

KITTITAS COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE (KCSR)

TEAM QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPECIFIC KCSR GROUND TEAMS

KCSR Ground Teams are organized as follows:

- **BASIC Ground Team** - BASIC FIELD Ground SAR personnel capable of searching an urban or rural setting, where normal urban services are readily available. Will not have to stay out overnight. [See page 2 for specific qualifications.]
- **INTERMEDIATE Ground Team** - INTERMEDIATE FIELD Ground SAR personnel having demonstrated capability of working safely in a wilderness setting, staying out overnight under moderate weather and terrain conditions. *Does not include winter missions where avalanche conditions may exist. Does not include technical rescue.* [See page 3 for specific qualifications.]
- **BACKCOUNTRY Ground (Hasty) Team** - ADVANCED FIELD Ground SAR Personnel having demonstrated capability of working safely in a wilderness setting with weather and terrain extremes. *Does not include winter missions where avalanche conditions may exist. Does not include technical rescue.* [See page 4 for specific qualifications.]
- **WINTER BACKCOUNTRY Ground Team** - ADVANCED FIELD Ground SAR personnel with **specific avalanche training** and demonstrated capability of working safely in a wilderness setting with winter weather and terrain extremes. *Does not include technical rescue.* [See page 5 for specific qualifications.]

----- BASIC Ground Team Qualifications -----

BASIC FIELD Ground SAR personnel capable of searching an urban or rural setting where normal urban services are readily available, and where personnel will not have to stay out overnight.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be BASIC FIELD qualified (see “KCSR Standards”).

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be able to respond rapidly with ability to be appropriately attired and self sustaining (in an urban or rural environment) for a minimum of 24 hours upon receiving call out.
- Physical Fitness:
 - As the base requirement, must be capable of walking 1 mile in 30 minutes over flat terrain.
- Must have the mental attitude to:
 - Be willing to apply First Aid skills and encounter and assist in helping severely injured persons.
 - Keep fit and ready.
 - Self-evaluate abilities and know when to say when personal limits are reached.
 - Accept or give direction constructively.

----- INTERMEDIATE Ground Team Qualifications -----

INTERMEDIATE FIELD Ground SAR personnel having demonstrated capability of working safely in a wilderness setting, staying out overnight, under moderate weather and terrain conditions. Does not include winter missions where avalanche conditions may exist. Does not include technical rescue.

MUST MEET QUALIFICATIONS SET OUT FOR BASIC GROUND TEAM. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ARE:

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be INTERMEDIATE FIELD qualified (see “KCSR Standards”).

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be able to respond rapidly with 24/48 Hour Pack and required clothing ready to go upon receiving call out.
- Physical Fitness:
 - As the base requirement, be capable of hiking the Manastash Ridge trail (standard route) with complete 24 Hour Pack; up in 1 ½ hours or less and return in 1 hour or less.
 - Must demonstrate endurance capability by participating in a minimum of 2 (day long) scheduled Intermediate Team training hikes.
 - Must have physical fitness to:
 - Move SAFELY by foot over moderate terrain in moderate conditions.
 - Be able to transport team equipment and assist in carrying a patient.
- Must have the mental attitude to:
 - Be comfortable in the wild by oneself.
 - Be willing to apply First Aid skills and encounter and assist in helping severely injured persons.
 - Keep fit and ready.
 - Self-evaluate abilities and know when to say when personal limits are reached.
 - Accept or give direction constructively.

-----BACKCOUNTRY Ground (Hasty) Team Qualifications -----

ADVANCED FIELD Ground SAR Personnel having demonstrated capability of working safely in a wilderness setting with weather and terrain extremes. Does not include winter missions where avalanche conditions may exist. Does not include technical rescue.

***MUST MEET QUALIFICATIONS SET OUT FOR INTERMEDIATE GROUND TEAM.
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ARE:***

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be ADVANCED FIELD qualified (see “KCSR Standards”).

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- Physical Fitness:
 - As the base requirement, must annually demonstrate ability to hike the Manastash Ridge trail (standard route) with complete 24 Hour Pack; up in 1 hour or less and return in 45 minutes or less.
 - Must demonstrate endurance capability by participating in a minimum of 2 (day long) scheduled BC Team training hikes.
 - Must have physical fitness to:
 - Move SAFELY by foot over difficult terrain in adverse conditions.
 - Sustain high levels of exertion.
 - Quickly recover from sustained exertion.

----- WINTER BACKCOUNTRY Ground Team Qualifications -----

ADVANCED FIELD Ground SAR personnel with specific avalanche training and demonstrated capability of working safely in a wilderness setting with winter weather and terrain extremes. Does not include technical rescue.

MUST MEET QUALIFICATIONS SET OUT FOR BACKCOUNTRY (Hasty) TEAM. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ARE:

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be BACKCOUNTRY GROUND (Hasty) TEAM qualified (see “KCSR Standards”).
- Must be 18 years of age or older.

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- Each team member must have completed comprehensive basic level avalanche training as offered by KCSR, and demonstrate ability to perform avalanche rescue skills.
- Annually complete KCSR Avalanche Training Refresher class to maintain currency in knowledge and skill performance.
- Each team member must demonstrate the ability to travel safely in a cold weather/snow environment and have the equipment and ability to perform an overnight bivouac on snow.
- Required equipment per team member to be in the field, for a mission, or for training: (Acquisition of personal equipment is recommended in the event KCSR equipment is not available.)
 - Snowshoes
 - Avalanche beacon
 - Probe
 - Shovel
- Required Team Equipment:
 - GPS and Altimeter
 - Trail marking gear
- Each team member shall demonstrate knowledge of:
 - Small party rescue
 - Hazard recognition
 - Safe travel in avalanche terrain
 - Patient transportation/evacuation in snow, using safety line, moving and static, when necessary
- Team Leaders are required to:
 - Complete additional hours in avalanche training as offered by KCSR, and demonstrate ability to perform as team leader in an avalanche rescue scenario.
 - Have experience in, and demonstrate skills in, winter backcountry mountain travel and rescue.