



Washington State Search & Rescue

Document #:

2010-082

Rev.:

A

Title: Search and Rescue Emergency Worker
Core Competency Field Performance Criteria

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REVISION HISTORY

REV	Description of Change	Approved By	Effective Date
1	As Released.	SARVAC WSSARCA WASPC EMD	2/8/2012

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Document Title
2010-080 Rev: A	Search and Rescue Emergency Worker Core Competency Criteria

Documents referenced in this procedure are applicable to the extent specified herein.

1. Purpose

To provide a standardized set of core competency performance training criteria for Ground/Land Search and Rescue volunteers in Washington State.

2. Scope

This document defines the Field Performance Criteria that must be demonstrated and verified by one-on-one observation and demonstration of a SAR Volunteer in order to be field Qualified.

3. Definitions and Acronyms

Refer to Document 2012-080 Rev: A



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4. Flowchart

None

5. Responsibilities

A Search and Rescue Member must maintain the basic Washington State Search and Rescue Minimum Core Competency Criteria in order to obtain a basic certification.

6. Search and Rescue Survival Skills and Survival Equipment

Through performance demonstration the applicant will demonstrate survival skills and equipment:

(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)

Does Not Apply to:

Support Responders or Limited Field Responders.

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).
2. Identify fuel for fire to provide heat and location identification for 12 to 24 hours, fuel sources must be from the field.
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).
4. Use any three (3) emergency signaling methods, plus one (1) emergency aircraft signaling method.
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.
6. Locate or identify alternate shelter (natural or other field sources of shelter).
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



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- describe their use. (Reference county SAR field operations guide or county SAR specific protocol for equipment).
8. Tie three (3) basic knots of the five listed in the training.

7. Radio Communications

The applicant will demonstrate the ability to identify the following components on a Search and Rescue radio:

(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)

1. Identify the Push-to-Talk switch.
2. Identify the Channel/Frequency selector.
3. Change the radio's batteries.
4. Turn the radio on select radio frequency as identified in the communications briefing (ICS 205).
5. Select the channel as requested by search command (frequency change).
6. Change radio channel or frequency to a predefined frequency.
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}).

8. Land Navigation

Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to

(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)

Numbers 11 thru 12 - Do Not Apply to Support or Limited Field Responders.

1. Orient a map, compensating for declination.
2. Use a scale to measure distance on a map.
3. Identify five elements of the legend on a topographic map.
4. Read contour lines on a topographic map and identify their relationship to physical objects on the ground.
5. Plot a bearing on a map.
6. Plot their location using a map and compass
7. Determine the bearing between two points and the back azimuth on a map.



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8. Adjust for declination (compass).
9. Demonstrate the ability to take a bearing on a selected object, expressing it in both true and magnetic degrees (compass).
10. Plot a coordinate using the primary coordinate system in your area of operation (lat/long, UTM, National Grid).
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).
12. Demonstrate the ability to navigate around an obstacle blocking your selected path while staying on course (compass).

9. GPS Operation

Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:

(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)

1. Mark, edit, and delete a waypoint in a GPS receiver.
2. Change the batteries of a GPS receiver.
3. Change coordinate systems and datum with in a GPS unit.
4. Turn on a GPS and acquire a coordinate that accurately represents your location.
5. Set their GPS for True North

10. Search Techniques

Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:

(These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)
Does Not Apply to Support or Limited Field Responders.

1. To determine “Critical Separation” in at least two different environments, i.e. wooded and open areas.
2. Demonstrate the ability to route search;
 - 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



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- 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%).
- 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
3. Locate, preserve and document potential clues/evidence in a given search area.

11. Subject/Searcher First Aid

Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:

These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)

12. Properly assess patient's medical status within the scope of training.
12. Demonstrate 2 methods to control bleeding.
12. Demonstrate the method to immobilize a fracture of the upper and lower arm.
12. Demonstrate the method to immobilize a fracture of the ankle.
5. Demonstrate method to prepare a subject for litter evacuation.

12. Searcher Safety

Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:

These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated)

1. Assess the area for safety issues and concerns and the safety of a searcher, found subject, team members, or injured team member.
2. Identify which level of searcher safety is being defined for the area of the search assignment (GAR). Identify what environ-



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- mental or weather hazards are being considered in the searcher safety assessment and safety level assignment.
3. Identify and assign a safety level (GAR) for;
 - Single Searcher and a single subject (unhurt - moderate weather – moderate terrain)
 - Multiple searchers and no subject (moderate weather – wilderness terrain)
 - Multiple searchers and 2 subjects (injured – injuries severe – wilderness terrain – severe weather)

13. Rescue Techniques

Through performance evaluation, the applicant will demonstrate the ability to:

These Field Performance Criteria – Must be performed in a field setting – Proficiency Must Be Demonstrated
Does Not Apply to Support or Limited Field Responders.

1. Assess the area for safety and safe methods to access a found subject or injured team member.
2. Properly assess a subject's status (medical, location, readiness for transport) within your scope of training.
3. Properly prepare a subject for litter transport/evacuation (per local protocols/standards).
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.

14. Quality Records

None.

15. Form(s)

None.