patrol First Care course or equivalent 16 hour minimum advanced level wilderness first aid course.
3. Current professional, 2-person, CPR certification.
4. Must pass the annual physical fitness test at the moderate level. (2 miles with 25 pound pack in 30 minutes)
5. Must meet the monthly SAR training standards as defined in the WCSSAR Directives.

### Required personal equipment list:

1. Water
2. Food
3. Rain gear
4. Clothing appropriate for the season
5. GPS unit
6. FRS radio
7. Rope
8. Saddle bags
9. Halter & lead rope
10. First aid kit
11. Fire starter

# I.A.D.R.S. Annual Watermanship Test

## Evaluation Parameters

There are four exercises that evaluate stamina and comfort in the water, each rated by points. The diver must successfully complete all stations and score a minimum of 12 points to pass the test. These scores are recorded on the Annual Skills Evaluation Form.

### Stamina Exercise 1: 500 yard Swim

The diver must swim 500 yards without stopping using a forward stroke and without using any swim aids such as dive mask, swim goggles, fins, snorkel, or flotation device. Stopping or standing up in the shallow end of the pool at any point during this exercise will constitute a failure of this evaluation station.

Time To Complete Points Awarded

Under 10 minutes 5

10 to 13 minutes 4

13 to 16 minutes 3

16 to 19 minutes 2

More than 19 minutes 1

Stopped or incomplete Incomplete

### Stamina Exercise 2: 15 Minute Tread

Using no swim aids and wearing only a swimsuit, the diver will stay afloat by treading water, drown-proofing, bobbing, or floating for 15 minutes, with hands only out of the water for the last 2 minutes.

Performance Criteria Points Awarded

Performed satisfactorily 5

Stayed afloat, hands not out of water for 2 minutes 3

Used side or bottom for support at any time 1

Used side or bottom for support > twice Incomplete

### Stamina Exercise 3: 800 yard Snorkel Swim

Using a dive mask, fins, snorkel, and swimsuit (no BCD or other flotation aid) and swimming the entire time with the face in the water, the diver must swim nonstop for 800 yards. The diver must not use arms to swim at any time.

Performance Criteria: Points Awarded

Under 15 minutes 5

15 to 17 minutes 4

17 to 19 minutes 3

19 to 21 minutes 2

More than 21 minutes 1

Stopped at any time Incomplete

### Stamina Exercise 4: 100 yard Inert Diver Rescue Tow

Wearing full scuba equipment and breathing air, the diver must push or tow an inert diver wearing dive gear on the surface 100 yards nonstop without assistance.

Performance Criteria Points Awarded

Under 2 minutes 5

2 to 3 minutes 4

3 to 4 minutes 3

4 to 5 minutes 2

More than 5 minutes 1

Stopped at any time: Incomplete

Additional copies available at no charge via the International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists webpage. Visit [www.IADRS.org](http://www.IADRS.org)

# I.A.D.R.S. Annual Basic Scuba Skills Evaluation

Diver's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Air Consumption: Start \_\_\_\_\_ psi / Finish \_\_\_\_\_ psi Time: Start \_\_\_\_\_ / Finish \_\_\_\_\_ / Total \_\_\_\_\_

Water Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ Pool / Open Water (circle one)

Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_

Task grading: S = Satisfactory N = Needs Improvement (specify) N/A = Not Applicable (use for equipment only)

## Equipment Handling and Set-Up

- \_\_\_\_\_ - properly assembles equipment (basic gear / specialty gear)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - shows familiarity and comfort with equipment
- \_\_\_\_\_ - properly protects equipment (i.e. tank valve / regulator)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - review (line & hand signals / air consumption rates / buddy awareness / emergencies / diver log)

## Watermanship Skills

- \_\_\_\_\_ - 500 yard continuous forward stroke swim - no swim aids for time (refer to grading criteria)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - 15 minute tread / last 2 minutes with hands out of water (refer to grading criteria)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - 800 yard snorkel swim (refer to grading criteria)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - 100 yard inert diver rescue tow (refer to grading criteria)

## Skin Diving Skills

- \_\_\_\_\_ - mask clearing
- \_\_\_\_\_ - snorkel clearing (popping & expansion)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - snorkel without mask (led by partner, 1 lap)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - fin kicks (flutter / dolphin) one length each, using mask and snorkel
- \_\_\_\_\_ - in water surface dives (head first / feet first)

## SCUBA Diving Skills

- \_\_\_\_\_ - entries (giant stride / seated or controlled entry)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - neutral buoyancy control (oral / power) inflation
- \_\_\_\_\_ - dry suit buoyancy control and emergency procedures (i.e. hose disconnect or flooding)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - regulator clearing (blowing / purging) and retrieval
- \_\_\_\_\_ - regulator without mask (led by partner, 1 lap)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - full face mask (removal / switch to regulator / clearing full face mask / replace full face mask)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - descent procedures (signal / check time & air / raise inflator hose / feet first descent / clear ears)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - ascent procedures (signal / check time & depth / + buoyancy / raise inflator hose / ascend @ 20ft/min)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - air sharing at depth and during ascent
- \_\_\_\_\_ - buddy breathing at depth and during ascent
- \_\_\_\_\_ - emergency swimming ascent procedures (simulate out of air / signals / ascends / continuous exhaling / surfaces / inflates BC orally using bobbing technique)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - emergency buoyant ascent procedures (simulate out of air / signals / drops weights / ascends / continuous exhaling / surfaces / inflates BC orally using bobbing technique)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - weight belt (removal / replacement) on surface and bottom
- \_\_\_\_\_ - buoyancy control device (removal / replacement) on surface and bottom
- \_\_\_\_\_ - OPTIONS: Blackout Mask / Night Dive / Navigation / Confidence Obstacle Course

## Performance

### Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Equipment Care and Storage

- \_\_\_\_\_ - properly disassembles equipment
- \_\_\_\_\_ - cleans and restores equipment properly